



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

Dinner is available from 5:30pm to 7:30pm for participants onsite. If arriving after 7:30pm, a boxed dinner should be at the Front Desk.

Open Hangout | Headwaters Patio (Optional)

Relax and talk with STAC members, invited participants, and other NCTC guests on the patio outside of Headwaters Lodge.

Monday, June 15th

Breakfast | Headwaters Lodge, 2nd Floor

Breakfast is available from 6:30am to 9:00am (hot food until 8:30am).

9:00 am **Early Bird Hike | Headwaters Lodge** (Optional)

Early birds can listen and look for West Virginia wildlife along *Tulip Poplar Way* (0.6 miles). Binoculars available for use at the Front Desk; meet outside Headwaters Lodge.

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
- 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** **Context Setting: STAC Operations – STAC Staff**
 STAC Staff will provide an update on committee resources and operations for the foreseeable future. This context will inform conversations throughout the retreat and future operations will be further considered during Day 3 strategic discussions.
- 11:50 am** **Lunch | Headwaters Lodge, 2nd Floor**
 Lunch is available from 11:30am to 1:30pm (hot food until 1:00pm).
- 1:00 pm** **Member Lightning Talks: STAC Leadership**
 1. Larry Sanford, Past Chair 2. Bill Dennison, STAC Chair 3. Erin Letavic, 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; *Monacan Indian Nation*)
 Panelists:
 • Victoria Ferguson (*Monacan Indian Nation*)
 • Kelsey Leonard, PhD (*Shinnecock Nation*)
 • Martin Saniga (*Sappony Tribe*)
 • Casey Thornbrugh, PhD (*Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe*)
- 3:10 pm** **Break (20 minutes)**
- 3:30 pm** **Member Lightning Talks**
 – 6 Members
- 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 (AAC) will join STAC to discuss alignment across the Advisory Committees.
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- Dinner | Headwaters Lodge, 2nd Floor**
 Dinner is available from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.
- 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

Breakfast is available from 6:30am to 9:00am (hot food until 8:30am).

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: Framing and Futures – Social Science Workgroup

The Social Science Workgroup (SSWG) will facilitate activities and discussions to prompt STAC to think about meaningful ways of building capacity.

12:00 pm

Lunch | Headwaters Lodge, 2nd Floor

Lunch is available from 11:30am to 1:30pm (hot food until 1:00pm).

1:10 pm

Member Lightning Talks

– 7 Members

2:20 pm

Break (30 minutes)

2:50 pm

Reorganization and Management of the Bay Program

Breck Sullivan (USGS) will provide an update on changes of Bay Program structure. A panel of Goal Team leads will speak on the work of their Goal Team and STAC will discuss science coordination under the new structure.

- Kevin Shabow (NOAA) – Fisheries & Wildlife
- Julie Patton Lawson (DC DOEE) – Engaged Communities
- Lee McDonnell (EPA) – Clean Water Goal Team
- Ken Hyer (USGS) – Healthy Landscapes Goal Team

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

Dinner is available from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.

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

Breakfast is available from 6:30am to 9:00am (hot food until 8:30am).

7:30 am

Early Bird Activity (Optional)

STAC Staff will inform early birds of a potential activity for the morning.

8:30 am

Morning Activity | Turner Building, Room 201 (Optional)

Participate in a short, interactive 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

Lunch is available 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
- Approval Requests for Meeting Minutes
- Finalize and announce decisions
- Approval of business, if necessary

2:40 pm

Meeting Adjourn