



**Stakeholders' Advisory Committee**  
TO THE CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



Photo Credit: Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

## **Stakeholders' Committee Coordinator's Report**

### **September 18, 2025**

For our forests. For our streams. For our future. | [allianceforthebay.org](https://allianceforthebay.org)



# Coordinator's Report

## Set 2026 Quarterly Meeting Dates

## Recent Activities

## Upcoming Activities

- Finalize the letter of recommendations
- Request for Habitat GIT participation

## Planning for December Meeting

- Overview of December Officer Elections Process
- Suggested Topics for December “Retreat”

# Proposed 2026 Meeting Dates

**February 19 and/or 20 (virtual)**

**May 20-21 (in-person / hybrid)**

- Lancaster, PA
- overlap with Choose Clean Water Coalition conference

**September 16-17 (in-person / hybrid)**

- VA or MD

**December 10 (virtual)**

**Potential joint meeting with other Adv Comms- TBD**

# Recent Activities

## **Collected feedback for Governance and Accountability Team (Sara hosted 'office hours')**

- Thank you for responses to skillset survey

## **Thank you for LGAC panel representation**

- David (June) 'Elevating Conservation'
- Joe (Sept) 'Streamlining Process for Local Governments'

## **Thank you All!**

- comments on draft *Watershed Agreement*

# Recent Activities, con't

## Meeting Format Team

- Guidance for structuring this virtual meeting
- More to come for planning 2026

## Governance & Membership Subcommittee

- Drafting revisions to the Member Expectations & Guidance document
  - adding position descriptions
  - adding estimated time commitments
  - crafting “elevator” description of the Committee

## Alex- visual map of member locations

# Upcoming Activities

## **Annual letter of Executive Council recommendations**

- Subcommittees by Oct 31st
- Stakeholders' Executive Committee by Nov 10

## **Advisory Committee Chairs meet**

- Discuss their annual recommendations
- Common theme to uplift to the Executive Council

## **Planning for the December Retreat**

- Elections
- Agenda Topics

# Request for Stakeholders

## Request for member participation on the Habitat Goal Implementation Team (GIT) workgroups

- Black Duck
- Brook Trout
- Fish Passage
- Stream Health
- Submerged Aquatic Veg (SAV)
- Wetlands

## Advisory Committee Coordinators participation on Habitat GIT Oct 14th panel

# Planning for December Elections

## Annual Officers Elections (1-yr term)

- Chair (typically 2 terms)
  - about 15 hours a month, est time 177 hrs/yr
  - voted by full membership
- Vice-Chair (typically 2-terms, often moves into Chair role)
  - about 10 hours a month, est time 114 hrs/yr
  - voted by full membership
- Subcommittee Chairs
  - about 7 hours a month, est time 84 hrs/yr
  - voted by the subcommittee members
- Position descriptions in Member Expectations Doc (final forthcoming next week)



# Process for December Elections

Coordinated by Nominations Committee (immediate past Chair)

- Optional virtual meeting open to all
  - review position descriptions, tasks, and ask questions
- one-on-one conversations with interested members
  - Nominations Chair talks with current Chair and Vice-Chair
- 2 Weeks before December meeting
  - Memo with slate of Officers for Chair and Vice-Chair
- Members vote at December Meeting
- Officers duties begin at the close of December meeting

# December Retreat Topics

## Location: Shepherdstown, WV

- National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)
- Federal Facility- **REAL ID required**

## Proposed Agenda Topics

- **Capacity Building**
  - check-in on the Chesapeake Bay Trust program created in 2023
    - a result of 2021 EC recommendation and 2022 report on equitable access to grants
  - including grantee presentations
- **Toxic Contaminants**
- **2026 Priorities and Refresh the Subcommittees**
  - Align with 4 new goals of the *Watershed Agreement*?
  - Habitat & Wildlife; Clean Water; Healthy Landscapes; Engaged Communities

# Questions or Discussion?



# Subcommittee Break-out Sessions

## Characteristics of recommendations

## Reminder of 2024 Recommendations

## Recap of 2025 Meeting takeaways

- Note: the revised *Watershed Agreement* will be final by the time your recommendations are due
  - avoid wordsmithing comments already submitted
  - if there are elements you want to reiterate, consider how they can be applied in the next phase, ie: Management Strategies

## Guiding Questions for subcommittees

# Characteristics of Annual Recommendations

## Issues the full Committee discussed in the past year

- Topics from quarterly meeting briefings
- Informed by multiple perspectives and learning from each other

## Limit to 3 topics

- Avoid “hidden” or sub-recommendations

## Concise

- Detail focused on the advice and stakeholder view of the impact

## Actionable

- Beyond an expression of appreciation or concern
- Not posing another question or simply requesting information
- Within the purview of the executive branches of the CBP Partnership

# Reminder of 2024 Recommendations

- (1) Articulate Engagement Opportunities with the Advisory Committees**
  - common recommendations across Advisory Committees
  - a key component for the Governance and Accountability Team
- (2) Confirm Accountability to Water Quality Targets**
  - by the end of 2025, commit to a new deadline for the Watershed Implementation Plans in the revised *Watershed Agreement*
  - revise the water quality 'accountability framework'
    - a new near-term deadline for the Bay TMDL
    - a nonpoint source pollution reduction strategy
- (3) Support Locally Driven Watershed Plans that Incorporate Land Conservation**
  - create river basin strategies to delist a target number of rivers by a future date with interim milestones along the way
- (4) Increase Engagement of Community-Based Organizations by Lowering Grant Barriers**
  - convene a forum to identify and implement changes to grant application and administrative requirements that lower barriers for Community-Based Organizations

# December 2024: Silver Spring, MD

## ***Committee Retreat to Set Annual Priorities for 2025***

- Federal Affairs Contractor Peter Marx Presentation on Congressional Authorizations and Appropriations
- Panel - CBP Federal Agency Partners
- Officer Elections

## **Updates on CBP Decisions and Actions**

- Briefing on the EPA CBP Office's Budget Allocations
- Beyond 2025 Phase 2: Outcome Assessment and *Watershed Agreement* Revision

# February 2025: Annapolis, MD

## ***WQ Theme: Understanding “Sandboxing” and its Potential to Advance Water Quality and Living Resource Goals***

- Panel Discussion on Sandboxing
- MD Bay Restoration Officer Leila Duman
- Presentation on the Indigenous Conservation Council
- Preparation for the Feb 27th Management Board “pulse check”.

## **Updates on CBP Decisions and Actions**

- Reviewed 2025 timeline for revising the *Watershed Agreement*
- PSC’s response to the Stakeholders’ Committee’s 2024 recommendations:
  - Working to define formal engagement roles for the Advisory Committees
  - Reaffirmed commitment to meeting water quality targets, connection between 2030 and the rollout of the Phase 7 modeling tools.
  - Supportive of convening a forum to address barriers to grant access (not this year, will need your help)



# May 2025: Harrisonburg, VA (CCWC Conference)

## ***S&E Theme: Advance Understanding of the Workforce Outcome***

- Panel- Workforce Outcome & Local Workforce Programs
- VA Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources Stefanie Taillon on VA progress and the *Watershed Agreement*

## **Updates on CBP Decisions and Actions**

- CBP Office is still awaiting an approved operating plan for their budget
- CBP anticipates funding cuts and increased scrutiny on spending
  - actively identifying ways to reduce spending across the Program

# Subcommittee Break-out Session Questions

## Based on your annual priority topic and broader *Watershed Agreement* comments:

- (1) Determine if there will be an actionable annual recommendation from the subcommittee that the full Committee discussed and it falls under the purview of the EC/PSC.
- (2) If so, outline the key points and be prepared to share at 3:15pm during subcommittee report-outs.
- (3) Determine if additional information is needed. Final the recommendation language is due by October 31, 2025.

**Final Report DUE November 10**