



News Release

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Chesapeake Executive Council names Virginia's Governor McAuliffe as Next Chair

Past chair, Maryland Gov. O'Malley, commended for his accomplishments for the Bay region

Watershed-wide – Today, the Chesapeake Bay Program announced that the partners have passed a resolution [LINK to resolution letter] selecting Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe as the new Chair of the Chesapeake Executive Council, beginning January 1, 2015.

The [Chesapeake Executive Council](#), established in 1983, is responsible for guiding the Chesapeake Bay Program's policy agenda and setting conservation and restoration goals. Members include the governors of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Chesapeake Bay Commission Chair and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator.

"I am humbled that my colleagues on the Chesapeake Executive Council have selected me to lead our collective efforts at this critical time in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay," said Governor McAuliffe. "Not only are we engaged in the implementation of the recently signed Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, but we are continuing the difficult work of meeting our water quality goals under the framework of the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load. The Chesapeake Bay is a national treasure and an enormous economic asset for Virginia and our neighboring states. I look forward to working with my counterparts in this region to restore and protect the Bay for generations to come."



Governor McAuliffe succeeds Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, who became chair in [December 2013](#). Under the leadership of Governor O'Malley, the Executive Council adopted the landmark [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#). He also served two consecutive terms as the Executive Council Chair in 2007 and 2008 and was instrumental in developing two-year milestones that focus on short-term, achievable goals.

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"The Bay has been at the top of my agenda during my two terms as Governor and I have been honored to have served as chair three times during my tenure," said Governor O'Malley. "I know Governor McAuliffe will provide the leadership necessary to meet our collective goals, and I wish him along with the other members of the Council well."

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The Chesapeake Bay Program is a regional partnership that has coordinated and conducted the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay since its creation in 1983. Members of the Chesapeake Executive Council include the governors of Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia; the mayor of the District of Columbia; the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission; and the administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of the federal government. This group is responsible for setting the Chesapeake Bay Program's policy agenda. To learn more, visit www.chesapeakebay.net.