



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

September 29, 2026

Stewardship Workgroup

September 2026 Quarterly Meeting

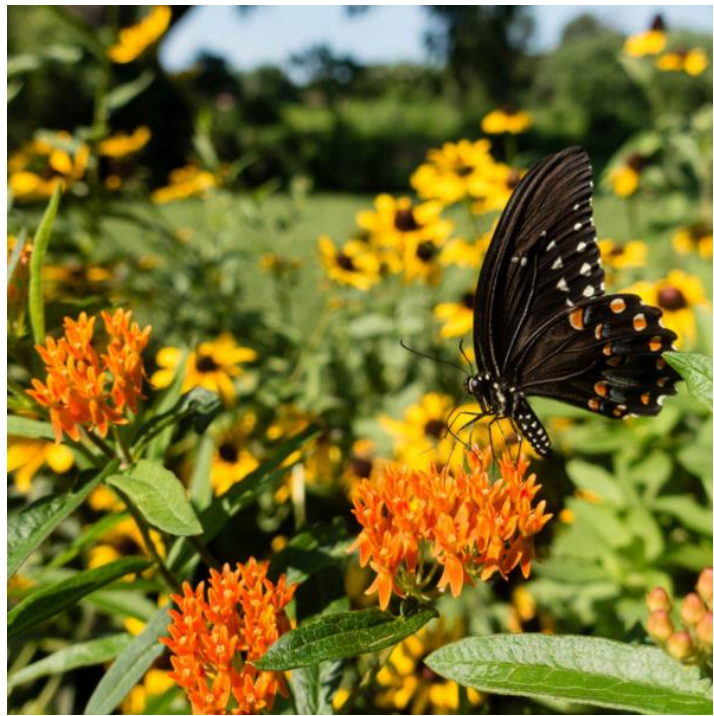


Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

Welcome!

Please introduce yourself in the chat!

Agenda

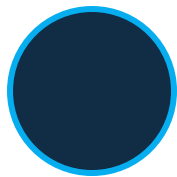
1 Welcome

**2 Stewardship
Lightning Talks**

**3 Chesapeake Bay
Program Updates**

**4 Workgroup
Committee Updates**

5 Wrap-Up



Stewardship Lightning Talks

Kelly Slippey, Community Events Coordinator Lancaster Conservancy



Kelly Slippey serves as Community and Events Coordinator at Lancaster Conservancy, a land trust in the southcentral region of Pennsylvania, including communities along the Susquehanna River. In her role, she enjoys connecting with community members and inviting them to be a part of protecting woods and water. Kelly lives in Lancaster City with her husband, Andy, their two young children, and their escape artist Siberian Husky, Sebago.

Virginia Witmer, Outreach Coordinator

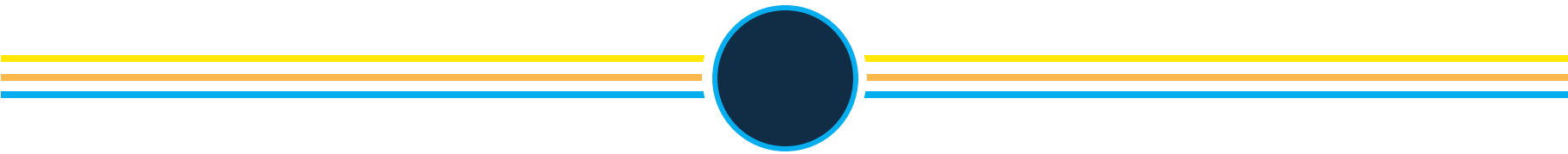
Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program



Virginia Witmer has been the Outreach Coordinator for the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program for 30 years. Virginia CZM is a network of state agencies, coastal localities, and non-governmental partners and receives 100% of its funding from NOAA. Virginia is responsible for coordinating all facets of the program's communication strategy and particularly enjoys the graphic design and citizen outreach facets of the role. She collaborates with a host of partners to design and implement Community-based Social Marketing campaigns, including a focus on changing behavior to increase use of native plants.

Discussion

- Both of your programs have been active for over 10 years. What is one thing that has surprised you as you've grown the program?
- Open Q&A



Chesapeake Bay Program Updates and Workgroup Membership



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

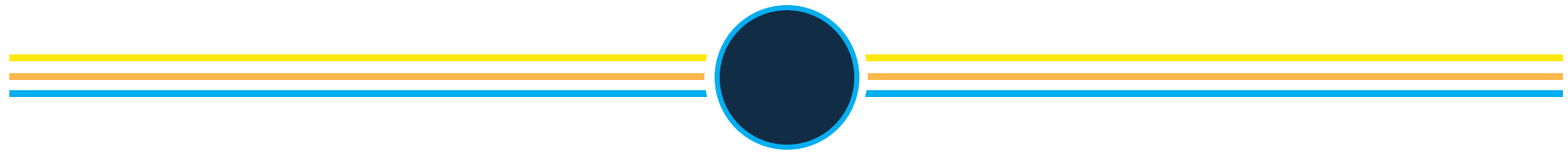
- **Governance and Management Framework** approved by Policy Steering Committee (PSC) in June 2026.
- **Chesapeake Bay Program Strategic Plan:** Management Strategies and Workplans
 - **October 2026:** Engaged Communities Goal Team members review and approve Outcome Management Strategy chapters and submit draft to PSC.
 - **November 2026:** PSC reviews and approves full CBP Strategic Plan draft.
 - **January 2027:** Draft Strategic Plan released for public feedback.
 - **Early 2027:** Revisions continue...

New Workgroup Voting Members

Name	Representation	Organization
Marissa O'Neill	District of Columbia	Department of Energy and Environment
AshLeigh McKinney	Delaware	Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Isabel Layton	Maryland	Department of Natural Resources
Jodi Sulpizio	Pennsylvania	Penn State Extension
Virginia Witmer	Virginia	Department of Environmental Quality
Frank Rodgers	West Virginia	Cacapon Institute
Amy Handen	Federal	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Renee Bourassa	Advisory Commission	Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
Jenny McGarvey	Nonprofit	Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

New Workgroup Signatory Non-Voting Members

Name	Representation	Organization
Shane Brennan	Maryland	Department of Natural Resources
Kaitlin Scowen	Maryland	Department of Natural Resources
Jenna Talbot (alternate voting)	Delaware	Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Mary DeWees (alternate voting)	West Virginia	Department of Environmental Protection

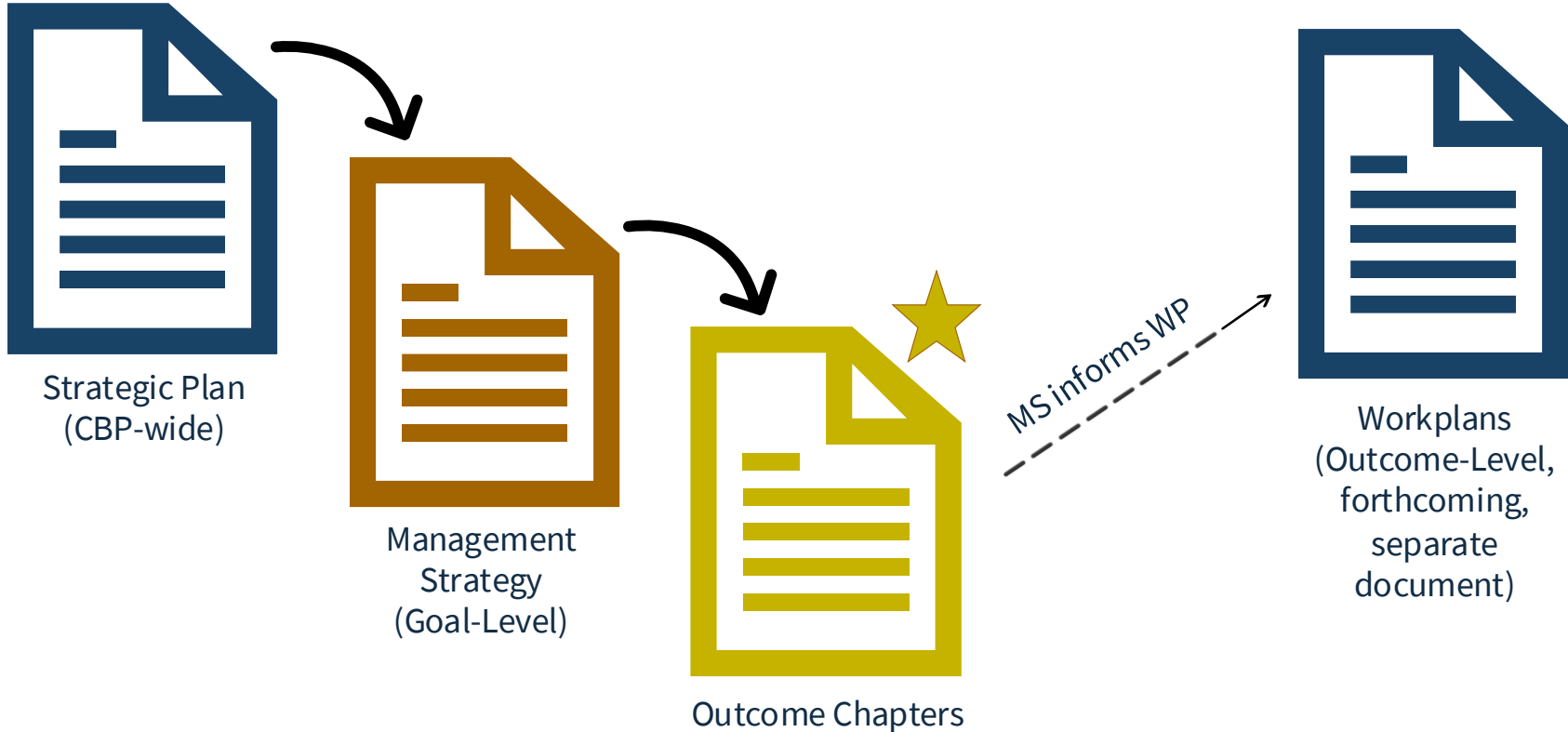


Strategic Planning Documents

Stewardship Outcome

Management Strategy and Workplan

Strategic Plan Vocabulary



Strategic Planning Documents

- **Engaged Communities Management Strategy:** contains Stewardship Outcome 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; implemented and updated every 3 years.



Stewardship Management Strategy Chapter

Sections:

- Baseline / Current Conditions
- Monitoring Progress and Indicators
- Situation Analysis / Identifying Challenges
- Snapshot of Signatory Programs
- Management Approaches
- Participating Partners
- Signatory Statutory Authorities Driving Outcome Attainment

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)

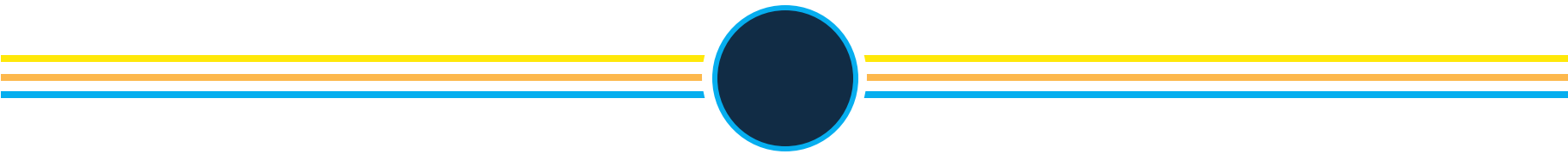
JANUARY 5 - 31, 2027

Strategic Plan Public Feedback Period

JUNE 2027

PSC approves Strategic Plan

Goal Teams approve Workplans



Stewardship Workgroup Committees



Purpose for Reenvisioning

Our existing action teams have developed complementary but overlapping goals.

Restructured teams will...

- Reduce duplicative efforts
- Create clearer roles and responsibilities
- Match work with current capacity
- Strengthen coordination efforts
- Make it easier to deliver value to practitioners



Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

Reenvisioned Committees

Subset of Stewardship Workgroup members (5-10 people); meet on bi-monthly or quarterly basis

1. **Stewardship Map Ambassadors:** network mapping; network science training; network development and outreach
2. **Community-Scale Stewardship:** exploring potential indicator for Outcome; promoting replication of success stories
3. **Stewardship Resource Hub:** creating central hub of resources to reduce capacity barriers for stewardship practitioners; collecting and sharing success stories, best practices, databases, studies, etc.

Stewardship Network Ambassadors

Stewardship Resources and Capacity Committee

Stewardship Network Ambassadors

Purpose: Grow, map, and engage a network of environmental professionals and community leaders dedicated to stewardship in the Mid-Atlantic region. Leverage the network for collaborative, mutual benefit through network science training, knowledge-sharing, and intentional feedback loops to inform Stewardship Workgroup priorities and activities.

Focus Areas:

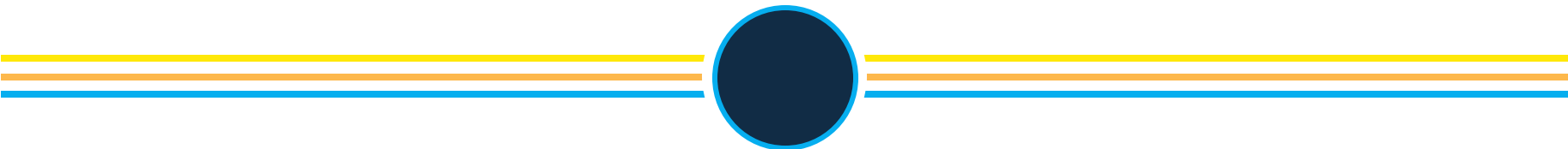
- Maintaining and improving the [Chesapeake Steward Map](#)
- Keeping contact info and network data current
- Identifying and strengthening partnerships
- Using network science to inform stewardship collaboration
- Offering training and outreach to increase understanding and use of network mapping tools

Stewardship Resource and Capacity Committee

Purpose: Build a central hub of resources that helps stewardship practitioners overcome implementation barriers and share success stories, best practices, tools, research, training, and funding opportunities through web-based and other outreach channels.

Focus Areas:

- Collecting and organizing useful resources
- Curating practical tools for stewardship practitioners
- Elevating case studies and success stories
- Sharing research, training opportunities, and funding information
- Distributing content through various communication channels (e.g., newsletters, recorded webinars, write-ups from Lightning Talks)



Open Discussion

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

[Stewardship Committees](#)
[Feedback Document](#)

Reminders

- **Engaged Communities Goal Team Meeting:**
October 22, 10 AM – 3:30 PM
- **Stewardship Quarterly Meeting:**
December 2nd, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM



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



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