

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

Chair & Co-Chair/Vice Chair Positions

Overview & Background

The Chesapeake Bay Program’s Land Use Workgroup is seeking two qualified candidates for their **Chair** and **Co-Chair/Vice Chair** 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.

Position Description (Chair and Co-Chair/Vice Chair)

The Chair and Co-Chair/Vice Chair are primarily responsible for guiding the work of the Land Use Workgroup (LUWG) and facilitating its quarterly or bimonthly meetings. In partnership with the LUWG Coordinator and Staffer, these leaders help set priorities, support implementation of the Land Use Outcome, and ensure effective communication and collaboration across the workgroup and with related CBP teams.

Duties of the Chair and Co-Chair/Vice Chair:

- Facilitate LUWG meetings (2-hour remote or hybrid-based meetings), fostering productive discussion and ensuring all voices and perspectives are heard.
- Assist in the development and refinement of the management strategy for the Land Use Outcome.
- Collaborate with LUWG Coordinator and Staffer to develop meeting agendas, identify workload priorities, and support progress on action items.
- Provide leadership in establishing and maintaining LUWG work priorities, consistent with management strategies and workgroup goals.
- Support the development, documentation, and communication of use cases for the land use/land cover data and related CBP products.
- Participate as an active member of the Healthy Landscapes Goal Implementation Team which will meet quarterly or biannually.

Expected time commitment:

- Planning/Coordination: approx. 2-4 hours per month.
- Meeting Attendance: approx. 3-4 hours per quarter.

- *Note:* LUWG Meetings are typically scheduled the third Wednesday of the month, 1 – 3 PM.

Position Duration:

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

Process

If you or someone you know is interested, please submit the following to Jackie Pickford, LUWG Coordinator (jpickford@usgs.gov) 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 nominee(s) with the highest endorsement will be selected for the position(s).

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.

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.