

## Local Government Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

December 5, 2025

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

### Purpose & Meeting Objectives:

- Explored the local government structure in each state and how each state interacts with their local officials.
- Discussed implementation of the updated *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* with new EPA leadership.
- Debriefed LGAC's progress in 2025 and planned for Quarterly Meetings in 2026.

### Actions & Decisions

#### I. Call to Order

Commissioner Qually welcomed LGAC members and reviewed the meeting objectives.

Lead: Commissioner Marty Qually, Local Government Advisory Committee Chair

Materials: [Meeting Agenda](#)

#### II. *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* and Local Governments

D. Coogan introduced himself and his background to LGAC members, then discussed the updated *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* and the role of local governments in its implementation.

Lead: Dan Coogan, Chesapeake Bay Program Director ([coogan.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:coogan.daniel@epa.gov))

**Action:** Director Dan Coogan will follow-up with several LGAC members to address specific questions raised during the meeting.

#### III. Overview of Local Governments in each Watershed Jurisdiction

LGAC Vice Chairs and Jurisdiction Representatives delivered a summary of how local governments are structured in each watershed jurisdiction and how each watershed jurisdiction engaged with their local governments during implementation of the *2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. Speakers also shared successes, challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities to inform implementation of the revised *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*.

Lead: LGAC Vice Chairs and Jurisdiction Representatives

- NY: Suzy Ryan (LGAC) ([susan.ryan@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:susan.ryan@broomecountyny.gov)) and Cassie Davis (NY DEC) ([cassandra.davis@dec.ny.gov](mailto:cassandra.davis@dec.ny.gov))
- DE: Don Phillips (LGAC) ([hdonpj47@gmail.com](mailto:hdonpj47@gmail.com)) and Jim Sullivan (DNREC) ([James.Sullivan@delaware.gov](mailto:James.Sullivan@delaware.gov))
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- MD: Josh Hastings (LGAC) ([josh@soundmindstrategies.org](mailto:josh@soundmindstrategies.org)), Carrie Decker (MD DNR) ([carrie.decker@maryland.gov](mailto:carrie.decker@maryland.gov)), and Kathy Stecker (MDE) ([kathy.stecker@maryland.gov](mailto:kathy.stecker@maryland.gov))
- PA: Michael Helfrich (LGAC) ([Mhelfrich@yorkcity.org](mailto:Mhelfrich@yorkcity.org)) and Erin Vesey (PA DEP) ([evesey@pa.gov](mailto:evesey@pa.gov))
- VA: Richard Baugh (LGAC) ([Rbaugh@hoooverpenrod.com](mailto:Rbaugh@hoooverpenrod.com)) and Maura Christian (VA DEQ) ([maura.christian@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:maura.christian@deq.virginia.gov))
- WV: Josephine Saikali (WV Region 9) ([jsaikali@region9wv.com](mailto:jsaikali@region9wv.com))

Materials: [Presentation](#)

**Action:** LGAC Staff will compile a one-pager about local government structures in each state to share in 2026.

#### IV. Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

K. Reed shared an overview of the changes to the Chesapeake Bay Program's governance, structure and accountability, and provided an update on the Program's budget, including historical information on funding.

Lead: Khesha Reed, Chesapeake Bay Program Deputy Director ([reed.khesha@epa.gov](mailto:reed.khesha@epa.gov))

Materials: [Presentation](#)

## **V. Business Meeting**

Reviewed LGAC's work in 2025 and began planning for 2026.

- Executive Committee Report (LGAC Chair and First Vice Chair)
- [LGAC Coordinator's Report](#) (Staffer)
- [Local Government Leadership Report](#) (LGLW Chair)

Materials: Presentations linked above.

Discussion Notes:

- LGAC Chair reported on the Executive Council Meeting and recent work with the Chesapeake Bay Program's Governance and Accountability team.
- LGAC Staffer recapped LGAC's work and engagement efforts to date, shared the 2026 Quarterly Meeting dates, and led a [Mentimeter discussion](#) of proposed 2026 Quarterly Meeting topics.
- Local Government Leadership Workgroup (LGLW) Chair recapped the Workgroup's October Quarterly Meeting, updated members on the recent Maryland Peer-to-Peer tour, and shared Workgroup successes from the year.

**Action:** LGAC Staff to share [Mentimeter](#) to collect additional feedback on proposed meeting themes and structures for the 2026 LGAC Quarterly Meetings.

## **VI. Wrap-Up**

Review any new business, future agenda items and action items from this meeting.

Lead: Commissioner Marty Qually, Local Government Advisory Committee Chair

## **VII. Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** Thursday March 19th - Friday March 20th, 2026 (Gettysburg, PA)

### **Attendees:**

LGAC Members: Richard Baugh, John Carroll, Daniel Chao, Cindy Dyballa, Sheila Finlayson, Elizabeth Grant, Penny Gross, Michael Helfrich, Leo Lutz, Andria McClellan, Brianne Nadeau, Sheila Noll, Don Phillips, Marty Qually, Susan Ryan, Bruce Williams.

LGAC Staff: Laura Cattell Noll and Kayli Ottomanelli.

LGLW Staff: Rick Mittler.

Speakers/Guests: Marisa Baldine (Alliance), Jessica Blackburn (Alliance), Keith Bollt (EPA CBPO), Caitlin Bolton (MWCOG), Karen Brooks (PA DEP), Steve Catlett (Berkeley, WV), Maura Christian (VA DEQ), Meg Cole (CRC STAC), Dan Coogan (EPA CBPO), Cassandra Davis (NY DEC), Carrie Decker (MD DNR), Rachel Felter (Alliance), Kate Fritz (Alliance), Emily Heller (EPA CBPO), Les Knapp (MDE), Tou Matthews (CRC STAC), Sabine Miller (MD DNR), Jennifer Nelson (Resource Smart LLC AAC), Khesha Reed (EPA CBPO), Matt Robinson (EPA CBPO), Josephine Saikali (WV Region 9), Kristin Saunders (UMCES), Leah Sheppard (MD DNR), Kathy Stecker (MDE), James Sullivan (DNREC), Suzanne Trevena (EPA), Erin Vesey (PA DEP), and Julia Wakeling (DC DOEE).

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is honored to support the appointed volunteers of the Local Government Advisory Committee. We are committed to serving as an unbiased convener so the members can achieve their mission through learning and discussion. Views expressed by the members and their guest speakers are not those of the Alliance.