



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
Turner 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.

Activity TBD (Optional)

STAC Staff is organizing a socializing activity for those 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

Outdoor Activity TBD (Optional)

Early arrivers can explore some of the NCTC campus.

9:30 am

Meeting Kickoff Activity | Turner Building, Room 201 (Optional)

Arrive at the meeting room and jump into an interactive activity.

9:45 am

Call to Order – STAC Leadership

STAC Chair *Bill Dennison (UMCES)* will call the June 2026 Meeting to Order.

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.

10:00 am

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

10:50 am **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.

11:30 am **Updates on STAC Resources – STAC Leadership, STAC Staff**
 STAC Leadership and Staff will provide an update on committee resources. Members will be able to ask questions and discuss opportunities.

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
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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, PhD; Martin Saniga; Casey Thornbrugh, PhD

3:10 pm **Break (30 minutes)**

3:40 pm **Member Lightning Talks: Executive Board**

1. Leah Palm-Forster (UDeI)	2. Scott Knoche (Morgan State, PEARL)	
3. KC Filippino (HRPDC)	4. Charles Bott (HRSD)	5. Matt Baker (UMBC)

4:30 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 | Lemon Fire Ring (Optional)**
 Gather around the bonfire 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!

7:30 am

Early Bird Hike | Entry Auditorium (Optional)

Early birds can listen and look for West Virginia wildlife along the *Riverview Farm Trail* (1 mile). Binoculars available for use at the Front Desk; meet at the entry auditorium.

8:45 am

Kahoot! | Turner Building, Room 201 (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 Kirchhoff (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.

12:00 pm

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).

1:10 pm

Member Lightning Talks

– 3 Members

1:40 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.

3:00 pm

Break (30 minutes)

3:30 pm

Member Lightning Talks

– 5 Members

4:20 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.

Open Hangout | Headwaters Patio (Optional)

Relax and talk with STAC members, invited participants, and other NCTC guests on the patio outside of Headwaters Lodge. Popcorn and refreshments are available for purchase in Headwaters Lounge.

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 **Activity TBD | Turner Building, Room 201** (Optional)
 STAC Staff is designing a short activity to prepare for the day.

8:40 am **Member Lightning Talks**
 – 5 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**