



Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
TO THE CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

TO: Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
FROM: Nominations Committee Chair
DATE: November 25, 2025
RE: 2026 Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Officers

The Stakeholders' Nominations Committee is pleased to offer for your consideration the following slate of officers for a vote on December 11, 2025. Officer terms are for one year with the option to serve additional terms.

- Chair: Abel Olivo of Prince George's County Maryland
- Vice Chair: Sara Ramotnik of Annapolis Maryland

Abel Olivo is running for his second term as Chair of the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee. Appointed by Governor Hogan, he has served on the Stakeholders' Committee since 2019. Abel is the co-founder and Executive Director of Defensores de la Cuenca, which translates to Watershed Defenders, a non-profit dedicated to engaging Latinos and Spanish-speakers in watershed-related issues and experiences. A community activist in Prince George's County, MD, he uses his insights and perspectives as a former lobbyist & advocate and non-profit executive to bring resources to the Latino community. Prior to Defensores de la Cuenca, Abel lobbied at the federal level and advocated in the highest levels of government on issues like large infrastructure projects, environmental impacts, banking, housing finance, and education policy. He was recognized as a Regional Environmental Champion in 2020 at the Naturally Latino Conference for his outstanding work to engage the Latino and Spanish-speaking communities in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. The son of migrant farm workers and the first in his family to graduate from college, Abel earned his BA in Political Science from The Ohio State University.

Sara Ramotnik is currently serving as the co-chair of the Stakeholders' Water Quality Subcommittee. She was appointed by the Board of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in February 2024. Sara is the program and membership coordinator at the Choose Clean Water Coalition, where she works with nearly 300 organizations to advocate for clean rivers and streams in all communities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. She leads the Coalition's state policy program and agriculture workgroup, focusing on grassroots advocacy efforts to support clean water policy priorities. Sara is deeply committed to safeguarding our natural resources while also working to expand public access opportunities across the watershed. She earned a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Policy with a concentration in Economics from the University of Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Patton Lawson
Chair, Stakeholders' Nominations Committee