

## **Executive Council Planning Meeting - March 30, 2022**

### **Participants:**

Carin Bisland, EPA CBPO (Chair)	Jennifer Star, LGAC
Rachel Felver, ACB CBP (Chair)	Jennifer Walls, DE DNREC
Garrett Stewart, CRC CBP (Staffer)	Jess Blackburn, CAC
Marisa Baldine, CRC CBP (Staffer)	John Maleri, DC DOEE
Amanda Davis, DE DNREC	Marel King, CBC
Cassandra Davis, NY DEC	Meg Cole, STAC
David Goshorn, MD DNR	Shane Gutsie, PA DEP
Greg Barranco, EPA CBPO	

### **I. New EC Planning Chair**

- A. Carin Bisland, Chief, Partnerships and Accountability Branch  
Chesapeake Bay Program Office, Environmental Protection Agency

### **II. Briefing book**

- A. The 2022 EC Briefing Book page can be accessed here:  
[https://www.chesapeakebay.net/ecbrief/2022\\_executive\\_council\\_meeting\\_briefing\\_book](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/ecbrief/2022_executive_council_meeting_briefing_book)

### **III. New EC members**

- A. Sarah Elfreth, Chair, Chesapeake Bay Commission
- B. Glenn Youngkin, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia

### **IV. Lessons learned from 2021:**

- A. Only hold one meeting per year.
- B. Meeting needs to be less ceremonial.
- C. Meeting should be in a more central location.
- D. Continue to offer a virtual option.
- E. Need clarity around logistical items sooner.
- F. Materials need to be posted three weeks ahead of the meeting instead of two.
- G. PSC needs to be more helpful in getting their members to attend.
  - 1. PSC should have a discussion prior to the EC meeting about what is needed to get their principal to attend.
  - 2. Consider having each EC member champion their own CBP goal and bring it to the public meeting.
- H. A designee should still be permitted to bring a plus one.
- I. Private lunch should have an important issue on the agenda to discuss.
- J. No more than two guest speakers at the public meeting.
- K. Helpful to have EC Chair meet with the AC chairs in advance of the meeting.
- L. How do we get members to stay on time when speaking?
- M. Press coordination needs to be better prepared - important press announcements from jurisdictions should happen at the meeting, not prior to, a day before or a day after.
  - 1. Jurisdictions should plan their own announcements within the scope of the EC meeting.

2. Consider extending the press Q&A to encourage more media attendance.

**V. Possible meeting dates and locations**

- A. Must occur after September 15, 2022.
  1. Carin Bisland will get feedback from EPA about potential meeting dates.
- B. Must be mindful of elections in DC, DE, MD, NY and WV.
  1. After October 1, dates will start to conflict with elections.
- C. Will most likely occur in Washington, DC.
  1. Washington, DC is not viewed as a central location by some watershed states.
  2. If it is going to take place in DC, the meeting topic should focus on the federal government.
- D. What virtual options should be offered?
  1. Who is the virtual option “offered” for - plus-ones, media, audience?
    - a) Can EC members participate virtually?
      - (1) Is it better to have someone attend virtually than to not attend at all? Does offering a virtual option deter people from attending in person?
      - (2) The private lunch needs to be in person.
        - (a) If they can’t attend the private lunch in person can they still attend the press conference virtually?
        - (b) The private lunch is the most important part of the lunch because it is when they get to talk to each other privately.
      - (3) Some staff members have said they felt excluded in 2021 when the virtual option was offered because they felt they had no role if they weren’t included in the private lunch.
    - b) Give people a reason to be there in person.
  2. In-person is preferable, but it is good to offer a virtual option.
- E. Conflicts
  1. The CBC meeting will take place from September 8 to 9.
  2. The STAC meeting will take place from September 13 to 14.
  3. The CAC meeting will take place from September 15 to 16.
  4. The LGAC meeting will take place from September 21 to 22.

**VI. Potential meeting topics**

- A. Forest buffers
- B. Wetlands
- C. Federal theme
  1. Infrastructure and climate change can both relate to wetlands and buffers.
    - a) Infrastructure could be a good theme with EPA as the Chair. This is especially true if we focus on restoration infrastructure and

discuss how resources can be used to promote the goals and outcomes of the program.

- (1) Infrastructure would be a good topic for a federal theme, but it should expand beyond EPA and Chesapeake Bay specific funding.

2. Resilient Farms Initiative

D. DEIJ

1. Nice crossover between DEIJ and climate change with tree canopy and urban heat islands.

E. At a past meeting, the EC signed a directive directing people to do a reassessment of the Bay Program that culminated in the Chesapeake 2000 agreement.

1. We need to focus on the targets and outcomes we already have for 2025, but it is an idea from something that has been done in the past.
2. At some point between now and 2025, we need to step back and evaluate what is and isn't working with the Chesapeake Bay Program and how to move into the future.
  - a) As each year gets closer to 2025, talks around outcome attainability should be an increasing point of discussion at the meeting and EC members should be prepared to answer questions from the press.
    - (1) If we focus on the future does it look like we're avoiding the outcome attainability discussion?
    - (2) A lot of people are thinking about a refreshed agreement so it makes sense to discuss it upfront.
  - b) Can the Justice 40 Initiative be woven into the discussion?
    - (1) Potentially.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, April 13, 2022**