



Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
TO THE CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
May 21-22, 2025

Hotel Madison
710 S Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Hybrid Meeting Access
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting Goal: Continue to advance learning and discussion in preparation for the December 2025 annual recommendations to the Executive Council.

Meeting Objectives:

- (1) Learn and discuss updates from the Commonwealth of Virginia
- (2) Receive updates and discuss the current thinking on the revisions of the *2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* and Chesapeake Bay Program streamlining and reorganization.
- (3) Advance understanding of the newly formed *Watershed Agreement Workforce Outcome*

Meeting Theme: Supporting the next generation's workforce of environmental practitioners to help advance the goals of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*

Day 1: Wednesday, May 21- 2nd Floor Hart Classroom (255)

- 11:00 a.m. Call to Order and Welcome.....Abel Olivo, Chair**
- Member Introductions
 - Ice Breaker Question: What is the best career advice you've received?
 - Brief Introduction of Guests
- 11:15 a.m. Business Meeting**
- Chair's Opening Remarks and Brief Report
- Overview of meeting agenda and objectives
 - Approval of draft February 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - Bill Fink's dual membership
 - update on Agricultural Advisory Committee
 - Review of Membership & Governance survey results
 - Member Updates and Announcements
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch**

12:45 p.m. Virginia Updates and Perspectives.....Secretary Stefanie Taillon
Virginia Natural and Historic Resources

Perspectives on the 2024 Executive Council charge activities:

- Elevating conservation in the Chesapeake Bay Program
 - alignment with VA's conservation goals
- Centering people in the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership
- Revisions to the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*
- Streamlining and reorganizing the Chesapeake Bay Program

VA-specific topics

- Local relevance of the Bay TMDL Watershed Implementation Plans
- Impacts of large-scale solar development and data centers on *Watershed Agreement* Goals and Outcomes
- Advancing the Workforce Outcome in Virginia

Background and Context:

The [2024 Executive Council Charge: Charting a Course Beyond 2025](#) directs the Principals' Staff Committee to revise the 2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* and recommend a simplified and streamlined structure and process for the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership by December 2025.

1:30 p.m. Chesapeake Bay Program Updates.....[Lucinda Power](#) (remote)
Branch Chief, Partnerships and Accountability
EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program

- Bay Program partnership updates on meeting the [2024 Executive Council Charge](#)
 - Briefing on Revisions to the *Watershed Agreement*
 - Streamlining and reorganizing the Chesapeake Bay Program
 - Upcoming decisions for the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC)
- Review of the April 11, 2025 [PSC Response to the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee's 2024 Recommendations to the Executive Council](#)

2:15 p.m. Break

Stewardship & Engagement Subcommittee Priority:

Supporting the next generation's workforce of environmental practitioners to advance the goals and outcomes of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*.

Background and Context:

Under the proposed Engaged Communities Goal

DRAFT Workforce Outcome: Increase the ability of all job seekers in the watershed to understand, participate in, and succeed in environmental career pathways.

DRAFT Targets:

- Understanding: By 2035, inform and grow implementation of strategies that help students, educators, and job seekers to become aware of and understand environmental careers and the pathways to them.
- Participating: By 2035, increase the number of post-secondary institutions and training providers offering industry-recognized credentials that support *Agreement* outcomes.
- Succeeding: By 2035, inform and support greater hiring and retention of workers trained in fields necessary to support *Agreement* outcomes.

2:30 p.m. **Part One: Workforce Outcome**

Briefings:

- Review of Draft Outcome, Targets and proposed workgroup partners
Julie Patton Lawson
Program Analyst Workforce & Education
District Department of Energy and the Environment
- [August 2024 CBP Report: Career and Workforce Assessment](#)
Bart Merrick (remote presentation)
Education Coordinator, NOAA Environmental Science Training Center
Supplemental Resource: [Career and Workforce Programming Database](#)

3:15 p.m. **Part Two: A Local Look at Workforce Programs**

Local Government Perspective

Welcome-[Richard Baugh](#)

City of Harrisonburg, VA

former Mayor and current member of the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)

Community workforce needs and recent LGAC advice

Supplemental Resource: [2019 LGAC Forum Report: Stormwater & Green Infrastructure Workforce Development](#)

Local Community College-Service Provider and Educator Perspective

Velma Bryant, Dean of Students

[Blue Ridge Community College Workforce & Continuing Education](#)

a dynamic program of workforce services and personal enrichment opportunities for Central Shenandoah Valley employers and residents. Programs and courses support community and economic development initiatives to promote an excellent quality of life and prosperous business climate.

Program Delivery and Job Placement Perspective

Emily Stransky (remote presentation)

[Chesapeake Bay Trust](#)

[Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps](#) (CCC) program

The Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps increases access and opportunities to green careers across the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The program supports and trains the next generation of stewards in professions that restore and protect our environment and natural resources ensuring a healthy place for all of us to live. In the Corps young adults are provided with hands-on environmental and leadership experience, training, and support network of other young environmentalists. The Corps places individuals (ages 18-25) with nonprofit or government agencies throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed for a one-year term of service.

The Corps is designed to support young adults in refining their professional goals, propelling them forward in their careers, and building the foundation to grow into experts, thought-leaders, and change-makers in their respective fields.

4:00 p.m. **Break**

- 4:15 p.m. Member Discussion**
- 5:00 p.m. Meeting Recess**
- 6:15 p.m. Dinner- Joshua Wilton House**
Meet in the hotel lobby at 6:05pm to walk together as a group.

Day 2: Thursday, May 22- 2nd Floor Hart Classroom (255)

- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in the meeting room**
- 8:30 a.m. Reconvene and Coordinator's Report.....Jess Blackburn**
Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Coordinator,
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Subcommittee sign-up sheet
 - Snapshot of upcoming Agenda themes
 - State of the Alliance- updates from Kate Fritz
 - Some take-aways from Day 1
- 8:50 a.m. Member Reflections and Discussion**
Briefing on the Choose Clean Water Coalition (Sara Ramotnik)
Members share reflections and ideas for potential Stakeholders' Advisory Committee follow-up based on the previous day's presentations and discussions.
- 9:30 a.m. Subcommittee Break-out Sessions**
- [Stewardship & Engagement](#) (Gather in Sales Conference Room, 2nd Floor)
 - Report on takeaways and next steps on Workforce recommendation
 - [Conservation & Land Use](#) (Gather in Hart School Boardroom, 2nd Floor)
 - Articulate the next steps to draft a Conservation recommendation
 - [Water Quality Subcommittee](#) (Remain in the Meeting Room)
 - Articulate the specific 2025 priority and next steps to formulate an annual recommendation.
- 10:30 a.m. Break**
Final call to check-out of hotel room
- 10:45 a.m. Subcommittee Reports**
- 11:30 a.m. Committee Discussion, Wrap Up, and Action Items**
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn**

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee 2025 Meeting Dates

September 17-18, PA (TBD)

December 11-12 Shepherdstown, WV- National Conservation Training Center

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is honored to support the appointed volunteers of the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee. We are committed to serving as an unbiased convener so the members can achieve their mission through learning and discussion. Views expressed by the members and their guest speakers are not those of the Alliance.