|  | **Stewardship Workgroup Meeting**  **Thursday, August 21, 2025**  **1:00 - 2:00 pm EST**  **Join Zoom Meeting**  <https://umces-edu.zoom.us/j/84491426566?pwd=AdaCG8LcaDqQ4Mug6pTxvrAqrSJbEL.1>  **Meeting ID:** 844 9142 6566  **Passcode:** 842278  **Dial in by phone:** +1 305 224 1968 US |
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**ACTION ITEMS**

* ***ACTION ITEM:*** **Fill out this** [**when2meet**](https://www.when2meet.com/?31800665-4wVoq) **by EOD Friday, August 29th** to schedule a meeting to review public feedback on the Stewardship Outcome before September 12th.
* ***ACTION ITEM:*** **Resource Hub 15 minute chats** – Are you a stewardship practitioner, or do you manage stewardship practitioners? Are you willing to meet one on one with Meredith regarding what types of resources you use in your work and what resources would be useful to gather in a centralized “hub” or “library?” Respond to this email to **let Meredith know if you’re willing to meet** and they will set up a time that works for your schedule in September or October.
* ***ACTION ITEM:*** The Public Feedback period for revisions to the 2014 Watershed Agreement closes on September 1, 2025. For more information about how to submit comments, see the [Planning for 2025 and Beyond webpage.](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/what-guides-us/planning-for-2025-and-beyond)
* ***UPCOMING ACTION ITEM:*** Please expect an email coming soon with a request for you all to look at your network connections on the Chesapeake Steward Map and report to Meredith whether any of the user profiles are no longer accurate, i.e., someone has changed their job and not updated their profile.
* ***ACTION ITEM:*** Reach out to Meredith, *lemkem@chesapeake.org*, if you would like to get involved in any of the **Stewardship Action Teams**.

**MINUTES**

**1:00 Welcome/ Introductions**

The Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship Goal Implementation Team (GIT5) which the Stewardship Workgroup sits under has new leadership following Britt Slattery’s retirement, and the NPS step back from leading GIT5. Welcome to:

* Emily Heller, *EPA*, GIT5 Coordinator
* Julie Lawson, *DOEE*, GIT5 Co-Chair
* Julia Wakeling, *DOEE,* GIT5 Co-Chair

The Stewardship Workgroup chair position is still vacant. This role will provide their thought leadership and perspective to the Stewardship workgroup. Meredith Lemke (staffer) is currently covering coordination needs. If you are interested in the Stewardship workgroup chair position, please contact Julie Lawson or Meredith Lemke.

**1:10 Beyond 2025/ Outcome and Target Process Updates**

The revised outcomes of the Watershed Agreement are open for public feedback. If you would like to comment on the Stewardship Outcome, or any other, please do so as soon as possible. The **deadline is September 1, 2025**. More information can be found on the [Planning for 2025 and Beyond](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/what-guides-us/planning-for-2025-and-beyond) page.

***Revised Stewardship Outcome:***

Increase public participation in stewardship actions that contribute positively to the lands, waters, living resources and communities throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

***Stewardship Target:***

Through 2040, better equip practitioners with the social science data, technical assistance and support needed to develop, improve and carry out individual and community-level stewardship programs, including those that will help advance Agreement goals.

For more information regarding the revised outcomes (including the Stewardship Outcome) under the proposed Engaged Communities Goal, check out this helpful webinar: [YouTube - Engaged Communities Webinar](https://youtu.be/2BafAViiCPc?feature=shared)

The workgroup discussed the four comments received so far since the public feedback period began. See the public feedback comments and notes on the workgroup’s discussion: [Stewardship Outcome Public Feedback Discussion](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Fed_KgG669NGMZI9uEfz_EP1m5bKUV9wGIP7fi8ICqc/edit?usp=sharing)

The workgroup decided that they will set a time to meet in the first two weeks of September to discuss any additional comments received by September 1st. A redlined version of outcome and target language is due by September 12th.

* ***ACTION ITEM:*** Please fill out this [when2meet](https://www.when2meet.com/?31800665-4wVoq) by EOD Friday, August 29th.

**1:30 Implementing Stewardship Work in 2025**

**Ongoing Efforts, Action Teams –** *Meredith Lemke, CRC/CBP, Stewardship Workgroup Staffer*

Meredith provided updates about the work the Action Teams have begun so far. The Action Teams have been formed to work on items from our [2024-2025 Work Plan](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/files/documents/2024-2025-Stewardship-Work-Plan). Check out their progress at the links below and get involved.

1. ***Chesapeake Steward Map Ambassadors* –** *Assist with outreach and promotion of the map. Help brainstorm new map uses and map design improvements. View the map* [*here*](https://embed.kumu.io/650e80a5d4ccb4079ffd7a00687377b8#home)*.*
   * *Learn more about the* [*roles and responsibilities of a Map Ambassador*](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VWcCHDFBG6ynR1cyTG0pKgj1Lwa4eZ3euVVKx0_4fbQ/edit?usp=sharing)*. Reach out to Meredith to get involved.*

***Updates:***

* + The next meeting will be focused on preparing for Meredith’s 2025 Watershed Forum session, developing an outreach strategy, and continuing to make map accuracy and technical improvements.
    - If you will be attending the [2025 Watershed Forum](https://www.allianceforthebay.org/event/chesapeake-watershed-forum/), Meredith welcomes you to join their session which is currently scheduled for **1:30-3:00pm on Friday, November 7** and is called **Visualizing and Strengthening Networks with Mapping**.
  + ***UPCOMING ACTION ITEM:*** Please expect an email coming soon with an action item request for you all to look at your network connections on the map and report to Meredith whether any of the user profiles are no longer accurate, i.e., someone has changed their job and not updated their profile.

1. ***Resource Hub Action Team* –** *Help design, gather resources for, and eventually share an online stewardship resource hub for practitioners.* *Explore the* [*running notes*](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ELF8DAMzb-ImJAU6cfL3-mxCaIMDOsLPdX3CLxdIGlw/edit?usp=drive_link)*.*
   * ***ACTION ITEM:*** **Resource Hub 15 minute chats** – Are you a stewardship practitioner, or do you manage stewardship practitioners? Are you willing to meet one on one with Meredith regarding what types of resources you use in your work and what resources would be useful to gather in a centralized “hub” or “library?” **Let Meredith know if you’re willing to meet** and they will set up a time that works for your schedule in September or October.
2. ***Community-Scale Stewardship Action Team* –** *Develop a plan/methodology to identify what community-scale stewardship actions already exist across the watershed. Help establish a baseline for future measurement.* *Explore the* [*running notes*](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wPKLdDiOwUXUhOqa9cFux-Qx9akubwvi_1VA9e9p6R0/edit?usp=sharing)*.*

* At the next meeting, the action team will begin drafting a rough working definition of “community-level stewardship.”

**1:45 Other Workgroup Business, Announcements, & Rapid Coordination**

Workgroup members were invited to share opportunities for collaboration, coordination, and mutual support from their work/organizations.

* Julie Lawson - DC owned environmental education campus in Laurel, MD called Oasis. Interesting space to potentially utilize for a future in person meeting.
* Marissa O’Neill - DOEE has Kingman Island Friends and Family Day on September 27th! I definitely would appreciate any help pushing it out to DMV folks [Kingman + Heritage Islands - Friends & Family Day](https://www.kingmanisland.com/friends-family-day)
* Laura Cattell Noll - New environmental center/office space for environmental groups in Lancaster is being developed. It will be a great space/hub for coordination and information sharing related to environmental (and stewardship) work.
* **Network Science Project** – *Christy Gabbard and Sonia Keiner, Local Concepts, LLC* 
  + The Chesapeake Bay Program’s Strategic Engagement Team has initiated this project, funded by EPA CBP, to help bring network best practices into the work across the partnership. **Tues, Sep 9, 2-4pm ET– Session 2: Engage the Network** - Explore the importance of trust and how to activate our network. Register for a training session if you are interested and help spread the word:<https://forms.gle/9oXQA6P4nDzLwWQD7>
* Chesapeake Steward Map Info Hour – **September 23, 11:00-12:00.** Register: <https://umces-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/JZUBWaeVRfu-asX5z8fG0g#/registration>
* Shannon Sprague - **Environmental Literacy Virtual Forum will be hosted in December 2025 and will be open invitation.**
  + The focus is on storytelling in advance of the Environmental Literacy Summit that we do with leaders in our region, from state departments of education, natural resource agencies, and nonprofits. We will be weaving together stories of different partners to look at - what have been the pivotal things over time that have created the space for environmental literacy to thrive, whether that be funding, or policies or leaders? It's going to be an open invitation, so if you or others from your organizations work in that space, we would welcome your attendance, and Meredith will help make that happen.
* Marisa Baldine - Working on an outreach strategy for the Bay Program.

**2:00 Adjourn**