

Local Government Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

March 19-20, 2026

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

Purpose & Meeting Objectives:

- Explore proposed changes to the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Governance/Structure and provide feedback
- Explore proposed Management Strategy Framework and provide feedback
- Discuss changes to LGAC operations to align with CBP changes

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. Discussion with Region 3 Administrator

A. Blarcom-Lackey introduced herself and her background to LGAC members, shared her priorities for the Chesapeake Bay Program, and provided a high-level perspective on the need for updated Bay Program governance and structure.

Lead: Regional Administrator Amy Van Blarcom-Lackey, Environmental Protection Agency (Staff Contact: Noelle Watanabe, watanabe.noelle@epa.gov)

III. Panel: Discussion about Streamlining the CBP Partnership

A panel of CBP signatory leaders discussed how simplifying and streamlining the CBP's governance and structure will more effectively meet the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.

Facilitator: Councilmember Josh Hastings, LGAC First Vice Chair

- Deputy Secretary Jill Whitcomb, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (jiwhitcomb@pa.gov; Staff Contact: April Ritter, apritter@pa.gov)
- Anna Killius, Chesapeake Bay Commission Executive Director (AKillius@chesbay.us)
- Leila Duman, Maryland Department of Natural Resources (leila.duman@maryland.gov)

Materials: None

Discussion Notes:

- J. Whitcomb emphasised how the revised CBP structure and governance ensures that staff time and Partnership resources are aligned with the updated Watershed Agreement and focused on attainment of goals and outcomes.
- A. Killius reminded LGAC members about the 2024 independent evaluation of the Bay Program and how the proposed changes to the Agreement align with the findings of this report.
- J. Whitcomb described the updated role of the Advisory Committees to ensure a non-voting, advisory voice is embedded in multiple levels of the Partnership.
- L. Duman updated members on the new public participation section of the CBP Governance Framework.
- LGAC members discussed the opportunity to rely on existing state/federal guidelines for public meetings.
- LGAC members discussed the value of Advisory Committees serving as a two-way street of communication with key stakeholder groups, like local governments.
- LGAC members emphasised that Advisory Committee priorities should be both reactive to what the Partnership is working on and proactive based on local government issues related to the Agreement.

Actions:

- LGAC Staff will share contact information for the [EPA Municipal Ombudsman](#), Jamie Piziali (piziali.jamie@epa.gov).
- LGAC Staff will share contact information for PA's [Center for Local Government Services](#) (ra-dcedclgs@pa.gov).

IV. Lunch with Secretary Jessica Shirley, PA Department of Environmental Protection

Secretary Shirley recognized Commissioner Qually for his dedicated and extensive service to LGAC and Pennsylvania during his role as LGAC Chair.

Lead: Secretary Jessica Shirley, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (Staff Contact: Jennifer Swan, jswan@pa.gov)

Materials: None

V. Presentation: Overview of Proposed Changes to CBP Governance and Structure

D. Bell reviewed the proposed revisions to the CBP's Governance and Management Framework as it pertains to LGAC and local governments.

Lead: Doug Bell, Chesapeake Bay Program (bell.douglas@epa.gov)

Materials: [Presentation](#), [CBP Structure Recommendations](#)

Discussion Notes:

- LGAC discussed whether LGAC members should join CBP Goal Team meetings and how to best coordinate Goal Team engagement.
- LGAC members require advance publication of meeting materials in order to effectively engage with the Partnership.

Actions:

- M. Qually will share LGAC's feedback on the CBP governance updates and proposed Management Strategies at the April Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee meetings.
- LGAC Staff to share the [Chesapeake Bay Program's Meeting Best Practices](#) for reference.

VI. Presentation: Overview of Proposed Changes to Management Strategies

S. Brzezinski shared the draft framework for the CBP Strategic Plan and Management Strategies, and highlighted potential local government connections.

Lead: Sarah Brzezinski, Chesapeake Bay Program (Brzezinski.Sarah@epa.gov)

Materials: [Presentation](#)

Action: LGAC members will weigh in on the Management Strategies during the public feedback period when announced.

VII. Breakout Discussions: Proposed Changes to Management Strategies

LGAC remained in plenary to discuss their perspectives on the proposed Management Strategy Framework.

Facilitator: LGAC Members

Materials: None

Discussion Notes:

- LGAC discussed the timelines for the proposed Management Strategies and whether one established timeline works best for the varied outcomes in the Watershed Agreement.
- LGAC discussed the importance of the Partnership leveraging the expertise of the Advisory Committees and signatory partners when soliciting feedback on the Management Strategies.

Action: LGAC Staff to share the [CBP Network Science Training Resources](#).

VIII. Field Trip: Battlefield Tour with Gettysburg Foundation

LGAC Members explored lessons learned from our country's 250 year history related to interstate collaboration, state leadership, and the balance between state and federal authority; and discussed how these lessons learned could benefit the governance of a multi-state/federal partnership like the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Lead: Gettysburg Foundation

Materials: None

XI. Quarterly Meeting Day Two Welcome

Commissioner Qually welcomed LGAC members back and reviewed the meeting objectives.

Lead: Commissioner Marty Qually, Local Government Advisory Committee Chair

Materials: None

XII. Jurisdiction Meeting Report-Outs and Member Updates

LGAC Vice Chairs shared report-outs from their jurisdiction meetings and provided regional updates.

Lead: LGAC Vice Chairs

Materials: None

Discussion Notes:

- DC – The DC delegation discussed the Potomac Interceptor Collapse and proposed legislation to discourage the use of flushable wipes.
- DE – The Delaware delegation discussed what changes to the Watershed Agreement and to the CBP governance and structure will be relevant to share with Delaware local governments. The delegation is also working with DNREC Parks and Recreation to help municipalities receive funding to implement and update best management practices.
- MD – The Maryland delegation discussed plans for the April Delmarva peer-to-peer tour about local land use decisions and for a June peer-to-peer tour with the Maryland Municipal League as a part of their summer conference. Some delegation members are also attending an upcoming Bays Watershed Council Meeting with MD Secretary Josh Kurtz.
- NY – The NY delegation was not available to report out.
- PA – The Pennsylvania delegation welcomed a new LGAC member, Commissioner Fred Faylona of Susquehanna Township. The delegation also joined a meeting for all Pennsylvania Advisory Committee members organized by PA DEP to share committee updates and provide feedback on the proposed changes to the CBP's Governance and Structure.
- VA – The Virginia delegation also discussed plans for the April Delmarva peer-to-peer tour, brainstormed key points for a One-Pager for VA Local Governments, and shared concerns about the Potomac Interceptor Collapse and how it was communicated to Virginia officials. The delegation expressed interest in setting a meeting with the new VA Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, Delegate David Bulova.
- WV – LGAC Staff have been working with the Governor's Office on appointing a new WV member.

XIII. Annual Business Meeting

- Annual Elections for LGAC Chair and Vice Chairs
- Executive Committee Report (Chair and First Vice Chair)
- [LGAC Coordinator's Report](#) (Coordinator)
- [Local Government Leadership Workgroup Report](#) (Chair)
- [Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week](#) (CBP Communications Office)

Materials: Presentations linked above.

Discussion Notes:

- LGAC Chair reported on efforts to coordinate with the other Advisory Committees and that M. Qually is preparing remarks for the Principals' Staff Committee Meeting on April 7th.
- LGAC Coordinator shared the Principals' Staff Committee's (PSC) response to the 2025 LGAC Recommendations Letter and discussed next steps for creating jurisdiction-specific local government implementation fact sheets as requested by the PSC. L. Cattell Noll also reviewed LGAC's feedback on the CBP Governance and Management Framework and sought input from members on the draft [Watershed Governance One-Pager](#) prepared as a follow up action from the December 2025 LGAC Meeting.
- Local Government Leadership Workgroup (LGLW) Chair shared updates to the Workgroup name and Local Government Leadership Outcome language, and what this means for the Workgroup's targets, goal team, and direct and indirect engagement efforts for the remainder of the year.
- M. Augustin with the CBP Communications Office shared the 2026 Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week theme and previewed shareable resources that will be available soon.

Actions:

- Annual Elections for LGAC Chair, First Vice Chair, and Jurisdiction Vice Chairs.
 - LGAC Chair – J. Hastings nominated R. Baugh, seconded by A. Dubois.
 - LGAC First Vice Chair – A. Dubois nominated R. Baugh, seconded by E. Grant.
 - DC Vice Chair – D. Chao nominated B. Nadeau, seconded by A. Dubois.
 - MD Vice Chair – J. Hastings nominated C. Dyballa, seconded by A. Dubois.
 - PA Vice Chair – E. Grant nominated M. Qually, seconded by F. Faylona.
 - VA Vice Chair – A. Dubois nominated R. Baugh, seconded by P. Gross.
 - At-Large Vice Chair – A. McClellan nominated D. Phillips, seconded by A. Dubois.
- LGAC Staff will include Citizen Water Quality Monitoring examples in the June Quarterly Meeting.
- LGAC Staff will share upcoming Local Government Leadership Workgroup Meeting dates:
 - Strengthening Local Solutions: Communicating Success and Tailored Technical Assistance
 - Date: Thursday, May 21st from 9:30 am to 11:30 am
 - Additional Details: [Meeting Page](#)
 - Growing Green: Local Tree Cover Trends, Challenges, and Opportunities
 - Date: Tuesday, August 25th from 9:30 am to 11:30 am
 - Additional Details: [Meeting Page](#)
 - Supporting Small Communities: Septic and Rural Wastewater Management Systems
 - Date: Thursday, November 19th from 9:30 am to 11:30 am
 - Additional Details: [Meeting Page](#)
- LGAC Staff will share [Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week](#) materials, including a proclamation template when available.
- LGAC Members will review the [Watershed Governance One-Pager](#) and share edits/revisions.

XIV. Presentation: Possible Changes to LGAC Operations and Priorities

In response to the changes to the CBP's governance and structure, LGAC discussed the need and opportunity for possible changes to align LGAC operations and priorities.

Lead: Laura Cattell Noll, Local Government Advisory Committee Coordinator

Materials: [Presentation](#)

Discussion Notes:

- Members suggested striking the proposed responsibility that Jurisdiction Vice Chairs each represent LGAC on a Goal Team, as members other than Vice Chairs might be more interested or better suited to serve as representatives. LGAC emphasized the importance of having strategic member engagement at Goal Team meetings that align with LGAC priorities.

- There is interest among members in extending the term length for LGAC Chair and First Vice Chair beyond one year.
- LGAC members are interested in adopting “Ethical Behavior Guidelines” in line with CBP governance.

XV. Small Group Discussions

LGAC members broke into small groups to discuss possible changes to LGAC’s operations and priorities.

XVI. Plenary Discussion

LGAC returned from small groups and shared report outs from each group’s discussion.

Lead: Commissioner Marty Qually, Local Government Advisory Committee Chair

Materials: None

Discussion Notes:

- In regards to the annual flow and structure of LGAC meetings, members expressed concern about the reduction of in-person meetings.
- In regards to LGAC’s Strategic Plan, members are interested in continuing with a multi-year Strategic Plan with set annual priorities.
- LGAC members emphasized the importance of participating in all Partnership conversations that pertain to local governments, not just goal team meetings.
- Members again expressed interest in extending the term length for LGAC Chair and First Vice Chair beyond one year, since relationship building is so intrinsic to success in these roles. Members proposed a one-year term for First Vice Chair and a two-year term for Chair, or allowing the Chair and First Vice Chair to serve consecutive terms with the current term limits.
- Members expressed interest in potentially adding state-specific sections to LGAC’s Annual Recommendations to highlight jurisdiction projects and priorities annually.

Action: LGAC Chair and First Vice Chair will discuss feedback on possible changes to LGAC operations and priorities.

XVII. Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

K. Reed shared an update on the [Principals’ Staff Committee response](#) to the [2025 LGAC Annual Recommendations Letter](#).

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

Materials: [Presentation](#)

XVIII. Wrap-Up

LGAC reviewed action items from this meeting.

Lead: Commissioner Marty Qually, Local Government Advisory Committee Chair

XIX. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 24th - Friday, September 25th, 2026

Attendees:

LGAC Members: Richard Baugh, Phil Briddell, Daniel Chao, Frank Dawson, Amy Dubois, Cindy Dyballa, Fred Faylona, Elizabeth Grant, Penny Gross, Leo Lutz, Andria McClellan, Brianne Nadeau, Sheila Noll, Don Phillips, Kelly Porter, Marty Qually, Susan Ryan, and Bruce Williams.

LGAC Staff: Laura Cattell Noll and Kayli Ottomanelli.

LGLW Staff: Rick Mittler.

Speakers/Guests: Michael Augustin (EPA CBPO), Marisa Baldine (Alliance), Jessica Blackburn (Alliance), Keith Bollt (EPA CBPO), Doug Bell (EPA CBPO), Caitlin Bolton (MWCOG), Maura Christian (VA DEQ), Meg Cole (CRC STAC), Carrie Decker (MD DNR), Mary DeWees (WV DEP), Leila Duman (MD DNR), Melissa Fagan (CRC), KC Fillippino (HRPDC), Kate Fritz (Alliance), Amy Handen (EPA CBPO), Jeremy Hanson (CRC), Anna Killius (CBC), Alex LoCurto (Alliance), Khesha Reed (EPA CBPO), Kristin Saunders (MD DNR), Suzanne Shea (Regenerative Agriculture Solutions), Jessica Shirley (PA DEP), Erin Sonnenburg (EPA CBPO), Kathy Stecker (MDE), James Sullivan (DNREC), Patrick Thompson (Energy Works), Erin Vesey (PA DEP), Jill Whitcomb (PA DEP), and Nicole Wright (Student).

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.