



CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WATER RESOURCES POLICY COMMITTEE Meeting Summary

March 21st, 2025

LINK TO ALL MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2025/3/21/chesapeake-bay-and-water-resources-policy-committee/>

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Boddye welcomed members and asked them to introduce themselves.

2. MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

The CBPC approved the draft summaries for the November 2024 and January 2025 CBPC meetings.

3. FY 2026 REGIONAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT (RWQM) WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET APPROVAL

Caitlin Bolton, COG

Following an overview of the FY 2026 RWQM Work Program and Budget, the CBPC approved the work program and budget for the next fiscal year.

4. BRIEFING

Kishia Powell, [WSSC Water](#)

Ms. Powell was originally going to present on the National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) report regarding workforce which was unfortunately not released. Ms. Powell instead discussed her personal observations regarding workforce needs in the regional energy sector including the role of the CBPC.

5. CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM (CBP) BEYOND 2025 PHASE 2 UPDATES

Sushanth Gupta, COG

Mr. Gupta provided an overview of recent developments in the Chesapeake Bay Program's Beyond 2025 process. This included an overview of the Bay Program's structure, a recap of prior Beyond 2025 actions, and the upcoming schedule for Phase 2 of the effort. Mr. Gupta concluded with opportunities for CBPC members to provide input in the Beyond 2025 process.

6. FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ryan Losak, [Banner Public Affairs](#)

Mr. Losak provided a federal legislative update. He gave a summary of the federal funding situation, including the recently passed continuing resolution, which funds the government at FY24 levels. The focus will now shift to FY26. The administration is expected to propose significant cuts to agencies like the EPA and other federal programs. Regarding the DC budget, the House and Senate are expected to vote positively on a fix to the \$1 billion hole in the DC budget. With the funding bill out of the way, Congress is moving towards the reconciliation bill.



The House and Senate passed their bills on party lines, with the House version having deeper cuts than the Senate. Likely cuts include Medicaid, SNAP, and student loan programs. Each committee has been given instructions on how much in savings they need to find. The Senate would prefer a two-bill solution, one bill to be passed right away covering the border and defense, and a more complex tax bill extending the 2017 TCJA. The House prefers to do a single omnibus bill. This is due to their slim margins, which make a single vote the best option. It may take until August to get reconciliation done. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (EPW) will soon be holding confirmation hearings for Jessica Kramer for EPA Office of Water. Banner has had good experiences working with her in the past. Regarding Executive Orders, the administration is throwing everything at the wall and seeing what sticks. They have faced many adverse judicial rulings, including recently when a judge overturned the termination of probationary employees at 18 major agencies and ruled the employees have to be reinstated with salary and benefits. The administration is looking at the government as a for profit entity, so members need to emphasize return on investment when interacting with them.

7. CBPC LEG TRACKING MEMO

Lisa Ragain, COG

Ms. Ragain provided an overview of the newly created CBPC Legislative Tracking Memo which was developed by COG Staff and Banner Public Affairs.

8. MEMBER & STAFF UPDATES

CBPC members and COG Staff

- Ms. Bolton reminded members about the CBPC's fall boat tour and solicited feedback.
 - Members expressed support for the tour being on the Potomac rather than the Anacostia.
- Ms. Ragain mentioned the fact that the region is still in drought and the Drought Technical Committee will meet in April.
- Ms. Bolton provided an overview of the CBPC general updates document for the month, including articles on salinization, PFAS, microplastics, and other topics.
- Chair Boddye mentioned work going on in Prince William County regarding PFAS and emerging challenges to the watershed and the importance of regional collaboration on similar issues.

9. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Chris Pomeroy, [AquaLaw](#) & Lisa Ochsenhirt, [AquaLaw](#)

Ms. Ochsenhirt and Mr. Pomeroy presented on environmental topics relevant to the 2025 Maryland and Virginia General Assemblies, including legislation on PFAS, stormwater and wastewater funds, and biosolids. They also commented on the status of state and federal budgets and the potential impacts budget negotiations may have on legislative priorities.



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In the Virginia General Assembly key topics included:

- Drinking water and stormwater funding
- PFAS and public notification bills
- Apprentice labor mandate

In the Maryland General Assembly key topics included:

- PFAS and biosolids, biosolids bill is likely dead
- Water/Wastewater cybersecurity bill
- Dam safety fees, clarification through amendments

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next CBPC meeting will be [May 16th, 2025](#)



PARTICIPANTS:

Kenny Boddye (**Chair**), Prince William County
Adam Van Grack
Adriana Caldarelli
Anthony Amos
Bob Weir, Prince William County
Brian Nolte, Fairfax County
Christopher Clark, Prince George's County
Chris Pomeroy, AquaLaw
Emily Judson
Jacinta Green, Alexandria
JD Spain Sr., Arlington
Jenni Pompi, Greenbelt
Jessica Landman, Takoma Park, MD
Kalisha Dixon
Kathy Smith
Kishia Powell, WSSC
Kyle Redden, Charles County
Laura Downs, Falls Church
Lisa Ochsenhirt, AquaLaw
Matt Ries
Monta Burrough
Nasser Kamazani, Montgomery County
Natali Fani-Gonzalez, Montgomery County
Ryan Losak, Banner Public Affairs
Shannon Moore
Stephen Kenny
Susan Cunningham, Arlington County Board
Tiffany Wright

COG Staff:

Caitlin Bolton
Cassidy Knab
Christine Howard
Lisa Ragain
Sushanth Gupta
Wyetha Lipford