



Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
TO THE CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
Meeting Agenda
December 11-12, 2025

Cacapon Resort State Park
818 Cacapon Lodge Drive
Berkeley Springs, WV 25411

Hybrid Meeting Access
[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting Objectives:

- (1) Receive briefings on the [2025 Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting](#) actions and next steps.
- (2) Introduce and converse with the new EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Director.
- (3) Learn about the [Chesapeake Bay Capacity Building Initiative](#) and success stories.
- (4) Refresh and realign the Stakeholders' subcommittees with consideration of the revised [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#) Goals and Stakeholders' Committee interests.

Day 1: Thursday, December 11- Rumsey Room (North Lodge)

- 10:00 a.m. Call to Order and Welcome.....Abel Olivo, Chair**
- Member Introductions
 - Ice Breaker Question: What new personal interests have you recently acquired?
 - Brief Introduction of Guests
- 10:15 a.m. Business Meeting**
- Chair's Opening Remarks and Brief Report
- Overview of meeting agenda and objectives
 - Approval of draft September 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - Briefing on the Executive Council Meeting
 - Update on Agricultural Advisory Committee (Bill Fink)
 - Updates from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay (Kate Fritz)
 - Stakeholders' Committee Member Updates and Announcements
 - Nominations Report: Chair & Vice-Chair Elections (Julie Lawson)
- 11:00 a.m. Chesapeake Bay Program Updates.....[Lucinda Power](#) (virtual)**
- Branch Chief, Partnerships and Accountability**
EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)
- Briefing on 2025 Executive Council actions
 - [CBP Governance & Accountability Recommendations](#)
 - [CBP Structure Recommendations](#)

- thoughts on EPA's positions and guidance for this process
 - [EC Charge: Tribal and CBP Partnership](#) & [relevant backgrounder](#)
- CBP Priorities, from the Dec 11th Management Board Agenda:
 - “In the short term, the focus will be on developing the Management Strategy template, finalizing updates to the Governance and Structure framework, and implementing the Indigenous Charge.”

11:45 a.m. Video- Surf & Turf: A celebration of the connection between land and water
Introduction by Kate Fritz, CEO, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Noon Lunch
Prospects Restaurant (located in the North Lodge)

Chesapeake Bay Capacity Building Initiative

1:00 p.m. Opening Remarks and Background (Jess Blackburn, Coordinator)

1:03 p.m. Introduction and the Role of Partners

- [Chesapeake Bay Funders Network](#)
 - Megan Milliken McPherson, Executive Director
- [Chesapeake Bay Trust](#)
 - Danielle Hamilton, Program Manager
 - Amber Cameron, Program Officer
- Grant Awardees
 - [Arundel Rivers Federation](#), Elle Bassett, South, West and Rhode Riverkeeper, (virtual)
 - [Green Trust Alliance](#), Kirk Mantay, Executive Director
- Network Participants
 - [Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley](#), Maya Alexander, Director of Community Engagement
 - [Lancaster Clean Water Partners](#), Allyson Gibson, Executive Director

1:15 p.m. History of the Initiative (Funders Network & Bay Trust)

- Capacity Building Grant Program
 - Response to community needs
 - Priorities and Strategies
- Collaborative Network-building
 - Objectives and Strategies

1:30 p.m. From Theory to Practice: Briefings on the Local Successes

Grant awardees and network participants each offer a 10-min briefing on how the capacity building initiatives support local community needs and advance environmental results.

2:15 p.m. Q&A with Session Presenters

2:30 p.m. Break

**2:45 p.m. Discussion with new Chesapeake Bay Program Director.....[Dan Coogan](#)
Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program**

- Dan's background and vision of leadership for the Bay Program
- Insights on future engagement with the Advisory Committees
- Q&A and discussion

Local Watershed Context

3:15 p.m. Introduction: David Lillard, Vice-Chair

**West Virginia Rivers Coalition.....[Maria Russo](#)
Policy Specialist**

- Advocating Safe Water for All West Virginians
- Policy Work
- 10-min Q&A

**Cacapon Institute.....[Frank Rodgers](#)
Executive Director**

- Protecting Rivers Using Science and Education
- Outdoor Learning Network
 - Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences
 - Teacher Professional Development
- 10-min Q&A

**Cacapon & Lost Rivers Land Trust.....[Emily Merrill](#)
Executive Director**

- Protecting the Cacapon and Lost Rivers Watershed's valuable ecosystems and residents' way of life
- Conservation Easements
- 10-min Q&A

4:45 p.m. Session Concludes & Committee Discussion

5:00 p.m. Meeting Recess

6:30 p.m. Dinner
Prospects Restaurant (located in the North Lodge)
Members gather to network and discuss the day's meeting topics.

Day 2: Friday, December 12- Rumsey Room (North Lodge)

8:00 a.m. Breakfast
(available in the meeting room)

8:30 a.m. Reconvene: Member Reflections and Discussion

Members share reactions and potential follow-up for the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee based on the previous day's presentations and discussions.

9:00 a.m. Coordinator's Report.....Jess Blackburn
Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Coordinator,
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

- End of Year activity report
- Advisory Committee Coordination
- Opportunities for near term activities
- Feedback and Discussion

Refreshing the Stakeholders' Subcommittees

9:20 a.m. Part One: Current Subcommittees & Brainstorming Members' Interests

- Background and Context
 - Observations
 - Opportunities
- Committee Discussion:
 - Are the current subcommittees still serving the members interests?
 - Brainstorm near-term interests and ideas
 - Members articulate their topic's relevance
 - Informal "pulse check" to narrow down the topics

10:00 a.m. Break

Final call to check-out of hotel room

10:20 a.m. Part Two: Refreshing & Refining the Subcommittees' Focus

- Committee Discussion: Members "present the case" for the remaining topics
 - Assess Chesapeake Bay Program purview and authority
 - Highlight alignment with the *Watershed Agreement* or other CBP Priorities
 - All Members provide insights and feedback
- Final vote on the top 3 topics

10:50 a.m. Part Three: Subcommittee Break-out Sessions

- Members gather around their preferred topic of interest
 - Further articulate the relevance, CBP alignment, and the specific aim
 - Determine initial inquiry
 - What background information do you need to get started?
 - Are there opportunities to collaborate with other Advisory Committees?
 - Select the Subcommittee Name
 - Elect chair/co-chairs

11:20 a.m. Subcommittee Reports and Committee Discussion

11:45 a.m. Action Items and Wrap-up

12:00 p.m. Adjourn

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee 2026 Meeting Dates

Virtual: Thursday, February 19

Hybrid: May 20-21 in Lancaster, PA (overlapping with the Choose Clean Water Coalition conference)

Hybrid: September 16-17 (potentially WV, NCTC)

Virtual: Friday, December 11

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is honored to support the appointed volunteers of the Stakeholders' Advisory Committee. We are committed to serving as an unbiased convener so the members can achieve their mission through learning and discussion. Views expressed by the members and their guest speakers are not those of the Alliance.