Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP)
Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
STAC Topical Meeting | Virtual

From CESR Recommendations to Future Watershed Planning

December 4th, 2026
1:00-4:00 PM
Meeting Webpage: RSVP link

This is a draft 11/25/26 agenda; an updated agenda will be sent out prior to the meeting. The most current agenda can be found on the meeting page.

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Purpose and Meeting Objectives
Explore how recommendations from STAC's Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) report could inform future planning, including goals, planning targets, and Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). The meeting will introduce three opportunities for improving the planning process, discuss ongoing scientific work supporting them, and begin identifying where STAC could contribute expertise. These opportunities are intended to support progress toward the 2040 goals across the whole watershed. This meeting focuses primarily on the first step, Goals; the other steps may be explored in future discussions.

A briefing document and FAQ will be provided in advance and will be posted to the meeting page.

Friday, December 4, 2026

1:00 pm **Meeting Introduction** — *Chair, Bill Dennison (UMCES)*

Opening remarks reaffirming the commitment to the 2040 goals, the whole-watershed nature of the effort, and water quality trends as a measure of progress.

1:10 pm **From CESR Recommendations to Future Planning**
—*Joe Wood (CBF), Kurt Stephenson (VT)*

Highlighting three opportunities to improve the planning process, aligned with the briefing document's three planning steps, and the scientific and technical questions associated with each.

Goals	*What we want to achieve*	Broadening the planning focus to include water quality standards and associated living-resource outcomes
Measures of Success	*How we evaluate progress*	Adding indicators based on observed water quality alongside CAST-based measures, with accountability for measured outcomes
Implementation	*How we achieve success*	Flexible, place-based approaches that address uncertainty, using multiple lines of evidence

1:30 pm **Demystifying Tiered Implementation: What it is and what it isn't** — *TBD*

Approach to broadening goal focus: what tiered implementation is and isn't, and how it fits within the existing Bay TMDL framework.

1:45 pm **Demystifying Tiered Implementation: Questions & Discussion**

2:00 pm **Living Resources Feasibility Assessment: Informing where to focus goals**
—Bruce Vogt (NOAA-CBPO), Kenny Rose (UMCES), Mark Monaco (Fmr: NOAA, STAC)

The Living Resources Feasibility Assessment (LRA): where water quality improvements would most benefit living resources, why that matters for setting priorities in future planning, current progress, and related scientific and technical questions.

2:30 pm **Break**

2:45 pm **Living Resources Feasibility Assessment: Questions & Discussion**
— Kenny Rose, Mark Monaco; additional participants TBD

3:15 pm **STAC Discussion: Scientific and Technical Support for Future Planning**

Using the three opportunities presented earlier, discuss:

- What are the key scientific and technical questions the partnership would need answered to put this opportunity into practice?
- Where could STAC add the most value?
- Which STAC members have relevant expertise or interest in contributing?

3:45 pm **Plenary Discussion and Next Steps**

- Review key questions and potential areas for continued STAC engagement.
- Identify possible topics for subsequent discussions.

3:55 pm **Topical Meeting Wrap-up**

4:00 pm **Topical Meeting Recess**

4:00 pm **STAC Committee Business : Transition**

4:10 pm **Meeting Adjourns**

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