Engaged Communities Goal Team Quarterly Meeting – October 2026

October 22, 2026
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.

Purpose: The purpose of the meeting is to introduce new Goal Team members and facilitate connections; provide updates on the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) strategic planning process to support the revised *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*; share Workgroup updates and accomplishments; and discuss shared challenges and future priority-setting for the Goal Team.

Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

Lead: Julie Lawson, DC DOEE (co-chair); Julia Wakeling, DC DOEE (co-chair)

II. Workgroup Round-Robin Updates

Each workgroup will have 5 minutes to provide general updates, highlight recent success stories or projects, and elevate any priorities or issues for further discussion by the Goal Team.

Lead: Workgroup Chairs

Discussion Notes:

- **Local Government Leadership Workgroup:** Local Government Technical Assistance Inventory and Gap Analysis identified 123 free local government technical assistance providers from federal, state, regional, county, academic, and nonprofit partners, found gaps in various topics and geographic areas, and made recommendations to fill those gaps.
- **Public Access Workgroup:** Developing metrics for measuring progress toward new targets focused on upgrades and maintenance, ADA/ABA accessibility, and greenspace/natural lands at public access sites in the watershed.
- **Stewardship Workgroup:** Developed two new subcommittees to support Stewardship management approaches; Stewardship Network Ambassadors will focus on network science and mapping; Stewardship Resource and Capacity Committee will focus on building a resource hub for stewardship practitioners in the watershed. Lightning Talks are hosted at quarterly workgroup meetings to showcase stewardship programs across the watershed.
- **Education Workgroup:** Environmental Literacy (Elit) Survey launched to collect data from jurisdictions by Nov 20. Final reports will be available in March 2027. Education Forum will be held in Maryland in January 2027 and will bring together over 100

education leaders from across the region to discuss network building opportunities and support for practitioners.

- **Workforce Workgroup:** Developing targets for various audiences to support progress reporting toward the outcome; K-12 Career and Technical Action Team will support indicator and workplan development.

Actions:

- Send ideas for "Indicator Job" roles or workforce codes to Julie Lawson (julie.lawson@dc.gov) and Bart Merrick (Bart.Merrick@noaa.gov) to support indicator development and methods for measuring progress toward the Workforce Outcome.

III. Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

Updates on Strategic Plan development timeline and materials, including Engaged Communities Management Strategy, Outcome Workplans, and public feedback period; overview of Goal Team member roles and responsibilities and consensus process.

Lead: Julie Lawson; Julia Wakeling

Discussion Notes:

- See Engaged Communities Goal Team Meeting Oct 2026 slides for updates.
- See Chesapeake Bay Program Governance and Management Framework for information on Goal Team and Workgroup membership roles and responsibilities and decision-making processes. When seeking consensus on a decision, Goal Team members should provide explanation/feedback on their stance if submitting a 1-4 on the consensus continuum as their formal response.
- Policy Steering Committee (PSC) is providing feedback on the draft Chesapeake Bay Program Strategic Plan by Nov 5. Critical feedback will be incorporated by the Goal Team by Nov 20.
- Signatories will officially sign up to support outcomes in the Strategic Plan by Nov 20.
- The CBP Strategic Plan will be released for public feedback from Jan 5-31, 2027.

Actions:

- Please reach out to Workgroup coordinators or staffers if you are interested in being involved in the workplan drafting process for outcomes under the Engaged Communities Goal.

IV. Collaborative Discussion on Goal Team Priorities and Challenges

Open discussion to receive feedback on how the Goal Team can best serve its members; discuss shared challenges, definitions for common terms, and opportunities for coordination between Workgroups.

Lead: Julie Lawson; Julia Wakeling; Katie Ayers, EPA (Coordinator)

V. Chesapeake Steward Map

Presentation on the Chesapeake Steward Map. Participants are encouraged to add themselves to the map during our lunch break.

Lead: Meredith Lemke, CRC (Staffer)

VI. Wrap-Up

Confirm 2027 quarterly meeting months (Feb, May, Aug, Nov) and action items.

Lead: Katie Ayers

VII. Lunch

VIII. Elktonia Carr's Beach Heritage Park Visit

Guest speakers from City of Annapolis and Blacks of the Chesapeake will share more about the cultural and historical context of the site and its connection to Engaged Communities outcomes as part of the greater Chesapeake region.

IX. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Mid-Late February 2027

Attendees:

- Abel Olivo, Defensores de la Cuenca
- Allison Tillett, VA DEQ
- Amy Handen, EPA
- Angela Jones, DoW
- Anna Killius, CBC
- Aurelia Gracia, NPS
- Barb Glenn, AAC, Maryland Rep
- Bart Merrick, NOAA
- Breck Sullivan, USGS
- Brent Peterson
- Caitlin Bolton, MWCOG
- Cassie Davis, NY DEC
- Coreen Weilminster
- Courtney Hallacher
- Daniel Koval, CRC
- Darran White Tilghman, ShoreRivers
- David Christopher
- Doug Bell, EPA
- Efeturi Oghenekaro, DC DOEE
- Elise Trelegan, NOAA
- Elizabeth Hoffman, MDA
- Erin Sonnenburg, CRC
- Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Institute
- Grayson Shultz, VA Governor's Office
- Greg Barranco, EPA
- Harold Philips
- Holly Walker, DE DNREC
- Isabel Layton, MDNR
- Jane Sinclair
- Jason Miller, MDNR
- Jenna Talbot, DE DNREC
- Jennifer Fetter, Penn State Extension
- Jenny McGarvey, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Jess Blackburn, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Jessica Dennis
- Jodi Sulpizio, Penn State Extension
- Julia Wakeling, DC DOEE
- Julie Lawson, DC DOEE
- John Wolf, USGS
- Kacey Wetzel, Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Kate Beats, PA DEP
- Katie Ayers, EPA
- Kevin Du Bois, DoW
- Laura Casdorph, VA DOE
- Laura Cattell-Noll, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Lindsey Walker
- Lisa Swanger
- Lisa Woo
- Lorenzo Cinalli, DC DPR
- Lori Lilly
- Lori Schoenwiesner, VA DCR
- Marissa O'Neill, DC DOEE
- Mark Hohengasser
- Martha Narvaez
- Mary Jones, WV DEP
- Megan Bower
- Megan Fink
- Megan Sommers-Bascone
- Meredith Lemke, CRC
- Mitchell Smiley
- Olivia Shores

- Olivia Wisner, MDNR
- Pat Philippe
- Phyllis Joris
- Renee Bourassa, ICPRB
- Samantha Cotten, DE DNREC
- Sarah Brzezinski, EPA
- Shannon Sprague, NOAA
- Shruti Syal, VCU
- Spenser Balog, Casey Trees
- Tammie Peffer
- Tamela Piper
- Virginia Witmer, VA DEQ
- Wendy O'Sullivan, NPS
- Wuill Urvina, Choose Clean Water Coalition