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Chesapeake Bay Program
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Chesapeake Bay Program's Land Use Workgroup: Call for Nominations

Membership Positions

Overview & Background

The Chesapeake Bay Program's Land Use Workgroup is seeking qualified candidates for up to six **at-large membership** positions.

The Land Use Workgroup is charged with advancing the **Land Use Planning and Decision Support Outcome** (the "Land Use Outcome") and associated targets established under the 2025 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. This work is carried out in coordination with related workgroups and outcomes – such as Healthy Forests, Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions, and Protected Lands – and is guided by the Healthy Landscapes Goal Team, under which the Land Use Workgroup is nested. Together, these efforts support the broader Healthy Landscapes Goal of the Watershed Agreement. The Land Use Outcome and Healthy Landscapes Goal language is provided at the end of this document for reference.

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) is a regional partnership dedicated to restoring, conserving, and protecting the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries and the lands that surround them. More information about the CBP is available at https://www.chesapeakebay.net/.

About the Land Use Workgroup

History of the Land Use Workgroup

The Land Use Workgroup was established in 2014 as part of the original *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. The group primarily focused on providing technical expertise to support the development of high-resolution land use/land cover data in all counties within and adjacent to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

Future vision and purpose

With the release of the revised Watershed Agreement, the workgroup is entering a new phase. While the previous Land Use Outcome centered on developing land use/land cover data, the updated Outcome shifts toward applying these data – and other CBP data products – to support decision-making.

Looking ahead, the Land Use Workgroup will focus on communicating the availability and value of land use/land cover data, gathering examples of how CBP data are used across the watershed, exploring how these data can support local needs, and developing a strategic outreach and communication plan. To better support this expanded scope, the workgroup will broaden its membership and leadership to align with the revised Land Use Outcome.

As part of its ongoing mission, the Land Use Workgroup will continue working with subject matter experts to translate data and analytical findings into applicable materials that local and jurisdictional partners can use. These resources are intended to help inform planning decisions and influence the rate of land conversion to development, particularly in light of changing population and land use trends.

Membership of the Land Use Workgroup

The Land Use Workgroup (LUWG) membership includes both Signatory and At-Large voting members, with up to 15 members possible. LUWG voting membership includes the following:

Signatory Members from each CBP Watershed Agreement signatory (up to 9 signatory members (one each), with an alternate identified):

- Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC)
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia
- West Virginia
- US EPA

At-large Member Categories (up to 6 members with option to identify alternates), including, but not limited to, the following entities:

- Regional Planning Commissions or Districts
- Local Planners and Government Staff
- Private Industry (e.g., firms specializing in land use/community planning, urban design, etc.)
- Conservation/Environmental Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Other local practitioners that have a role in land use planning or conservation for protecting the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

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Position Description

At-large members actively participate in the operations of the Workgroup on a regular basis. Members are responsible for using their professional expertise to improve the effectiveness of the group, advance work outlined the LUWG scope, purpose, and goals, as well as make progress on actions and priorities outlined in the LUWG workplan.

Duties of at-large members:

- Actively participate in LUWG meetings to help advance the Land Use Outcome and workgroup priorities.
- Use their positions and expertise to positively influence actions within their organization that either directly or indirectly impact the ability to meet LUWG goals and objectives.
- Engage with the LUWG leadership as necessary on important policy or management decisions throughout the year.

Time Commitment (estimated):

- Meeting Attendance: approx. 2 hours per quarter for meeting attendance.
    - *Note:* LUWG meetings are typically scheduled on a quarterly or bi-monthly basis on the third Wednesday of the month from 1 – 3 PM.
- Prep Work: approx. 2 hours per quarter, assuming 1 hour of individual prep and 1 hour of follow-up work or discussions. Varies by member and active topics.

The time commitment for members varies but is flexible, particularly for at-large members. It is recognized that at-large members are more likely to have a harder time consolidating their normal work responsibilities with LUWG activities compared to state representatives or signatory members. LUWG leadership is flexible to accommodate the perspectives and participation of all members to the extent feasible.

Position Duration:

- Two-year term (with option to renew), starting June 2026.

Additional Info:

At- large member positions are traditionally held to empower non-signatory partners in the decision-making process of the Chesapeake Bay Program. Priority for at-large membership will be reserved for nongovernmental organizations, quasi-governmental organizations, local governments, regional planning commissions, and other local practitioners that have a role in land use planning or conservation for protecting the health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Process

If you or someone you know is interested, please submit the following to Jackie Pickford, LUWG Coordinator (jpickford@chesapeakebay.net) and Julia Fucci (fuccij@chesapeake.org), LUWG Staffer, by **COB April 15, 2026**:

1. Letter/Paragraph of interest (why you want to assume this role).
2. Short C.V. or resume.

In late April 2026, the current LUWG membership will review the submitted materials and rank the nominees with consideration to their level of commitment, skills and perspectives (e.g., geographic diversity and expertise). The nominees with the highest endorsements will be selected for the positions. If less than six members are nominated, the LUWG will confirm the new members via the consensus continuum.

Interested individuals are encouraged to reach out in advance of submitting materials to express interest and ask questions. Materials provided by the deadline are typically posted on a public calendar page for an upcoming Land Use Workgroup Meeting.

Land Use Planning & Decision Support Outcome

Outcome:

Develop and disseminate relevant and actionable land use information in consultation with local governments, to organizations and communities involved in local and regional land use planning. This information should include past, present and future conditions, as well as the potential environmental and socioeconomic consequences of changing conditions.

Targets:

- Develop at least five use cases annually, informed by and provided at the county, watershed or municipal scale to inform land use planning and decisions and maintain the ecological integrity of watersheds supporting good stream health. Use cases can include watershed protection, aquatic connectivity, stormwater, tree canopy, agricultural preservation or redevelopment.
- Highlight at least two widely applicable land use cases annually to showcase best practices and share this information with local governments and partners through diverse communications products.

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Healthy Landscapes Goal

The well-being of the Chesapeake Bay depends on the health of the lands that make up its watershed. As communities within the region continue to grow, the demand for land and resources can put our waters and habitats at risk. Encouraging sound land use management and conservation of areas with ecological, historic and cultural value can reduce or prevent pollution, maintain healthy ecosystems and ensure the health of forests, farms and open spaces, all while supporting growing economies and sustainable food production. These cost-effective strategies will help communities adapt to changing environmental conditions and ensure clean water for future generations.

- **Goal:** Conserve, protect, restore and enhance landscapes of ecological, economic, recreational and cultural value to improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and increase resilience.
- **Outcomes:**
    - *Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions:* Increase the capacity for pursuing solutions, including those that are nature-based, to improve planning and responses to changing conditions while balancing long-term resiliency of watershed communities, economies and ecosystems.
    - *Land Use Planning and Decision Support (see above)*.
    - *Healthy Forests & Trees:* Conserve, manage and restore forests and tree cover to maximize benefits for water quality, habitat and people throughout the watershed, with a particular focus on riparian areas and communities.
    - *Protected Lands:* Permanently protect critical landscapes within the Chesapeake Bay watershed to protect water quality, enhance biodiversity, support sustainable livelihoods, bolster local economies, honor cultural heritage and protect the mission and resilience of military installations.