

Modeling Workgroup Core Values, Decision Making, and Membership

July 14, 2026

During assessments of future environmental condition risk to Chesapeake water quality standards the Modeling Workgroup will be called on to develop state-of-the-science modeling systems to support the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership goals of Chesapeake restoration. To ensure technical modeling decisions are made with the highest level of scientific rigor and participation by the Partnership, the long-standing core values of the Modeling Workgroup of Integration, Innovation, Independence, and Inclusiveness are applied.

Core Values

The Modeling Workgroup is responsible to the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership for providing state-of-the-art decision-support modeling tools that are built through community and participatory principles. Planning and management of resources to provide the best available decision-support modeling tools requires the Modeling Workgroup members and participants to adhere to the core values of:

Integration - Integration of most recent science and knowledge in air, watershed, and coastal waters to support water quality and ecosystem modeling for CBP restoration decision making

Innovation - Embracing creativity, innovation, and encouraging improvement in the development and support of transparent and robust modeling tools.

Independence – Making modeling decisions on the basis of best available evidence and using the most appropriate methods to produce, run, and interpret models, independent of policy considerations.

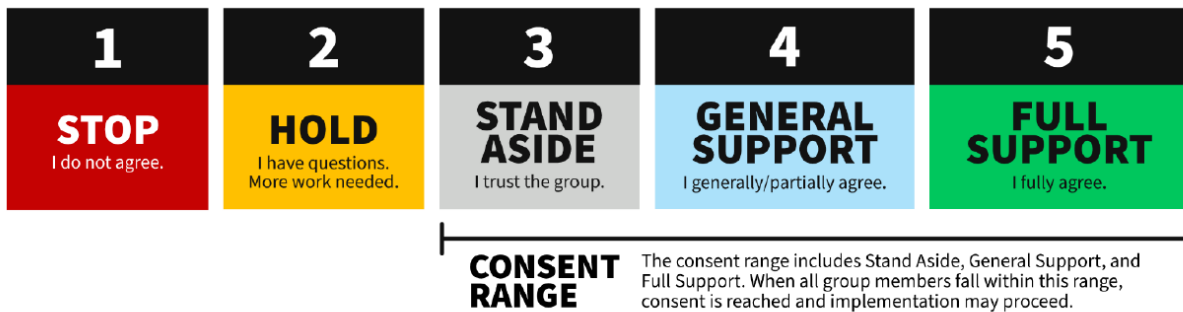
Inclusiveness - Commitment to an open and transparent process and the engagement of relevant partners, that results in strengthening the Partnership's decision making tools.

Decision Making

Modeling Workgroup proceedings are open meetings and all interested persons can participate. At key decision points and after consideration of all participant's comments, decisions will be made by Modeling Workgroup members through a consensus-based process that seeks agreement of all members and resolves minority objections. Consensus can be determined through a voice or roll-call vote of all participating members at a Modeling Workgroup meeting. Members that are directly involved with work that's being approved by the Workgroup will reclude themselves from that decision.

The Modeling Workgroup's decision-making approach is to be consensus-seeking (everyone is a "5" on the Decision-Making Continuum but a decision is considered approved if consent (everyone is a "3, 4 or 5") is achieved. If consent cannot be achieved after several iterations, the group can move to voting by supermajority. A quorum (two-thirds of existing voting membership) must be established prior to a call for decision, which applies to consensus-seeking and supermajority voting attempts. This applies at to the Water Quality Goal Team and its workgroups.

Figure 2. Chesapeake Bay Program’s Decision-Making Continuum. Based on the University of Maryland’s Center for Leadership and Organizational Change Consensus Continuum.



Membership

Through adoption of this document, the Modeling Workgroup establishes the membership structure having the following constituents and categories. A member could fill multiple categories and therefore the total number of members could be fewer than the sum of the groups below. Any member can select an alternate/proxy for themselves. Modeling Workgroup Members serve without term limits.

- Two Co-chairs
 - Selected by Modeling Workgroup
- One Coordinator
 - Selected by Modeling Workgroup
 - Modeling Workgroup Staffer
- Nine Jurisdictional Members with Alternates
 - Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington DC, and West Virginia. Selected by each jurisdiction.
 - EPA/Fed agencies
- One Lead Practitioner Member for the CBP models of the Watershed, Airshed, and Estuary.
 - Lead practitioners selected by the Modeling Workgroup.
- At-Large Expert Members not to exceed a total Modeling Workgroup Membership of 15.
 - Selected by consensus of the Modeling Workgroup and possessing relevant expertise in a component of the Workgroup modeling effort.

Members List

Leadership (Two Cochairs - Nonvoting)

Mark Bennett (Co-Chair)	USGS
Dave Montali (Co-Chair)	Tetra Tech

Coordination (Nonvoting)

Lewis Linker (Coordinator)	USEPA
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Gabriel Duran (Staffer) CRC

Lead Practitioners

Airshed Model (CMAQ)	vacant	TBD
Watershed Model (CBWSM)	Gopal Bhatt	Penn State University
Main Bay Model (SCHISM)	Joseph Zhang	VIMS

Signatory Members (Nine Members)

Virginia – Bill Keeling	(alternate: Arianna Johns)
New York – Cassandra Davis	(alternate: TBD)
Pennsylvania – Scott Heidel	(alternate: TBD)
Maryland – Guido Yactayo	(alternate: Sophia Grossweiler)
District of Columbia – George Onyullo	(alternate: TBD)
West Virginia (vacant)	
Delaware – Joseph Schell – joseph.schell@delaware.gov	(alternate: TBD)
EPA-Federal Agencies – Tom Butler	(alternate: TBD)
Chesapeake Bay Commission (vacant)	

Potential At-Large Expert Members (Up to 15 Total Members)

Greg Noe	USGS (Watershed Sediment Fate and Transport)
Bruce Vogt	NOAA (CBP Living Resources and Ecology)
Carl Cerco	Koniak (Estuarine Modeling)
Qian Zhang	UMCES (Advanced Monitoring-Modeling Linkages and Trend Analyses)
Robert Sabo	USEPA (AI/Machine Learning and Watershed Modeling)
Jeremy Testa	UMCES (Estuarine Biogeochemistry and Modeling)
Larry Band	VA Tech (Watershed Modeling)
Peter Claggett	USGS (Land Use Modeling)