



**2023 Local Government Forum:
Building Capacity through
Collaboration**

Facilitated by Joy Jackson,
Institute for Conservation
Leadership

Participants spent the day learning, discussing, and brainstorming around the importance of collaboration and collaborative efforts for accessing federal funding, based upon this problem statement:

The importance of collaboration and collaborative efforts has gained new relevance and importance in recent years. Current federal funding opportunities, from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), represent a unique and unprecedented opportunity to secure resources for environmental and conservation work throughout the nation. Moreover, many of these grants require, or at minimum encourage, collaboration among entities in order to access funding.

These grant opportunities, with their push for collaboration, reveal the challenges and limitations facing local governments, agencies, non-profits, etc. interested in applying for federal dollars. Enthusiasm for funding has been tempered by concerns related to navigating the application process, capacity to build collaborative efforts and/or design eligible projects, limited experience collaborating regionally, bandwidth to craft compelling grants proposals, etc. These challenges may also disproportionately affect communities of color, highlighting the importance of prioritizing issues related to equity in the design of collaborative efforts.

Action: Staff will distribute the final Forum report to attendees.

Call to Order: Greetings and Introductions	LGAC Chair Daniel Chao	Meeting called to order at 8:40 am.
Jurisdiction Meeting Report-Outs and Member Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DC Report-Out: Brianne Nadeau • DE Report-Out: Don Phillips • MD Report-Out: Mark Dobbins • PA Report-Out: Michael Helfrich • VA Report-Out: Richard Baugh • WV Report-Out: None 	<p>DC - The Anacostia River had its first Splash Day, a day of organized swimming in the river, in over 50 years.</p> <p>DE - Members are excited to start planning the 2024 Wandering Delmarva's Waterways tour and are eager to explore opportunities for a circuit rider in Delaware. They also discussed the forum and the need for actionable next steps.</p> <p>MD - Members gave feedback on the proposed 2024 quarterly meeting themes and were in support of the September 2024: <i>Building Capacity Through Collaboration</i> theme. Members also proposed additional ideas for future meeting themes such as energy policy/rebuilding the energy grid, land use impacts on the Bay, and the impacts of EVs on the energy grid.</p> <p>PA - Members discussed the 2024: <i>Engaging Local Officials</i> meeting theme and potentially creating an engagement playbook to better engage a broad range of types of governments with different staffing and authority levels. Members also requested additional clarity on the proposed 2024: <i>Incorporating Equity and Climate into Local Decision-Making</i> theme because climate-focused conversations can be polarizing and hinder communications with some groups.</p> <p>VA - Members had an in-depth discussion on the composition, focus, scope of work, and impact of LGAC in recent times and moving forwards. Members would also like more emphasis placed on seeking out rural perspectives, especially from local officials directly involved in agriculture.</p>
2023 Local Government Forum Debrief	LGAC Members	LGAC Members were invited to share their thoughts on the 2023 Local Government Forum. For future Forums, LGAC Members recommended that staff share more guidance around meeting goals or desired action items in advance of the event.
Chesapeake Bay Program Updates	Jeff Lerner, Acting Chief,	J. Lerner discussed the future formation of an

	Partnerships and Accountability Branch, CBP Contact: Lerner.Jeffrey@epa.gov	Agriculture Advisory Committee, provided an update on Beyond 2025 recent and upcoming work, and delivered an update about the EPA's research on circuit riders to inform the EC's response to the 2023 letter. Action: Staff to share a summary of the Stakeholders' Committee composition and bylaws .
Federal Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal Ombudsman (Piziali) • Role of a Federal Authorizing Committee (Seiger) • Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) Informational Session (Duman & Davis-Prettiman) 	<p>Jamie Piziali, Municipal Ombudsman, US EPA Contact: piziali.jamie@epa.gov</p> <p>Ryan Seiger, Minority Staff Director, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Contact: Ryan.Seiger@mail.house.gov</p> <p>Leila Duman, Senior Legislative Assistant to Congressman John Sarbanes Contact: Leila.Duman@mail.house.gov</p> <p>Shelby Davis-Prettiman, Legislative Assistant to Senator Chris Van Hollen Contact: Shelby_Prettiman@vanhollen.senate.gov</p>	<p>J. Piziali provided background on the role of a Municipal Ombudsman, and shared federal funding opportunities related to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Grant (OSG) program, Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, EPA's Water Technical Assistance, and EPA's environmental justice grants.</p> <p>R. Seiger discussed the role of a federal authorizing committee and the ways in which they can provide support to local governments with identifying and accessing federal funding sources.</p> <p>L. Duman and S. Davis-Prettiman Provided background on the Chesapeake National Recreation Area (CNRA) and CNRA Advisory Commission, shared the potential impacts of the CNRA Act, and the results of existing National Recreation Areas (NRAs).</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff to share the follow-up provided by the Department of Defense (DoD) with R. Seiger and J. Piziali to help address issues with stormwater fees and runoff from DoD facilities. Staff will share contact information of speakers with LGAC members. • Staff to share details about the new CNRA Advisory Commission and the EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee. • J. Piziali shared her weekly list of federal clean water resources with a municipal focus.
Business Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Committee Report (Chair) 		LGAC Chair shared participation in the recent Executive Council Meeting on behalf of LGAC and the Council's reception to LGAC's 2023 Annual Recommendations .

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinator's Report (Acting Coordinator) • Local Leadership Workgroup (LLWG) Report (Chair) 		<p>Acting LGAC Coordinator shared the proposed 2024 quarterly meeting dates with LGAC's feedback on the suggested meeting themes, updated members on upcoming local government engagement efforts, and gauged interest in 2024 regional roundtables.</p> <p>LLWG Chair updated members on recent and upcoming local government engagement efforts, and shared that Martha Narvaez and Les Knapp will be stepping into the roles of Chair and Vice Chair of the workgroup in 2024.</p>
<p>Final Thoughts/Actions from this Meeting</p>		<p>Staff shared action items from the meeting.</p> <p>New Business and Future Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange a LGAC Beyond 2025 Workshop at a future meeting for members to evaluate LGAC's role, structure, and scope of work looking towards 2025 and beyond. Results of this workshop could be put forth as future recommendations to the Executive Council. • Look for a comparative analysis of the impacts of urban, suburban, and rural communities on the Bay to help inform local government actions. • Have more feedback opportunities for members to provide direction to the LGAC Chair. • Add an Alliance updates session to future quarterly meetings to keep LGAC members informed on Alliance work. <p>LGAC will hold its next quarterly meeting on March 21-22, 2024 in Virginia.</p>

LGAC Members Present: Richard Baugh, Emeritus Member Phillip Briddell, Daniel Chao, Frank Dawson, Mark Dobbins, Amy Dubois, Penny Gross, Josh Hastings, Michael Helfrich, Donna Iannone, Leo Lutz, Andria McClellan, Brianne Nadeau, Don Phillips, Lisa Schaefer, John Thomas.

LGAC & LLWG Staff: Kayli Ottomanelli and Laura Cattell Noll.

Speaker/Guests Present: Ty Asfaw (Arlington County, VA), Jess Blackburn (Alliance), Keith Bollt (EPA CBPO), Christina Bonini (Alliance), Chip Boyles (GWRC), Peter Buck (PSU), Eric Buehl (MD Sea Grant Extension), Greg Burks (Chesapeake Bay Trust), Samuel Canfield (WV DEP), Ruth Cassilly (UMD), Sarah Clark (ICL), Jen Cotting (UMD EFC), Shelby Davis-Prettiman (US Senate), Carrie Decker (MD DNR), Lindsay DeMarzo (Howard County, MD), Chase Douglas (Chesapeake Conservancy), Leila Duman (US HR), Michelle Edwards (RRRC), Liz Feinberg (NFWF), KC Filippino (Hampton Roads PDC), Kate Fritz (Alliance),

Dave Hirschman (NFWF), Kristen Hughes-Evans (NFWF), Joy Jackson (ICL), Jon Knorr (Lancaster Clean Water Partners), Jeff Lerner (EPA CBPO), Peter Marx (CCWC), Tou Matthews (CRC STAC), Jenny McGarvey (Alliance), Daniel Paschall (East Coast Greenway Alliance), Erin Penzelik (PA DEP), Jackie Pickford (CRC), Jamie Piziali (EPA), Jake Reilly (NFWF), Matt Robinson (CBP), Lauren Sauder (Alliance), Ryan Sieger (US HR), Jake Solyst (Alliance), Kathy Stecker (MDE), James Sullivan (DNREC), Joe Toolan (NFWF), Erin Trouba (PSU), Justin Williams (VA DEQ), Kristen Wolf (PA DEP), Lisa Wool (Nanticoke Water Alliance), Tree Zuzzio (PA DCED).