Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

October 22, 2026

Engaged Communities Goal Team Introductions

Get To Know Your Goal Team Members!

Signatory Voting Member - DC

Julie Lawson



Engaged Communities Goal Team | Workforce Workgroup Co-Chair
DC Department of Energy & Environment

Areas of expertise/interest: environmental education & workforce planning; community-based social marketing; network building; plastic pollution

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Paddling the Anacostia River

Katie Ayers



Engaged Communities Goal Team Coordinator | Stewardship Workgroup Coordinator
EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Areas of expertise/interest: community-level stewardship programs; partnership building; cost-share programs; forest and wetland restoration; invasive species management

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Hiking in western Maryland!

Daniel Koval



Environmental Management Staffer: Public Access, Protected Lands, and Workforce Workgroups
Chesapeake Research Consortium, Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Areas of expertise/interest: public access; urban planning; outdoor recreation; land conservation; community stewardship; public health

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens

Meredith Lemke

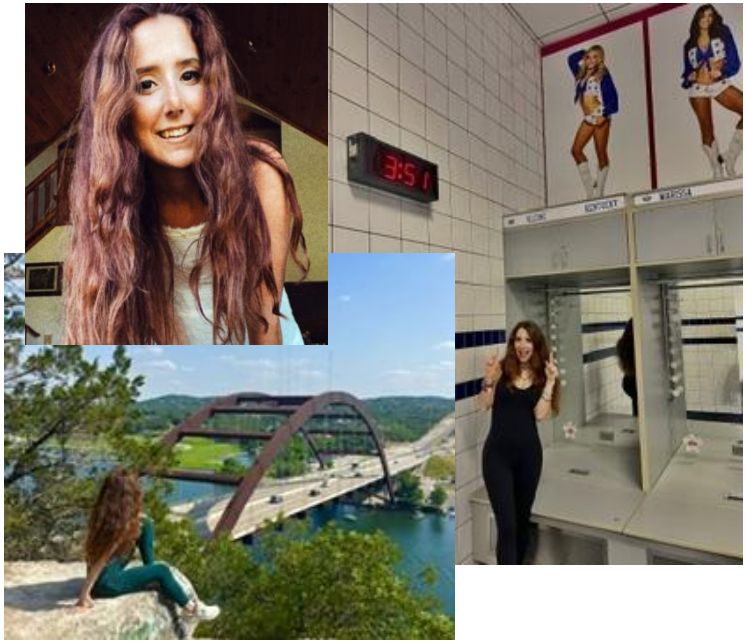


Environmental Management Staffer:
Education, Stewardship, Workforce Workgroups
Chesapeake Research Consortium,
Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Areas of expertise/interest: environmental education, stewardship, international relations, network development/management, coordination

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Hiking, birding, kayaking, Huntley Meadows (Alexandria), Patuxent River Park

Erin Sonnenburg



Environmental Management Staffer: Local Government Leadership Workgroup
Chesapeake Research Consortium,
Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Areas of expertise/interest: Regenerative Ag – Soil health, mycology, plant pathology; Sustainable Design – Permaculture, urban planning

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Enjoying waterfall hikes at Shenandoah National Park and going to the beach to unwind and recenter

Signatory Voting Member - DE

Holly Walker



Engaged Communities Goal Team Member
Delaware DNREC, Chesapeake Bay Program Coordinator

Areas of expertise/interest: coordinating and organizing programs across agencies and stakeholder initiatives

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Kayaking

Signatory Voting Member - NY

Cassie Davis



Chesapeake Bay Watershed Coordinator/Research Scientist
NYS DEC, Division of Water

Areas of expertise/interest: nonpoint source BMP implementation; data analysis; data management; GIS

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Unadilla River, kayaking

Signatory Voting Member - PA

Jennifer Fetter



Engaged Communities Goal Team Member
Penn State Extension, Water Resources

Areas of expertise/interest: agricultural water resources issues; youth water education & curriculum development; conservation volunteer management; stormwater management; safe drinking water; innovative watershed restoration approaches

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Being in the sun in my own gardens

Alternate Signatory Voting Member - PA

Kate Beats



Environmental Group Manager
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Areas of expertise/interest: stakeholder/partner engagement and development; partner coordination; communication; facilitation

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Walking my dog along Little Conestoga Creek at Dorwart Park

Signatory Voting Member - VA

Lori Schoenwiesner



Engaged Communities Goal Team Signatory Member | Environmental Education Workgroup Member

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation

Areas of expertise/interest: strategic planning; environmental education; professional development

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Hiking to Camp Hoover and the Rapidan River in Shenandoah National Park

Alternate Signatory Voting Member - VA

Maura Christian



Local Government Leadership Workgroup Chair
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Areas of expertise/interest: facilitating regional engagement on Chesapeake Bay efforts; connecting local partners with Bay Program resources; Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act local assistance

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: James River Park System in Richmond, VA

Signatory Voting Member - WV

Mary Jones



Engaged Communities Goal Team Member | Stewardship and Workforce Workgroup
WV Dept. of Environmental Protection

Areas of expertise/interest: stream restoration, watershed group coordination, stakeholder engagement, environmental education

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Kayaking in Harpers Ferry

Signatory Voting Member - CBC

Norah Carlos



Virginia Director
Chesapeake Bay Commission

Areas of expertise/interest: Environmental education; fisheries; advocacy; policy

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Smith Island

Signatory Voting Member - Federal

Wendy O’Sullivan



National Park Service Superintendent | Member of Chesapeake’s Federal Office Directors (FOD)
National Park Service, Chesapeake Gateways

Areas of expertise/interest: building partnerships; community engagement; heritage tourism; visitor experience; outdoor recreation economy; youth employment; grants management; collaborative conservation; philanthropic partnerships; and cause-related marketing.

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Exploring Chesapeake’s small towns and main streets with my husband and our dog, Rudder

Alternate Signatory Voting Member - Federal

Shannon Sprague



Education Workgroup Chair
NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

Areas of expertise/interest: K-12 environmental education, network development/Collective Impact, partnership building, strategic planning

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Fires on our neighborhood beach

At-Large Voting - Nonprofit

Kacey Wetzel



VP of Programs, Outreach and Education
Chesapeake Bay Trust

Areas of expertise/interest: social science for systems change; environmental philanthropy; public-private partnerships

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Hiking

At-Large Voting - Nonprofit

Darran White Tilghman



Director of Community Engagement
ShoreRivers

Areas of expertise/interest: partnerships; environmental justice; capacity building; rising stewards of family farms; green workforce; the lawn revolution; rights of nature; intersections with art

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Mucking and beachcombing on the banks of the Chester

At-Large Voting - Nonprofit

Wuill Urvina



Partnerships and Outreach Specialist
Choose Clean Water Coalition, National Wildlife Federation

Areas of expertise/interest: coalition building; environmental justice & equity; workforce development; strategic communications; climate change resilience; ecology

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Point Lookout, Maryland

Don Phillips



Local Government Leadership Committee
Delaware Representative

Areas of expertise/interest: Town councilperson; clothing business; Nanticoke Memorial Hospital community relations and volunteer programs; shoreline greenway restoration and development projects

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Waterways of Nanticoke River Watershed, St. Michael's Museum, and crabs, crabs, crabs!

Abel Olivo



Chair, Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
Executive Director, Defensores de la Cuenca

Areas of expertise/interest: Access to green space; workforce training; green jobs

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Potomac River in Western Maryland

Laura Casdorph



Science Coordinator | Education Workgroup Vice Chair
Virginia Department of Education

Areas of expertise/interest: Environmental education

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: James River Park System in Richmond, VA

Marissa O’Neill



Stewardship Workgroup Chair
DC Department of Energy and Environment

Areas of expertise/interest: Stewardship, community engagement, events, and environmental education

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Kingman and Heritage Islands

Lorenzo Cinalli



Public Access Workgroup Chair
District of Columbia Parks & Recreation – Community Planner

Areas of expertise/interest: Urban & community access to greenspaces, forests & tree canopy, partnership & coalition building, public policy

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Biking through public parks!

Bart Merrick



Workforce Workgroup Co-Chair
NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

Areas of expertise/interest: Environmental literacy programming; professional learning; early career programming

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Kicking back and taking a nap in the salt marsh on a cool sunny day

Elise Trelegan



Education Workgroup Coordinator
NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

Areas of expertise/interest: environmental education; youth engagement/leadership development

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Walking and bird watching!

Laura Cattell Noll



Local Government Leadership Workgroup Coordinator
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Areas of expertise/interest: local government engagement, network weaving, social science

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Kayaking or hiking in Pine Creek Gorge

Breck Sullivan



Ecosystem Analyst/Science Support Team Coordinator
USGS, Chesapeake Bay Program
USGS Point of Contact for Engaged Communities Goal Team

Areas of expertise/interest: Water quality monitoring; coordination; interested in incorporating more social science into CBP and USGS!

Favorite Chesapeake Bay watershed place or outdoor activity: Annapolis Maritime Muesum (Where I got married!)