



Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP)
Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
Quarterly Meeting – September 12-13, 2023
Frederick Douglass-Isaac Myers Maritime Museum
Baltimore, MD

[Meeting Webpage](#)

[RSVP](#)

[Zoom Meeting](#)

****Exact Times Are Subject to Change****

Tuesday, September 12th

- 9:00 am** **Coffee & Light Breakfast (Provided)**
- 9:30 am** **Call to Order, Announcements**—*Kathy Boomer (STAC Chair – FFAR)*
- Approval Requests:
 - June 2023 Quarterly Meeting Minutes
 - Executive Board Call Minutes:
 - Nominee for STAC Vice Chair: Bill Dennison (UMCES)
 - Proposed 2024 quarterly meeting dates and virtual/in-person schedule
 - March 5-6th; June 4-5th; September 10-11th; December 3-4th
 - Member Announcements and Updates
 - CESR Communications Team Update
- 10:00 am** **Welcome New At-Large STAC Members** — *Kathy Boomer (FFAR)*
- 10:15 am** **Introduction, Chesapeake Bay Program Interim Director** — *Dave Campbell (EPA)*
- 10:45 am** **STAC Letter to Executive Council** — *Kathy Boomer (FFAR)*
STAC members will discuss content and recommendations to include in the letter to the Executive Council at the 2023 [Executive Council](#) meeting.
- 11:30 am** **Break**
- 12:00 pm** **Introduction to AI within Watershed Management**
Isabella Bertani and Qian Zhang (UMCES) will provide an introduction to artificial intelligence (AI) within watershed management for time-series data. Following, Mike Evans (Chesapeake Conservancy) will discuss the Chesapeake Conservancy's work on [mapping wetlands](#) and [large solar arrays](#) throughout the Bay watershed states.
- 12:50 pm** **Lunch**
- 1:45 pm** **Briefing on Findings from the FY22 STAC Workshop, “Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Watershed Model” and Request to Approve Workshop Report** — *TBA*
- 2:30 pm** **Moving Forward, Faster Together**
Lara Fowler (PSU) and Leah Palm-Forster (UDel) will facilitate a group discussion on the following topics to identify key lessons learned from recent events and reports that the Partnership could advance.
- **What do we know from social science/economics?**
 - Projects from around the Bay region, beyond – PA in the Balance takeaways, etc.
 - STAC workshop takeaways

- CESR takeaways
- Governance recommendations takeaways
- **Capacity building needs**
 - What are we doing well at from across the Bay jurisdictions?
 - What do we need to do more of?
 - Potential for regional cooperation?
- **How can we create more local action and momentum?**
 - Pilots?

3:15 pm **Break**

3:45 pm **Interaction between STAC and the SRS and SSRF Processes**

4:45 pm **Farewell Messages to STAC Members Rotating Off**

4:45 pm **Recess**

4:45 pm **Optional Happy Hour (location TBA)**

Wednesday, September 13th

8:30 am **Tour of the Masonville Cove and [Masonville Dredged Material Containment Facility](#)**
Limited capacity; STAC Members only

9:30 am **Coffee & Light Breakfast (Provided)**

Meeting Theme: Institutional Learning: Informing watershed management through an inter-regional program comparison.

Rationale: Water resource management requires a systems-based framework accommodating diverse communities and landscapes. It's also becoming increasingly clear that success also requires the active involvement of stakeholders and a strong commitment to co-learning. When decision-makers align their goals, objectives, and strategies—aided by socio-economic research—it enhances the prospects of effective policymaking. Moreover, incorporating a range of viewpoints that depict how the hydro-social system behaves holds more potential for refining management predictions and science-based guidance than traditional modeling approaches.

However, implementing such ambitious management frameworks remains difficult and fraught with unaccounted uncertainties. A potential strategy to address these challenges (i.e., foster institutional learning) is to analyze and compare strategies for engaging stakeholders in large-scale watershed programs. While programs in different areas face unique challenges, exploring commonalities could offer invaluable insights to advancing the CBP's efforts "Beyond 2025."

Targeted Outcomes:

- Investigate the successes and challenges of implemented hydro-social frameworks guiding interregional water management programs nationwide.
- Reflect on tractable opportunities to improve governance and management of Chesapeake Bay Program's adaptive watershed management program.
- Reflect on research needs to support science-based decision-making.

10:00 am **Framing the Discussion— *Kathy Boomer (FFAR)***

- 10:15 am** **Provocateur Panel: Exploring the Successes and Challenges of Water Resource Management Programs that Compare in Scale to the Chesapeake Bay Program**
Candidate Speakers (15 minute virtual and in-person presentations):
[Edwin Martinez](#), *USDA NRCS, Virginia State Conservationist (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative overview)*
[Ellen Gilinsky](#) (*STAC*) - *MS Basin management*
[Jason Farnsworth](#), *Executive Director of the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program*,
[Arthur Wardle](#), (*UC Berkeley - California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)*)
- 11:45 am** **Break**
- 12:00 pm** **Response Panel & Group Discussion: How can advance CBP science-based resource management?**
Candidate Panelists: [Daniel Chao](#) (*CBP Local Government Advisory Committee*), [Leah Palm-Forster](#) (*UD*), [Becky Epanchin-Niell](#) (*UMD*), [Ashley Dayer](#) (*Vtech*)
- 12:45 pm** **Summary of Key Takeaways** — *Kathy Boomer (FFAR)*
- 1:00 pm** **Wrap Up and Action/Decision Items** — *STAC Staff (CRC)*
- 1:05 pm** **STAC Chair Rotation and Thank You to Kathy Boomer!**
- 1:10 pm** **Adjourn**
- 1:10 pm** **Lunch (provided)**