



Stewardship Workgroup – September 2026 Meeting

September 29, 2026
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Meeting Link: [Join the meeting via Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 837 5723 3116 Passcode: 155739

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

This meeting may be recorded for internal use only to assure the accuracy of meeting notes. To request accommodations, please contact Meredith Lemke at lemkem@chesapeake.org.

Please read the following information carefully, as our meeting policies have changed:

- All meeting attendees' cameras and microphones will be muted at the start of the meeting until participants are verified.
- If the meeting is interrupted by spam users or technical difficulties, the meeting staffer and coordinator will send an email to all Members, alternates, staffers, coordinators, and interested parties. Within the email, you will find a new meeting link, instructions on sharing this information with external partners, and any necessary adjustments to the meeting schedule. Please do NOT share this information publicly or post it to the Chesapeakebay.net webpage.

Purpose: The purpose of this meeting is to highlight Stewardship Lightning Talks showcasing stewardship efforts in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, welcome and orient new Workgroup members to the group, to provide updates on the status of the Management Strategy for the Stewardship Outcome, and to discuss the restructured Stewardship Committees.

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Agenda Overview** **11:00 – 11:05 AM**
Participants will be invited to briefly introduce themselves in the chat. Introductions of new members will occur after the Lightning Talks.

Leads: Marissa O'Neill, DC DOEE (Chair); Meredith Lemke, CRC (Staffer)
Non-decisional

- II. Stewardship Lightning Talk: Lancaster Water Week** **11:05 – 11:25 AM**
Kelly Slippey will discuss the success of Lancaster Water Week and how the celebration brings together partners and community members to connect with and care for over 1,400 miles of streams and rivers across Lancaster County.

Lead: Kelly Slippey, Lancaster Conservancy

Non-decisional

- III. Stewardship Lightning Talk: Plant Virginia Natives Initiative 11:25 – 11:45 AM**
Virginia Witmer will discuss the Plant Virginia Natives Initiative, specifically the regional native plant marketing campaign and the creation of regional plant guides which have helped the initiative grow greatly over the past 17 years.

Lead: Virginia Witmer, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
Non-decisional

- IV. Stewardship Workgroup Membership and CBP Updates 11:45 – 12:05 PM**
Stewardship Workgroup leadership will provide a brief history of the Stewardship Workgroup for new members and provide context regarding the new governance structure for the Chesapeake Bay Program. Then, new members will be invited to introduce themselves. Finally, leadership will provide updates on the status of the Management Strategy for the Stewardship Outcome.

Leads: Marissa O'Neill, DC DOEE (Chair); Katie Ayers, EPA (Coordinator); Meredith Lemke, CRC (Staffer)
Non-decisional

- V. Stewardship Workgroup Committees Updates 12:05 – 12:15 PM**
Stewardship Workgroup leadership will share the vision, short term actions, and long-term actions of the two restructured Action Teams and invite participants to provide feedback.

Leads: Meredith Lemke, CRC (Staffer); Marissa O'Neill, DC DOEE (Chair)
Non-decisional
Materials:

- [Stewardship Committees Vision Statements – Feedback Document](#)

- VI. Wrap-Up and Adjourn 12:25 – 12:30 PM**
Identify action items and assign deadlines.

Lead: Meredith Lemke, CRC (Staffer)
Non-decisional

Next Meeting: December 2nd, 11:00 AM –12:30 PM