

# Chesapeake Bay Program Update

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Meeting

September 18-19, 2024

Lucinda Power, EPA CBPO



## Today's AGENDA

December 10<sup>th</sup> Executive Council Meeting

Enhancing Engagement with the Advisory Committees

Need-based honorarium

Federal Agency Roles in the Chesapeake Bay Program

Beyond 2025 Public Feedback Updates





2024 Executive Council Meeting Theme

**Charting a Course Beyond  
2025**

# LOGISTICS

Tuesday, December 10,  
2024

Approximately 10:00  
a.m.—12:30 p.m.

- Continental breakfast served at closed meeting.

Annapolis, Maryland

- Rooms requested at State House and Governor's Mansion.

# EC MEMBER RSVP STATUS



Calendars Checked



Attendance Confirmed

- |    |     |                                 |
|----|-----|---------------------------------|
| 1. | EPA | Michael Regan, Administrator    |
| 2. | CBC | VA Delegate David Bulova, Chair |
| 3. | DE  | John C. Carney Jr., Governor    |
| 4. | DC  | Muriel Bowser, Mayor            |
| 5. | MD  | Wes Moore, Governor             |
| 6. | NY  | Kathy Hochul, Governor          |
| 7. | PA  | Josh Shapiro, Governor          |
| 8. | VA  | Glenn Youngkin, Governor        |
| 9. | WV  | Jim Justice, Governor           |

## Advisory Committees

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. SAC Chair – Chuck Herrick | 3. STAC Chair – Larry Sanford |
| 2. LGAC Chair – Daniel Chao  |                               |

# EC ACTIONS

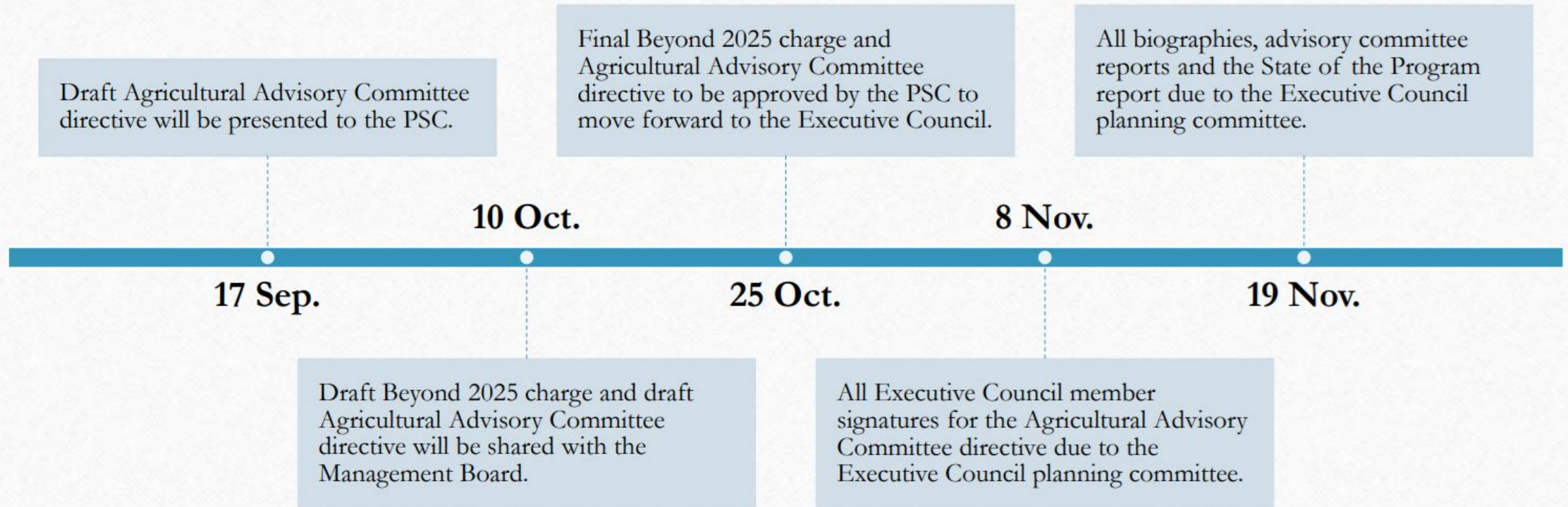
## Beyond 2025 Charge

- No signatures needed.
- Final version to be approved by the PSC at their October 25, 2024 meeting.

## Agricultural Advisory Committee Directive

- All signatures needed by Friday, November 8.
- Final version to be approved by the PSC at their October 25, 2024 meeting.

# IMPORTANT DEADLINES





# DRAFT PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA

## Idea We Are Exploring:

Having students from across the watershed introduce the members when it's time for them to speak.

| Time                    | Activity   |
|-------------------------|--|
| 11:15 a.m.              | Public Meeting Called to Order   |
| 11:15 – 11:25 a.m.      | Opening Remarks<br>Governor Wes Moore, Maryland (EC Chair)                                   |
| 11:25 – 11:30 a.m.      | Chesapeake Bay Program Update<br>Martha Shimkin, Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office |
| 11:30 a.m. – 12:10 p.m. | EC Member Remarks<br>All EC members/designees except for chair(s)                            |
| 12:10 – 12:15 p.m.      | Concluding Remarks<br>New EC Chair   |
| 12:15 – 12:30 p.m.      | Press Conference   |
| 12:30 p.m.              | Meeting Gaveled to a Close   |



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# Enhancing Dialogue with the Advisory Committees

- Increase opportunities for learning
- Identify opportunities to add value
- Close gaps in science, tools, research
- Identify weaknesses and turn them into strengths
- Meet the partnership's priority needs



## Federal Office Directors (FOD) - History

- Originally established in January 2008 as an ad hoc body of the directors of federal program offices.
- Formed to foster coordinated interagency planning and decision-making relative to federal protection and restoration activities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Replaced the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) defunct Federal Agencies Committee.
- With the establishment of the Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay (FLC) through Executive Order (EO) 13508, the FOD became the de facto principal interagency body for coordinating all federal EO activities at the level below the FLC.

# FOD – Membership

FOD members are the directors, designated senior management level official, or coordinator of federal program offices focused on Chesapeake watershed protection and restoration.

- EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office
- NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, DOC
- NPS Chesapeake Bay Office, DOI
- USGS, DOI
- FWS, DOI
- USDA Forest Service
- NRCS, USDA
- USDA Office of Environmental Markets.
- DoD/ Navy
- USACE
- DOT
- DHS

# FOD - Activities

The FOD provides support for the FLC and FLC-D including but not limited to:

- Coordinating development of federal 2-year milestones;
- Coordinating development of an annual progress report;
- Developing and supporting adaptive management processes;
- Formulating messaging and communications relative to implementation of the EO;
- Supporting necessary meetings of the FLC through briefings, meeting planning and follow-up actions;
- Representing and advocating on behalf of federal agency positions to EPA, who serves on behalf of the federal government at the Executive Council of the Chesapeake Bay Program; and
- Identifying and filling leadership roles within the CBP organizational structure and promoting leadership by example through environmental management at federal facilities.



# FOD - Guidelines



Serves as a primary coordination mechanism for ensuring that EPA is fully aware of, knowledgeable about, and a strong advocate for individual and collective agency positions on policy and other matters of importance to all federal agencies.



Serves as the venue for articulation of these positions and providing EPA with specific information (e.g., position statements) to represent the federal government at meetings of the Principals Staff Committee and Executive Council.



Where there is collective interest by more than one federal agency, FOD will serve as the forum for developing consensus on such issues and formulating a shared federal position.



Serve as the liaison between federal agencies, including members of the Federal Leadership Committee and their designees (established under Executive Order 13508), to ensure policy coordination and representation for this level of the federal government.



Serves as the liaison between the Council on Environmental Quality and Office of Management and Budget to ensure that the provisions of EO 13508 are fully represented in the Watershed Agreement or are otherwise addressed to ensure that the purposes and intent of those provisions are executed.

# FOD – Reflective of the federal family

## **Executive Council**

- Federal agencies are formally represented by the EPA on the EC.

## **Principals' Staff Committee**

- Federal membership to the PSC consists of a federal delegation at a level commensurate with the state secretary level.
- Federal agencies are represented by the EPA on the PSC.

## **Management Board**

- The MB membership includes the core federal agency partners.
- EPA will represent the federal government if a vote is required.

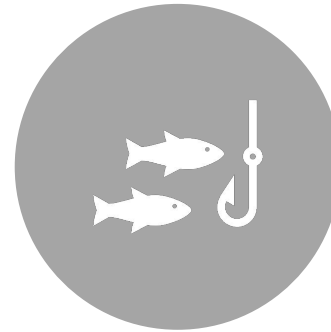
# Federal Leadership Committee (FLC)



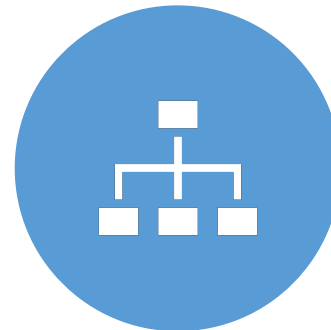
EO 13508 states the “Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay is established to oversee the development and coordination of programs and activities, including data management and reporting, of agencies participating in protection and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.



The Committee shall be chaired by the Administrator of the EPA, or the Administrator's designee, and include senior representatives of the USDA, Commerce, DOD, Homeland Security, the Interior, Transportation, and such other agencies as determined by the Committee.”



The Committee shall manage the development of strategies and program plans for the watershed and ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay and oversee their implementation.



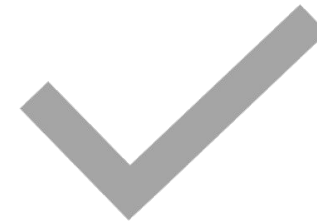
**This role has largely been delegated to a set of “designees” of the aforementioned agencies, known as the “FLC-D.”**

# Federal Leadership Committee-Designees' Meetings



## July 22 Meeting

Shared agency priorities and successes  
Identified opportunities for alignment  
Discussed fall FLC meeting



## Oct 7 Meeting

How to work together as one voice – EC planning  
/ Beyond 2025  
Plans for accelerating efforts for a CBP keystone  
priority: wetlands





**Public Feedback**

# PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS RECAP



60-day public feedback period: July 1—August 30, 2024.



Comments were submitted to [comments@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:comments@chesapeakebay.net).



All raw comments now available at [chesapeakebay.net/beyond2025](https://chesapeakebay.net/beyond2025).



A red-lined version of the report will be posted at the same location when available.



Five person drafting team are reviewing all comments and recommending edits to the recommendations report.

# COMMENT STATISTICS

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81 total commenters

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538 unique comments

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1,814 individual emails from Chesapeake Bay Foundation supporters in response to an action alert

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82 individual emails from Waterkeepers Chesapeake supporters in response to an action alert

# WHAT ARE PEOPLE SAYING?



Majority of feedback was supportive and/or will be held for Phase 2.



Revisions to the Watershed Agreement should be completed by the end of 2025.



All Executive Council members should reaffirm their commitment to the partnership at the 2024 Executive Council meeting.



Greater emphasis on conservation, climate change implications, recommendations from the CESR report and involving diverse and underserved populations in the partnership's work.



# Overarching Themes



- **Enhanced accountability and evidence-based** restoration practices.
  - **Conservation as a focal area** and integration into pillars of restoration and science.
  - **Address local and regional priorities** of climate resilience, environmental justice, and other “emerging” issues.
  - **Importance of collaboration** and balancing needs across all partners.
  - **Inclusive public engagement** to foster greater transparency and trust.
  - **Technical assistance and financial support** to sustain and grow local implementation activities.
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# EC Recommendation 1

## Areas of Support

- **Continued commitment** to the 2014 Agreement
- **Inclusive and holistic** approach
- Support for **addressing climate change** and other emerging issues
- Strengthening the processes for evidence building (**social science, monitoring needs, and measuring progress**)
- Acknowledging the Beyond 2025 effort and **challenge at hand**.

## Areas of Concern

- **Timing** – strong calls for refreshed Agreement by end of 2025.
- **Vagueness** in recommendations, lack of **prioritization**.
- Lack of focus on **accountability mechanisms**.

# EC Recommendation 2

## Areas of Support

- **Simplification** of Structure and Processes
- Revising and Strengthening **Accountability**
- **Equity and Inclusivity**
- Robust **monitoring and data integration** to inform decision-making
- Focus on **living resources** and **healthy communities**

## Areas of Concern

- Call for **more detailed specifics** of “simplification” and concern of **unintended consequences** of simplification.
- Acknowledge **tension** between addressing climate change, emerging issues and, **efforts to streamline**.



# Timeline





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# Key Dates

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Now                   | All comments posted, SC reviewing feedback, Revision team drafting edits          |
| Sept 12 <sup>th</sup> | Update provided to the Management Board   |
| Sept 17 <sup>th</sup> | Update provided to the PSC, guidance to Co-Chairs, discussion of next steps       |
| Sept 20 <sup>th</sup> | SC receives report with proposed, tracked changes                                 |
| Sept 24 <sup>th</sup> | SC flags any “showstoppers” for Co-Chairs   |
| Sept 26 <sup>th</sup> | SC meeting, review revisions, call for consensus on final report                  |
| Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | Optional, virtual briefing for PSC members and staff – 4:15pm                     |
| Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>  | MB meeting, formal receipt of final SC report                                     |
| Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>  | PSC meeting, formal receipt of final SC report, decision on EC action in response |

# Key Dates

| September 2024 |    |                             |    |              |                        |    |              |                      |              |               |    |  |  |
|----------------|----|-----------------------------|----|--------------|------------------------|----|--------------|----------------------|--------------|---------------|----|--|--|
| 1              | 2  | 3                           | 4  | 5            | 6                      | 7  |              |                      |              |               |    |  |  |
| 8              | 9  | 10                          | 11 | 12<br>MB mtg | 13                     | 14 |              |                      |              |               |    |  |  |
| 15             | 16 | 17<br>PSC mtg               | 18 | 19           | 20<br><i>revisions</i> | 21 |              |                      |              |               |    |  |  |
| 22             | 23 | 24<br><i>show-stoppers?</i> | 25 | 26<br>SC mtg | 27                     | 28 | October 2024 |                      |              |               |    |  |  |
| 29             | 30 |                             |    |              |                        | 30 | 1            | 2<br><i>briefing</i> | 3            | 4             | 5  |  |  |
|                |    |                             |    |              | 6                      | 7  | 8            | 9                    | 10<br>MB mtg | 11            | 12 |  |  |
|                |    |                             |    |              | 13                     | 14 | 15           | 16                   | 17           | 18            | 19 |  |  |
|                |    |                             |    |              | 20                     | 21 | 22           | 23                   | 24           | 25<br>PSC mtg | 26 |  |  |
|                |    |                             |    |              | 27                     | 28 | 29           | 30                   | 31           |               |    |  |  |

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# Thank you!

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