

Advisory Committees

Agricultural Advisory Committee

Chair: Bill Fink, Director of Agricultural Operations, Country View Family Farms

Created by the Chesapeake Executive Council in 2024, the Agricultural Advisory Committee consists of farmers (including urban), agribusiness representatives and technical professionals. They advise the Chesapeake Executive Council on strategies and opportunities for agricultural operations to more effectively meet the restoration and conservation goals of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Agricultural Advisory Committee focuses on high-level policy issues to ensure its scope complements—and does not overlap with—the technical work conducted by other groups within the partnership.

Local Government Advisory Committee

Chair: Marty Qually, Commissioner, Adams County, Pennsylvania

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) was created by the Chesapeake Executive Council through the *1987 Chesapeake Bay Agreement*. The purpose of LGAC is to advise the Chesapeake Executive Council on how to effectively implement projects and engage the support of local governments to achieve the goals and outcomes of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. LGAC's mission is to share the views and insights of local elected officials with state and federal decision-makers and to enhance the flow of information among local governments about the health and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

Chair: Bill Dennison, PhD, Professor and Vice-President for Science Application, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES)

The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) provides scientific and technical guidance to the Chesapeake Bay Program on measures to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Since its creation in December 1984, STAC has worked to enhance scientific communication and outreach throughout the watershed and beyond. They provide independent scientific and technical advice through peer reviews, expert convenings and reports, and serve as a liaisons between the region's scientific community and the Chesapeake Bay Program. STAC also ensures close cooperation among research institutions and management agencies throughout the Bay watershed.

Stakeholders Advisory Committee

Chair: Abel Olivo, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Defensores de la Cuenca

The Stakeholders Advisory Committee represents a sample of residents and various interests across the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including watershed and community based organizations, funders, agricultural and business members, restoration specialists, and retired state and federal government workers. They advise the leadership of the Chesapeake Bay Program by advocating accountability to the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, community engagement, and the protection of the watershed's habitats and resources. Since 1984, the Stakeholders Advisory Committee has provided a nongovernmental perspective on restoration efforts, and on how Chesapeake Bay Program policies and programs affect people who live, work and recreate throughout the watershed.