**Potomac Watershed Roundtable**

**A Virtual Microsoft Teams meeting**

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**Friday January 12, 2024, at 10:00 am**

**Meeting Agenda:**

10:00 Call to Order and Introductions John Peterson, Acting Chair

10:05 Approval of Minutes for October 6, 2023 Meeting John Peterson

10:10 Voting Procedure for a New Chairperson John Peterson

10:25 Updates from the Potomac Council Chuck Koch, Potomac Council Chair

**Presentations:**

10:30 Breeding for the Future Andrew Borocco

 Head of Plant Breeding, Area2Farms

*Vertical farming is an agricultural technique that grows crops in a vertical arrangement, rather than in traditional, horizontal rows, making it possible to produce more crops per square-foot of land. This indoor operation eliminates the need for pesticide and herbicide while growing year-round, nutritious, organic food.*

11:15 Environmental considerations of utility scale solar development Scott Cameron

 Vice-Chairman, NVSWCD Board of Directors

*Virginia’s industrial utility scale solar energy was stimulated by the statutory requirement of the Virginia Clean Economy Act. However, the demand grew exponentially due to renewable demands from data centers located primarily in the Potomac River Basin. This need presents a series of environmental challenges, including stormwater management and associated erosion and water quality degradation, loss of carbon-sequestering forest cover across the Commonwealth, and conversion of prime farmland to nonagricultural use.*

12:00 Announcements

12:15 Adjournment

**Next meeting will be held on Friday, April 5, 2024**

*Additional details will be provided closer to that date*