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Chesapeake Executive Council announces plans to revise existing *Watershed Agreement*

New Agricultural Advisory Committee formed to advise regional partnership

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Annapolis, MD— The Chesapeake Executive Council gathered in Annapolis, Maryland today for what may be considered the most important meeting for the Chesapeake Bay Program since the signing of the [2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#) 10 years ago. The Executive Council, which guides the policy agenda and sets conservation and restoration goals for the regional federal-state partnership, announced plans to revise the existing *Watershed Agreement* over the next year.

Quote

The year 2025 is the target date for many of the 31 outcomes in the *Watershed Agreement* to have met their goals by.

Two years ago, the Executive Council [directed](#) the Bay Program's [Principals' Staff Committee](#) to [recommend a path forward to the year 2025](#) that prioritized and outlined the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the *Watershed Agreement* and prepare recommendations that continued to address new advances in science and restoration while focusing on the future of the Chesapeake Bay Program beyond 2025.

The result is [A Critical Path Forward for the Chesapeake Bay Program Beyond 2025](#), a report developed over the past year-and-a-half by a steering committee consisting of representatives from multiple partnership stakeholders and presented for public feedback in summer 2024. The report outlines two fundamental recommendations for the future of Chesapeake Bay restoration, as well as the partnership.

In response to this recommendations report, the Executive Council [directed](#) the Principals' Staff Committee today to revise the existing *Watershed Agreement* by the end of calendar year 2025 and work to streamline the existing partnership for it to be more inclusive of all communities, more manageable for Chesapeake Bay Program staff and supportive of all partners as they work to achieve their commitments.

Quote

To help accelerate progress toward meeting the partnership's water quality goals, the Executive Council formally signed a directive at today's meeting, forming a new Agricultural Advisory Committee. As the first new advisory committee created for the Chesapeake Bay Program since the late 1980s, the

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Agricultural Advisory Committee will advise the Executive Council on strategies and opportunities for the diversity of agricultural operations across the watershed, serving as a voice for producers and industry to the partnership on agricultural production and conservation.

Quote

The Executive Council also heard from the Chesapeake Bay Program's [Local Government Advisory Committee](#), [Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee](#) and [Stakeholders Advisory Committee](#), before unanimously voting Maryland Governor Wes Moore for a second term as Chair, to carry the partnership forward into 2025.

The Executive Council was formed as part of the [Chesapeake Bay Agreement of 1983](#) and consists of the governors of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, the mayor of the District of Columbia, the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, who represents the federal government.