

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting - September 2023

Speaker Biographies in Order of the Agenda

Travis A. Voyles

Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources, VA Office of Natural Resources

Travis Voyles most recently served as Oversight Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works under Senator Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia. In this role, he served as the lead coordinator of the Committee's efforts for environmental, energy, economic development, and infrastructure issues, including primary oversight over a wide range of federal agencies programs and funding (DOT, EPA, Army Corps, DOE, FWS, NRC, EDA). He also provided cross-cutting technical and legal input on legislative efforts, including the recent Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and budget reconciliation efforts.

Prior to working in the Senate, he served in multiple appointed roles at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, including Acting Associate Administrator for the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations and Director of Oversight. In these roles he managed all congressional interactions and investigations on issues pertaining to EPA rulemakings, policies, ethics, appropriations, and the Senate confirmation process for nominees. He also served as the chief liaison between the Agency, the EPA Administrator, and other national, state, and local officials.

Travis has also worked for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. With this role, he was responsible for managing oversight issues and policy matters relating to scientific research and development, environmental and energy regulations, and emerging cybersecurity developments.

Travis received his law degree from Florida State University with a focus on environmental, energy, and land use law. While at Florida State, he was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law* and clerked for the Florida House of Representatives, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Atlanta BeltLine, and a private law firm. Travis also received his Master in City and Regional Planning from Georgia Tech, with a focus in economic development and environmental planning, and his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Georgia.

Jeff Lerner

Acting Branch Chief, Partnerships and Accountability

Chair, Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program

Jeff brings over 30 years of experience in conservation to his role with the Bay partnership. He has served as the Partnership Programs Branch Chief in the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds at EPA Headquarters. Prior to working with EPA, Jeff managed national habitat, forest and watershed conservation programs for several conservation organizations and foundations in partnership with federal, state, and local agencies focused on proactive strategic conservation. This work has included both rural and urbanized landscapes involving land use planning, green infrastructure, biodiversity conservation, sea level rise, climate resilience and the integrity of watersheds. He previously managed the Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant Program to accelerate the protection of intact watersheds. Jeff currently serves as chair of the Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team with the Bay Partnership and sits on the Steering Committee of the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition focused on a regional green infrastructure network. He began his career as a raptor biologist studying bald eagles.

Rachel Felver

CBP Communications Director, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Growing up in northeastern Pennsylvania, Rachel spent her childhood and teenage years attending environmental camp, which included annual 30-mile canoe trips down the Delaware River. Determined to turn this passion into a career, she attended the University of Pittsburgh, where she obtained a Bachelor's in Political Science, minoring in West European Studies and German, and a Masters' in Public Administration, concentrating in Environmental Policy & Management. She began her career as a government contractor for the U.S. Coast Guard, where she wrote vessel response plans in case of hazardous waste or oil spills.

In 2007, Rachel moved on to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) where she discovered her flair for communications. She spent almost nine years in the Office of Environmental Information, most notably as their Communications Director for over four years. During her tenure at EPA, Rachel grew her expertise in strategic communications, internal communications, and program and project management. Wanting to test out the waters in the non-profit arena, she left EPA in the fall of 2015 to join the Marketing team at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, where she was responsible for strategic communications planning for priority projects. She joined the Alliance as the Chesapeake Bay Program's Communications Director in March 2016.

Rachel settled in Annapolis in 2010 and immediately grew to love the Chesapeake Bay and the role it plays in this region. Her favorite Bay activities include paddle-boarding and taking her pit bull, Sam, swimming. In her free time, her other favorite activities include traveling, yoga, skiing, live music, trying new craft beers and animal rescue.

Martha Shimkin

Deputy Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program

Martha Shimkin is the Deputy Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO). She brings a diverse and varied background to the CBPO through various roles internationally and at EPA, in the Office of Water, the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, the Office of Children's Health Protection, the Office of International and Tribal Affairs, and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Throughout her EPA career, Martha created and managed many programs and policies, led regulatory development, and developed agency plans for implementing new laws. She has led budget formulation and execution, strategic planning, performance reporting, and human resources. Martha successfully negotiated and represented the US government at international meetings and ran a private consulting practice that promoted international environmental health policy. Martha holds an M.A. in Economics from The George Washington University, a B.A. in Business Administration and foreign languages, and was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Costa Rica.

Anna Killius

Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Commission

Anna Killius joined the Commission in 2023 as Executive Director. She previously served as Director of Advocacy for the James River Association and legislative counsel for Congressman John Sarbanes of Maryland, where she advanced his leadership as co-chair of the Congressional Chesapeake Bay Watershed Task Force.

Anna has held appointments to the Chesapeake Bay Citizens Advisory Committee and the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board. She is a 2021 graduate of the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute. She received a juris doctor degree from William and Mary Law School, where she was a member of the first class of the Virginia Coastal Policy Center, and a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Dallas with a concentration in Applied Mathematics.

The daughter of a naval officer and an elementary mathematics coach, Anna has enjoyed living and learning in communities throughout the Bay watershed and is proud to always call the Chesapeake home.