



Local Government Advisory Committee

to the Chesapeake Executive Council

Speaker Bios
March 17-18, 2022
Annapolis, MD

Rachel Felver

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Communications Director, Chesapeake Bay Program

Rachel is the Director of Communications for the Chesapeake Bay Program. She has the experience of growing up in a headwaters state--Pennsylvania--and is now living life right next to the Bay in Maryland. After obtaining her masters' in environmental policy and management from the University of Pittsburgh, she spent almost nine years with the Environmental Protection Agency before a stint with the National Aquarium.

Marisa Baldine

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Communications Staffer, Chesapeake Research Consortium

Marisa joined the Chesapeake Research Consortium in 2020, as the Environmental Management Staffer to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Communications Office. Marisa will manage the Communications Workgroup, create content for the Chesapeake Bay Program website, and assist with the creation and implementation of social media content. Marisa earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from John Carroll University. Marisa was born and raised in Washington, D.C. and strives to help create healthy, vibrant communities connected to the natural world.

Julie Mawhorter

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Mid-Atlantic Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator, U.S. Forest Service

Julie Mawhorter serves as the Mid-Atlantic Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator for the US Forest Service, working closely with state urban forestry programs and an array of partners. As part of this role, Julie coordinates partnership strategies and projects supporting the Tree Canopy Outcome in the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement.

Heidi Bonnafon

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Senior Environmental Planner, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and LLWG Chair

Heidi Bonnafon is Senior Environmental Planner for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG). She staffs COG's Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy Committee, and leads COG's Community Engagement Campaign, utility outreach campaign. COG's membership includes the District of Columbia and its 23 surrounding cities and counties in suburban Maryland and northern Virginia. Ms. Bonnafon is a member of the Local Leadership Work Group and the Communications Work

Group. She tracks the work of the WQGIT. She holds a B.S. in Zoology and a M.S. in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development, from University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Tony Clark

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Technical Assistance Branch Chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Tony Clark is a Community Planner with almost 15 years of experience with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Currently, he is the Technical Assistance Branch Chief within the Planning Division of USACE – Baltimore District where he has worked on and lead multidisciplinary teams in ecosystem restoration studies, flood risk management, navigation, coastal storm and hurricane damage reduction, and watershed studies of national, regional, and local interest.

Carolyn Berndt

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Sustainability Legislative Director, National League of Cities

Carolyn Berndt is the Legislative Director for Sustainability in the federal advocacy department at the National League of Cities. As a member of the federal advocacy team, Carolyn leads NLC's advocacy, regulatory, and policy efforts on energy and environmental issues, including water infrastructure and financing, water and air quality, climate change, energy efficiency, brownfields, solid and hazardous waste and more.

Adam Pugh

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Associate Legislative Director, National Association of Counties

Adam Pugh serves as NACo's Associate Legislative Director for both Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Environment, Energy and Land Use. In this role, he works with county officials across the nation to set NACo's priorities and policies for agriculture and rural affairs, and environment, energy, and land use issues that affect local governments.

Jessica Rodriguez

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DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator

Jessica Rodriguez is native to the Chesapeake Bay and grew up on the water between the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia Beach, VA. Ms. Rodriguez graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Science and a master's degree from George Mason University in Environmental Science and Policy. Ms. Rodriguez currently serves the Navy as a DoD Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator and brings many years of experience related to the development of environmental policy and collaboration with internal and external stakeholders at both a national and regional level to the DoD CBP team.

Martha Shimkin

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Deputy Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Martha brings a diverse and varied background from over 25 years at the Environmental Protection Agency to the Chesapeake Bay Program. She has worked for the past three years in the Office of Water at EPA headquarters, serving as acting Deputy Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, and Office of Wastewater Management, as well as in the Office of Water Immediate Office where she led preparation for the Presidential transition in 2020 and served as acting Deputy Assistant Administrator during the transition. Martha has also served as acting Director, Land and Chemicals Division, in EPA's MidAtlantic Regional office (Region3) for 5 months in 2017-2018. Throughout her EPA career, Martha has created and managed many programs and policies, led regulatory development, and developed agency plans for implementing new laws.

Julie Reichert-Nguyen

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Natural Resources Specialist and Chesapeake Bay Program Climate Resiliency Workgroup Coordinator, NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

Julie Reichert-Nguyen is a Natural Resources Specialist with the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office. She also serves as the coordinator of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Climate Resiliency Workgroup, which focuses on monitoring trends and designing strategies to enhance resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay to changing temperatures, precipitation, and sea level rise. She has over 18 years of experience in researching and assessing human impacts on natural resources and specializes in climate change, fisheries, aquatic ecosystems, and water quality issues and Clean Water Act programs.

Carin Bisland

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Associate Director for Partnerships and Accountability, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Carin is responsible for coordinating federal, state and local actions to improve water quality, habitat and living resource conditions in the Chesapeake Bay and its rivers. Some of the responsibilities of her team include coordination within and between Chesapeake Bay Program partner teams and committees, development of decision support tools to allow for adaptive management, the development and use of indicators and performance measures, and ongoing support for the Federal Office Directors.