



Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT)

Monday, January 26th, 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 critical foundations and background for upcoming deeper conversations related to the RENPS outcome. One decision will be sought to confirm two Co-Chairs nominees (one jurisdictional and one federal) for the Clean Water Goal Team to recommend to the Management Board.

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: Suzanne Trevena, WQGIT Chair

II. Business, Workgroup & Phase 7 Decision Updates (1:05 – 1:15 PM)
Jeremy will share updates from WQGIT workgroups with a focus on upcoming Phase 7 related decisions and will touch on other general Chesapeake Bay Program announcements.

Requested Action: Informational.

Lead: Jeremy Hanson, WQGIT Coordinator

Materials: Workgroup Updates Presentation

III. Foundations for Planning Targets (1:15 – 1:45 PM)
Lee will provide an initial overview of the past method and components of how we set targets. Lee will also give an overview on the timeline for target development. There will be time for discussion and questions. This is intended as an introduction ahead of future WQGIT discussions.

Requested Action: Informational.

Lead: Lee McDonnell, EPA CBPO

Materials: [Presentation](#)

IV. Preparing Scenarios to Inform Planning Target Development (1:45 – 2:00 PM)
Auston will give an overview of what scenarios are needed for setting planning targets. Auston will give a refresher on what No Action and Everything, by Everyone, Everywhere (aka “E3”) Scenarios are in preparation for sector workgroup discussions and recommendations.

Requested Action: Informational.

Leads: Auston Smith, EPA CBPO

Materials: [Presentation](#), other materials TBD

V. Foundations for Tiered Implementation (2:00 – 2:45 PM)
Kaylyn and Bruce will provide an initial presentation on the background and motivation for exploring Tiered Implementation, how it ties into shallow waters and living resources, and a comparison of our current approach vs. how tiered implementation could work. There will be time for brief discussion. This is intended as an introduction ahead of future WQGIT discussions.

Requested Action: Informational.

Lead: Dr. Kaylyn Gootman, EPA CBPO and Bruce Vogt, NOAA

Materials: [Presentation](#), [CESR Report](#)

VI. Break (2:45 – 2:50 PM)

VII. River Input Monitoring (RIM) Network 2024 Trends (2:50 – 3:10 PM)
Jimmy will provide a brief presentation of nitrogen, phosphorus and suspended sediment loads and trends measured from the Chesapeake Bay River Input Monitoring (RIM) Network through water year 2024. See the full data release [here](#).

Requested Action: Informational.

Lead: Jimmy Webber, USGS

Materials: [Presentation](#), [Data Release](#)

VIII. Future Model Updates (3:10 – 3:25 PM)

Through discussions about Phase 7 model development, there have been questions and discussions about the frequency and considerations for future model updates and getting new BMPs into the model. Lee will briefly share current expectations of when updates will occur and what should drive that process.

Requested Action: Informational.

Leads: Lee McDonnell, EPA CBPO

Materials: [Presentation](#)

IX. Clean Water Goal Team Co-Chair Nominations (3:25 – 3:40 PM)

A call for nominations for 2 Co-Chair positions for the Clean Water Goal Team (one jurisdictional and one federal) was shared on January 5, with nominations accepted through January 16. WQGIT voting members will be asked to vote and confirm 2 Co-Chairs. We will then provide our consensus nominees, or a summary of the non-consensus results, for the Management Board's consideration by January 28.

Requested Action: Decisional.

Leads: Jeremy Hanson, WQGIT Coordinator

Materials: Nominee Bios, [Position Description](#)

X. Clean Water Goal Team Planning Horizon (3:40 – 3:55 PM)

Jeremy will provide a brief look ahead at what needs to be accomplished by the WQGIT in the coming months, an update on CBP structure and governance changes, and an update on plans for a hybrid April meeting.

Requested Action: Informational.

Leads: Jeremy Hanson, WQGIT Coordinator

Materials: Presentation

XI. Wrap-Up (3:55 – 4:00 PM)

Lead: Petra Baldwin, WQGIT Co-Staffer

XII. Adjourn (4:00 PM)

Next Meeting: [Monday, February 23, 2026](#)

Announcements & Reminders

- **Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin released a [2025 Update for Chessie BIBI](#).** Chessie BIBI is a Chesapeake basin-wide index of biotic integrity for stream macroinvertebrates. The report shows a 1.4 percent improvement in overall stream health throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed over the past six years. Read the [full report](#), [news release](#), and [learn more here](#).
- **A new paper, “[Coupled and De-Coupled Watershed Nutrient Loading and Estuarine Nutrient Concentrations: A Case Study of the Chesapeake Bay](#),” was published.** The study analyzed three decades of monitoring data in Chesapeake Bay within the context of a simple

framework to examine the spatial and temporal patterns of water quality change in response to watershed load reductions across diverse sites. Read the paper [here](#).

- The [ChesapeakeProgress](#) site is being rebuilt to align with new goals, outcomes, and management strategies. It will be temporary unpublished while this transition occurs. A “2025 Indicator Snapshot” of progress will be available on [ChesapeakeData](#) for public reference. Learn more in the [presentation](#) from the [November STAR meeting](#).
- The **Chesapeake Bay Commission (CBC) announced that Pennsylvania State Senator Gene Yaw (District 23) has been elected to chair the CBC for 2026.** Senator Yaw previously served as Chair of the CBC in 2020. For 2026, the Commission’s Maryland members elected Delegate Sheila Ruth (District 44B) to serve as chair of their delegation, while the Virginia delegation has selected Senator Jeremy McPike (District 29).
- **Chesapeake Bay Program is hosting a webinar: “[Communicating Forest and Tree Canopy Trends Using High-Resolution Data](#)” on **Wednesday, January 14th at 12pm**.** This webinar will provide an overview of the recently updated High-Resolution Land Use/Land Cover Data and Change Data and associated communications tools. It will also include a presentation from MWCOG on examples of how they have used the Bay Program’s data and tools to guide its regional tree canopy efforts. Learn more and [register here](#).
- **The [2026 Choose Clean Water Conference](#) is accepting proposals for sessions until **Friday, January 16th**.** This year’s conference will be May 18-20, 2026 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The theme is The Pursuit of Clean Water. Learn more and [submit a proposal](#) for a 20-minute lightning round, 45-minute session, 90-minute workshop, or field trip.
- **The next CRC Roundtable, “[Greener Workforce, Greener Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#),” is **Wednesday, January 21st at 12pm**.** Join to learn more about local workforce development programs and regional efforts to align workforce development goals. [Register here](#).
- **Chesapeake Bay Trust’s [Pooled Monitoring Initiative’s Restoration Research Award Program](#) is now open with applications due **Thursday, January 29th**.** The goal of this research program is to answer several key restoration questions that are a barrier to watershed restoration project implementation. The Request for Proposals (RFP) is [available here](#). CBT will be hosting two info sessions on Dec 12th and Jan 6th. Learn more and [apply here](#).
- **Chesapeake Stormwater Network is hosting a webinar: “[From Legacy to Resilience – Updating Historic Infrastructure for Modern Stormwater and Ecological Goals](#)” on **Monday, February 2nd at 12pm**.** Through case studies, learn how aging infrastructure has been thoughtfully retrofitted to provide real stormwater function, habitat, and public open space while preserving historic character and community identity. 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](#).
- **The [Bay in the Balance Conference](#) has been rescheduled from December 8-10th, 2025 to **March 2-4th**,** given the federal government shutdown. This conference will take place in

Gettysburg, PA, at the Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel & Conference Center. To learn more about the event and to register for the March conference, click [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**** for projects within the Chesapeake Bay watershed that promote voluntary, community-based efforts to protect and restore the diverse and vital habitats of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary rivers and streams. NFWF will host an applicant webinar detailing this Request for Proposals on Monday, February 2nd at 1pm. [Learn more](#) about SWG and [read the RFP](#).

Acronyms

BMP: Best Management Practice

CAST: [Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool](#)

CESR: [Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response](#)

CBP: Chesapeake Bay Program

E3: Everything by Everyone Everywhere

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

RENPS: [Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment](#)

WQGIT: [Water Quality Goal Implementation Team](#)