



Engaged Communities Quarterly Goal Team Meeting – July 2026

July 9th, 2026

1:00 – 3:00 PM

[Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.](#)

Purpose: To introduce new and returning members; share workgroup updates; review the revised CBP Governance and Management Framework and Goal Team structure; discuss Management Strategy progress, challenges, and collaboration opportunities; and identify support needs.

Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

(1:00 – 1:10 PM)

New and returning Goal Team and Workgroup members will be invited to introduce themselves.

Leads: Julie Lawson, DC DOEE (Chair); Julia Wakeling, DC DOEE (Chair)

Materials: [Engaged Communities Membership Roster](#); [Get to Know Me PPT](#)

II. Workgroup Introductions and Updates

(1:10 – 1:40 PM)

Introductory discussion on Workgroup operations and round-robin Workgroup updates (recent activities, upcoming meetings, announcements, support needs).

Lead: Katie Ayers, EPA (Coordinator)

Materials: [Engaged Communities Goal Team Meeting July 2026 slides](#)

Discussion Notes:

- Check out our new Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) organizational structure under [How We're Organized](#) on [chesapeakebay.net](#).
- Explore our [Engaged Communities Goal Team page](#) to learn more about the mission of the Goal team and its Workgroups (use the sidebar to navigate to individual Workgroup pages).
- K-12 Career and Technical Education Action Team is a collaboration between Workforce and Education Workgroups.
- New workgroups and action teams must be approved by the Goal Team in consultation with the Policy Steering Committee (PSC).

III. Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

(1:40 – 2:05 PM)

Overview of revised CBP Governance and Management Framework, Goal Team structure, group membership requirements and engaging tribal partners.

Leads: Julia Wakeling, DC DOEE

Materials: [Engaged Communities Goal Team Meeting July 2026 slides](#); [CBP Governance and Management Framework](#); [Engaged Communities Membership Roster](#)

Discussion Notes:

- The *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* was revised in December 2025.
- The Goal Team will follow membership rules and decision-making process outlined in the newly revised CBP Governance and Management Framework (GMF) approved by the PSC.
- The Goal Team is working to identify voting members and representatives from the four Advisory Committees by July 31st. See the Engaged Communities Membership Roster for a full list of identified representatives.
- Goal Team members serve as liaisons to their jurisdiction/organization members in each of our Workgroups. Goal Team members represent their jurisdiction/organization's position at the Goal Team level and convey that information up to their PSC members.
- Workgroups are identifying up to 15 voting members by July 31st using the guidance outlined in the GMF.

IV. Management Strategy Challenges and Collaboration Opportunities (2:05 – 2:45 PM)

Progress updates from Workgroups on drafting Management Strategy Outcome sub-chapters; identify Goal-level Challenges and Management Approaches; discuss collaboration potential among Engaged Communities and other Goal Team outcomes.

Lead: Julie Lawson, DC DOEE; Julia Wakeling, DC DOEE

Materials: [Engaged Communities Goal Team Meeting July 2026 slides](#); [Management Strategy Tracking Calendar](#)

Discussion Notes:

- Goal Teams and their associated Workgroups are currently drafting their Management Strategy chapters, which are a part of the Chesapeake Bay Program's Strategic Plan.
- Each Goal Team will have a Management Strategy with subchapters for Outcomes. Workgroups will also draft separate Workplans for each Outcome.
- See the [Strategic Plan and Workplan Development page](#) to learn more about our drafting process and timeline for these materials.
- The CBP Strategic Plan will be reviewed by the PSC and published for public feedback in January 2027. The final Strategic Plan and Outcome Workplans will be approved in June 2027.
- If you or someone you know is interested in being a part of the drafting process, please reach out to the Goal Team Chairs (julie.lawson@dc.gov; julia.wakeling@dc.gov) or Coordinator (ayers.katie@epa.gov).
- The Engaged Communities Management Strategy will be shared with the Goal Team for approval in September before it is shared with the PSC in October.
- The Goal Team brainstormed shared challenges across Outcomes to inform the Goal-level Management Approaches in our Management Strategy.

V. Open Discussion

(2:45 – 2:55 PM)

Time for questions and identifying coordination needs.

Lead: Katie Ayers, EPA

Discussion Notes:

- [Chesapeake Gateways Communities Initiative](#)
- [Wandering Maryland's Waterways](#) article
- [Chesapeake Steward Map](#)
- Reach out to Marissa O'Neill (Stewardship Workgroup Chair; marissa.oneill@dc.gov) if you are interested in participating or listening in on the [Stewardship Workgroup's](#) Lightning Talk series, where creative and successful stewardship projects are shared from across the watershed.
- The Engaged Communities Goal Team plans to meet quarterly.
- Workgroup Chairs, Coordinators, and Staffers meet with the Goal Team Chairs monthly.

VI. Wrap-Up

(2:55 – 3:00 PM)

Identify action items and follow-up deadlines.

Lead: Katie Ayers, EPA

Materials: [Engaged Communities Goal Team Meeting July 2026 slides](#)

Actions:

1. Workgroups should identify up to 15 voting members **by July 31st**.
2. Workgroups should complete Outcome Management Approaches **by August 7th**.
3. Goal Team should complete Goal-level Challenges and Management Approaches **by August 14th**.
4. Katie Ayers will send When2Meet to identify a date for the Fall Goal Team meeting.
5. Katie Ayers will create a spreadsheet to compile regular surveys, GIT-funded projects, monitoring, websites, etc. that are maintained by Engaged Communities groups.

VII. Adjourn

(3:00 PM)

Next Meeting: Late Fall 2026, in-person/hybrid TBD

Attendees:

- Anna Killius, CBC
- Bella Konchar
- Cass Klingaman, NY DEC
- Cassie Davis, NY DEC
- Christopher Brosch, DE DNREC
- Daniel Koval, CRC
- Darran White Tilghman, ShoreRivers
- Doug Bell, EPA
- Elise Trelegan, NOAA
- Erin Sonnenburg, CRC
- Jenn Fetter, Penn State Extension
- Jess Blackburn, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Julia Wakeling, DOEE
- Julie Lawson, DC DOEE
- Kacey Wetzel, CB Trust
- Kate Beats, PA DEP

- Katie Ayers, EPA
- Laura Casdorph, VA DOE
- Lorenzo Cinalli, DC DPR
- Lori Schoenwiesner, VA DCR
- Marissa O'Neill, DC DOEE
- Marty Qually, Adams County, PA
- Mary DeWees, WV DEP
- Maura Christian, VA DEQ
- Meredith Lemke, CRC
- Norah Carlos, CBC
- Olivia Wisner, MD DNR
- Rick Mittler, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Samantha Cotton, DE DNREC
- Shannon Sprague, NOAA
- Wendy O'Sullivan, NPS
- Wuill Urvina, Choose Clean Water Coalition