

## CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE

### Meeting Summary - **DRAFT**

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

#### LINK TO ALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2026/1/23/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee/>

#### 1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Pompei welcomed members and asked them to introduce themselves.

#### 2. MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

The CBPC approved the draft summary for the November 2025 CBPC meeting.

#### 3. 2026 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW - FEDERAL

*Wendi Wilkes, Current Strategies*

Ms. Wilkes went over upcoming developments and potential legislation at the federal level in 2026, starting with Congressional updates like the minibus with funding for EPA including increases for geographic program like the Chesapeake Bay, earmarks, FY26 appropriations, a breaking OMB review of funding for Democratic led states such as DE and DC. This review would focus on waste, fraud, and abuse and is raising alarms among the states being targeted. Ms. Wilkes also mentioned permitting legislation which would affect Clean Water Act section 404, in addition to the SPEED Act touching on NEPA, and a potential reconciliation bill. In terms of infrastructure, reauthorization for SRFs and WIFIA and WRDA were discussed. Finally, Ms. Wilkes covered legal updates around PFAS and CERCLA liability and potential FEMA reform including the restoration of BRIC funding and regulatory updates on WOTUS and section 401. Questions and discussions included one about EPA funding for local projects and the potential reinstatement.

#### 4. KEEP IT FRESH: THE SALT WATCH COMMUNITY SCIENCE INITIATIVE

*Abby Hileman, Izaak Walton League of America*

Ms. Hileman covered the basics of road salt, its impacts such as on drinking water pipe corrosion and prevalence both nationwide and regionally, IWLA's clean water hub for salt data and ways to use said data, actions that can be taken by various stakeholders, and IWLA resources and tools. Ms. Hileman also mentioned Winter Salt Week, which is taking place from January 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.

#### 5. 2026 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW - STATE

*Lisa Ochsenhirt, AquaLaw*

Ms. Ochsenhirt went over developments and currently proposed legislation at the state level in 2026, covering topics such as for Maryland, PFAS in wastewater, flood management requirements for localities, the state budget and its consequences, proposed drinking water regulations around disease control, and a bill on apprenticeship, and for Virginia, appointments, funding, PFAS in wastewater, wetlands, fluoridation of water, and apprenticeship.

#### 6. CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM UPDATE

*Marisa Baldine, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay/Chesapeake Bay Program Office*

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Ms. Baldine provided an update on the Chesapeake Bay Program, including the consolidated Bay Agreement structure (fewer Goals and Outcomes), changes to the Bay Program's structure and governance, and the charge to the Executive Council around Indigenous Groups.

## 7. MEMBER & STAFF UPDATES

*CBPC members and COG staff*

- Mr. Gupta went over the updates document including news on water quality, drought conditions, and forestry. He then solicited nominations for Vice-Chair.
- Ms. Bolton mentioned the upcoming COG Data Center and Water forum, which CBPC Members will receive a save the date for.
- Mr. Bieber mentioned two successful earmarks pursued by COG, one for and one for establishing a regional PFAS center in coordination with Virginia Tech, GMU, and others.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

The next CBPC meeting will be **Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

Abby Hileman, Izaak Walton League of America  
Amy Stevens, Montgomery County  
Andrea Lewis, Fairfax County  
Anthony Amos, City of Fairfax  
Brian Nolte, Fairfax County  
Jacinta Green, City of Alexandria  
Jenni Pompei (**Chair**), City of Greenbelt  
Jessica Landman, City of Takoma Park  
Kalisha Dixon, City of Bladensburg  
Kenny Boddye, Prince William County  
Kishia Powell, WSSC Water  
Kyle Redden, Charles County  
Laura Downs, City of Falls Church  
Lisa Ochsenhirt, AquaLaw  
M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Frederick County  
Maria Mackie, City of College Park  
Matt Ries, DC Water  
Penny Gross, Fairfax County  
Susan Cunningham, Arlington  
Tiffany Wright, City of Bowie  
Wendi Wilkes, Current Strategies

### **COG Staff:**

Ata Ateel  
Caitlin Bolton



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Christine Howard  
Katie Dyer  
Lisa Ragain  
Steve Bieber  
Sushanth Gupta