



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

March 4, 2025

Local Leadership Workgroup

Quarterly Meeting

Les Knapp, Chair | Maura Christian, Vice Chair

We'll begin at 9:00 am

Meeting Goals

- State of Bay Restoration - What's happening now? Where do we need to go? Why?
- Identify educational resources, technical assistance and funding
- Networking with colleagues from around the watershed
- Addressing MB Questions regarding Local Leadership Outcome

Agenda

1 Welcome

2 Local Leadership
Outcome

3 Federal Level
Updates

4 State Updates

5 Wrap-up & Next
Steps



LOCAL LEADERSHIP OUTCOME
GIT 6 | LOCAL LEADERSHIP WORKGROUP

2014 WATERSHED AGREEMENT: GOAL & OUTCOME LANGUAGE

LOCAL LEADERSHIP OUTCOME: Continually increase the knowledge and capacity of local officials on issues related to water resources and in the implementation of economic and policy incentives that will support local conservation actions.

STEWARDSHIP GOAL: Increase the number and diversity of local stewards and local governments that actively support and carry out the conservation and restoration activities that achieve healthy local streams, rivers and a vibrant Chesapeake Bay.

OUTCOME DISPOSITION ADVICE TO MANAGEMENT BOARD: UPDATE

Recommendation

The Local Leadership Outcome should be **updated** to better support local governments in their critical role as implementers of projects and policies that support local needs and meet watershed goals. Updates to the language should focus the Partnership's work to empower local governments to take actions that benefit their environment and economy. Revisions should position the outcome in a way that it can support state partners and all GITs and Workgroups in effectively engaging with local officials. These efforts are continuous, so milestones could be used to create quantifiable targets.

Local Leaders Are Essential to Meeting Our Clean Water and Living Resource Goals

The Partnership identified a principle of the [2014 Agreement](#) to "Acknowledge, support and embrace local governments and other local entities in watershed restoration and protection activities," which underscores that achieving the ambitious goals of the Agreement requires the active participation and leadership of local entities. Local leaders are uniquely positioned to drive meaningful change within their communities and a [2017 Chesapeake Bay Program report](#) corroborated this, noting that "increasing the ability of local leaders to take those actions is critical to achieving success in the Bay watershed restoration."¹ [ERG's report](#) specifically recommended that the program "direct more resources to working with communities at the local and regional level,"² recognizing how targeted support and resources can mitigate the constraints and capacity challenges that local governments face. The [Beyond 2025 Clean Water small group](#) also recommended expanding "support for local government capacity"³ and connecting and empowering "local governments and communities to address the pollution in their backyards, which will ultimately lead to improvements in the Chesapeake Bay."⁴ This recommendation will ensure that efforts are both sustainable and impactful. Overall, translating complex science and initiatives into information that local governments can understand and act upon will be essential to meeting the goals and outcomes of the updated Agreement.

Engaging Local Officials Through Trusted Networks Has Proven to Be Successful

Working through local government networks, the outcome has provided a platform for collaboration and knowledge-sharing enabling local leaders to learn from successful initiatives in other communities increasing the likelihood of success for local projects. In partnership with those networks, engagements have provided resources and expertise that empower local leaders to make decisions, implement policies, and take on projects that create local improvements and have watershed impacts. The importance of convening a network of networks as a space for resource and best practices sharing was identified as a key strategy moving beyond 2025. The [Beyond 2025 Steering Committee](#) noted the value

Local Leadership Outcome

What quantifiable metrics can we use to measure the success of the LLWG?

How does the LLWG and LGAC currently work together to engage local officials?

Rick Mittler, LLWG Coordinator



Federal Level Updates

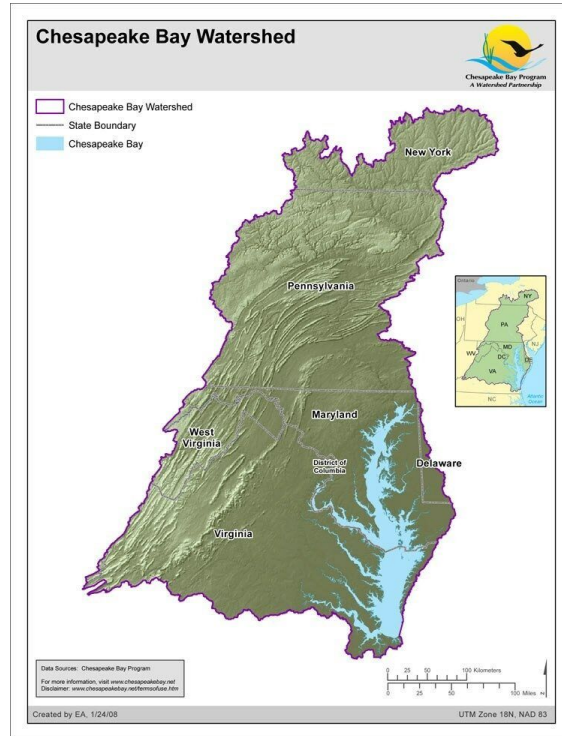
What is the current state of federal efforts and funding that can support local governments in taking action in their communities?

Carolyn Berndt, National League of Cities



Local Leadership Workgroup Quarterly Meeting

**We're on a break.
Be back at 10:25 am!**



State Level Updates

What are watershed state's key projects, goals, and focus for 2025 and how can the Local Leadership Workgroup strategically collaborate with the states in our work to support local governments?

Jim Sullivan, Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Council

Kathy Stecker, Maryland Dept. of the Environment & Carrie Decker, Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources

Megan Lehman, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection

Cassandra Davis, New York State Dept. Of Environmental Conservation

Maura Christian, Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality

Julia Wakeling, Dept. of Energy and the Environment - District of Columbia

Josephine Saikali, West Virginia Region 9

Wrap-up & Next Steps

- Action items (if necessary)
- Key Takeaways
- Next Steps