



Chesapeake Bay Program  
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## Principals' Staff Committee

**Meeting Link:** <https://umces.webex.com/umces/j.php?MTID=mf1049e787d822406c5491d441bf4c1a0>

**Meeting number:** 2624 123 4152; **Password:** 27EXbGB2CJe

**OR**

**Join by phone:** +1-408-418-9388; **Access code:** 262 412 34152

**Meeting materials:** <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/principals-staff-committee---september>

**September 26, 2023**

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Purpose: Briefings and discussions about the programmatic work and scientific findings to help the partnership prepare for the October Executive Council and the work ahead related to the EC's Charge on Reaching and Beyond 2025.

### Agenda

- I. Welcome and Introductions** (2:00 p.m. – 2:10 p.m.)  
*Principals' Staff Committee Chair, Adam Ortiz*, will open the meeting, welcome PSC members, and review the agenda and actions/decisions from the July 21, 2023, PSC meeting.  
Materials:  
I. Actions/Decisions from July 21, 2023 PSC meeting
- II. The Road Ahead for the Partnership: Reaching and Beyond 2025** (2:10 p.m. – 3:10 p.m.)  
The Executive Council, at its October 2022 meeting, charged the PSC with recommending a path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the Watershed Agreement leading up to and beyond 2025. Planning for how to implement the EC's charge are underway and being overseen by the Management Board.
  - a. Reaching 2025: Consensus on *Charting a Course to 2025 Report*** (30 minutes)  
After months of analysis and discussion, the Reaching 2025 Steering Committee released a draft report in response to the EC's charge on charting a course to 2025. The draft was shared for public review and comment thru August 21. Comments have been sorted and the draft has been updated. This session is an opportunity for partners to discuss the report's key findings, significant public comments, and recommendations for next steps.  
Requested decision: Seeking consensus on the final *Charting a Course to 2025 Report*.  
*Presenters:* Rachel Felver, CBP Communications Director and Jeff Lerner, EPA, Katie Brownson, US Forest Service  
*Relevant Outcomes:* All  
Materials:  
II.a. Presentation: Reaching 2025  
II.b. Draft Reaching 2025 Report
  - b. Beyond 2025: Steering Committee Updates** (30 minutes)

THIS MEETING WILL BE RECORDED FOR INTERNAL USE TO ASSURE THE ACCURACY OF MEETING NOTES.

The Beyond 2025 Steering committee has held several meetings and continues to make progress towards meeting the Executive Council's charge on Beyond 2025. Several small groups have already formed to focus on specific high-profile issues while a program evaluation is being developed. This session is an opportunity to hear about recent work, plans for public and stakeholder input, and to ask questions about next steps.

Requested decision: None; update only.

*Presenter:* Anna Killius (CBC) and Martha Shimkin (EPA), Steering Committee Co-Chairs

*Relevant Outcomes:* All

II.c. Presentation: Beyond 2025

**III. The Plan for the 2023 Executive Council Meeting** (3:10 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.)

An update on planning activities in preparation for the October Executive Council meeting, which will recognize the partnership's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and set the stage for beginning to think beyond 2025. An overview of the day, including the draft closed lunch and private meeting (endorsing Reaching 2025 Report, EC Chair nomination) will be discussed.

*Presenter:* Adam Ortiz, PSC Chair and Rachel Felver, CBP Communications Director

Requested action: Informational only.

Materials:

III. Presentation: EC Planning

**IV. Final Recommendations in Response to PSC Charges on CAST** (3:40 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.)

A final set of recommendations in response to the Principals' Staff Committee's August 2022 charge to resolve actions related to the updates to the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST)2023 will be presented for approval addressing: 1) PSC decision 1: Unaccounted additional loads, ; 2) PSC Decision 2: Fertilizer 3) PSC Decision 3: Illogical Results and a proposal for the remainder of the phase 6 CAST schedule. The team will review recommendations and seek final concurrence.

Requested action: Seeking final agreement on the recommendations and path forward for making CAST 23 public.

*Presenters:* Lee McDonnell (EPA), Tom Butler (EPA), Dr. Kaylyn Gootman (EPA), Cassie Davis (New York), Gary Shenk (USGS), Chris Brosch (Delaware)

*Relevant Outcomes:* Water Quality and multiple others

Materials:

IV. Presentation: CAST Briefing

**V. Recommendation to Create an Agriculture Advisory Committee** (4:40 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.)

On July 28, 2023, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, on behalf of the six state agriculture department secretaries/commissioners, submitted a letter to EPA Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz recommending the creation of an Agricultural Advisory Committee. Specially, they are seeking to include the recommendation in the "Charting a Course to 2025" (Reaching 2025) set of recommendations from the PSC to the Executive Council.

The purpose of this session is to discuss the recommendation amongst the entirety of the PSC and to develop a path forward for full consideration of the recommendation.

Requested action: Discussion

*Presenters:* Adam Ortiz, PSC Chair and Secretary Richard Negrin, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

*Relevant Outcomes:* Water Quality

Materials:

V.a. July 28, 2023 letter from state agriculture department secretaries/commissioners to EPA  
Regional Administrator Ortiz  
V.b. EPA Regional Administrator response letter

**VI. Business Meeting** (4:55 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

*PSC Chair Adam Ortiz* will facilitate a discussion on the following topics:

- Review Actions/Decisions
- Partner Updates
- Future Agenda Items
- CBP Program Update

Materials:

VI. CBP Program Update

**VII. Concluding Remarks - Adjourn** (5:00 p.m.)