



Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
TO THE CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



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Stakeholders' Committee Coordinator's Report

October 6, 2026

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October 2026 Coordinator's Report

- **Agenda in Context**
- **Advisory Committee Coordination**
- **Expected Changes with the new Adv. Comm. Agreement**
- **December Officer Elections**
- **Proposed 2027 Meeting Dates**

Agenda in Context

Water Quality Meeting Theme

- **Majority vote from May meeting**
 - In what ways can this Committee help to advance the clean water goals and continue to encourage accountability for making progress in a timely manner.
- **Level Setting**
 - Yesterday: pre-meeting briefing on Tiered Implementation
 - Today: History of the Bay TMDL
- **Tiered Implementation**
 - No expectations to agree/disagree with a scientific interpretation (STAC's Purview)
 - *Opportunity: policy implications*
 - Principles the Partnership should consider for tiered implementation
- **2025 Progress Assessment**
 - interim targets and WIP milestones
- **CBP Updates**
 - Detailed budget brief
 - Priority Setting Framework
 - new process in the Governance & Management Framework
 - *Opportunity: relationship between CBP priorities and annual charges to the Advisory Comms*

Advisory Committee Coordination

June Common Messages to the PSC from the Four Advisory Committees (ACs)

Rightsize AC engagement with new CBP structure

- Especially for the Goal Teams

Soil Health

- an emerging area of focus and interest across all ACs
- Economic and farm viability
- urban/suburban benefits

Operational ideas to consistently rely on advisory committees

- More coordination with states, PSC members meet with their AC jurisdiction delegations more regularly (appreciated meetings with Sec PA, MD, VA in spring)
- Reinstate annual EC prep meeting with the EC Chair

Advisory Committee Coordination

September Common Messages to the PSC from the Four Advisory Committees (ACs)

Alignment between the CBP priorities and the annual AC charges

- focus ACs on most pressing and emergent issues to ensure timely and actionable advice
- broad enough charge to allow each AC to bring their unique perspective

Public feedback during PSC Meeting

- occur after public discussion between the signatories, but before final decisions are made

Advisory Committees member status

- more than the general public
- non-voting members of the PSC and Goal Teams
- appreciate recurring time on the PSC agendas

Questions?

Changes with New AC Agreement

Shared Coordinator

- Reduced time for Stakeholders' Committee to 50%
 - 40% LGAC, 10% support from Laura Cattell Noll, Local Gov't Specialist
 - Cross-AC Coordination
 - Alternate for all four Goal Teams, Governance & Operations, Outreach & Engagement
 - Oversee Subaward to Chesapeake Research Consortium (CRC)
 - Coordinate & Staff STAC and Ag AC, reduced STAC workshops and reviews
 - Meg Cole and Tou Matthews

Shared New Staffer

- 50% Stakeholders' & LGAC
- employee of CRC
 - Office in Annapolis @ SERC campus
 - Environmental Management Career Development Program
 - Provides staffers across the CBP organization
- 56 applications, 5 interviews; anticipate mid-October onboarding

Changes with New AC Agreement

New One in-person quarterly meeting per year

- Ag AC- Winter (scheduled around planting and harvest seasons)
- LGAC- Spring (scheduled around primaries and election seasons)
- STAC- Summer (scheduled around teaching season)
- Stakeholders'- Autumn

New Annual Executive Council charge to the ACs

- still opportunities for Committee-identified emerging issues
- process not yet identified
 - *opportunity to advise*: same broad charge for each AC

New Biennial CBP Partnership Priorities

- anticipated for 2028
 - *opportunity to advise*: connect this to the annual EC charge to the ACs

New Reduced # of Committee-identified annual priorities

- fewer than three to allow time to advise on AC charges and CBP priorities

Changes with New AC Agreement

New Restructured Stakeholders' Executive Committee

- Three topical subcommittees sunsetted
 - formerly where the annual priorities were developed
 - no expectation for planned recurring meetings in between the quarterly meetings

New Stakeholders' Committee representatives on the Four CBP Goal Teams

- these members now comprise the Executive Committee (plus Chair, Vice-Chair, past Chair)
- ad hoc meetings as needed
 - all members invited

New Formalized collaboration with other Advisory Committees

- Annual Virtual Briefing by CBP Leadership for all Four ACs
 - early Jan 2027: kick-off for Management Strategy public feedback period
- Continued AC Leadership meetings to coordinate PSC and EC remarks
 - one hybrid per year to outline collaboration on annual EC charge to the ACs
- Anticipate two virtual meetings per year among all four AC delegations and jurisdiction signatory representatives

Changes with New AC Agreement

New Reduced # of Alliance Appointed Members

- reduced funding including for travel expenses
 - currently twelve Alliance appointed seats
 - Alliance appointed members help fill-in gaps in perspectives and geography
 - reduce to seven Alliance appointments
 - one seat for each jurisdiction, including the headwaters
 - Current Alliance appointees serve through the end of this year
 - apply for in the new year for 2027 appointment

New Appointment Process

- Details TBD
- Alliance CEO, Kate Fritz, and the Executive Board of Alliance Directors
 - outline criteria for membership
 - draft Alliance position description
- Work with Julie Patton Lawson, Stakeholders' Membership & Governance chair
 - Julie rotates off the Committee at the end of this year

Questions?

December Officer Elections

Annual Officers Elections (1-yr term)

- Chair (typically serve 2 terms)
 - about 10-15 hours a month
 - voted by full membership at each December Quarterly Meeting
- Vice-Chair (typically serve 2-terms, often elected as next Chair)
 - about 8-10 hours a month
 - voted by full membership at each December Quarterly Meeting

December Officer Elections

Led by Nominations Committee (immediate past Chair)

- Julie Patton Lawson
 - prior to her resignation from the Committee at the end of the year
- Email calling for nominations
 - includes position descriptions
 - Nominations Chair:
 - one-on-one conversations with interested members
 - Guidance and feedback from the current Chair and Vice-Chair
- 2 Weeks before December meeting
 - Memo with slate of Officers for Chair and Vice-Chair
- Members vote at December 11th Meeting
 - Officers duties begin at the close of December meeting

Proposed 2027 Meeting Dates

February 18-19	Thursday and Friday	9:30am -12:30pm both days
May 5-6	Wednesday and Thursday	9:30am -12:30pm both days
October 6-7 (in-person)	Wednesday and Thursday	10am - 5pm and 9am - 2pm
December 10	Friday	10am - 2pm

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Questions and Comments

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Day 2 Overview of 2026 Topics

2025 Recommendations to the EC

Funding and Accountability to the Watershed Implementation Plans

- transparent and verifiable, interim milestones and performance tracking
- sustained and innovative funding, including public-private cost-share and pay-for-performance

Engagement with Jurisdictional Depts of Labor to advance new Workforce Outcome, including funding to:

- better understand state and local workforce needs
- watershed-wide workforce study
- tools to track workforce development

Collaborate for “No Net Loss” of Forests

- work with Depts of Energy and Transportation to offset impacts of
 - land conversion from data centers, energy projects, and highway construction

Overview of 2026 Topics

Quarter	Topic	Takeaways
February	Governance & Tribal Participation	Governance & Management Framework: maintain AC independence; new annual charge to the ACs Accountability is more than transparency, reporting and adaptive management;
May	Management Strategies <i>(public feedback begins in Jan 2027)</i>	Outline the actions to meet the Watershed Agreement Outcomes: 6-yr strategies are long-term approaches; 3-yr workplans are shorter-term activities 2-yr Milestones and annual progress should be in the CBP accountability framework
October	Tiered Implementation	Question the impact to 2040 deadline and downstream jurisdictions

Water Quality Advice Over the Years

2024	Confirm Accountability to Water Quality Targets; use existing regulatory and enforcement authorities
2023	Charting a Course to 2025 and Beyond: Fast-track implementation for WIPs, Forest Buffers and Wetlands
2022	confirm the credibility of the CBP: deliver on the promise of enforcement and transparent accountability to the Watershed Agreement; target practices with co-benefits, provide technical assistance for implementation
2021	Expedite release of federal funds for prioritized practices that deliver co-benefits, outline how ARPA and IIJA funds will be used by the states
2020	do not lose ground on progress to date: maintain agency compliance staff and enforce regulations

Characteristics of Annual Recommendations

Informed: awareness of what is already happening

- Requires some homework and briefings from Bay Program partners

Timely: ahead of decision-making

- often related to EC decision topics

Relevant: if not directly related to the *Watershed Agreement*,

- then closely tied to it and an explanation of how

Actionable: more than commentary or requests for information

- frame it as advice

Falls under the purview of the CBP partnership

- Policy or Actions the collective partners can control

30-minute Breakout Session

Two Groups Randomly Assigned

- Facilitator
- Note-taker

Four Discussion Questions

- Agenda & Discussion Guide
- Recommendations from 2026 Topics

Facilitators Brief Report in Plenary

- 30-min Committee Discussion
- Outline Key Points of Recommendations

30-minute Breakout Session

Clarifying Questions?

October 2026 Meeting Takeaways



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