

Modeling Workgroup Core Values, Decision Making, and Membership

September 9, 2026

During assessments of future environmental condition risk to Chesapeake water quality standards the Modeling Workgroup will be called on to develop state-of-the-science modeling systems to support the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership goals of Chesapeake restoration. To ensure technical modeling decisions are made with the highest level of scientific rigor and participation by the Partnership, the long-standing core values of the Modeling Workgroup of Integration, Innovation, Independence, and Inclusiveness are applied.

Core Values

The Modeling Workgroup is responsible to the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership for providing state-of-the-art decision-support modeling tools that are built through community and participatory principles. Planning and management of resources to provide the best available decision-support modeling tools requires the Modeling Workgroup members and participants to adhere to the core values of:

Integration - Integration of most recent science and knowledge in air, watershed, and coastal waters to support water quality and ecosystem modeling for CBP restoration decision making.

Innovation - Embracing creativity, innovation, and encouraging improvement in the development and support of transparent and robust modeling tools.

Independence – Making modeling decisions on the basis of best available evidence and using the most appropriate methods to produce, run, and interpret models, independent of policy considerations.

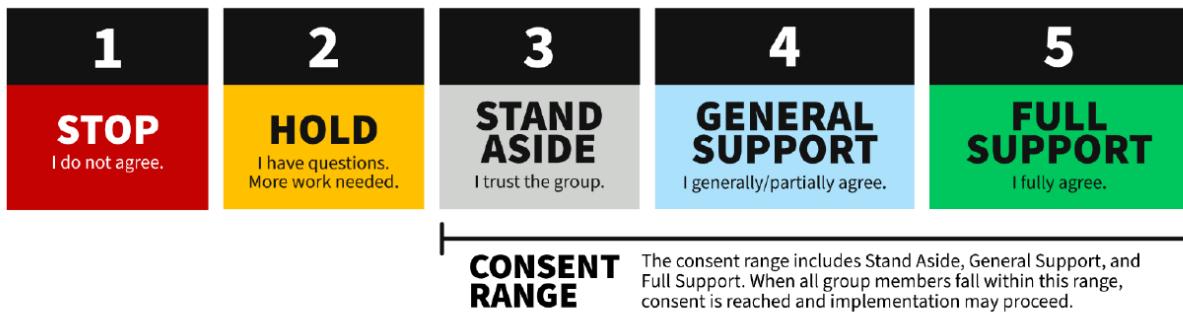
Inclusiveness - Commitment to an open and transparent process and the engagement of relevant partners, that results in strengthening the Partnership's decision-making tools.

Decision Making

Modeling Workgroup proceedings are open meetings and all interested people can participate. At key decision points and after consideration of all participants' comments, decisions will be made by Modeling Workgroup members through a consent-based process that seeks agreement of all members and resolves minority objections in accordance with the process defined in the Governance and Management Framework. Consent can be determined through a voice or roll-call vote of all participating members at a Modeling Workgroup meeting. Members that are directly involved with work that's being approved by the Workgroup will recuse themselves from that decision.

The Modeling Workgroup's decision-making approach is consent-based (no member expresses dissenting views by taking a position of "1" or "2" on the decision-making continuum; below). If unanimous consent is not reached, dissenting members should articulate their concerns and propose alternatives. If consent cannot be reached unanimously after several iterations, the group can decide by supermajority if two-thirds or more of participating voting members support the decision ("3", "4", or "5"; below). A two-thirds quorum of existing voting membership is necessary for consent and supermajority decision-making.

Figure 2. Chesapeake Bay Program’s Decision-Making Continuum. Based on the University of Maryland’s Center for Leadership and Organizational Change Consensus Continuum.



Membership

Through adoption of this document, the Modeling Workgroup establishes the membership structure having the following constituents and categories:

- Two Co-chairs
- One Coordinator
- One Modeling Workgroup Staffer
- Eight Signatory Members with Alternates
 - Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington DC, West Virginia and EPA.
- At-Large Expert Members not to exceed a total Modeling Workgroup Membership of 15.

Members List

Leadership (Non-voting)

Mark Bennett (Co-Chair)	USGS
Dave Montali (Co-Chair)	Tetra Tech

Coordination (Non-voting)

Lewis Linker (Coordinator)	USEPA
Gabriel Duran (Staffer)	CRC

Members List

Signatory Members— Representation can be revised at any time at the sole discretion of the Signatories

Virginia – Bill Keeling	(alternate: Arianna Johns)
New York – Cassandra Davis	(alternate: TBD)
Pennsylvania – Scott Heidel	(alternate: John Lancaster)
Maryland – Guido Yactayo	(alternate: Sophia Grossweiler)
District of Columbia – George Onyullo	(alternate: TBD)
West Virginia – Megan Maggard	(alternate: TBD)

Delaware – Joseph Schell	(alternate: TBD)
EPA– Tom Butler	(alternate: TBD)

At-Large Members

Carl Cerco	Koniag (Estuarine Modeling)
Qian Zhang	UMCES (Advanced Monitoring-Modeling Linkages and Trend Analyses)
Robert Sabo	USEPA (AI/Machine Learning and Watershed Modeling)
Jeremy Testa	UMCES (Estuarine Biogeochemistry and Modeling)
Larry Band	VA Tech (Watershed Modeling)
Peter Claggett	USGS (Land Use Modeling)