



Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP)
Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
June 2026 Meeting | Strategic Planning Retreat
June 15-17, 2026 | in-person
National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)
Shepherdstown, WV
Lemon Building, Room 201

[Meeting Webpage](#)

Sunday, June 14th

Dinner | Headwaters Lodge, 2nd Floor

Dining services are available in the dining hall, on the second floor of Headwaters Lodge, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm for participants onsite. If arriving after 7:30pm, a boxed dinner should be at the Front Desk.

8:00 pm

Activity TBD (Optional)

STAC Staff is organizing socializing activity for those who are arriving on Sunday.

Monday, June 15th

Breakfast | Headwaters Lodge, 2nd Floor

Dining services are available in the dining hall, on the second floor of Headwaters Lodge, from 6:30am to 9:00am (hot food until 8:30am). Please be in the meeting room on time!

9:00 am

Activity TBD (Optional)

STAC Staff is organizing an interactive activity for early arrivers.

9:30 am

Call to Order, STAC Business – STAC Leadership, STAC Staff

- Membership Updates
- Approval Requests for Meeting Minutes
- Overview of STAC FY25 Workshops
 - [Healthy Forests: Proactive Strategies for Managing Threats and Promoting Conservation](#)
 - [Challenges and Opportunities in Operationalizing Coupled Human and Natural Systems \(CHANS\) Research in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#)
 - [State of the Science of Salinity Risks in the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries: Connecting Monitoring, Modeling and Management](#)
- STAC Synthesis Project Update
- Member Announcements and Updates

10:45 am

Setting the Stage – Bill Dennison (UMCES; STAC Chair)

STAC Chair *Bill Dennison (UMCES)* will set the stage of this strategic planning meeting by reiterating the purpose of the June 2026 Meeting and giving an overview of the agenda.

11:10am

Phase 7 Review – Larry Sanford (UMCES)

STAC is tasked by the Bay Program to conduct a review of the [Phase 7 suite of models](#). *Larry Sanford (UMCES)*, Lead for the Phase 7 Review Ad-Hoc Workgroup, will provide an overview of Phase 7, the anticipated review process, and examples from STAC's Phase 6 Review. *Kaylyn Gootman (EPA)* and *Lew Linker (EPA)* will provide further context and outline the scope of the Phase 7 Review from the perspective of the Bay Program.

11:50 am Lunch | Headwaters Lodge, 2nd Floor
 Dining services are available in the dining hall, on the second floor of Headwaters Lodge, from 11:30am to 1:30pm (hot food until 1:00pm).

1:00 pm Member Lightning Talks: STAC Leadership
 1. Larry Sanford (UMCES) Past Chair 2. Bill Dennison (UMCES) STAC Chair 3. Erin Letavic (HRG) Vice Chair

1:20 pm Panel: Indigenous Science and Tribal Perspectives
 Aligning with the [Bay Program’s acknowledgement of tribes as a formal partner](#), STAC has been preparing to build relations and collaborate with tribal nations as to use the best scientific and technical knowledge available to advise on conservation efforts in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Desiree Shelley ([Indigenous Conservation Council](#) [ICC]), will provide context of tribal history within the watershed and a brief introduction to Indigenous science. A panel of Indigenous scientists will share best practices for braiding Indigenous knowledge and science with western science frameworks.
 Presenter, Facilitator: Desiree Shelley (ICC)
 Panelists: Victoria Ferguson, Kelsey Leonard, Martin Saniga

3:10 pm Break (20 minutes)

3:30 pm Member Lightning Talks: Executive Board
 1. Leah Palm-Forster (UDel) 2. Scott Knoche (Morgan State, PEARL)
 3. KC Filippino (HRPDC) 4. Charles Bott (HRSD) 5. Matt Baker (UMBC)

4:10 pm Partnering Efforts with Advisory Committees
 Leadership from the Stakeholders’ Advisory Committee, the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC), and the Agricultural Advisory Committee will join STAC to discuss alignment across the Advisory Committees.

Dinner | Headwaters Lodge, 2nd Floor
 Dining services are available in the dining hall, on the second floor of Headwaters Lodge, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm for participants onsite. If arriving after 7:30pm, a boxed dinner should be at the Front Desk.

8:30 pm S’mores at the Bonfire (Optional)
 Gather around the Lemon Fire Ring to enjoy s’mores and company! Personal refreshments allowed, sharing encouraged.

Tuesday, June 16th

Breakfast | Headwaters Lodge, 2nd Floor
 Dining services are available in the dining hall, on the second floor of Headwaters Lodge, from 6:30am to 9:00am (hot food until 8:30am). Please be in the meeting room on time!

8:45 am Kahoot! (Optional)
 Start the day with a few rounds of trivia around STAC, the Bay Program, the Chesapeake Bay watershed, conservation, and more.

- 9:00 am** **Member Lightning Talks: Co-Leads of the Social Science Workgroup**
 1. Ellen Kohl (UMBC) 2. Christine Kirchoff (Penn State)
- 9:15 am** **Activity: Capacity Building, Knowledge Production – Social Science Workgroup**
 The Social Science Workgroup (SSWG) will facilitate activities and discussions to prompt STAC to think about meaningful ways of building capacity and producing knowledge.
- 11:50 am** **Lunch | Headwaters Lodge, 2nd Floor**
 Dining services are available in the dining hall, on the second floor of Headwaters Lodge, from 11:30am to 1:30pm (hot food until 1:00pm).
- 1:00 pm** **Member Lightning Talks**
 – 4 Members
- 1:30 pm** **CBP Decisions, Actions, and Emerging Priorities**
 STAC will receive updates on Bay Program decisions and actions since the STAC June 2025 Meeting and discuss the implications those have for STAC.
- 2:50 pm** **Break (30 minutes)**
- 3:20 pm** **Member Lightning Talks**
 – 4 Members
- 3:50 pm** **Breakout Groups**
 Breakout groups will focus on identifying STAC priorities, emerging science needs, partnership opportunities, and potential areas for future STAC activities, workshops, and workgroups.
- Dinner | Headwaters Lodge, 2nd Floor**
 Dining services are available in the dining hall, on the second floor of Headwaters Lodge, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm for participants onsite.
- 7:30 pm** **Activity TBD (Optional)**

Wednesday, June 17th

- Breakfast | Headwaters Lodge, 2nd Floor**
 Dining services are available in the dining hall, on the second floor of Headwaters Lodge, from 6:30am to 9:00am (hot food until 8:30am). Please be in the meeting room on time!
- 7:30 am** **Outdoor Activity TBD (Optional)**
- 8:30 am** **STAC Activity TBD (Optional)**
 STAC Staff is designing a short activity to prepare for the day.
- 8:45 am** **Member Lightning Talks**
 – 6 Members
- 9:30 am** **Breakout Groups Report-Outs**
 Breakout group leads will debrief on conversations from Day 2 breakout groups.

10:00 am **Break** (20 minutes)

10:20 am **STAC Strategic Discussions**

STAC will engage in a variety of in-depth strategic discussions informed by the meeting's presentations and activities. Time is dedicated to consider:

- STAC Membership and Expertise
- Capacity for the Upcoming Year
- STAC-led Workgroups
- Themes for Topical Meetings
- Potential Revisions to Governing Documents

11:50 am **Lunch | Headwaters Lodge, 2nd Floor**

Dining services are available in the dining hall, on the second floor of Headwaters Lodge, from 11:30am to 1:30pm (hot food until 1:00pm).

1:00 pm **STAC Strategic Discussions Cont.**

2:00 pm **Meeting Summary** (Open to Public)

The meeting summary is open for the public to attend virtually.

- Review of June 2026 Strategic Planning
- Finalize and announce decisions
- Approval of business, if necessary

2:40 pm **Meeting Adjourn**