



Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
TO THE CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
Virtual Meeting Agenda
October 6-7, 2026**

Day 1: Tuesday, October 6 9:30AM - 12:30PM Join Zoom Meeting	Day 2: Wednesday, October 7 9:30AM - 12:30PM Join Zoom Meeting
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Meeting Goal: Outline the key points of recommendations for the annual 2026 Executive Council meeting. Recommendations due in mid-November 2026.

Meeting Objectives:

- (1) Learn and discuss updates on water quality progress including a potential tiered implementation for the next phase of Watershed Implementation Plans.
- (2) Learn and discuss key updates from the Chesapeake Bay Program Office.
- (3) Review 2026 meeting topics and past water quality Committee recommendations.
- (4) Use break-out groups to answer discussion questions and identify recommendations.

Resources: [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#)

9:30 AM Call to Order and Welcome.....Abel Olivo, Chair

- Opening Remarks
- Approval of draft May 2026 Meeting Minutes
- Brief Member Announcements (All)
 - Stakeholders' Goal Team and Governance & Operations representatives

Materials: [Draft May 2026 Meeting Minutes](#)

9:45 AM Agenda Overview and Coordinator's Report.....Jess Blackburn
Coordinator, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

- Agenda Topics in Context
- Advisory Committee Coordination
- Expected changes with new Advisory Committee grant
- December Officer Elections
- Guidance for 2027 Meeting Dates

10:15 AM Presentation: History of the Bay TMDL.....[Dr. Lara Fowler](#)
Director of Outreach and Engagement
Penn State Center for Energy Law and Policy

11:00 AM Break

**11:15 AM Presentation: Tiered Implementation of the TMDL.....[Lee McDonnell](#)
Branch Chief, Science, Analysis and Implementation Branch
EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office**

- Where is the partnership in the process of exploring tiered implementation?
- What does it do and not do?
- What do we know and not know at this stage?

Materials: [STAC Prospectus: Tiered Implementation](#)
[CESR Executive Summary](#)

A tiered implementation of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL involves prioritizing nutrient and sediment load reductions in specific areas of the Bay where water quality improvements can most significantly benefit living resources.

The tiered approach aims to achieve interim nutrient targets within a 10-15 year timeframe, prioritizing areas with the most potential to improve living resource habitats. This method involves adaptive management, localized monitoring, and the use of habitat suitability analyses to guide decisions. It seeks to balance immediate improvements in living resource habitats with long-term goals of meeting overall water quality standards. Key components include:

- **Identifying Priority Areas:** Focus on local regions where water quality improvements can enhance living resource habitats, considering factors like dissolved oxygen, water clarity, and other habitat conditions.
- **Assessing Local Water Quality Response:** Evaluate how local water quality responds to nutrient and sediment stressors at the scale of the Bay's 92 segments.
- **Determining Sources of Nutrient and Sediment Loads:** Identify the sources of pollutants affecting local water quality to target reductions effectively.

**11:50 AM Presentation: 2025 Progress Assessment.....[Suzanne Trevena](#)
Chesapeake Bay Regulatory Manager, EPA Region 3 Water Division
[Bo Williams](#)
Implementation and Evaluation Team Lead
EPACHesapeake Bay Program Office**

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership set restoration goals of having all practices and controls in place by 2025 to achieve the nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reductions necessary to meet applicable water quality standards in the Bay, with 60 percent of pollutant reductions called for by 2017. As part of its oversight role in the partnership's accountability framework, EPA is providing an assessment of progress towards meeting the CBP partnership's interim water quality targets. Across the watershed, between 2009 and 2025:

- 57% of the interim Nitrogen load was met.
- 90% of the interim Phosphorus load was met.
- 100% of the interim Sediment load was met.

Materials: [2025 Assessment and EPA Milestones Progress](#)
[EPA Evaluation of 2024-25 PA Milestones](#)
[EPA Evaluation of 2024-25 MD Milestones](#)
[EPA Evaluation of 2024-25 DC Milestones](#)
[EPA Evaluation of 2024-25 VA Milestones](#)
[EPA Evaluation of 2024-25 Conowingo WIP Milestones](#)
[EPA Evaluation of 2024-25 Federal Agency Milestones](#)

12:20 PM Member Discussion

12:30 PM Meeting Recess

Day 2: Wednesday, October 7

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

9:30 AM Welcome and Resume the Meeting.....Abel Olivo, Chair

**9:35 AM Chesapeake Bay Program Updates.....[Khesha Reed](#)
Deputy Director
EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office**

- Brief EPA Statement on the [Executive Order: Meaningful Water Quality Improvements through Collaboration and Oversight of Federal Support](#)
- Chesapeake Bay Program Budget
- Policy Steering Committee [Priority Setting Framework](#)

**10:35 AM 2026 Executive Council Meeting Agenda.....[Marisa Baldine](#)
Communications Director, Chesapeake Bay Program
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**

- December 8, 2026
 - Private Meeting 10:00AM - 11:45AM
 - Public Meeting 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
- Harvest View Barn
Elizabethtown, PA

10:55 AM Break

**11:10 AM Overview of 2026 Committee Topics.....[Jess Blackburn](#)
Coordinator, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay**

- February 2026: CBP Governance & Structure
- May 2026: Management Strategies Process & Priorities
- October 2026: Water Quality
- Brief review of past water quality goal related recommendations

11:20 PM Break-out Discussions

- Co-facilitated by Stakeholders' Committee Goal Team representatives
- *Discussion Questions:*
 - Is there a recommendation the Committee wants to offer as the CBP partnership puts the new governance and streamlined structure into practice?
 - Is there a recommendation the Committee wants to offer prior to the draft Management Strategies release for public feedback in January 2027?
 - Is there a recommendation about the water quality topics discussed during this meeting?
 - Is there another recommendation the Committee wants to offer based on a topic discussed this year?
- *Post Meeting Next Step:* Stakeholders' Committee Goal Team representatives talk with GT Chairs/Coordinators to discuss takeaways and preliminary recommendations

11:50 PM Plenary Discussion

- Highlights from Break-out sessions
- Outline key points of annual recommendations

12:25 PM Wrap-up

- *Post Meeting Next Step:* Stakeholders' Executive Committee draft letter of recommendations

12:30 PM Adjourn

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee 2026 Meeting Dates

December 11, 2026 (virtual)

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is honored to support the appointed volunteers of the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee. We are committed to serving as an unbiased convener so the members can achieve their mission through learning and discussion. Views expressed by the members and their guest speakers are not those of the Alliance.