



Chesapeake Bay Program  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

June 23, 2026

# **Stewardship Workgroup**

## June 2026 Quarterly Meeting

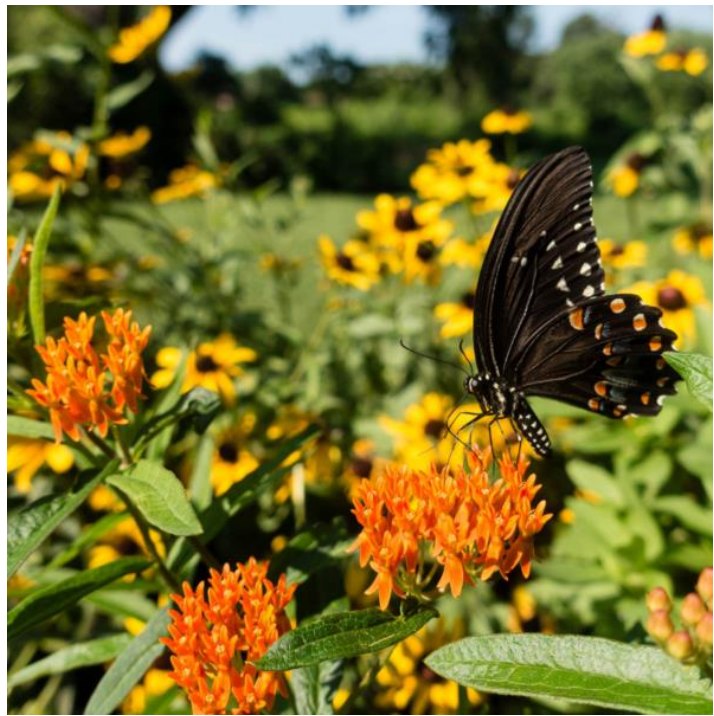


Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

# Icebreaker

What's your favorite summer outdoor activity in the Chesapeake Bay watershed? 🌻

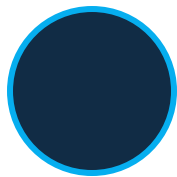
# Agenda

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- 1 Welcome and Introductions**
- 2 Stewardship Lightning Talks**
- 3 Chesapeake Bay Program Updates**
- 4 Collaboration Discussion**
- 5 Wrap-Up**



# **Stewardship Lightning Talks**

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## Justin Doyle, Director of Community Conservation James River Association



Justin is the James River Association's Director of Community Conservation. He promotes conservation and responsible stewardship of our natural resources through the James River Association's Community Conservation Program, which empowers residents to implement river-friendly conservation practices at home and collaborates with communities to better manage stormwater runoff using gray and green infrastructure.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography from the University of Mary Washington in 2008, a Master of Urban & Regional Planning degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2012 and completed the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute in 2016.

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## **Meredith Prescott, Invasive Vines Program Manager Chesapeake Climate Action Network**



Meredith Prescott (she/her) grew up in rural Maine, where her passion for the outdoors began to take shape. Since she entered the workforce, she has spent 7 years managing a variety of non-profit programs (in DC, VA, & CO) focused on climate resilience, conservation, environmental stewardship, and sustainable food access. She joined CCAN in 2024 to launch a new volunteer program focused on rescuing mature trees from invasive vines. Meredith is passionate about building community through the outdoors, and cares deeply for her community that she has built over nine years of living in DC. In her free time, she can be found biking on the Anacostia River Trail, exploring DC's music scene, or sharing some snacks in a park with friends.

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# Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

- Engaged Communities Goal Team virtual [meeting](#) in July to discuss Outcome strategies and collaborative priorities.
- Revised [Governance and Management Framework](#)
  - *“Workgroups should designate up to 15 voting members who cast votes in instances where unanimous consent cannot be reached. Voting members will be approved by the Goal Team.”*
- Drafting CBP Strategic Plan this summer; public feedback period in January 2027.

# Strategic Plan Timeline

**OCTOBER 22, 2026**

Send Strategic Plan draft to Policy Steering Committee (PSC).  
(Chapters due Oct. 19)

**DECEMBER 3-18, 2026**

PSC approves draft Strategic Plan for Public Feedback Period release via email.

**APRIL 2027**

Present revised Strategic Plan to PSC.  
  
Receive and incorporate input

**MAY 2027**

Goal Teams approve Strategic Plan

**MAY 2026**

**JUN 2026**

**JUL 2026**

**AUG 2026**

**SEP 2026**

**OCT 2026**

**NOV 2026**

**DEC 2026**

**JAN 2027**

**FEB 2027**

**MAR 2027**

**APR 2027**

**MAY 2027**

**JUN 2027**

**NOVEMBER 5, 2026**

Present draft Strategic Plan chapters to PSC.  
Receive and incorporate PSC input.  
(Revisions due Nov. 20)

**JANUARY 5 - 31, 2027**

Strategic Plan Public Feedback Period

**JUNE 2027**

PSC approves Strategic Plan  
  
Goal Teams approve Workplans



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# Engaged Communities Goal

Engage and grow a community of local stewards and leaders through education, recreation and professional development opportunities to ensure the long-term success of restoration and conservation efforts.

## Stewardship Outcome

Increase the public's participation in stewardship actions that contribute positively to lands, waters, wildlife, fisheries and communities throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

- Through 2040, build the capacity of leaders in the community and environmental professionals with the social science data, technical assistance and support needed to develop and improve and carry out individual- and community-level stewardship programs, including those that will help advance the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Goals and Outcomes.

# Stewardship Management Strategy Sub-Chapter

- **Engaged Communities Management Strategy:** contains Stewardship Outcome sub-chapter; implemented, evaluated, and updated every 6 years.
- **Stewardship Workplan:** describes the major activities that will be collaboratively undertaken by CBP partners to make progress toward the Outcome / Target; implemented and updated every 3 years.



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# Stewardship Management Strategy Sub-Chapter

## Sections:

- Baseline / Current Conditions
- Monitoring Progress and Indicators – *Stewardship Index, Steward Map, highlight events and project initiatives*
- Situation Analysis / Identifying Challenges – *we'd love your input!*
- Snapshot of Signatory Programs
- Management Approaches – *complete first draft by July 7th.*
- Participating Partners
- Signatory Statutory Authorities Driving Outcome Attainment

# Stewardship Management Strategy Sub-Chapter

## Challenges\*

Political support and establishing public policy for stewardship programs

Consumer markets and financial incentives for individual stewardship actions

Funding for community-led projects (staff time, marketing, and project materials)

Capacity to recruit and train volunteers and local leaders

Ability to measure impact and track progress of stewardship programs

Coordination among existing programs and partner networks at the local level

Scaling up stewardship programs region-wide

Community outreach and engagement about watershed cleanup efforts

Public perception about watershed cleanup initiatives

Access to and use of public recreation sites

*\*Informed by previous [Stewardship Outcome Management Strategy](#) published in 2024.*



# Open Discussion

Time for questions, follow-up discussion, and identifying collaboration opportunities and future agenda topics.



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## Discussion Questions

- How does your organization shift stewardship program designs and recruitment strategies in areas with low engagement?
- Have you employed any creative techniques to bolster engagement?

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# Reminders

## *Upcoming Meetings*

- **Community Level Stewardship/Resource Hub Action Team:**  
June 24<sup>th</sup>, 12-1 PM
- **Map Ambassadors Action Team:** June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2-3 PM
- **Engaged Communities Goal Team Meeting:** July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1-3 PM
- **Stewardship Quarterly Meeting:** Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Please reach out to Katie Ayers, WG Coordinator ([ayers.katie@epa.gov](mailto:ayers.katie@epa.gov)) if you are interested in [contributing to or reviewing the Stewardship Management Strategy sub-chapter](#).



Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

# Thank you!

*Comments, questions, ideas?*

Marissa O'Neill, Chair | [marissa.oneill@dc.gov](mailto:marissa.oneill@dc.gov)

Katie Ayers, Coordinator | [ayers.katie@epa.gov](mailto:ayers.katie@epa.gov)

Meredith Lemke, Staffer | [lemkem@chesapeake.org](mailto:lemkem@chesapeake.org)



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