Oct 22, 2026

Engaged Communities Goal Team

October Quarterly Meeting

Photo by Rhiannon Johnston/Chesapeake Bay Program

WiFi Info

CBPOAFDGuest

Password: Scallop3

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Workgroup Updates
3. Chesapeake Bay Program Updates
4. Collaborative Discussion
5. Elktonia-Carr’s Beach Field Visit
6. Wrap-Up



Get to Know Me Exercise!

Round-Robin Workgroup Updates

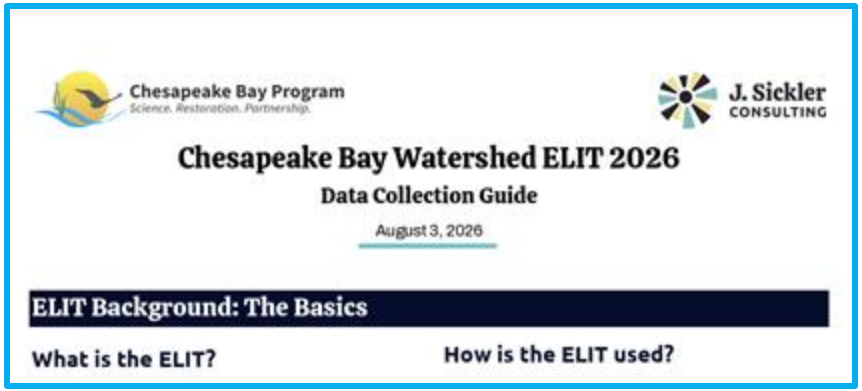
Education Summit May 2026

- Hosted in central locations in each state (DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV)
- State-level decision makers (Dept of Edu & Natural Resources Agencies)



ELIT Collection Open

- Launched on August 1st
- Collection is facilitated by state
- Closes on November 20th
- Final reports will be available in March



Education Forum
January 2027

- January 26-27 at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum Heights, MD
- ~120 education leaders from across the region
- Focus is on supporting intra-state “regional hubs”

New Stewardship Subcommittees

Stewardship Network Ambassadors

Purpose: Maintain the Chesapeake Steward Map and contact database, support network mapping and partnership development, and provide network science training and outreach to strengthen stewardship capacity across the watershed.

Stewardship Resource & Capacity Committee

Purpose: Build a central hub of resources that helps stewardship practitioners overcome implementation barriers and share success stories, best practices, tools, research, training, and funding opportunities through web-based and other outreach channels.

Stewardship Lightning Talks

- Invasive Plant Removals in the DMV (Meredith Prescott, Chesapeake Climate Action Network)
- Greening Public Libraries in Richmond (Justin Doyle, James River Association)
- Lancaster Water Week (Kelly Slippey, Lancaster Conservancy)
- Plant Virginia Natives (Virginia Witmer, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program)

Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

Chesapeake Bay Program Organizational Structure



Engaged Communities Goal



Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

Engage and grow a community of local stewards and leaders through education, recreation and professional development opportunities to ensure the long-term success of restoration and conservation efforts.

Engaged Communities – Outcome Workgroups

2025 Outcome	Workgroup / Action Team
Local Government Leadership	Local Government Leadership Workgroup
Public Access	Public Access Workgroup
School District Environmental Literacy Planning Student Environmental Literacy Experiences	Education Workgroup
Stewardship	Stewardship Workgroup
Workforce	Workforce Workgroup *K-12 Career and Technical Education Action Team*

Click here: *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*

Signatory Voting Goal Team Members

Signatory Partner	Lead Representative	Alternate
DE	Dr. Holly Walker, DNREC	Samantha Cotten, DNREC
DC	Julia Wakeling, DOEE (Goal Team co-chair)	Julie Lawson, DOEE (Goal Team co-chair)
MD	Olivia Wisner, DNR	
NY	Cassie Davis, DEC	
PA	Jennifer Fetter, Penn State Extension	Kate Beats, DEP
VA	Lori Schoenwiesner, DCR	Maura Christian, DEQ
WV	Mary Jones, DEP	
CBC	Norah Carlos	Anna Killius
Federal	Wendy O'Sullivan, NPS	Shannon Sprague, NOAA

Goal Team Members

Role	Representative
At-Large Member (voting)	Kacey Wetzel, Chesapeake Bay Trust
At-Large Member (voting)	Darran White Tilghman, ShoreRivers
At-Large Member (voting)	Wuillam Urvina, Choose Clean Water Coalition
At-Large Member (voting)	Dr. Shruti Syal, Virginia Commonwealth University
Stakeholder's Advisory Committee (non-voting)	Abel Olivo, Defensores de la Cuenca
Local Government Advisory Committee (non-voting)	Don Phillips, Town of Laurel
Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (non-voting)	Dr. Efeturi Oghenekaro, DC DOEE
Agriculture Advisory Committee (non-voting)	Dr. Barb Glenn, Glenn Family Farm

Non-Voting Goal Team Members

Role	Representative
Workgroup Chair (non-voting)	Marissa O'Neill, DC DOEE (Stewardship)
Workgroup Chair (non-voting)	Lorenzo Cinalli, DC DPR (Public Access)
Workgroup Chair (non-voting)	Bart Merrick, NOAA (Workforce)
Workgroup Chair (non-voting)	Maura Christian, VA DEQ (Local Govt. Leadership)
Workgroup Chair (non-voting)	Caitlin Bolton, MWCOG (Local Govt. Leadership)
Workgroup Chair (non-voting)	Laura Casdorph, VA DEQ (Education)
Member (non-voting)	Sandi Olek, MDNR
Member (non-voting)	Elizabeth Hoffman, MDA
Member (non-voting)	Jason Miller, MDNR

Policy Steering Committee (PSC) Reps

Signatory Partner	Lead Representative	Additional Contact
DE	Greg Patterson (gregory.patterson@delaware.gov)	Holly Walker (holly.walker@delaware.gov)
DC	Richard Jackson (richard.jackson2@dc.gov)	Julia Wakeling (julia.wakeling@dc.gov)
MD	Josh Kurtz (josh.kurtz@maryland.gov)	Leila Duman (leila.duman@maryland.gov)
NY	AJ Smith (alexander.smith@dec.ny.gov)	Cassie Davis (cassandra.davis@dec.ny.gov)
PA	Jessica Shirley (jesshirley@pa.gov)	Kelly Hitz (khitz@pa.gov)
VA	David Bulova (david.bulova@governor.virginia.gov)	Maura Christian (maura.christian@deq.virginia.gov)
WV	Scott Settle (dallas.s.settle@wv.gov)	-
CBC	Anna Killius (akillius@chesbay.us)	Norah Carlos (ncarlos@chesbay.us)
Federal	Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey (vanblarcomlackey.amy@epa.gov)	Dependent on specific inquiry

Member Roles and Responsibilities

Voting Members

- Includes signatory and at-large members
- Use professional authority to advance Goal Team priorities and communicate with **PSC** and **Workgroup signatory representatives** on implementation of goals, outcomes, and targets.
- Signatories serve indefinite term
- At-large serve 2-year term; may be renewed.

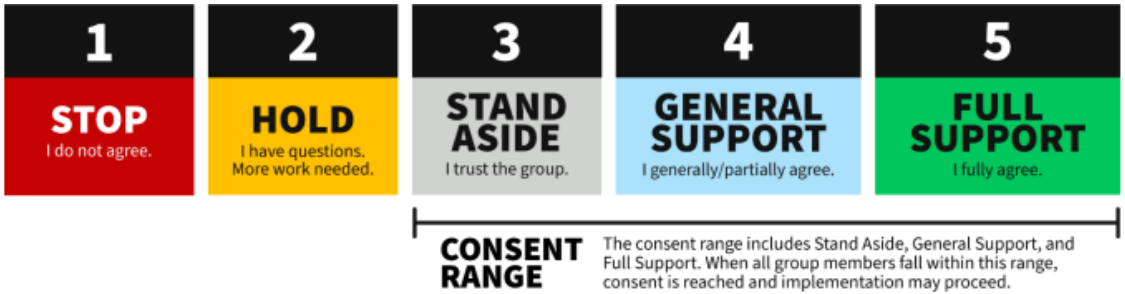
Actively participate in the operations of the Goal Team, including discussions and consent-based decision-making.

Non-Voting Members

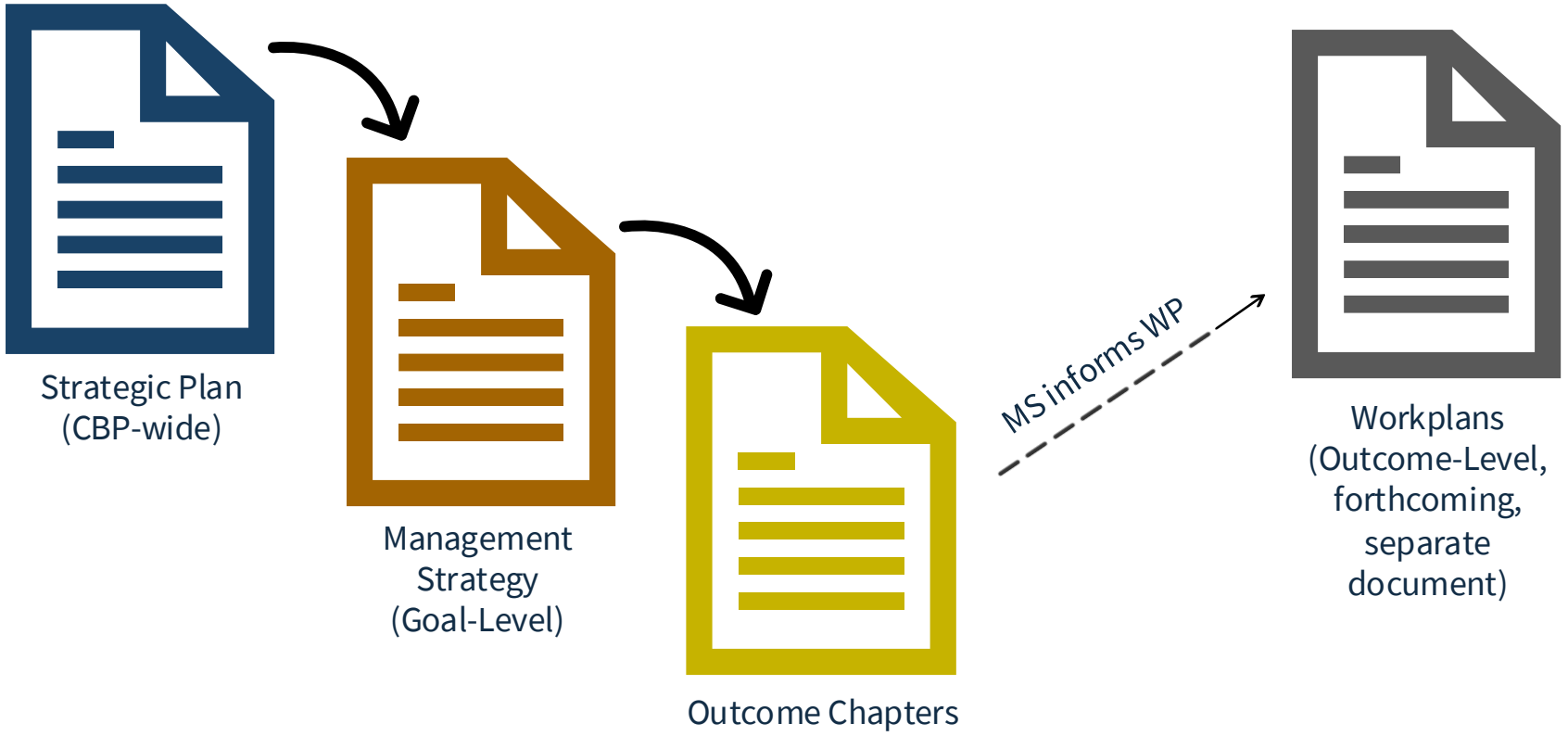
- Includes Advisory Committee reps and Workgroup Chairs
- Bring their expertise and perspectives of the workgroup, committee, or community they represent to Goal Team discussions.
- Serve a 2-year term; may be renewed.

Decision-Making

- Governance and Management Framework
  - Up to 15 voting members for each Goal Team
  - Up to 15 voting members for each Workgroup
  - No limit on non-voting members or interested parties
- Consent-based decision-making process
  - All **voting** and **non-voting** members in a group **participate in consensus process.**
  - If *unanimous* consent (range 3-5) cannot be reached, only voting members participate in a vote. 2/3rds majority must be reached to approve decision.



Strategic Plan Vocabulary



Strategic Plan Timeline



Engaged Communities Management Strategy

- **Goal Language**
- **Goal Situation Analysis:** shared challenges for partnership to address, including Changing Environmental Conditions
- **Goal Level Management Approaches:** strategies that partners should collaboratively undertake to address challenges that impact multiple Outcomes within the Goal



Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program with aerial support by Southwings

Outcome Chapters

- Outcome Language (including Targets)
- Baseline and Current Condition
- Monitoring Progress and Indicators
- Outcome Management Approaches
- Participating Partners

Strategic Plan Appendix

- Snapshot of Signatory Programs
- Signatory Statutory Authorities Driving Outcome Attainment

Workplans

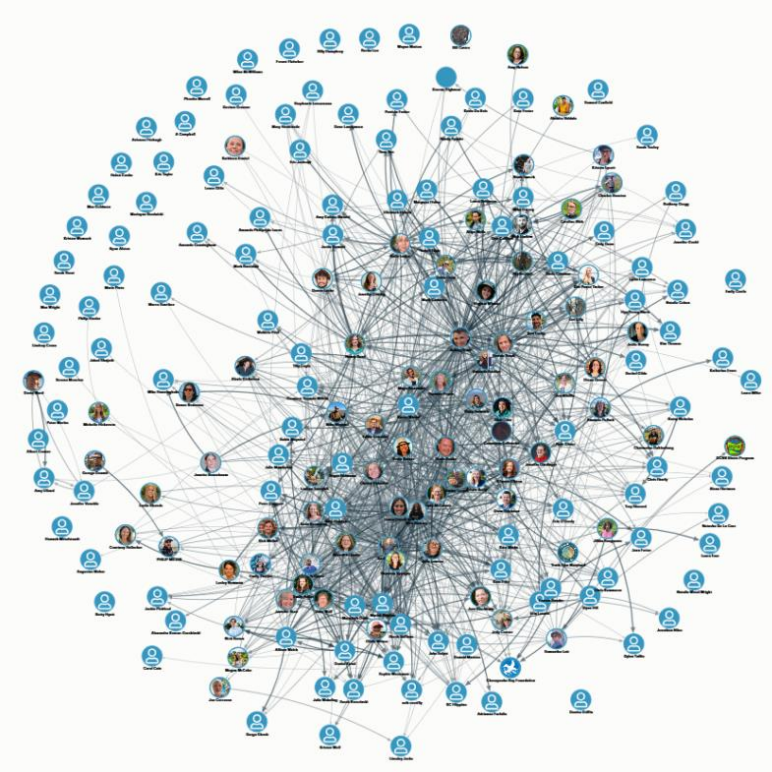
- Separate 3-year Workplans will include:
  - Narrative summary
  - Descriptions of the major actions to be undertaken
  - Project lead and participating partners
  - Capacity and financial resources needed and committed, as well as potential sources to fill gaps
  - Timeline for completion
  - Performance targets and deliverables

Collaborative Discussion

Time for questions, follow-up discussion, and identifying collaboration opportunities or support needs.

Chesapeake Steward Map

Meredith Lemke
Environmental Management Staffer
Chesapeake Research Consortium



Wrap-Up and Reminders

- **Policy Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting:**
  November 5th, 9am-1pm

- **Next Engaged Communities Goal Team Meeting:**
  Early February 2027… May, Aug, Nov

- **Next Monthly Goal Team Chairs / Workgroup Leads Meeting:**
  October 26th, 1:00-2:00pm



Photo by Jake Solyst/Chesapeake Bay Program

Thank you!

Comments, questions, ideas?

Julia Wakeling, Chair | julia.wakeling@dc.gov
Julie Lawson, Chair | julie.lawson@dc.gov
Katie Ayers, Coordinator | ayers.katie@epa.gov
Meredith Lemke, Staffer | lemkem@chesapeake.org
Daniel Koval, Staffer | koval@chesapeake.org
Erin Sonnenburg, Staffer | sonnenburg.erin@epa.gov

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Elktonia-Carr’s Beach Heritage Park

Click here for video



Elktonia-Carr's Beach Heritage Park Visit

1:00 – 2:45 PM

Parking across the street at Annapolis Maritime Museum – Park Campus
7300 Edgewood Road, Annapolis, MD 1403

Carpooling encouraged!

Happy Hour @ Chessie's Wharf

3:00 – 5:00 PM

609 Melvin Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401