Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

November 19, 2026

Local Government Leadership Workgroup QM

Supporting Small Communities: Septic and Rural Wastewater Management Systems

Maura Christian, VA DEQ, Chair
Caitlin Bolton, MWCOG, Vice Chair

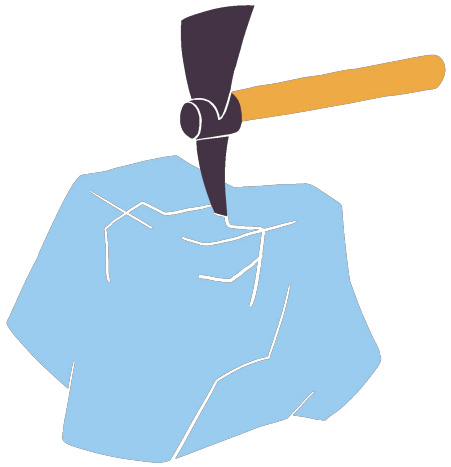
Icebreaker

1. Share your Name and Organization/Agency

2. Answer One Question Below

   - Tell us one thing you did this past year to….
     - understand the needs of local officials
     - increase the knowledge of local officials
     - support the capacity of local officials

   - Favorite holiday activity or food



Meeting Objectives:

- Identify and share resources to increase the knowledge and capacity of local government leaders on septics and rural wastewater management

- Plan for Local Government Leadership workgroup activities in 2027

Agenda

1. Updates & Announcements
2. *USGS Septics Mapping*
   Jackie Pickford, USGS
3. *USDA Technical Assistance for Rural Water Systems*
   National Rural Water Association
4. Plenary Discussion
5. Local Government Leadership Workgroup Annual Business Meeting
6. Wrap-up



Updates & Announcements

Local Government Leadership

Outcome:

Increase knowledge and support the capacity of local government leaders in decision-making, such as land-use planning, to implement local actions that advance the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Targets:

Engage directly (e.g., roundtable discussions) with at least 400 local government leaders annually.

Engage indirectly (e.g., newsletters) with at least 4,000 local government leaders annually.

Direct Engagement





Wandering Pennsylvania's Waterways Peer to Peer Tour

Direct Engagement



Panel on Stormwater at Pennsylvania Municipal League (PML) Summit

Panel on Chesapeake Bay Restoration at Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Conference



Indirect Engagement



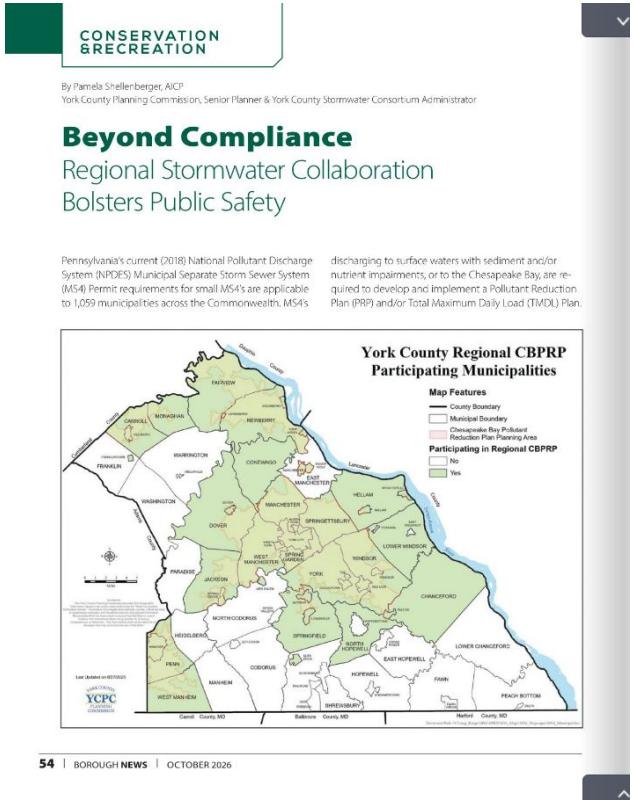
Since launching three years ago:

- 18k page views (5.9k in the last year)
- 8.7k unique users (3.5k in the last year)
- *How Your Watershed Works* and *Protecting Your Infrastructure Through Stormwater Resilience* are the most popular modules

Indirect Engagement



County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) Magazine Articles



Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB) Magazine Article



USGS Septics Mapping

Jackie Pickford, US Geological Survey



Technical Assistance for Rural Wastewater Systems

Brian Little, Pennsylvania Rural Water Association

Plenary Discussion Questions

- What are the biggest knowledge gaps related to septics and rural wastewater management that you see within your network of local officials?
- What are the biggest capacity gaps related to septics and rural wastewater management?
- What additional resources on septics and/or rural wastewater management are available to support local officials?
- How are you engaging your local governments on this issue?
- What action could the workgroup take to make these resources more accessible/useful to local governments?



Break

Meeting will resume at 10:55am

LGLW Annual Business Meeting



Management Strategy and Workplan

- August - Local Government Leadership Workgroup discussed Management Strategy at Quarterly Meeting
- September - Local Government Leadership Management Strategy approved by Workgroup via email in September
- October - Engaged Communities Goal Team revised and approved
- November - Policy Steering Committee is actively providing feedback
- December - Engaged Communities Goal Team will revise
- January - Management Strategy Released for public feedback
- **February - Discuss public feedback at Workgroup meeting, revise Management Strategy and draft workplan**

LGLW Chair and Vice Chair Nominations



Caitlin Bolton

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



Jen Cotting

Environmental Finance Center

Proposed 2027 Meeting Dates and Themes

Proposed Meeting Date/Time	Possible Themes
Tuesday February 19th 9:30am - 11:30am	Local Government Leadership Management Strategy and Workplan
Tuesday May 11th 9:30am - 11:30am	Workforce/Local Government Leadership Workgroup Joint Meeting?
Tuesday August 24th 9:30am - 11:30am	Behavior change/social science?
Tuesday November 16th 9:30am - 11:30am	??

Proposed Plan for Tracking Outcome Targets

- Annually in Dec/Jan, the workgroup will document direct and indirect engagement with local government leaders that occurred in the previous 12 months.

- Workgroup members will be responsible for documenting and sharing this information on behalf of their signatory.

- Details on engagement activities will be compiled via a simple google form. For each ‘event’: Title, Date, Direct/Indirect, Number of Local Officials Engaged, Link to details about event (optional)

EXAMPLE: Tracking Outcome Targets

Event Title	Event Date	Category of Engagement	Number of Local Officials Engaged	Link to information about event
Maryland Municipal League Conference Peer to Peer Tour	6/14/26	Direct	22	https://www.mdmunicipal.org/prelim-schedule
Maryland Association of Counties Conference Panel	8/13/26	Direct	50	https://www.mdcounties.org/SC26Program
County Commissioners Association Magazine Article	9/1/26	Indirect	1500	https://online.anyflip.com/utzf/bscc/mobile/index.html
Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Magazine Article	10/1/26	Indirect	954	https://cloud.3dissue.net/44815/44463/45177/150570/index.html?page=54
Pennsylvania Municipal League Conference Peer to Peer Tour	10/7/26	Direct	23	https://www.pml.org/municipal-leadership-summit/municipal-leadership-summit/
Pennsylvania Municipal League Conference Panel	10/8/26	Direct	50	https://www.pml.org/municipal-leadership-summit/municipal-leadership-summit/

Wrap-Up

- Actions & Decisions:

Wrap-Up

- Key Takeaways

- Next Meeting: February 19th, 2027
  - 9:30-11:30am
  - Theme: Local Government Leadership Management Strategy and Workplan