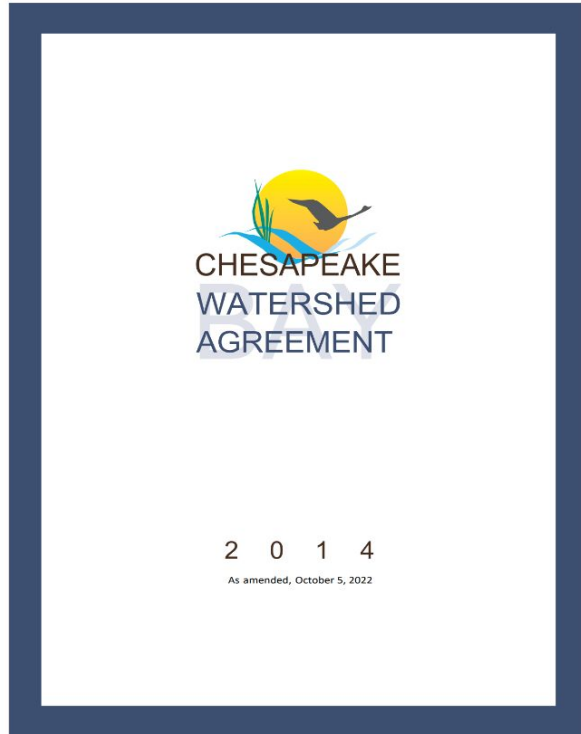

Ag Advisory Committee

— June 25, 2025 —

Today's Agenda

1. “Beyond 2025” recent highlights
 - a. Status of Agreement Goals and Outcomes
 - b. Public Comment period
2. Recap of AAC survey results: Priorities & next steps
3. Discussion and Questions
4. Dates to Know
5. Administrative
 - a. Chair and Vice-chair selection
 - b. Introduction of Coordinator

“Beyond 2025” - revised, not new Agreement



Chesapeake Bay Agreement

Guiding document

10 goals and 31 outcomes - many by 2025

Signed by 6 states, Washington DC, US EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Commission

What We Know (*Almost*)

10 GOALS → 4 GOALS

1. **Living Resources** (e.g. habitat, fisheries)
2. **People** (e.g. public access, environmental literacy)
3. **Lands** (e.g. land conservation)
4. **Water** (e.g. water quality, toxics)





VISION

The Chesapeake Bay Program partners envision an environmentally and economically sustainable and resilient Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, conserved and healthy working lands, a vibrant cultural heritage and a wide range of engaged individuals whose communities enjoy access to the waters and natural landscapes of the region.

DRAFT

31 OUTCOMES → 21

 OUTLOOK ON COURSE	 OUTLOOK OFF COURSE
Blue Crab Abundance Outcome	Wetlands Outcome
Blue Crab Management Outcome (Complete)	Black Duck Outcome
Oysters Outcome	Brook Trout Outcome
Forage Fish Outcome	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Outcome
Fish Habitat Outcome	Forest Buffers Outcome
Stream Health Outcome	Tree Canopy Outcome
2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) Outcome (Complete)	2025 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) Outcome
Fish Passage Outcome	Diversity Outcome
Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome	Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention Outcome
Toxic Contaminants Research Outcome	Student Outcome
Local Leadership Outcome	Climate Adaptation Outcome
Protected Lands Outcome	
Land Use Methods and Metrics Development Outcome	
Land Use Options and Evaluations Outcome	
Public Access Outcome	
Sustainable Schools Outcome	
Environmental Literacy Planning Outcome	
Climate Monitoring and Assessment Outcome	

Outlook Uncertain:
The outlook of the Healthy Watersheds Outcome and the Stewardship Outcome are considered uncertain pending additional analysis.

PROTECTED LANDS OUTCOME
STEWARDSHIP GIT/ PROTECTED LANDS WORKGROUP

CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT OUTCOME LANGUAGE

PROPOSED DRAFT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

Conserve and protect critical landscapes within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to protect water quality, enhance biodiversity, support sustainable livelihoods and honor cultural heritage.

EXISTING 2014 OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

By 2025, protect an additional two million acres of lands throughout the watershed—currently identified as high-conservation priorities at the federal, state or local level—including 225,000 acres of wetlands and 695,000 acres of forest land of highest value for maintaining water quality.

PROPOSED TARGET (SMART, Directional, etc.). (Suggested time horizon of 2040 for achievement of draft output.)	New Target / Update of Existing Target	Date estimate for target being developed
Protected Lands: By 2040, permanently protect and additional 1.5M-2M acres of lands throughout the watershed at the federal, state or local level.	Update of Existing	August 2025
Forests: By 2040, conserve a total of ___ acres of forest, ___% of which are in riparian areas.	Update of Existing	August 2025
Wetlands: By 2040, conserve a total of ___ acres of wetlands focusing on the protection of buffer zones.	Update of Existing	August 2025
Watershed Health: By 2040, maintain the health of ___% of the highest functioning sub-watersheds by targeting ___% of the protected lands' outcome acreage in those areas.	New Target	August 2025
Tribal Lands: Support the sovereignty and duty of care of Tribal Nations and communities by securing protection status and/or co-management agreements for a total of ___ acres of tribal homelands.	New Target	August 2025
Agricultural Lands: By 2040, protect a total ___ acres of agricultural lands within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.	New Target	August 2025
Urban Lands: By 2040, protect a total ___ acres of urban and near-urban lands within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.	New Target	August 2025

*Detailed activities will be included in an updated work plan

DRAFT ONLY

Equal emphasis
on conserving
natural and
working lands

Explicit goal for
agland
preservation

DRAFT ONLY - PREVIOUSLY “WIP OUTCOME”

Would now be known as “Reducing Excess Nutrients and Sediment” Outcome

Through 2030, continue to implement and maintain practices and controls to reduce excess nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment to achieve the interim water quality targets as determined by the Principals’ Staff Committee. Partners may meet this target by implementing their Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans, two-year milestone commitments or other innovative strategies.

By December 2030, update this outcome with revised targets that include a timeline to meet the updated water quality targets for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment.

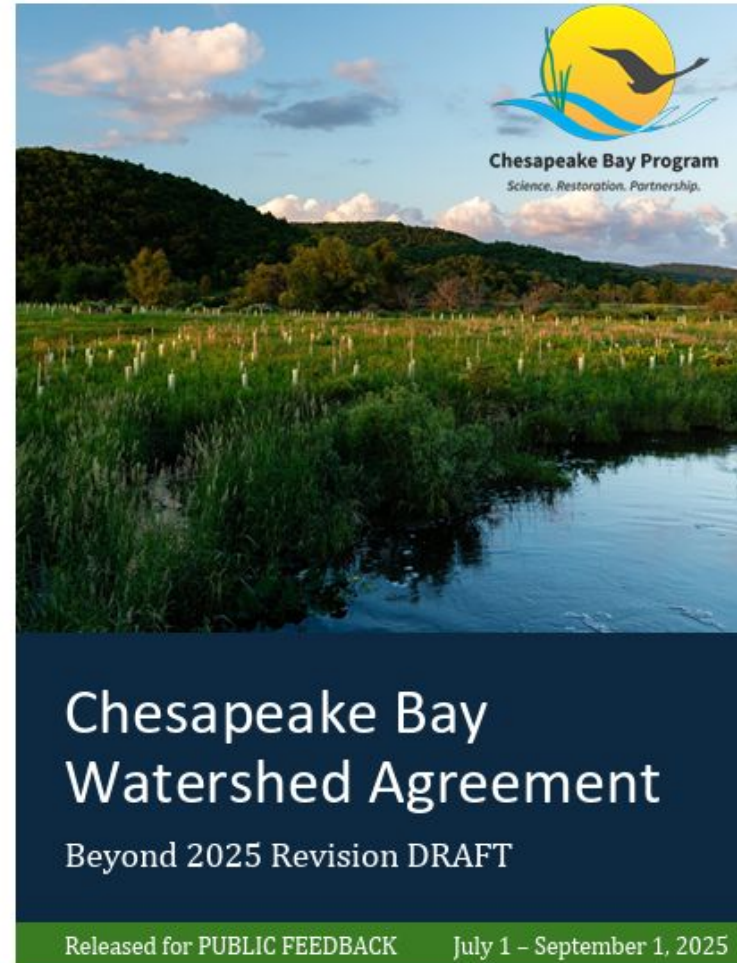
Demonstrate net reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment toward meeting the interim water quality targets as determined by the Principals’ Staff Committee, through multiple lines of evidence, including annual progress reporting and monitoring data (in coordination with the Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome).

Public Comments

Comment period opening soon

Individual or as a Committee, if interest?

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/files/documents/Revised-CBW-Agreement-For-Public-Feedback-2025.06.12.pdf>



Survey Recap - 11 of 14 responded

Meeting time preference were evenly split between early day, or late afternoon/evening

Members are interested/willing to consider smaller group meetings for topics, between full Committee meetings

In-person meetings when appropriate

“Where can me make impact” - primary theme

Survey Recap - 11 of 14 responded

1. Soil Health as a key activity to achieve existing Outcome(s) 8
2. Meeting/engaging with the Agricultural Workgroup 6
Inventory and crediting of more on-farm conservation practices 6
3. Meeting/engaging with other Advisory Committees 5
4. Soil Health as an Outcome to the Bay Agreement (time sensitive) 4
Chesapeake Bay watershed model and agricultural data assumptions 4
5. Stormwater management and urban farm production 3
6. Pennsylvania demonstration project for Energy & Nutrient Recovery Facility 1
7. Other to add (please specify): None

Thoughts

Soil health will not formally be an Outcome in the revised Bay Agreement, but considerable space for AAC to assess role of soil health practices and programs. May also overlap “new, innovative” BMPs that should be accounted for among states.

Ag Workgroup and Ag Modeling Team are important partners to establish two-way communication. Established cross members already in place. Good way to set roles.

Newer initiative - regular meetings of Coordinators from all Advisory Committees.

Questions & Discussion (30 mins)

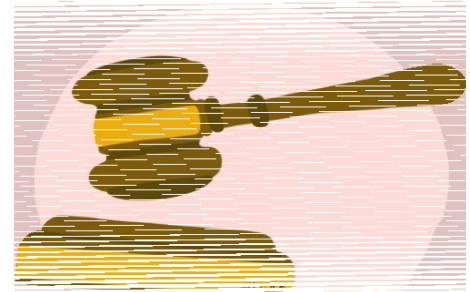
Dates to Know

1. PSC, AAC Chair: June 27
https://www.chesapeakebay.net/files/documents/PSC-June-27-Mtg-Agenda_Final-V2.pdf
2. In-person AAC meeting (full day), Gettysburg, PA: Aug. 27 or 28
3. Executive Council, AAC Chair - early December
4. Bay in the Balance conference, Gettysburg, PA: December 8-10
5. Chesapeake Agricultural Networking Forum, NFWF - fall 2025 - planning and attendance
6. STAC - FYI from June 25

AAC Leadership

Chair: William “Bill” Fink is currently the Director of Ag Operations at Country View Family Farms, LLC in Pennsylvania. Bill coordinates maintenance and capital management for the company’s owned and operated farms and feed mills throughout Indiana, Pennsylvania, and North Carolina. He is a member of the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Stakeholder Advisory Committee since 2014.

Vice-Chair: Robert “Bob” Waring is a grain farmer in the Middle Peninsula of Virginia at Brandon Farms, which is a third-generation row crop farm. The farm was selected as a case study with the American Farmland Trust, published in January 2024. He is a former member of the executive board for the Southern Cover Crops Council, member of the Ag and Forestry Advisory Board appointed by the Essex County Board of Supervisors, as well as past Chair of Virginia’s Cover Crop and Nutrient Management Technical Advisory Subcommittee. Bob is a Senior Agricultural Conservation Specialist with the Colonial Soil and Water Conservation District.



Welcome Jennifer (Jen) Nelson!

Through her business, Resource Smart LLC., Jen Nelson helps to coordinate partnerships and projects that support Delmarva and Mid-Atlantic farmers in improving the economic and environmental sustainability of their farms. Current projects include serving as the Executive Director for MASCD as well as the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts and helping to coordinate the Delaware Soil Health Partnership.

She has a B.S. in Environmental Science from Rutgers University, and has been a Certified Crop Advisor since 2004.

