Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT)

Monday, February 23rd, 2026
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Join the meeting via Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 232 740 964 777 9   **Passcode:** kA6Ga3X4
Call: +1 202-991-0477   **Conference ID:** 673128683

Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.

Announcements & Reminders (CTRL + click to jump ahead within document)

This meeting may be recorded for internal use only to assure the accuracy of meeting notes. To turn on closed captioning, click on the three ellipses (More actions), then click on "Turn on live captions" (preview). To request accommodations, please contact Petra Baldwin at baldwin.petra@epa.gov.

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.
- To request access to the microphone and camera, all meeting participants will be required to use the raised hand feature on Teams. Once access has been granted by the meeting organizer, you will then be allowed to unmute your mic and turn on your camera. Unless instructed otherwise, once a participant has microphone or camera access, they will have this permission for the remainder of the meeting.
- Access to chat will be provided as well. Should it be necessary, the Q&A feature on Teams will be utilized to field participant questions.

Compromised Meeting Plan: If the meeting's privacy is compromised, 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: This is the monthly meeting of the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT). Meeting topics will include an update on CWGT Co-Chairs, an update on upcoming work for Phase 7 model development, an educational presentation on the airshed and watershed model, and a follow-up discussion on considerations for future model updates.

Agenda

I.   **Welcome and Announcements**   **(1:00 – 1:05 PM)**

Please ensure your name and affiliation are accurately captured in the participants list. If not, please enter your correct name & affiliation in the chat box. Call-in participants are requested to identify themselves verbally. See top of the agenda for details on new meeting security settings.

Lead: WQGIT Chair(s)

II.   Business, Workgroup & Phase 7 Decision Updates   (1:05 – 1:15 PM)
Jeremy will share updates from WQGIT workgroups with a focus on recently completed and upcoming Phase 7 related decisions.

Requested Action: Informational.
Lead: Jeremy Hanson, WQGIT Coordinator
Materials: Workgroup Updates Presentation

III.   Clean Water Goal Team Co-Chairs and Planning Horizon   (1:15 – 1:35 PM)
The Management Board will confirm co-chairs for the Clean Water Goal Team under the new CBP structure based on recommendations from the WQGIT at the February 12 MB meeting. The WQGIT put forward all four nominees received to the MB for consideration - Greg Sandi, Amanda Shaver, Lee McDonnell and Suzanne Trevena. Jeremy will share an update on the MB's decision and next steps for the transition. Jeremy will also share longer term planning considerations for the WQGIT/CWGT and invite discussion from members to check-in on the structure and governance changes occurring.

Requested Action: Informational.
Lead: Jeremy Hanson, WQGIT Coordinator
Materials: Presentation

IV.   Phase 7 Update and Planning   (1:35 – 2:05 PM)
Bo and Auston will outline the timeline and tasks for Phase 7 model development in 2026. We will begin discussing what the Year of Review (2027) for the model looks like to set expectations and a shared understanding of the partnership review process.

Requested Action: Informational.
Leads: Bo Williams and Auston Smith, EPA CBPO
Materials: Presentation

V.   Airshed and Watershed Model Primer   (2:05 – 3:00 PM)
In preparation for continued conversations that will occur at the WQGIT, members of the Modeling Team will provide a presentation on the watershed model and the airshed model to ensure WQGIT members understand the workings of how these components of the model are developed and related to the rest of the Phase 7 suite of models.

Requested Action: Informational.
Lead: Lew Linker, Joseph Delesantro, Gopal Bhatt, Jesse Bash, and Gabriel Duran
Materials: Presentation

VI.   Break   (3:00– 3:10 PM)

VII.   Future Model Updates   (3:10 – 3:55 PM)
Following the introductory presentation and discussion at the January WQGIT meeting, Lee will share a further presentation on considerations for future model phase and CAST version updates.

This may include the timing of dataset releases, the ability to separate the process of adding new BMPs from version updates, and the timing for the next phase change.

Requested Action: Informational, for discussion.
Leads: Lee McDonnell, EPA CBPO
Materials: Presentation

VIII.   **Wrap-Up**   **(3:55 – 4:00 PM)**
         Lead: Petra Baldwin, WQGIT Co-Staffer

IX.   **Adjourn**   **(4:00 PM)**

        Next Meeting: Monday, March 23, 2026

Announcements & Reminders

- **CBP released a blog post, States join forces for restoration in the Susquehanna watershed**, about the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee's October 2025 tour of three project sites in southern Pennsylvania funded through strategic investment approaches that rely on pay-for-performance models. Read the blog post to learn more about the site visits from the tour and the collaborative work being done to achieve the Conowingo WIP. Congratulations to everyone who made the event a success!

- **CBP released a blog post, Old chemicals and new concerns**, sharing results from the 2025 Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention Indicator update. A snapshot of the indicator is available on ChesapeakeData while ChesapeakeProgress is being rebuilt to align with the revised *Watershed Agreement*.

- **CBP hosted a webinar, "Data to Decisions: Using the METRIC Tool to Measure Watershed Progress."** The METRIC Tool allows users to look at data collected from the Non-Tidal Network of monitoring stations and compare what is being observed with what the partnership models are showing. Watch the recording here.

- **The Chesapeake Research Consortium released their 2025 Annual Report.** Read the report to learn about accomplishments from Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), the Environmental Management Staffer program, Chesapeake Bay Internship Program (CBIP) and the Chesapeake Community Modeling Program (CCMP).

- **The next CRC Roundtable, "When Restoration Bears Fruit: Food Forests in the Bay Watershed," is Wednesday, February 18th at 12pm.** Food forests go beyond basic gardening; they are thoughtfully designed, low-maintenance, perennial-based agroforestry systems designed to mimic a natural forest ecosystem while addressing community needs. Join the roundtable to learn more about food forests and edible trails in practice. Register here.

- **Chesapeake Stormwater Network is hosting three upcoming webinars:** "Updating Urban Fertilizer Management," "Creative Funding Models for Watershed Management," and "Assessing the Effectiveness of Green Stormwater Infrastructure" on **February 24th, March 3rd and March 10th**, respectively. Learn more and register here.

- **The 2026 Chesapeake Community Research Symposium is accepting presentation and poster abstract submissions until Friday, February 13th at 5pm.** Please consider submitting

an abstract for one or more of the special sessions. The 2026 edition of the biennial symposium will be held June 1-3, 2026, in Annapolis, Maryland. The theme of the 2026 Symposium is Chesapeake Bay Research and Restoration: Next Generation Tools for a Dynamic Future. Learn more and submit an abstract here.

- **Restore America's Estuaries is accepting proposals for the 2026 Coastal and Estuarine Summit until Friday, March 13th.** The conference is September 22-25, 2026 in San Francisco, CA. If you have interest in submitting a presentation, session and poster, learn more here.
- **The Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) is seeking self-nominations for At-Large member positions through Monday, March 16th.** Please consider submitting a nomination or sharing this solicitation with others who may be interested and well-suited to contribute to STAC's work. Questions may be directed to Meg Cole, STAC Coordinator, at colem@chesapeake.org. Learn more and submit your nomination here.
- **NFWF, EPA and CBP are soliciting proposals for the Small Watershed Grants (SWG) program until Thursday, April 2nd and Watershed Investments for Landscape Defense (WILD) program until Thursday, April 9th.** Interested applicants may schedule virtual project consultations with NFWF staff and recordings from informational applicant webinars are posted. Learn more about SWG and WILD if you are interested in submitting a proposal.
- **The PENNVEST Clean Water Procurement Program (CWPP) is accepting proposals until Wednesday, April 22nd.** The program supports the installation of best management practices to help Pennsylvania achieve the most current TMDL limits for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. Learn more and watch the program overview recording here.

<u>Acronyms</u>

BMP: Best Management Practice
CAST: Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool
CWGT: Clean Water Goal Team
CBP: Chesapeake Bay Program
E3: Everything by Everyone Everywhere
EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
MB: Management Board

METRIC: Monitored and Expected Total Reduction Indicator for the Chesapeake
STAC: Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
TMDL: Total Maximum Daily Load
WIP: Watershed Implementation Plan
WQGIT: Water Quality Goal Implementation Team