



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

June 23, 2026

Stewardship Workgroup

June 2026 Quarterly Meeting



Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

Icebreaker

What's your favorite summer outdoor activity in the Chesapeake Bay watershed? 🌻

Agenda

1

**Welcome and
Introductions**

4

Collaboration Discussion

2

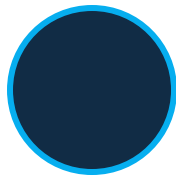
**Stewardship Lightning
Talks**

5

Wrap-Up

3

**Chesapeake Bay
Program Updates**



Stewardship Lightning Talks

Justin Doyle, Director of Community Conservation James River Association



Justin is the James River Association's Director of Community Conservation. He promotes conservation and responsible stewardship of our natural resources through the James River Association's Community Conservation Program, which empowers residents to implement river-friendly conservation practices at home and collaborates with communities to better manage stormwater runoff using gray and green infrastructure.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography from the University of Mary Washington in 2008, a Master of Urban & Regional Planning degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2012 and completed the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute in 2016.


Meredith Prescott, Invasive Vines Program Manager Chesapeake Climate Action Network



Meredith Prescott (she/her) grew up in rural Maine, where her passion for the outdoors began to take shape. Since she entered the workforce, she has spent 7 years managing a variety of non-profit programs (in DC, VA, & CO) focused on climate resilience, conservation, environmental stewardship, and sustainable food access. She joined CCAN in 2024 to launch a new volunteer program focused on rescuing mature trees from invasive vines. Meredith is passionate about building community through the outdoors, and cares deeply for her community that she has built over nine years of living in DC. In her free time, she can be found biking on the Anacostia River Trail, exploring DC's music scene, or sharing some snacks in a park with friends.



Discussion Questions

- How does your organization shift stewardship program designs and recruitment strategies in areas with low engagement?
 - Have you employed any creative techniques to bolster engagement?
- 

Engaged Communities Goal

Engage and grow a community of local stewards and leaders through education, recreation and professional development opportunities to ensure the long-term success of restoration and conservation efforts.

Stewardship Outcome

Increase the public's participation in stewardship actions that contribute positively to lands, waters, wildlife, fisheries and communities throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

- Through 2040, build the capacity of leaders in the community and environmental professionals with the social science data, technical assistance and support needed to develop and improve and carry out individual- and community-level stewardship programs, including those that will help advance the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Goals and Outcomes.

Chesapeake Bay Program Updates

- Engaged Communities Goal Team virtual [meeting](#) in July to discuss Outcome strategies and collaborative priorities.
- Revised [Governance and Management Framework](#)
 - *“Workgroups should designate up to 15 voting members who cast votes in instances where unanimous consent cannot be reached. Voting members will be approved by the Goal Team.”*
- Drafting CBP Strategic Plan this summer; public feedback period in January 2027.

Strategic Plan Timeline

OCTOBER 22, 2026

Send Strategic Plan draft to Policy Steering Committee (PSC).
(Chapters due Oct. 19)

DECEMBER 3-18, 2026

PSC approves draft Strategic Plan for Public Feedback Period release via email.

APRIL 2027

Present revised Strategic Plan to PSC.
Receive and incorporate input

MAY 2027

Goal Teams approve Strategic Plan

MAY 2026

JUN 2026

JUL 2026

AUG 2026

SEP 2026

OCT 2026

NOV 2026

DEC 2026

JAN 2027

FEB 2027

MAR 2027

APR 2027

MAY 2027

JUN 2027

NOVEMBER 5, 2026

Present draft Strategic Plan chapters to PSC.
Receive and incorporate PSC input.
(Revisions due Nov. 20)

JANUARY 5 - 31, 2027

Strategic Plan Public Feedback Period

JUNE 2027

PSC approves Strategic Plan
Goal Teams approve Workplans

Stewardship Management Strategy Sub-Chapter

- **Engaged Communities Management Strategy:** contains Stewardship Outcome sub-chapter; implemented, evaluated, and updated every 6 years.
- **Stewardship Workplan:** describes the major activities that will be collaboratively undertaken by CBP partners to make progress toward the Outcome / Target; implemented and updated every 3 years.



Engaged Communities Goal

Engage and grow a community of local stewards and leaders through education, recreation and professional development opportunities to ensure the long-term success of restoration and conservation efforts.

Stewardship Outcome

Increase the public's participation in stewardship actions that contribute positively to lands, waters, wildlife, fisheries and communities throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

- Through 2040, build the capacity of leaders in the community and environmental professionals with the social science data, technical assistance and support needed to develop and improve and carry out individual- and community-level stewardship programs, including those that will help advance the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Goals and Outcomes.

Stewardship Management Strategy Sub-Chapter

Sections:

- Baseline / Current Conditions
- Monitoring Progress and Indicators – *Stewardship Index, Steward Map, highlight events and project initiatives*
- Situation Analysis / Identifying Challenges – *we'd love your input!*
- Snapshot of Signatory Programs
- Management Approaches – *complete first draft by July 7th.*
- Participating Partners
- Signatory Statutory Authorities Driving Outcome Attainment

Stewardship Management Strategy Sub-Chapter

Challenges*

Political support and establishing public policy for stewardship programs

Consumer markets and financial incentives for individual stewardship actions

Funding for community-led projects (staff time, marketing, and project materials)

Capacity to recruit and train volunteers and local leaders

Ability to measure impact and track progress of stewardship programs

Coordination among existing programs and partner networks at the local level

Scaling up stewardship programs region-wide

Community outreach and engagement about watershed cleanup efforts

Public perception about watershed cleanup initiatives

Access to and use of public recreation sites

**Informed by previous [Stewardship Outcome Management Strategy](#) published in 2024.*



Open Discussion

Time for questions, follow-up discussion, and identifying collaboration opportunities and future agenda topics.



Reminders

Upcoming Meetings

- **Community Level Stewardship/Resource Hub Action Team:**
June 24th, 12-1 PM
- **Map Ambassadors Action Team:** June 25th, 2-3 PM
- **Engaged Communities Goal Team Meeting:** July 9th, 1-3 PM
- **Stewardship Quarterly Meeting:** Sept. 29th, 11 AM – 12:30 PM

Please reach out to Katie Ayers, WG Coordinator (ayers.katie@epa.gov) if you are interested in [contributing to or reviewing the Stewardship Management Strategy sub-chapter](#).



Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

Thank you!

Comments, questions, ideas?

Marissa O'Neill, Chair | marissa.oneill@dc.gov

Katie Ayers, Coordinator | ayers.katie@epa.gov

Meredith Lemke, Staffer | lemkem@chesapeake.org

