Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Beyond 2025: GIT 6 June Meeting

June 4th, 2025
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM EST

Meeting Link: [Join the meeting now](#)
Meeting ID: 240 241 096 805 3   **Passcode:** Ah9dp7Ri
OR
Join By Phone: +1 202-991-0477   **Conference ID:** 625 291 978#
Materials Webpage: [Click here to access June meeting materials](#)

Purpose: To finalize meeting operations and best practices that can be implemented in the near term; provide update on regional partnership program reviews; and develop plans for drafting Scopes of Work for top five structure, governance, and process issues.

Attendees:

- Katie Ayers (EPA)
- Erin Sonnenburg (CRC EPA)
- Rick Mittler (ACB)
- Eric Hughes (EPA)
- Amy Handen (EPA)
- Natalie Snider (MD DNR)
- Kristen Saunders (UMCES)
- Denice Wardrop (CRC)
- Katie Brownson (USFS)
- Cassie Davis (NY DEC)
- Rachel Felver (ACB)
- Auston Smith (EPA)
- Marel King (PA CBC)
- Petra Baldwin (CRC EPA)
- Keisha Sedlacek (CBF)
- Jess Blackburn (ACB)
- James Martin (VA DCR)
- Scott Settle (WV DEP)
- Doug Bell (EPA)

- Doug Austin (EPA)
- Kirk Havens (VIMS)
- Les Knapp (MDE)
- Caitlin Bolton (WashCOG)
- Breck Sullivan (USGS)
- Lucinda Power (EPA)
- Elliott Campbell (MD DNR)
- Jeremy Hanson (CRC)
- Caroline Kleis (CRC EPA)
- Maura Christian (VA DEQ)
- Keith Bollt (EPA)
- Ashley Hullinger (PA DEP)
- Meg Cole (CRC)
- Ken Hyer (USGS)
- Kevin Du Bois (DoD)
- KC Filippino (VA HRPDC)
- Suzanne Trevena (EPA)
- Bo Williams (EPA)

Agenda Minutes

I. **Meeting Overview**   **(2:00 – 2:10 PM)**
Leads: Lucinda Power, EPA CBPO and James Martin, VA DCR.
    a. Report out from May 7-8 Management Board and May 23 PSC meetings.

Notes:
- GIT 6 seeking decisional action from Management Board on identifying responsible parties to advance completion of the <u>top five priorities</u> identified by GIT 6. Feedback and direction will be received at June 12 Management Board meeting.
- See <u>slides 4 and 5 from meeting presentation</u> for more information.

II. **Report Outs from Workgroups**   **(2:10 – 2:20 PM)**
    a. Local Leadership Workgroup: Rick Mittler, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Notes:
- Local Leadership Workgroup had quarterly <u>meeting on May 13</u>; ongoing work for Technical Assistance Inventory and Gap Analysis.
- Hosted two peer-to-peer bus tours, partnered with LGAC.
  - **Virginia:** visits to Hopewell, VA, Prince George County, Windsor Castle Park, SWIFT Research Center, and Hampton Roads Planning District Commission; discussed innovative water treatments, clean energy, and green infrastructure.
  - **Pennsylvania:** visits to Borough of Carlisle, Three Springs Fruit Farm, Michaux State Forest, South Mountain Partnership, Greene Township, Adams County Conservation District, Buttonwood Nature Center; discussed sustainable water resources management, agricultural BMPs, recreation, and wildfire response.

III. **Meeting Best Practices**   **(2:20 – 2:35 PM)**
Lead: Katie Ayers, EPA CBPO.
    a. Group discussion on short term practices that can be implemented and proposed deliverables (i.e., guidance document and templates).

Notes:
- See <u>slides 8 and 9 from meeting presentation</u> for proposed best practices to present to the Management Board for immediate implementation.
- Add additional meeting facilitation trainings to <u>Meeting Facilitation Support</u> page hosted under GIT 6.
- Need to define "collaborative and strategic agenda setting."
- Ensure agenda and minutes templates adhere to <u>accessibility standards</u>.

IV. **Report Out on Regional Partnership Program Reviews**   **(2:35 – 2:50 PM)**
Lead: Lucinda Power, EPA CBPO.

a. Small group in process of scheduling discussions with other geographic partnerships.

Notes:
- Voluntary members conducting discussions: Lucinda Power (EPA), Jeff Lerner (EPA), Melissa Ann Ehrenreich (ICC), Doug Bell (EPA), Jeremy Hanson (CRC), and Matt Robinson (EPA).
- Primary objective: have structured discussions with other geographic program partnerships to complete a rapid comparative analysis and seek potential improvements to the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership.
    - Analysis will consider information such as geographic size, jurisdictional scope and stakeholders involved, tribal engagement, foundational documents, guiding principles, high level focus areas/projects, governance and organizational structure, success metrics, challenges, communications, etc.
- Natalie Snider (MD DNR) has extensive experience with Gulf RESTORE program and additional contacts, if needed.

V.   Expertise and Resources Needed for Drafting Recommendations (2:50 – 3:50 PM)
Lead: Lucinda Power, EPA CBPO and James Martin, VA DCR.
   a. Group discussion to develop plans for tackling the top five structure, governance, and process priorities: 1) delegate to appropriate group (e.g., members in GIT 6, Management Board, Strategic Engagement Team, etc.), 2) define timeline, 3) define task/subject areas, and 4) suggest recommended skillsets.

Notes:
- Recommendation from group members that the order for addressing top five priorities should be as follows, while acknowledging that some priorities may be addressed simultaneously depending on desired timelines for accomplishment:
    1. Strengthening communication, engagement, and trust
    2. Establishing a logical framework and governance structure
    3. Clarifying membership roles, responsibilities, and definitions
    4. Refining decision-making processes
    5. Revising the Strategy Review System (SRS)
- Brainstorming discussion was held for GIT 6 members to provide feedback on the following information for each top priority (see slides 16-20 from meeting presentation):
    - Who should lead development of recommendations?
    - Skillsets needed?
    - Desired timeline?
    - Scope/tasks?
    - Resources needed?

VI.   Wrap-Up and Next Steps   (3:50 – 4:00 PM)
Lead: Katie Ayers, EPA CBPO.

Microsoft Teams Channel/<u>SharePoint site</u> contain supporting resources and running notes for these topics.

Next Steps:

1. Katie Ayers to lead development of appendix for meeting best practices. Reach out to <u>ayers.katie@epa.gov</u> if you want to collaborate.
    a. **Draft shared with GIT 6 and Coordinators/Staffers by June 18th to seek feedback.**
    b. Provide update at June 12 Management Board meeting.
    c. Present product at June 27 PSC meeting.

2. Small group conducting discussions with other geographic program partnerships in June.
    a. **Complete by June 30.**
    b. Provide update at June 12 Management Board meeting.
    c. Provide update at June 27 PSC meeting.

3. Present skillsets needed and suggestions for selecting lead group(s) to develop a Scope of Work for each of the top five structure, governance, and process priorities.
    a. **GIT 6 Chairs will seek decision from Management Board at June 12 Management Board meeting.**

Future Training Sessions on partnership and coordination skills, led by Local Concepts: <u>see flyer to register.</u>

Next Meeting: July 2nd, 2025, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

VII.   Adjourn   **(4:00 PM)**