



Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
TO THE CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
February 20-21, 2025

The Westin Annapolis
100 Westgate Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Hybrid Meeting Access
[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting Objectives:

- (1) Receive updates and discuss opportunities for the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee to advise and impact the revision of the *2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*.
- (2) Learn and discuss priority topics of the Indigenous Conservation Council for the Chesapeake Bay.
- (3) Gain a better understanding of “sandboxing” and its potential to help advance water quality and living resource goals.
- (4) Prepare advice for *Watershed Agreement* Outcome Revisions.

Day 1: Thursday, February 20 - Park Place 1 & 2 Meeting Rooms (First Floor)

- 11:00 a.m. Call to Order and Welcome.....Abel Olivo, Chair**
- Member Introductions
 - Welcome New PA Members
 - [Bobby Hughes](#), ED [Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#)
 - [Patrick McDonnell](#), CEO [PennFuture](#)
 - Brief Introduction of Guests
- 11:20 a.m. Business Meeting**
- Chair's Opening Remarks
 - Vision for Leadership
 - Overview of meeting agenda and objectives
 - Approval of draft December 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - Chair's Report:
 - Results of Member Advice to New Leadership
 - Membership & Governance Subcommittee Report
 - B25 Workgroup Report
 - Member Updates and Announcements
 - PA Clean Water Gathering
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch- Members are encouraged to gather in state delegations**

**1:00 p.m. Chesapeake Bay Program Updates.....[Lucinda Power](#)
Branch Chief, Partnerships and Accountability
EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program**

- Outline the [2024 EC Charge Beyond 2025](#) and Timeline
- Process for *Watershed Agreement* Revisions
 - Vision, Preamble, and Principles
 - Outcomes
 - Governance and Structure
- Draft PSC response to the Stakeholders' 2024 EC Recommendations
- GIT funding and priority projects

**2:00 p.m. *Watershed Agreement* Vision, Preamble, and Principles.....[Leila Duman](#)
Bay Restoration Officer,
MD Department of Natural Resources**

- Introduction and vision for the Bay Restoration Officer role
- As Chair of the EC and PSC, how Maryland intends to lead the partnership in meeting the 2024 EC Charge Beyond 2025
 - Thoughts on what elevating conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Program means
 - Thoughts on what "center people" in the Bay Program partnership's work means
- A discussion on Maryland's current thinking about the *Watershed Agreement* revisions slated for this year
 - Vision, Preamble, and Principles
 - Goals and Outcomes
- MD's Feedback on the [2024 Stakeholders' Recommendations to the EC](#)
 - Joint Advisory Committee request for a PSC Statement on the Advisory Committee
 - a new deadline for the WIP 2025 outcome and Bay TMDL
 - convening a forum on lowering barriers to grant access and administration
 - Making WIPs locally relevant by focusing on a local river-basin level
- Considerations on the MD Whole Watershed Act and Bay Legacy Bill
- Particular advice sought from the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee

2:45 p.m. Break

**3:00 p.m. An Introduction to [Indigenous Conservation Council for the Chesapeake Bay](#)
[Melissa Ehrenreich](#), Executive Director**

- History and Background of the Council
- Sovereignty and Federal Trust Responsibility
- Priorities and Perspectives
- Indigenous Guardian Programs and Indigenous Knowledge
- Highlights of the recent Council Resolution

A Declaration of Tribal Nations as Sovereign Governments Committed to the Protection and Restoration of Ancestral Lands and Waters through the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership [ICC Resolution](#) signed by the 7 Federally Recognized Tribes, calls for:

- (1) Include the Indigenous Conservation Council as a signatory to the revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement to support Tribal Nations in their right to exercise our treaty rights and serve as full partners in its protection and restoration;
- (2) Establish and fund an Indigenous Guardianship Program as a priority within the Agreement's revised goals and strategies that would direct funding to the ICC as a new jurisdictional Signatory partner to be sub-granted to Tribal Nation members to build their tribal capacity; and,
- (3) Establish an Advisory Committee for Tribal Nations within the Chesapeake Bay Program structure to guide this new Indigenous Guardianship Program to be on par with internationally recognized initiatives.

3:45 p.m. Sandboxing Panel Discussion

Opening Remarks: Matt Ehrhart, Water Quality Subcommittee Co-Chair

Remote Presentation: What is and what is not Sandboxing?

[Phoebe Higgins](#)

Director of Nature and Markets

Environmental Policy Innovation Center

4:15p.m. Panel Discussion:

What are the opportunities and challenges in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed?

What are some practical examples for its application?

- **Denice Wardrop**

Executive Director, Chesapeake Research Consortium,
co-author Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR)

- **Frank Dawson**

LGAC Member,
Montgomery County

- [Harry Huntley](#)

Agriculture Policy Lead
Environmental Policy Innovation Center
Annapolis Alderman

5:00 p.m. Meeting Recess

6:30 p.m. Dinner- Paul's Homewood Cafe

Meet in the hotel lobby at 6:20pm to walk together as a group.

Day 2: Friday, February 21- Park Place 1 & 2 Meeting Rooms (First Floor)

8:00 a.m. Breakfast in the meeting room

8:30 a.m. Reconvene and Coordinator's Report.....**Jess Blackburn**
Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Coordinator,
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

- Outline of 2025 Committee activities

8:50 a.m. Member Reflections and Discussion

Members share reflections and ideas for potential Stakeholders' Advisory Committee follow-up based on the previous day's presentations and discussions.

9:20 a.m. Subcommittee Break-out Sessions

Brief Review of Requested Assignment

- Members are asked to discuss the Outcome Briefing Documents and capture their comments for the Feb 27th Management Board "pulse check".

Break-out Locations

WQ Subcommittee- remain in Park Place Meeting Room

S&E Subcommittee- Meeting Room Senate A

CLU Subcommittee- Meeting Room Senate B

10:30 a.m. Break

Final call to check-out of hotel room

10:45 a.m. Subcommittee Reports and Committee Discussion

Subcommittee Chairs report on their discussions and key points to relay to the Management Board. Members are encouraged to ask questions and when possible seek consensus positions.

- Water Quality
- Stewardship & Engagement
- Conservation & Land Use

11:45 a.m. Wrap Up and Action Items

12:00 p.m. Adjourn

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee 2025 Meeting Dates

May 21-22, Harrisonburg, VA (overlaps with CCWC Conference)

September 17-18, PA (TBD)

December 11-12 Shepherdstown, WV- National Conservation Training Center

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is honored to support the appointed volunteers of the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee. We are committed to serving as an unbiased convener so the members can achieve their mission through learning and discussion. Views expressed by the members and their guest speakers are not those of the Alliance.