

EC Planning Meeting - August 3, 2022

Participants:

Carin Bisland, EPA CBPO (Chair)
Rachel Felver, ACB CBP (Chair)
Marisa Baldine, CRC CBP (Staffer)
Meg Cole, STAC
Amanda Davis, DE DNREC
David Goshorn, MD DNR
Greg Barranco, EPA

Jennifer Starr, LGAC
Jess Blackburn, CAC
Jutta Schneider, VA DEQ
Marel King, CBC
Shane Gutsie, PA DEP
Teresa Koon, WV DEP

- **Briefing book**

- The 2022 EC Briefing Book page can be accessed here:
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
- EPA was notified of October 11 as the preferred date.

- **EC Member RSVP Status**

- Calendars Checked:
 - CBC, MD Senator Sarah Elfreth, Chair
 - MD, Larry Hogan, Governor
 - VA, Glenn Youngkin, Governor
 - WV, Jim Justice, Governor
 - CAC Chair, Julie Lawson
 - LGAC Chair, Jasmine Gore
 - STAC Chair, Kathy Boomer
- TBD:
 - EPA, Michael Regan, Administrator
 - DE, John C. Carney Jr., Governor
 - NY, Kathy Hochul, Governor
 - PA, Tom Wolf, Governor

- **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.

- **Closed lunch agenda**

- 11:30 - Lunch begins
- 11:30 – 11:35 - Welcome and Introductions (EC Chair)
- 11:35 – 11:50 - Advisory Committee reports
- 11:50 – 11:55 - EC Member discussion of Advisory Committee reports
 - Added five minutes for the Advisory Committee report Q&A.
- 11:55 – 12:15 - EC Member discussion of moving toward 2025 and beginning to think about post-2025
 - Who should kick off this conversation?
 - Michael Regan as the Chair of the EC seems like the best choice to start this conversation.
 - It is important that this conversation reflects the goals of the entire *2014 Watershed Agreement* and not only water quality and the Bay TMDL.
 - What topics should be teed up for members to discuss at the private lunch regarding moving to 2025 and beginning to think beyond that?
 - What targets are challenging and may be impossible to meet? If EC members don't address this in their public remarks, it will definitely be a question from the press.
 - How are we measuring progress (in the face of the CAST-19 errors)?
 - We should consider suggestions from the CESR report.
 - The CESR report has many of the elements we need to look at 2025 progress and how to move forward. It will be a synthesis of new science relevant to the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort and a long-term analysis of the health of the ecosystem. It is an assessment of progress to date under the *2014 Watershed Agreement* and provides a clear understanding of public interests and engagement.
 - The CESR report can guide the assessment over the next year, without being a focus of the meeting because most people won't have time to review it in its entirety by the time of the meeting.
 - We need to think about how to encourage the EC to consider opportunities for public input in this process with a special emphasis on working with historically underrepresented groups.
 - The PSC would like the EC to “assign” them to develop a process for assessing the progress we are making in meeting the *Watershed Agreement* targets. Where do we need to go by 2025 and beyond?
 - We're not going to make any decision about 2025 at this meeting, that is a much bigger, multi-year process, but the EC can use this meeting to give the program directions.
 - Creating a direction for moving forward allows us to show that we're thinking about beyond 2025, while still focusing

on our current goals and giving us more time to create a solid framework for moving forward after 2025.

- What does the EC think we need to consider in developing a process? Public input, new science, emerging issues, progress on existing goals and outcomes, etc.
- In recent years, there has been a push to make these meetings shorter. How can we create time for them to talk about these issues?
- There should be enough structure planned in advance to help spur the conversation, but it should also not be scripted too tightly and allow members to speak freely.
 - In the past, we've had a member of the EC champion an agenda item. That could work or we can have the Chair has talking points to get the conversation going.
- One of the questions to consider in a beyond 2025 process is: Who is currently not at the table for the discussion and how to we involve them?
- Should we recommend something like the '98 agreement for Chesapeake 2000?
- 12:15 – 12:18 - Acceptance of *Watershed Agreement* edits
 - Who will bring up changes to the *Watershed Agreement*?
 - Adam Ortiz, as Chair of the PSC might be the best person to start this conversation.
 - The speaker needs to provide an overview on why these changes are necessary. Special emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of the changes and the fact that the PSC supports all of the changes.
 - We will create a memo with a general description of the changes and a note about PSC approval. PSC members will brief their EC members and tell them to accept the changes.
- 12:18 – 12:23 - Nomination and election of 2023 EC Chair
 - We currently do not have a plan for who the next Chair will be and what the nomination process will look like.
 - We need the RSVP status of all of the members before we can make this decision.
 - The term of the current EC Chair can be renewed.
 - Some EC members will be new next year because of fall elections.
- 12:23 – 12:25 - Briefing on public meeting and press conference (Rachel Felter)
- 12:25 – 12:30 - Exit and group photos.
- **Public meeting agenda**
 - 12:30 – 12:45 - Green Infrastructure Site Visit and Photo Op?
 - All of the green infrastructure sites are too far away from the meeting location to access in the 15-minute window.
 - What is a good alternative use of this time?
 - This could be extra free time for members to talk.

- This could be time for members to meet with students working on environmental restoration projects.
 - EC members enjoyed meeting students at past EC meetings.
 - The Chesapeake Bay Program interns could meet the EC members.
 - There could be an opportunity to connect with a DC-based environmental education program like the Kingman Island Rangers.
 - Planning team members should ask their PSC member if it would be preferred to have extra time for EC members to talk or time to meet local students.
 - 12:45 – 12:50 - Transition to Meeting Room
 - 12:50 – 1:00 - Speaker
 - The speaker should have an optimistic attitude about Bay restoration progress. They should talk about staying the course to 2025 and starting to think about the future of Bay restoration.
 - Ann Swanson and Bill Dennison were suggested as potential speakers.
 - Ann Swanson expressed interest in participating as a speaker.
 - 1:00 – 1:05 - State of the Program (includes updates on climate and DEIJ directives) (Dr. Kandis Boyd)
 - 1:05 – 1:20 - Member Remarks
 - Only EC members should speak. Give each EC member three minutes to speak and plan for each of them taking five minutes.
 - Only having EC members give remarks gives them an incentive to show up.
 - Other representatives can be on stage and answer questions but they will not be given the three minutes to make remarks.
 - Fewer, longer presentations tend to be more interesting than several shorter presentations.
 - Having nine members on stage when we talk about 2025 and beyond is important to show the partnership. If we only have a handful of members then maybe we could have roles other than just representing jurisdiction.
 - 1:20 – 1:30 - Press Availability
 - 1:30 - Meeting ends promptly at 1:30
- **Briefing Book**
 - How useful are EC briefing books to members? Is there anything that should be removed or added?
 - CESR report should be included
 - Will be highlighted in STAC letter
 - STAC is also thinking about how to restructure goals after 2025 in order to achieve what needs to be achieved.

- How useful is the briefing book for EC members? Is there anything that should be removed or added?
 - The briefing book contains too much information for an EC member. Briefing materials for EC members should be less than one page.
 - Logistic and biographical information is helpful.
- **EPA is drafting an invitation letter.**
- **Deadlines**
 - All materials will be due September 19.
 - EC Member Bios - Planning Team members
 - LGAC Report - Jennifer Starr
 - CAC Report - Jessica Blackburn
 - STAC Report - Meg Cole
 - State of the Program - Rachel Felver

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 10, 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm