



# CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

*Policy for the Bay* • [www.chesbay.us](http://www.chesbay.us)

## Agenda Annapolis, MD January 2-3, 2025

### Thursday, January 2, 2025

#### **Meeting Location:**

Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center  
1101 Smithville Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Attire:** Business

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**12:25 P.M. WELCOME**  
Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center  
  
Isaac Vineyard  
Executive Director  
Wiley H. Bates Legacy Center

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**12:30 P.M. ROLL CALL**  
**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**  
**ADOPTION/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA**  
**FOLLOW-UP FROM NOVEMBER MEETING**

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**12:45 P.M. REACHING UNDER-RESOURCED COMMUNITIES**

*Under-resourced communities, broadly defined, are those that lack access to resources like funding and assets, technical assistance and services, infrastructure and institutional support, and power and political influence. When allocating funding for restoration and conservation activities, what practices can help policy-makers target funding to under-resourced communities in accessible and successful ways?*

Mariah Davis  
Environmental Justice Officer  
Office of the Secretary  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

**1:30 P.M.      GROWING COMMUNITY CAPACITY**

*When it comes to funding, availability is not the same as accessibility. Success depends upon a community's interest in and capacity for accessing and managing the funds. What are some best practices when engaging communities and growing their ability to apply for, receive, and manage resources? How can we put communities on the pathway of assessing needs, planning solutions, and designing/constructing projects?*

Kacey Wetzel  
Vice-President of Programs - Outreach and Education  
Chesapeake Bay Trust

Bonnie Sorak  
Director of Outreach  
Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake

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**2:15 P.M.      BREAK**

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**2:30 P.M.      THE NEXT GENERATION OF BAY LEADERS**

*The U.S. Geological Survey joined the Environmental Protection Agency and the University of Maryland Baltimore County in signing a Memorandum of Understanding to promote a pipeline for environmentally literate and technologically capable candidates, particularly from underrepresented and underserved communities. How are student interests and employer needs in environmental sustainability shaping educational programs at local colleges and universities?*

Breck Sullivan  
Physical Scientist  
U.S. Geological Survey

Peggy Re  
Associate Provost, Academic Affairs  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Mary K Foley  
Director  
U.S.G.S MD-DE-DC Water Science Center

Zach Clifton  
Physical Scientist  
U.S.G.S. MD-DE-DC Water Science Center

**3:30 P.M. COMMISSION DISCUSSION**

*A time for open dialogue by Commission members to reflect on the day's discussions, revisit past topics and conversations, and share items for future exploration during the Commission's upcoming quarterly meetings.*

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**4:00 P.M. ADJOURN**

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**Friday, January 3, 2025**

**Meeting Location:**

Bowline Room  
Graduate by Hilton Annapolis  
126 West Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Attire:** Business Casual

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**8:00 A.M. DELEGATION BREAKFASTS**

Carrick Bend Room

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**9:15 A.M. WELCOME**

**ROLL CALL**

Bowline Room

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**9:20 A.M. LIGHTNING ROUND UPDATES**

- 2024 Chesapeake Executive Council Meeting
  - Reviewing and Refreshing the Watershed Agreement Outcomes
  - 2024 Chesapeake Bay Commission Annual Report
  - 2025 & 2026 Meeting Dates
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**9:40 A.M. THE 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSIONS**

*What can we expect during the 2025 General Assembly sessions in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia?*

Delegation Reports & Commission Discussion

**10:15 A.M. FEDERAL POLICY UPDATES**

*How can the Commission be effective in working with the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress and the new Administration to meet our federal policy priorities? What is the current status of the federal appropriations process for FY 2025 and what are the factors influencing how and when budget negotiations may be resolved? What is the status of Farm Bill reauthorization?*

Jason Gleason  
Executive Vice President  
Crossroads Strategies

Wally Burnett  
Principal  
Crossroads Strategies

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**11:00 A.M. BREAK**

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**11:15 A.M. BETTER KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS**

*The Commission has long believed that intergovernmental coordination works best when we learn from each other, promoting uniformity when appropriate, but embracing our differences when necessary. In 2019, the Chesapeake Legal Alliance helped us grow a deeper appreciation for what makes each of our member-states unique. Now, CLA returns to help us review and build on this striking and salient conversation.*

David Reed  
Executive Director  
Chesapeake Legal Alliance

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**12:00 P.M. COMMISSION DISCUSSION  
INTERIM ACTIONS  
NEW BUSINESS  
PUBLIC COMMENT**

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**12:25 P.M. ELECTION OF 2025 OFFICERS**

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**12:30 P.M. ADJOURN**

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*The next meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Commission will be held at the Reservoir Center for Water Solutions in Washington, D.C. on May 1-2, 2025.*



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## Delegation Breakfast Breakouts

Annapolis, MD  
January 3, 2025  
8:00 A.M.

### *Selected Topics for Discussion*

#### **Virginia**

- 2025 General Assembly Session preparation
- 2025 Virginia Delegation Meeting planning

#### **Maryland**

- DNR Update
- Meeting with DNR and MDP re 2025 Legislation
- 2025 Legislative Ideas and Priorities
- Prepare for 2025 Legislative Plans Report Out to Full CBC

#### **Pennsylvania**

- Prep for 2025-2026 Legislative Session
- WIP Update