



Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

to the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)

[September 2026 Meeting](#) | Workshop & Business Meeting

September 15, 2026 | Virtual

Tuesday, September 15th

10:00 am

Call to Order, STAC Business – Bill Dennison (UMCES, STAC Chair), STAC Staff

- Introductions
- Approval Requests:
 - June 2026 Meeting Minutes
 - July & August Executive Board Call Minutes
- Membership Updates
- Member Announcements and Updates
- Goal Team STAC Non-Voting Member Updates

10:20 am

FY25 Workshop Report-Outs

Four workshops were convened with STAC FY24 Workshop funding. A representative from each workshop will give a report-out of the workshop structure, findings and implications, and preliminary recommendations.

- [Healthy Forests: Proactive Strategies for Managing Threats and Promoting Conservation](#) – Katie Brownson (USGS), Craig Highfield (Alliance for the Bay)
- [Challenges and Opportunities in Operationalizing Coupled Human and Natural Systems \(CHANS\) Research in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#) – Patrick Bitterman (Kent State University)
- [State of the Science of Salinity Risks in the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries: Connecting Monitoring, Modeling and Management](#) – Sujay Kaushal (UMD), Stanley Grant (VT)

11:20 am

Report-Out STAC Science Synthesis Project – Laura Costadone (ODU)

The STAC-sponsored science synthesis project “*Evaluating the performance of nature-based coastal protection solutions for natural capital accounting in the Chesapeake Bay*” was led by Laura Costadone (ODU) and aligned with the efforts of the Bay Program’s Climate Resiliency Workgroup. Costadone will give a report-out on the activities and findings of the project (final report here).

11:40 pm

Social Science Workgroup (SSWG) Update

12:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 pm

STAC Operations and Future Activities

STAC Staff will provide an update on resources available to STAC and capacity of Staff for the near future. The committee will discuss:

- Timing of upcoming **Topical Meetings**; a straw proposal of topics will be presented and voted upon
- Key messages in the **draft Letter to the Executive Council**
- **Engagement with Indigenous Science** to further braiding of various ways of knowing into Chesapeake Bay conservation
- Feasibility of potential **Cross-Committee Collaboration** efforts identified at the June Meeting
- Prioritization of potential **Workshops** identified at the June Meeting

1:50 pm

Phase 7 Review

Larry Sanford (formerly UMCES) and Kaylyn Gootman (EPA) will provide an overview of the anticipated Phase 7 Review timeline and workload for the next year.

Breakouts

Participants will self-select a breakout room (4D Interpolator, Watershed Model, Estuarine Model) and discuss the specific review process. Each breakout will have a facilitator to guide the discussion and a technical expert to answer questions.

2:55 pm

Meeting Wrap-Up & Next Steps

3:00 pm

Adjourn