



Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP)
Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
STAC Topical Meeting | Virtual
November 18th, 2025

Decision-Making and How It Affects Governance

[Meeting Webpage: RSVP link](#)

Tuesday, November 18th

- **Meeting Facilitator:** [Lara Fowler](#) (PSU)

9:00 am **Meet CBP Director, Dan Coogan** – *Director Dan Coogan (EPA)*
CBPO Director Dan Coogan (EPA) joins STAC to introduce himself to the committee and answer questions from membership.

9:20 am **Expert Panel: Lessons from Inside and Outside the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership**

Invited Panelists:

[Tanya Heikkila](#): Professor at the University of Colorado Denver (School of Public Affairs) and member of the Delta Independent Science Board (advisory to the Delta Stewardship Council for the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta). Her work focuses on how collaborative governance, consensus rules, and adaptive-management institutions turn science into durable decisions. She brings comparative lessons from the Delta, Everglades, Colorado River Basin, and other large restoration efforts to questions of structure, process, and accountability.

[Penny Vlahos](#) : Professor in the Department of Marine Sciences, University of Connecticut, and Connecticut co-chair of the Long Island Sound Study Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). She will reflect on how the Long Island Sound CCMP sets near-term goals, tracks progress with clear metrics, and leverages partnerships, including which elements may translate to CBP governance and decision-making.

[Rich Batiuk](#): With long experience inside the Chesapeake Bay Program, Rich Batiuk has led work at the science-policy interface on governance design, performance tracking, and partnership coordination. His remarks draw from the 2025 open-access paper "[Restoration of the Chesapeake Bay: Lessons for Other Ecosystems](#)," highlighting what effective structures enable real outcomes.

10:10 am **10-minute Break**

10:20 am **Breakout Groups: Exploring Consensus and Adaptive Management**

11:00 am **Breakout Group Report-out & Synthesis**

11:20 am **Facilitated Plenary Discussion**

11:50 am **Warp-Up and Next Steps**

12:00 pm **Adjourn**