



Local Government Leadership Workgroup Quarterly Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2026
9:30am – 11:30am

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

Purpose:

- Identify land use and tree canopy resources that can support the knowledge and capacity of local officials
- Understand changes to the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) Governance and Structure
- Discuss the draft Local Government Leadership Management Strategy

Minutes

I. Welcome, Introductions & Announcements

Lead: Maura Christian, VA DEQ/LGLW Chair, Caitlin Bolton, MWCOG/LGLW Vice-Chair & Laura Cattell Noll, LGLW Coordinator

Materials: [LGLW Administrative Slides](#)

II. Summary of Land Use Changes Across the Watershed

Lead: Sarah McDonald, USGS

High resolution land use data show changes over time to tree canopy in the watershed.

This item was non-decisional.

Discussion Notes:

- USGS has 1-meter resolution land use/land cover data for the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed over three distinct time periods (2013/2014, 2017/2018 and 2021/2022)
- These data show 'forested extent' and 'tree cover' (includes forests, but also street trees)
- Please reach out to Sarah McDonald, smcdonald@usgs.gov, if you have any questions about the data or ideas on how to translate this information for local decision-makers

Materials: [Presentation](#), [Land Use/Land Cover viewer](#), [Land Use/Land Cover Data Download](#)

III. Tree Canopy Resources for Local Governments

Lead: Katie Brownson, USFS

An overview of plain language resources for communicating with local officials about the value of trees, changes in tree canopy over time and opportunities for expanding tree canopy.

This item was non-decisional.

Actions:

1. Share the [Tree Canopy Fact Sheets](#) and the [Chesapeake Forests Story Map](#) with the local governments in your network.

Discussion Notes:

- New Healthy Forests and Trees Outcome includes targets related to tree canopy, forest buffers and forest conservation
- Tree Canopy fact sheets for local governments share data at the county or municipal scale and include information on tree cover status, changes in tree cover, ecosystem services and more
- State of Chesapeake Forests Story map highlights new estimates on tree cover and includes interactive maps and case studies
- Please reach out to Katie Brownson, katherine.brownson@usda.gov, if you have any questions about the data or ideas on how to translate this information for local decision-makers

Materials: [Presentation](#)

IV. Break

V. Overview of Changes to the CBP's Governance and Structure

Lead: Laura Cattell Noll, LGLW Coordinator

A review of the changes to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Governance and Structure, with a focus on impacts to the Local Government Leadership Workgroup.

This item was non-decisional.

Discussion Notes:

- The Chesapeake Bay Program has a revised organizational structure. The Local Government Leadership Workgroup now falls within the Engaged Communities Goal Team.
- Each workgroup has up to 9 signatory voting members and up to 6 at-large voting members.
- Decision making follows a new consent-based process which includes these options: 1: Stop, 2: Hold, 3: Stand Aside, 4: General Support 5: Fully Support.
- If you need help interpreting the GMF's language or if you have found inconsistent or unclear language, you can email the GO Team at governanceandoperations@chesapeakebay.net.

Materials: [Presentation](#)

VI. DRAFT Local Government Leadership Management Strategy

Lead: Maura Christian, VA DEQ/LGLW Chair,

A discussion on the draft Local Government Leadership Management Strategy.

This item was pre-decisional. Consent will be requested by email in September.

Discussion Notes:

- Support for leveraging existing reporting channels for monitoring direct and indirect engagement, but need to be more explicit about what these channels are
- Need to better understand the unique needs of each jurisdiction prior to tailoring outreach and education
- Additional detail is needed to clarify the difference between MA 4.1.3, which is focused on increasing local officials' knowledge and capacity and MA 4.1.4, which is focused on strengthening the networks of folks that support local governments
- Qualifying in MA 4.1.5 that this support to goal teams and workgroups is "as capacity allows"

Materials: [Presentation](#), [DRAFT Local Government Leadership Management Strategy](#)

VII. Wrap-up

Lead: Maura Christina, VA DEQ/LGLW Chair

VIII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: November 19th 9:30am – 11:30am | Theme: Supporting Small Communities: Septic and Rural Wastewater Management Systems