



2023 Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting Quote Sheet

“The Chesapeake Bay is more than just an ecological national treasure; it is an economic engine for the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond. Under the Biden-Harris administration, protecting and restoring the Bay has been a top priority, with historic investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and significant new partnerships to implement these unprecedented resources quickly and efficiently. With Governor Moore at the helm, EPA and all the partners of the Program are well-positioned for the next generation of conservation in the Chesapeake Bay.”

- Michael Regan, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

“I’m honored and deeply humbled to serve as the Chair of the Chesapeake Executive Council. The Chesapeake Bay is part of who we are as Marylanders—and plays a vital role in our state’s environment and economy. Maryland is ready to take the lead on this important work, and we know we won’t be working alone. I am optimistic that if we take shared responsibility, hold each other accountable and follow the science—we can achieve our vision of a cleaner, healthier Bay for all.”

- Wes Moore, Governor, State of Maryland

“My Administration takes protecting the Chesapeake Bay incredibly seriously and is committed to coordinating with our partners to invest in our farmers, protect our rivers and clean up the Chesapeake Bay. Since 2019, Commonwealth agencies have invested almost \$1 billion in Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts, while simultaneously empowering our farmers, building our parks and outdoor recreation economy, and investing in wastewater treatment facilities to prevent stormwater from carrying harmful nutrients downstream. Pennsylvania is all in, and we look forward to continuing to work together to restore the Chesapeake Bay for generations of Pennsylvanians and Americans to come.”

- Josh Shapiro, Governor, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

“Since day one, my Administration has made the Chesapeake Bay a priority. We have made historic and long overdue investments in support of a healthy Bay, funding an additional \$600 million in water quality improvements just this year. While there is still much work to do, we are rebuilding the trust and collaboration with our agricultural community necessary to getting Virginia back on a track towards achieving realistic progress on our Chesapeake Bay goals and ensuring this resource is protected for generations of Virginians.”

- Glenn Youngkin, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia

“West Virginia continues its commitment to restore and protect, not only the Chesapeake Bay watershed, but all of the streams and rivers throughout the state. The work that has been done to restore the Chesapeake Bay has been nothing short of miraculous; however, there is still more work to be done. West Virginia, in partnership with our neighboring states within the Bay Program and local stakeholders, will persist with our efforts to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to enjoy this one-of-a-kind resource.”

- Jim Justice, Governor, State of West Virginia

“The Chesapeake Bay Commission has been a proud partner of the Bay Program from the beginning, helping to achieve consensus and lead action. As a legislator, I know this work is not easy. The key is to stay focused on a common goal. In a watershed as diverse as the Chesapeake, we can all engage around local water quality. The partnership’s science, data, tools and funding empower local communities to improve their own rivers and streams, which in turn benefits the Bay downstream. I am excited about the next chapter as we work collaboratively to further enhance these resources.”

- Scott Martin, Chair, Chesapeake Bay Commission and State Senator, Pennsylvania’s Senate District 13

“The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) recognizes that the Chesapeake Executive Council has extensive experience in working with local, state and federal governments with the goal of protecting and ensuring a healthy watershed for everyone. New and urgent community challenges demand that we reassess the effectiveness of existing policies and experiment with new approaches that address these needs, such as the creation of inclusive, regulatory sandboxing opportunities for testing and further investment in circuit riders that have already proven to be so effective throughout the region. As such, LGAC calls on the Executive Council to direct assistance to local governments throughout the watershed.”

- Daniel Chao, Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program Local Government Advisory Committee

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) reaffirms our dedication to advancing science-based decision-making for Chesapeake Bay restoration with the release of the May 2023 independent report, “[Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: A Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response](#)”, or the “CESR” report. This three-year effort sought to evaluate current progress towards the Bay TMDL and water quality standards, and summarizes the STAC evaluation of why progress toward meeting them has been slower than expected. To address implications and findings from CESR, STAC calls for the centering of a stakeholder-led refinement of Bay goals, the exploration of alternative incentives to BMP adoption via “sandboxing” initiatives, increased attention to mass imbalances and their impact on the effectiveness of best management practices, and the pursuit of effective adaptive decision-making and exploration of logic frameworks due to multiple objectives, uncertainties and limited resources.

- Dr. Larry Sanford, Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

“As the Chesapeake Bay Program celebrates its 40th anniversary, the Stakeholders’ Advisory Committee applauds the partners for the work accomplished, knowing there is yet more to do. We look forward to continuing to support the Program with diverse perspectives that recognize ongoing and emerging challenges to protecting and restoring the Bay watershed for all living resources, including its people.”

- Julie Patton Lawson, Chair, Chesapeake Bay Program Stakeholders Advisory Committee