



2023 Strategy Review System (SRS)

Biennial Meeting...a stop along the journey

The Graduate Charlottesville, 1309 W. Main St., Charlottesville, VA

May 11-12, 2023

Purpose: Convene the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership to fully **integrate learnings** into the charting of a course to 2025 and beyond 2025 for all outcomes so that the response to the Executive Council (EC) charge is **representative of the full spectrum partnership**.

Objectives:

1. **Science:** Determine opportunities to leverage action for existing science challenges and identify emerging issues.
2. **Restoration:** Address outcome attainability (and non-attainment) by identifying priorities and formulating strategies to address critical knowledge gaps, and develop a communication strategy for communicating progress and challenges.
3. **Partnership:** Assess our partnership for where we have gaps and how we can ensure a diverse and robust partnership moving forward.

Meeting Logistics & Agenda Notes:

- In the agenda below, “EC #X” refers to an elements of the Executive Council Charge
- **Unless otherwise noted, sessions will take place in the Piedmont Ballroom on the 9th floor of The Graduate Hotel.**
- Meals:
 - You are encouraged to explore Charlottesville’s excellent local restaurants for breakfast and dinner on your own.
 - Please see the agenda below for details about lunches that will be served to our meeting room. Lunch charges can either be billed to your hotel room, or for those not staying at The Graduate, a hotel representative will be on hand to take swipe card payment.
 - We hope you can join us for a No Host Social (happy hour) in The Graduate Hotel’s second floor Game Room on Thursday between 5:00pm and 7:00pm.

Agenda – Day 1

Thursday, May 11, 2023, 9:00-4:45 pm

8:00–9:00 am 60 min	Registration Please collect your name badge and table assignment from the registration table <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: 9th floor outside of the Piedmont Ballroom
9:00–9:20 am 20 min	Welcome & Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming Remarks by <i>Martha Shimkin, EPA CBPO</i> • Purpose, Objectives, Agenda Overview & Housekeeping with <i>Sherry Witt, GDIT</i> • Our Journey: A Timeline of the Biennial to 2025 by <i>Carin Bisland, EPA CBPO</i>
9:20–9:40 am 20 min	Opening Presentations from the Reaching 2025 Ad Hoc Group & Beyond 2025 Steering Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation from Reaching 2025 by <i>Sean Corson, NOAA</i> • Presentation from Beyond 2025 by <i>Martha Shimkin, EPA CBPO</i>
Session 1: Where We Are Now	
9:40–10:15 am 35 min	Setting the Stage to Develop & Implement a Communication Strategy, EC #5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session facilitated by <i>Rachel Felter, ACB</i>

10:15–10:40 am <i>25 min</i>	Snapshot of Outcome Attainability under the Agreement, EC #6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation by <i>Katheryn Barnhart, EPA CBPO</i>
10:40–11:10 am <i>30 min</i>	Gallery Walk & Break: Outcome Successes Across the Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Game Room, 2nd Floor of The Graduate Hotel
11:10–11:50 am <i>40 min</i>	Key Partnership Successes Associated with Ecosystem Improvements & Addressing Gaps in our Outcome Attainability, EC #6,8b <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation by <i>Bill Dennison, UMCES</i>
11:50–12:55 pm <i>65 min</i>	Lunch Break Event planners are coordinating with The Graduate Hotel to have lunches served to our meeting room. Each morning, the hotel will have a lunch menu order form for guests to fill out in our meeting room; several options will be offered at per diem pricing. You will turn your lunch order form in at the start of the meeting and lunch will arrive later. Lunch charges can either be billed to your hotel room, or for those not staying at The Graduate, a hotel representative will be on hand to take swipe card payment.
<i>Session 2: Building Capacity to 2025 & Beyond with Science, Restoration & Partnership</i>	
12:55–1:15 pm <i>20 min</i>	Learning Forward: Lessons for the Future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation by <i>Kurt Stephenson, VA Tech and Denise Wardrop, CRC</i>
1:15–1:45 pm <i>30 min</i>	Defining the Existing & Emerging Challenges to Accomplishing Our Goals, EC #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation by <i>Breck Sullivan, USGS CBPO</i>
1:45–2:45 pm <i>60 min</i>	Gallery Walk: Financial Resources, Targeting Tools & Other Informative Projects Underway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Game Room, 2nd Floor
2:45–3:00 pm <i>15 min</i>	Break
3:00–4:15 pm <i>75 min</i>	Chesapeake Bay Café: What are the opportunities to leverage action across multiple goals and outcomes of the <i>Watershed Agreement</i> through the application of available tools and resources? EC #4 <i>The Chesapeake Bay Café, commonly called a World Café, is a process to facilitate large group collaborative dialogue around questions that matter to our work within the Chesapeake Bay partnership. Small groups will have three rounds of 20-minute discussions regarding specific questions as they move from table to table or via WebEx breakout rooms for virtual participants. Tables or virtual breakout rooms have unique discussions. Participants have the opportunity to contribute to the previous round of discussions as they further explore the new round of discussions. Participants are encouraged to note key ideas or doodle on their “tablecloths” or Jamboards.</i>
4:15–4:35 pm <i>20 min</i>	Chesapeake Bay Café Reflections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Observations from the Getting to 2025 Group by <i>Sean Corson, NOAA</i> Observations from audience, facilitated by <i>Sherry Witt, GDIT</i>
4:35–4:45 pm <i>10 min</i>	Summary, Wrap-up & Preparation for Day 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcements by <i>Sherry Witt, GDIT</i>
4:45 pm	Adjourn Day 1
5:00–7:00 pm <i>2 hours</i>	No Host Social (Happy Hour) Network with your colleagues, discuss sessions from the Biennial, and purchase a beverage and/or snacks from the bar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location: Game Room, 2nd Floor

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Agenda – Day 2

Friday, May 12, 2023, 8:30-3:00 pm

8:00–8:30 am 30 min	Registration Visit the registration table to see your table assignment for Day 2. Please plan to reuse and wear your nametag from Day 1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: 9th floor outside of the Piedmont Ballroom
8:30–9:00 am 30 min	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative Comments, <i>Martha Shimkin, EPA CBPO</i> • Beyond 2025 Opening Comments by <i>Anna Killius, CBC</i> and <i>Julie Lawson, CAC</i>
Session 3: 2025 & Beyond	
9:00–10:00 am 60 min	Stakeholders’ Perspectives on Community Input Beyond 2025, EC #7,8b Panel Discussion featuring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Bo Williams, EPA CBPO (moderator)</i> • <i>Kacey Wetzel, CBT</i> • <i>Mariah Davis, CCWC</i> • <i>Julie Lawson, CAC</i> Following the panel discussion, there will be an opportunity for audience Q&A.

10:00–10:30 am <i>30 min</i>	Gallery Walk & Break <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location: Game Room, 2nd Floor
10:30–11:15 am <i>45 min</i>	Screening of <i>Eroding History</i> with filmmaker Rona Kobell, Co-Founder Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative, EC #1, 8 This documentary tells the story of two Black communities on the Deal Island Peninsula located on Maryland’s Eastern Shore that are losing historic and cultural resources to sea level rise and climate change. The movie will focus our thinking on the intersection of community, environmental justice, protection of historical, cultural and living resources, and the disproportionate impacts of climate change to underserved communities. The ensuing discussion and World Café will allow us to reframe our approaches, think about what it would look like to center our work on community and living resource needs and adapt our Agreement in a way that reflects not only emerging science but also makes our work more relevant to all communities.
11:15–12:15 pm <i>60 min</i>	Chesapeake Bay Café: Adapting our Agreement Outcomes to Reflect New & Emerging Science & Make Them Relevant to All Communities Beyond 2025 <i>The Chesapeake Bay Café, commonly called a World Café, is a process to facilitate large group collaborative dialogue around questions that matter to our work within the Chesapeake Bay partnership. Small groups will have three rounds of 20-minute discussions regarding specific questions as they move from table to table or via WebEx breakout rooms for virtual participants. Tables or virtual breakout rooms have unique discussions. Participants have the opportunity to contribute to the previous round of discussions as they further explore the new round of discussions. Participants are encouraged to note key ideas or doodle on their “tablecloths” or Jamboards.</i>
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<i>Session 4: Communicating Our Progress</i>	
1:00–2:00 pm <i>60 min</i>	Implementing a Communication Strategy, EC #5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Session facilitated by <i>Rachel Felver, ACB</i>
<i>The Way Forward & Wrap Up</i>	
2:00–2:15 pm <i>15 min</i>	Key Take-aways & Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflections from <i>Beyond 2025</i> by <i>Jill Whitcomb, PADEP</i> • Reflections from <i>Reaching 2025</i> by <i>Sean Corson, NOAA</i>
2:15–2:30 pm <i>15 min</i>	The Journey Ahead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion facilitated by <i>Sherry Witt, GDIT</i>
2:30–2:40 pm <i>10 min</i>	Wrap Up & Closing Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing comments by <i>Martha Shimkin, EPA CBPO</i>
2:40–3:00 pm <i>20 min</i>	Reflections on the Past to Bring Us into the Future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by <i>Carin Bisland, EPA CBPO</i>
3:00 pm	Adjourn

Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership

Executive Council Charge to the Principals' Staff Committee: Charting a Course to 2025 and Beyond

As the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership nears the 2025 date that the partnership set for several of the goals and outcomes under the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* (Watershed Agreement), there are many successes to celebrate. At the same time, emerging issues and changing conditions (e.g., climate change, growth, new scientific data) have impacted the levels of effort needed to meet our collective restoration priorities. We, as a partnership, remain committed to using the best available science in restoring the Chesapeake Bay as we accelerate toward the deadline and anticipate continued progress post-2025.

Thus, this Executive Council charges the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) in recommending a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the *Watershed Agreement* leading up to and beyond 2025. The PSC is to report back to the Executive Council at our 2023 annual meeting with recommendations on how to best address and integrate new science and restoration strategies leading up to 2025. At our 2024 annual meeting, the PSC is to prepare recommendations that continue to address new advances in science and restoration, along with a focus on our partnership for going beyond 2025.

In undertaking such a process, the PSC should address the following considerations:

Science

1. Identify new and emerging scientific data and studies which could modify our progress reporting and adaptive management approach, as well as the goals and outcomes under the *Watershed Agreement*.
2. Enhance our monitoring and reporting capabilities to improve our understanding of existing conditions and trends.
3. Define the existing and emerging challenges (e.g., climate change conditions, increasing growth, diversity, equity, inclusion and justice considerations) to accomplishing the partnership's work under the *Watershed Agreement*, and how addressing those challenges might alter our collective restoration priorities, including the possibility of extending the target date for completing restoration of water quality beyond 2025.
4. Identify opportunities to leverage action across multiple goals and outcomes of the *Watershed Agreement*.

Restoration

5. Develop and begin to implement a communication strategy that identifies key partnership successes, associated ecosystem improvements and areas where more effort is needed.
6. Provide snapshots of outcome attainability under the Agreement (e.g., which outcomes are likely to be met by the date(s) set by the partnership, which won't, and why) and options for communicating these snapshots to demonstrate progress in achieving our outcomes and the remaining work to be done, including gaps to be addressed.

Partnership

7. Focus on moving beyond 2025 by seeking ways in which restoration can be relevant to all communities within the watershed.
8. Assess the overall partnership to determine whether we
 - a. Are effectively hearing from and listening to all stakeholders, and
 - b. Have systems of evaluation and decision-making to enable meaningful action and allocation of partnership resources.
9. Based on this assessment, develop recommendations for potential improvement.

Chesapeake Bay Café Questions

A “World Café” style collaborative process is being used at the Biennial Meeting to explore questions that matter to our work and provide input on the Executive Council charge. This process includes 20-minute conversations as groups move table to table (or virtual breakouts). Participants weigh in on three different topics or questions per day. Participants will be randomly assigned to groups. All topics and questions are provided below.

Day 1: Opportunities to Leverage Action Across Multiple Goals & Outcomes of the Watershed Agreement through the Application of Available Tools

For each challenge topic, three questions are being asked:

1. What tools and resources do we currently have that can be applied?
2. What might we need to address the challenge that we do not have?
3. What is the next step we can take in implementing recommendations we already have on these topics?

Challenge Topics:

1. To be more effective at centering people in Bay conservation/restoration efforts for the future
2. To develop and apply the necessary decision-science tools to allow effective and appropriate assessment of tradeoffs
3. To express and illustrate the benefits to society of watershed and Bay conditions at a relevant spatial scale and how human activities, interventions, and climate change affect it
4. To estimate what the future Bay and its watershed will look like under different scenarios of management
5. To craft approaches to balance attention and efforts across all outcomes in the Watershed Agreement
6. To efficiently monitor to assess progress on all ten goals of the Watershed Agreement
7. To develop and implement approaches accounting for the interactions of climate change with other issues (vulnerability to communities, increasing resiliency, land use/land change)
8. To maximize the impact of water quality management efforts for living resource response
9. To incorporate learnings effectively and efficiently into all levels of decision-making across the partnership
10. To develop and apply the necessary social science tools to effectively involve and serve communities in ways that are equitable, fair, and just for all

Day 2: Adapting our Agreement Outcomes to Reflect New & Emerging Science & Make Them Relevant to All Communities Beyond 2025

1. Value of the Partnership
 - a. What is the value of the Partnership to you in restoring the Bay? What would make it more valuable to you? What would add more value?
 - b. How would you make the Partnership more valuable to all communities?
 - c. What is at risk without having the Partnership?
2. Stakeholder Engagement
 - a. What concerns do you have with stakeholder engagement?
 - b. What excites you about stakeholder engagement?
 - c. Consider the stakeholders represented on the three Advisory Committees, what does “effectively hearing from and listening to” them look like?
3. Refining the Agreement
 - a. What is working well with the Watershed Agreement? What is not working well?
 - b. If we were going to refine the Watershed Agreement, what would those things be (i.e., vision, principles, goals, and/or outcomes)?
 - c. Does our governance structure and process need to be changed? Why?
4. Additional Information for the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee
 - a. What do you care most about that you want the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee to know, focus on, or include in the planning for their work?
 - b. Where are some areas for meaningful change that need to occur?