



Forum Agenda: Building Capacity Through Collaboration Thursday, November 30, 2023 | 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Facilitated By

Joy Jackson
Institute for Conservation Leadership

Hybrid Zoom Access: [Link Here](#)

Location: [Reservoir Center for Water Solutions](#), 301 Water St SE, Washington, DC 20003

Parking: The Yards Lot Q, 425 Tingey St SE, Washington, DC 20003

Meeting materials and handouts can be found on the meeting page below

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/local-government-advisory-committee-quarterly-meeting-november-2023>

This meeting will be recorded for accuracy of meeting notes.

Problem Statement:

The importance of collaboration and collaborative efforts has gained new relevance and importance in recent years. Current federal funding opportunities, from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), represent a unique and unprecedented opportunity to secure resources for environmental and conservation work throughout the nation. Moreover, many of these grants require, or at minimum encourage, collaboration among entities in order to access funding.

These grant opportunities, with their push for collaboration, reveal the challenges and limitations facing local governments, agencies, non-profits, etc. interested in applying for federal dollars. Enthusiasm for funding has been tempered by concerns related to navigating the application process, capacity to build collaborative efforts and/or design eligible projects, limited experience collaborating regionally, bandwidth to craft compelling grants proposals, etc. These challenges may also disproportionately affect communities of color, highlighting the importance of prioritizing issues related to equity in the design of collaborative efforts.

Meeting Goal:

This Forum is a day of learning, discussion, and brainstorming around these important topics. The aim is to explore the opportunities and obstacles related to building successful collaborations, with a specific eye towards accessing IRA funding. The Forum will develop a series of preliminary recommendations for actions local governments can take to support connection, collaboration, and capacity building that enables the Chesapeake region to receive much needed federal dollars.

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- 10:00 am** Opening Remarks
- 10:10 am** Welcome/Introductions
- 10:30 am** Group Discussion: Building Capacity through Collaboration
- 11:20 am** Introduction: The Importance of Collaboration in the Time of the Inflation Reduction Act
- 11:30 am** Panel Discussion: The Importance of Collaboration in the Time of the Inflation Reduction Act
- *Christina Bonini, Greening Greater Fulton*
 - *Jon Knorr, Lancaster Clean Water Partners*
- 12:15 pm** *Lunch (virtual participants are encouraged to network while having lunch)*
- 1:00 pm** Discussion and Activity: Understanding Partners in a Collaborative Effort
- 2:00 pm** *Break*
- 2:15 pm** Brainstorming Discussion: How might local governments better facilitate collaborative efforts in our region?
- 3:10 pm** Highlights of Brainstorming Discussion
- 3:30 pm** Final Remarks and Next Steps
- 4:00 pm** Adjourn