



Forum Agenda: Developing Collaborative Watershed Partnerships Thursday, June 3rd, 2021 | 10:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m.

Email Ola-Imani Davis at odavis@allianceforthebay.org for Zoom access information

Meeting materials and handouts can be found on the meeting page below

https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/event/local_government_advisory_committee_june_2021

This meeting and breakout sessions will be recorded for accuracy of meeting notes.

Meeting Goal: By the end of the day, we will have specific recommendations to provide to the Chesapeake Bay Program leadership for their consideration and action for thoughtfully addressing community partnership opportunities and collaborative work to continue building watershed restoration efforts.

10:00 a.m.	Welcome/Introductions	Jasmine Gore Local Government Advisory Committee
10:15 a.m.	Workshop Overview/Purpose	Jennifer Starr Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
10:20 a.m.	Problem Statement Discussion	Jennifer Starr Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Problem Statement: As communities face increasing challenges that exacerbate competing priorities, issues related to watershed health (habitat, storm-, waste-, and drinking water) heighten the need for local decision-makers to enhance capacity and coordination with regional and local partners to enable collaborative approaches that foster support and action.

10:35 a.m.	Review Assumptions	Mike Foreman Institute for Engagement & Negotiation, University of Virginia
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- Regional partnerships and collaborations do occur and are effective.
- Creating a collaborative as part of the planning process may save time and funds and may help to reduce potential conflicts.
- Collaborative local government planning will result in a more efficient, actionable, robust and comprehensive effort.
- Promoting effective communication, collaboration and cooperation for environmental planning and financing across the watershed will aid in these efforts.
- Local economies and budgets continue to be challenged now and in the foreseeable future.
- There is a tendency to focus on immediate mitigation needs, but longer-term green infrastructure/nature based implementation requires a plan, energy, time and funding.
- Changing the culture for this work is key, essentially having a plan ahead of seeking funding, and will result in building and developing the local constituents as a network of implementers.
- Successful and sustainable collaborative partnerships require more time to develop than a “project” and are founded on building trust and relationship with participants.

- Successful collaboratives share some attributes that are scalable from small, rural communities to larger, metropolitan ones, and unique needs for environmental health and resilience may vary from locality to locality.
- Pursuing projects that provide environmental adaptation and/or mitigation and also provide water quality, recreational, educational, and natural resource benefits are a priority for efficient use of limited resources and tying these multiple benefits together are important for leveraging and heightening local support.
- There are challenges with local capacity and adequate resources to address problems related to resilience.
- State policies and funding/technical assistance vary across the watershed. Frequently these policies and grant programs are not communicated well, so they may be unknown, or complicated to understand, so local governments are not willing to apply/or have the capacity to do so.
- Partnerships are critical in helping many local governments to effectively address local watershed priorities by improving funding, capacity, coordination, and public support.
- Resources from the federal American Rescue Plan Act offer a unique opportunity to invest in infrastructure.

11:00 a.m. Break

11:10 a.m. Collaborative Case Studies: Overcoming Barriers to Collaborative Restoration Work

- **Staff Capacity - [Safe Water Conservation Collaborative](#) (WV)** **Tanner Haid, West Virginia Rivers**
- **Technical Assistance - [Upper Susquehanna Coalition](#) (NY)** **Wendy Walsh, Upper Susquehanna Coalition**
- **Equitable Collaboration & Community Engagement - [Walkable Watersheds](#) (VA)** **Amber Ellis, James River Association**
- **Political Will - [Elizabeth River Project](#) (VA)** **Barbara Gavin, The Elizabeth River Project**
- **Innovative Approaches - [Chiques Creek Restoration Initiative](#) (PA)** **James Shallenberger, Susquehanna River Basin Commission**
- **Water Quality Mitigation & Restoration Funding - [Alliance for the Shenandoah Valley](#) (VA)** **Kate Wofford, Alliance for the Shenandoah**
- **Needed Startup Time - [Healthy Waters Round Table](#) (MD)** **Alan Girard, Chesapeake Bay Foundation**

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Breakout Room Discussions and Moderators

- **Barrier #1/Group 1 - Staff Capacity** **Jasmine Gore**
- **Barrier #2/Group 2 - Technical Assistance and Resources** **Kristen Saacke Blunk**
- **Barrier #3/Group 3 - Equitable Collaboration & Community Engagement** **Julie Lawson**
- **Barrier #4/Group 4 - Political Will** **Jen Cotting**
- **Barrier #5/Group 5 - Innovative Approaches** **Josh Hastings**
- **Barrier #6/Group 6 - Water Quality Mitigation & Restoration Funding** **Nissa Dean**
- **Barrier #7/Group 7 - Starting a Collaborative** **Nancy Nunn**

2:15 p.m. Break

2:25 p.m. Report Outs of Top Recommendations **Mike Foreman**
Institute for Engagement & Negotiation, University of Virginia

3:15 p.m. Closing Message **Jennifer Miller Herzog**
Land Trust Alliance

3:35 p.m. Final Remarks and Next Steps **Mike Foreman**
Institute for Engagement & Negotiation, University of Virginia

4:00 p.m. Adjourn