

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee

Operations and Priorities Briefing

Establishment	<p>The Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) established the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) in 1984 to provide non-governmental perspective, advice and guidance to the leadership of the federal/state Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership. The proposal to create the CAC was advanced by the Alliance for the Chesapeake during the formation of the Chesapeake Bay Program. In 2023 the CBP Principals' Staff Committee approved the requested name change to the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee.</p>	
Purpose	<p>The Stakeholders' Committee is one of few non-governmental voices within the formal structure of the Bay Program. They advise the EC (Governors, DC Mayor, EPA Administrator, and Chesapeake Bay Commission) and the Principals' Staff Committee (appointed Environmental and Agriculture Secretaries and staff) on policies and programs impacting residents in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.</p>	
Membership	<p>The membership is 28 volunteers representing a sample of stakeholders including: restoration practitioners, farmers, retired government officials, environmental philanthropy, policy researchers and contractors, land conservationists, environmental justice advocates, community organizers, watershed organizations and educators.</p> <p>12 gubernatorial appointments are from the States of Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania; 4 mayoral appointments from the District of Columbia. 9 At-Large appointments and one each from Delaware, West Virginia, and New York appointed by the Board of Directors of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.</p>	
Operations	<p>The Stakeholders' Committee meets quarterly, traveling around the watershed to learn about local successes and challenges to water quality, living resources and habitats, and stewardship and engagement. Annual priorities are set by the Stakeholder's subcommittees that drive the meeting agendas and culminate in an annual report of recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council. The Stakeholders' Committee engages Bay Program staff, State and local representatives, technical committees, practitioners, and numerous stakeholders. Broad operational mission, procedures, and principles are outlined in the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Bylaws.</p>	
Priorities	<p>The Stakeholders' Committee focuses on monitoring the progress towards achieving the TMDL water quality goals and the Outcomes in the <i>Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement</i>. In recent years Committee priorities have been: progress, accountability and transparency; agricultural challenges and opportunities; environmental education and outreach; increasing stewardship and diversity; equitable access to grants; and impacts from land changes caused by large-scale solar development, wetland, and forest loss.</p>	
Webpage	<p>on the Chesapeake Bay Program website: Stakeholders' Advisory Committee</p>	
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