



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Update on Implementing the EC Charge on Tribal Partnership

February 12, 2026

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Impetus for the 2025 Executive Council Charge

- The Indigenous Conservation Council (ICC) signed and submitted a resolution to the Chesapeake Bay Program in January 2025 (modified in July 2025), requesting the following:
 - **Include the Indigenous Conservation Council as a signatory to the revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement** to support Tribal Nations in their right to exercise their treaty rights and serve as full partners in its protection and restoration;
 - **Establish and fund an Indigenous Guardianship Program** as a priority within the Agreement's revised goals and strategies that would direct funding to the ICC as a new jurisdictional Signatory partner to be sub-granted to Tribal Nation members to build their tribal capacity; and,
 - **Expand the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) with an additional standing seat committed to sharing and honoring Indigenous science** within the partnership and building the engagement of Indigenous scientists to enhance the effectiveness of the partnership and respect for Indigenous science.

Activities Underway

- Signatory Team established to implement EC charge and develop recommendations, in collaboration with the federally-recognized tribes, for PSC review and approval – first meeting was February 3.

Name	Affiliation
Brian Hamilton, Lucinda Power, Keith Bollt, David Jones	EPA (Coordinator)
Kevin McLean	VA DEQ
Kara Canaday	Commonwealth of Virginia
Leila Duman	MD DNR
Claire Jantz	PA DEP
Marel King	CBC
Holly Walker	DNREC
Julia Wakeling	DOEE

Name	Affiliation
Dana Adkins	Chickahominy Indian Tribe
Jessica Phillips	Chickahominy Indian Tribe – Eastern Division
John Pierce	Monacan Indian Nation
Barbara Orf	Nansemond Indian Nation
Joe Capella	Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Alana Hutka	Rappahannock Tribe
Chief Frank Adams	Upper Mattaponi Tribe
Melissa Ann Ehrenreich	Indigenous Conservation Council

February 3 Tribal and Signatory Representative Joint Meeting

- Introductions of workgroup members
- Background on EC Charge
- Discussions based on questions from Signatory team (nondecisional)
 - Clarification on hypothetical representation on EC, PSC, etc. Also, where are Tribe's interest in the Bay
 - Clarification on Science and Technical Advisory Committee participation
 - Discussion on other models where Tribal integration has occurred/if there is CBP participation flexibility
 - Discussion of possible implementation projects on Tribal lands
- Follow-up conversation tentatively planned for 2/24

Timeline

- **January – March 2026:** Convene team, collaborate with Tribes, draft recommendations
 - **Tribal Representative and Signatory Representative meeting occurred on February 3**
 - **Signatory Meeting held on February 10**
 - **Next Tribal Representative and Signatory Representative meeting tentatively planned for February 24**
- **April 7, 2026:** Present draft recommendations to the PSC at their quarterly meeting
- **June 30, 2026:** PSC finalizes and approves recommendations (to meet July 1 deadline)



Thank you! Questions?

