

## EC Planning Meeting - July 20, 2022

### Participants:

Carin Bisland, EPA CBPO (Chair)	Jess Blackburn, CAC
Rachel Felver, ACB CBP (Chair)	Julia Wakeling, DC DOEE
Garrett Stewart, CRC CBP (Staffer)	Jutta Schneider, VA DEQ
Marisa Baldine, CRC CBP (Staffer)	Mark Hoffman, CBC
Amanda Davis, DE DNREC	Matthew Rowe, MDE
Cassie Davis, NYS DEC	Shane Gutsie, PA DEP
David Goshorn, MD DNR	Teresa Koon, WV DEP
Jennifer Walls, DE DNREC	

- **Briefing book**

- 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)

- **Availability**

- Possible meeting dates:
  - Friday, September 23
  - Tuesday, October 11
  - Wednesday, October 12
  - Thursday, October 13
  - Friday, October 14
- Please let us know by as soon as possible if your EC member has conflicts on any of these days.
  - MD is available October 11, 12 and 13.
  - CBC is available October 11, 12 and 13.

- **Location**

- EPA Headquarters
  - 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20004
  - Easy to access for EC members, staff and members of the public.
- PSC agreed the meeting should be in-person.
- We will continue to offer a live-stream option for the public.

- **PSC thoughts on themes and actions**

- Finishing 2025 strong and looking to the future.
- EC will ask the partnership to do a deeper assessment as to where we are in meeting each of the *Watershed Agreement* outcomes.
  - This assessment will be presented at the 2023 EC meeting.
  - Recognize that this assessment will continue to adapt as we move toward 2025—it is not final.
  - Set realistic timelines for those outcomes that will not meet the 2025 deadline. Continue to be honest and transparent about how long we feel it will take and what it will cost.

- EC will also direct the partnership to begin thinking post-2025 and how to articulate that to our stakeholders.
- Need to acknowledge each jurisdiction's Phase III WIPs and what can be done to move them all forward.
- Recognize the efforts and work that have gone into restoring the Bay up to this point.
  - We are replicated world-wide and known for our tenacity and staying power.
- Be honest in that Bay restoration we're not just going to end in 2025—reframe the narrative that the Bay would be restored in 2025 when in reality it means that 100% of practices would be installed to meet the Bay TMDL goals.
  - We had the guts to use our science to set an accurate goal that was right. We never said it would be easy to meet and it requires more work post 2025.
  - Agriculture will not meet its 2025 goals.
- Science is telling us that our Bay is changing—even from 2009 when the Bay TMDL was put into place. We need to embrace this changing science.
  - Climate change.
  - Conowingo.
  - Redefining wetlands, the Bay shallows (CESR report).
- What science is most relevant as we move toward 2025?
- Future planning should be aligned with the Strategy Review System (SRS) as far as timing and availability of information.
  - The SRS allows CBP teams to review available science and adapt.
- We need to gauge the public's interest in moving beyond 2025. How do we collect that information?

## ● Discussion

- We need to look beyond water quality. All the items listed by the PSC are focused on water quality.
- The *Watershed Agreement* goes beyond what is covered in the WIPs and Bay TMDL. A lot of our successful outcomes are not covered in the WIPs and Bay TMDL, for example, oyster restoration. We need to ensure messaging at the EC meeting captures the full breadth of the *Watershed Agreement*.
- In 2021, the Bay Barometer showed an update for every outcome. What else do the PSC and EC need to know about each outcome?
  - [https://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/44181/2021\\_state\\_of\\_the\\_program\\_\(web\).pdf](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/44181/2021_state_of_the_program_(web).pdf)
- Do we need to focus more on outcomes that won't meet targets? Do we need to prioritize outcomes?
- Focus on the importance of continuing to innovate and we start to look beyond 2025 to address some of the challenges facing the watershed.
- We're not looking at a directive. We're looking more at an assessment and review. It might be a written declaration or something the Chair says at the public meeting.

- The Chesapeake 2000 directive was created at the 1998 Executive Council meeting.
    - Access a copy here: [https://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/ecbrief/45069/ec\\_directive\\_98-207-15-2022-134706.pdf](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/documents/ecbrief/45069/ec_directive_98-207-15-2022-134706.pdf)
    - This directive involved listening sessions and critical issues forums. This was a well-funded initiative with a lot of time and energy devoted to it.
  - At this point, we're very short on time for creating something like a directive and having enough time for EC members to review it.
  - In the past, there have been things that were put together but did not require signatures from each EC member.
- We need to be careful about the language saying 100% of practices are in place because it is defined differently by different people. We might want to come up with some more general language to discuss this point.
- We should acknowledge the unprecedented increase in funding that we have to help us advance toward our 2025 goal. There is an opportunity to highlight this from the federal government and individual jurisdictions.
- The CESR report should be represented in the beyond 2025 discussion because it is recent science we should consider as we look to the future. It should also show up in the STAC report.
  - STAC is planning on using most of their letter to cover the CESR report.
  - In the public lunch, it can be brought up in the State of the Program.
- 2023 will be the 40th anniversary of the Chesapeake Bay Program.
  - It would be nice to combine the assessment work we're doing with outcome attainability and the 40th anniversary.
    - We might need to think about setting up something at this EC meeting to prepare for 2023.
- **Other actions for the 2022 meeting**
  - Update actions taken under 2021 Climate Directive.
  - Advisory Committee reports
    - Rachel will check on how much time Advisory Committee chairs received previously. May need to add in more time for questions and discussion.
  - Elect 2023 Chair
  - Approve edits to the *Watershed Agreement*.
    - Make sure it is clear that these are DEIJ updates in the agenda.
    - Include DEIJ and climate wherever possible to reflect the issues that are important to EC members.
  - Potential for green infrastructure site visit.
- Draft agenda
  - Private lunch
    - 11:30-11:35 Welcome and Introductions
    - 11:35-11:50 Advisory committee reports

- 11:50-12:10 Discussion toward moving to 2025 and planning for post-2025
- 12:10-12:15 Acceptance of Watershed Agreement edits
- 12:15-12:20 Nomination and election of 2023 Chair
- 12:20-12:22 Briefing on public meeting and press availability
- 12:22-12:30 Exit lunch and photos
- Public meeting
  - 12:30-12:45 Green infrastructure site visit and photo op
    - We need to look at the DC green roof ordinance, tree preservation plan and other green infrastructure projects in the area. Julia volunteered to look into what sites are nearby EPA HQ.
  - 12:45-12:50 Transition to meeting room
  - 12:50-1:00 Speaker
    - We need a speaker that can take the big picture items we're looking at and discuss 2025 in a digestible format for members to think about.
    - Part of the role of the speaker will be to discuss outcome attainability. They will need to talk about what we're going to achieve and what we're going to need to push into the future. This is also a great time to really assess what we're learning and what major changes we might want to consider related to the direction of the program. This includes extending the timeline for things that we didn't get done, but also thinking about what's next. Where do we see ourselves as we move forward?
    - Potential speakers:
      - Bill Dennison
      - Ann Swanson
        - Regardless, if Ann is a speaker or not, we should find a way to honor her career at the EC meeting.
  - 1:00-1:05 State of the Program (includes climate directive update)
  - 1:05-1:20 Member remarks
    - Chair remarks will include charge to PSC about outcome assessment.
  - 1:20-1:30 Press Availability
- **Deadlines**
  - All materials will be due three weeks before the meeting date.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, August 3, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**After the next meeting we will move to a weekly schedule.**