

Chesapeake Executive Council

Directive No. 24-1 Establishment of a Chesapeake Bay Program Agricultural Advisory Committee



The Chesapeake Executive Council created three Advisory Committees to engage and learn from the diverse interests and roles of those who live, work and learn within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. As the largest non-forest land use in the watershed, agriculture can and will be a part of the solutions for a healthier Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. Indeed, achievement of the water quality and living resource goals will likely not be possible without substantial efforts from the agricultural sector, including urban agriculture.

To maximize the potential for accelerated adoption of agricultural conservation practices while fostering a vibrant and economically sustainable agricultural industry, it is critical that the Chesapeake Bay Program be advised directly by farmers, including urban farmers, and other agricultural industry stakeholders who have an in-depth understanding of the diverse farming operations across the watershed and best management practices for agricultural lands.

It is the intent that the establishment of a new Agricultural Advisory Committee would facilitate greater engagement of the agricultural sector in the policy development conversations of the Chesapeake Bay Program and serve as a voice for producers to Chesapeake Bay Program leadership by providing high-level policy recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council, Principals' Staff Committee and Management Board. Reciprocally, Advisory Committee members will also help to inform their agricultural networks on the goals and progress of the partnership.

Key functions of the Agricultural Advisory Committee will include:

- Make independent recommendations to the Executive Council, Principals' Staff Committee and Management Board.
- Disseminate annual recommendations, letters and reports through established distribution channels.
- Participate in Chesapeake Executive Council, Principals' Staff Committee and Management Board meetings as advisors.
- Participate in the development and implementation of the Management Strategies developed as part of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, as appropriate.
- Establish annual priorities that support the strategic priorities of the Chesapeake Bay Program and the progress of *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* Goals and Outcomes.
- Share progress on priorities and Advisory Committee activities with the Chesapeake Executive Council, Principals' Staff Committee, Management Board and other Advisory Committees.

Therefore, to accomplish these objectives and functions, we, the undersigned members of the Chesapeake Executive Council, commit to establishing an Agricultural Advisory Committee that will convene in 2025. To achieve this commitment, we agree to:

- Affirm the Agricultural Advisory Committee bylaws adopted by the Principals' Staff Committee in June 2024.
- Secure sufficient funding to support the Agricultural Advisory Committee and fulfill its mission as described herein and, in its bylaws, including the hiring of staff, convening of meetings and publication of materials and work products.
- Direct the Secretary or Commissioner of Agriculture in our respective jurisdictions and the Director of the District Department of Energy and Environment to appoint two members each to the Agricultural Advisory Committee.
- Commit to at least one appointment per jurisdiction being a producer and to diversify appointments to ensure a cross-section of the agricultural sector is represented.

As Chesapeake Bay Program partners, we acknowledge that this Directive is voluntary and subject to the availability of funds. This Directive is not a contract or an assistance agreement. This Directive is not intended to, and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any signatory or its respective agencies and employees. We also understand that this Directive does not pre-empt, supersede or override any other law or regulation applicable to each signatory.

CHESAPEAKE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

FOR THE STATE OF MARYLAND



FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION



FOR THE STATE OF DELAWARE



FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



FOR THE STATE OF NEW YORK



FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA



FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



FOR THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA



FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On behalf of the Federal Government and the
Federal Leadership committee for the Chesapeake
Bay



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Department of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Defense
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Department of Transportation