



2024 Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Annual Meeting

Chesapeake United: Strategies for Regional Conservation

Introduction

The 16th Annual, Chesapeake Conservation Partnership Annual meeting took place on November 19-20th at the Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD. This two-day meeting had 88 attendees working to discuss the pressing challenges, achievements, data, and action plans for land conservation in the Chesapeake Bay region.

Next Steps and Ways to Get Involved

- **Ways To Get Involved/ Strategic Playbook Goal Implementation**
 - The new CCP Strategic Playbook goals, strategies, and sub-strategies were released at the CCP Annual meeting and we need your help to make them a reality.
 - The Strategic Playbook section of this document includes goals/strategies that were showcased and who signed up as interested.
 - Use [this document for more Ways to Get Involved](#). If you would like to learn more about the strategic playbook goals and strategies or assist with any of these projects you can contact either Ben Alexandro (balexandro@chesapeakeconservation.org) or Chase Douglas (cdouglas@chesapeakeconservation.org)
- **Ensure Conservation is Foundational to the Chesapeake Bay Program:**
 - [CBP Agreement Assessment Rapid Input: GIT 5 Outcomes](#)
 - Fill out this survey by **January 3rd**.
 - If you are not a workgroup member, check the other box "other" on question 1
 - You can fill out the form multiple times for multiple outcomes.

Some Important Topics for Further Discussion and Focus

- The impact that solar and data centers have on the landscape. Having CCP develop best practices, mapping, and policy recommendations at the state and local levels.
- A greater focus on connections with tribal communities. Looking at new ways to better engage with tribes and try new methods of land conservation that honor culture/connection with the land such as cultural easements.
- Looking beyond just acres conserved to metrics that focus on people, health, vital resources, and imperiled species to capture urban and suburban conservation work.
- Advocating for more resources to support data collection and GIS efforts around land conservation.

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Notes and Takeaways by Session

Day 1:

Opening: Conversation to Inspire Conservation

- **Opening Remarks: Wendy O’Sullivan, Mike Slattery, Kirsten Talken-Spaulding**
 - Gatherings like the annual meeting show the power of collaboration, which is important now in this pivotal time of change. We need to take a close look at how we can align our work with the values of all communities and the new administration. We can showcase how the conservation effort in the Chesapeake Bay watershed is a model for the nation and should be a priority for the next administration. It takes all of us working together, bringing in different funding sources, and pulling together the vast array of different ideologies to excel.

Learning to Think and Partner Differently: A Conversation with Indigenous Leaders

- **Panel Members:**
 - **Dominique Daye Hunter (speaker):** Afro-Indigenous Storyteller and Program Manager, Indigenous East
 - **Kesha Braunskill (speaker):** Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware & Native Roots Farm Foundation
 - **Moderator: Melissa Ehrenreich:** Executive Director of the Indigenous Conservation Council of the Chesapeake Bay
- **Key Takeaways:**
 - How we approach and build relationships with tribal communities is very important.
 - By establishing meaningful relationships with tribes, that go beyond grant work, you establish a level of trust and understanding.
 - Organizations can play a critical role in raising Indigenous stories/work and sharing opportunities that can further that work with the tribes.
 - Establishing relationships takes time and it requires us to be patient and supportive of each other's capacity and needs.
 - It requires cultural competency and DEIB-A (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Accessibility) training on the part of organizations.
 - Indigenous East is creating a network of people and projects spearheaded by Indigenous communities (tribes and organizations) with the vision to create a corridor along the Appalachian Trail, a connected corridor for both land and animals/plant relatives to thrive in the Northeast.
 - Cultural Easements are a unique alternative to traditional conservation easements that do not require separating people from their lands. This type of easement allows Indigenous people to work with the owner or public space, to stay connected with the places we are from and have cared for since time immemorial. This includes having ceremonies and simply spending time on the land.

- This helps establish kinship, provides cultural benefits, and provides ecological benefits through tribal stewardship of the lands.
 - When asked about how we can support the Indigenous East connector and how NPS can assist with connecting with existing trails and protected areas it was mentioned that they need help with public lands.
 - Land repatriation will be purchased back, as cultural easements, and things will be shared. Having support would be essential.
 - Indigenous Cultural Landscapes are important cultural sites for ingenious communities that are still vital to these communities today as they were in the past.
 - Significant policy efforts, such as the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), have been made to protect Indigenous burial sites. However, NAGPRA falls short in many areas, particularly as it does not extend protection to state-recognized or relationally recognized tribal communities. Even when policies make progress, Indigenous people continue to face major challenges, including the lack of enforcement of these laws and the broader issue of public disregard for these sacred sites.

How are States Leading and Learning in Land Conservation?

- **Panel Members:**

- **Cindy Dunn (speaker):** Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- **Matt Wells (speaker):** Director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
- **Josh Kurtz (speaker):** Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- **Mark Conway (moderator):** Executive Vice President of External Affairs for the Chesapeake Conservancy

- **Key Takeaways:**

- If you had a magic wand and you could make happen one thing from a neighboring state, what would it be?
 - PA:
 - Have programs like Maryland's Greenspace Equity Program. Bring trails within 10 min of everyone in PA.
 - Having something like MD's Sustainable Growth Subcabinet coupled with broader conservation goals would help PA have a more unified front as they work with their 2,600 municipalities.
 - MD's Environmental Education program for all 5th-grade students.
 - VA
 - More state parks in VA. VA only has 43 state parks, while PA has 124.
 - A steady stream of funding. Every agency director in the world has wished for some sort of dedicated funding, especially for parks on the capital and maintenance side.
 - MD
 - Link private lands & public lands in management.
 - Using state lands as hubs of restoration.

- What would you say is the special sauce that has helped your agency succeed?
 - PA
 - Their abundance of free state parks. There are 124 in total, we strive to have one in every neighborhood (within 25 minutes of everyone in PA). By having so many parks they get a lot of support with the community grants program because lawmakers have parks in their neighborhoods they like.
 - VA
 - Partnerships are the primary driver of their success. drive success. For example: Matt chaired VA Forever: a diverse coalition of businesses, environmental organizations, and outdoor enthusiasts that advocate for increased government funding for water quality improvements and land conservation across the Commonwealth.
 - The VA Land Preservation Tax Credit Program (LPTC): VA allows an income tax credit for 40% of the value of donated land or conservation easements and taxpayers may use up to \$50,000 per year. Tax credits may be carried forward for up to 10 years after the year of donation and unused credits may be sold.
 - MD
 - Integration of local communities: being able to lean on partners to acquire and manage lands, with the understanding of community needs allows them to build out structure to be successful.
 - Having staff that are willing to go the extra mile because they have the same passion and ethic for the environment.
- What would you be intrigued to learn more about in the future?
 - PA
 - MD has a good forested buffers program - where forests removed are and replaced - want to learn more about those policies that work - strong tree or forest protection program, where the fund is created to support replacing. To put more forests in the right places to help water quality and cool down water in streams.
 - VA
 - The staff per acre ratio and the source of the “math behind it.” Some states are legislatively tied to it.
 - MD
 - The ability of all of us to work together and think past jurisdictional boundaries is a great opportunity. Maryland is interested in large landscape-scale park opportunities like they see in other states.
- Question from Audience: How can we do a better job of promoting the vital importance of conservation to the overall health of the bay to the Chesapeake Bay Program?
 - Look at the Executive Council for Chesapeake Bay Program to elevate conservation. The outcomes of the Beyond 2025 plan need to be measurable, and much easier to communicate. Moving into Phase 2 we need to identify what we can do to emphasize that land conservation critical is critical to water quality and habitats for vital species.

Going Deeper with Smaller Working Groups

[Success, Challenges, and Opportunities in Urban Land Conservation](#) Stewards: Katie Lautar, Executive Director, Baltimore GreenSpace, and Spenser Balog, Conservation Planner, Casey Trees

- **Key Takeaways:**

- Trusts should get involved with policy and the local government and contribute to advocacy and social justice within small urban communities.
- Having the partnership take a closer look at blue and green corridors and opportunities to expand where development pressure is encroaching.
- A conservation land trust model that requires community engagement in order to conserve land, regular engagement with policymakers, and follows equity-driven and community-driven values furthers conservation work in an equitable and community-centered way.

Solar Siting: Staying on Top of the Challenges and Opportunities. Mitigation for the millions of acres of solar energy in the Bay Region. Stewards: Nicole Faraguna, Director of Policy and Planning at Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) and Chris Miller, Piedmont Environmental Council.

Presentations:

- [Solar Siting: Staying on top of the Challenges and Opportunities](#)
- [Conservation Considerations for Siting/Designing Grid-Scale Solar](#)

- **Key Takeaways:**

- The concept of developing a mitigation fund similar to LWCF for solar projects was widely supported. It's important to make those funds accessible to local land trusts.
- There was interest in having CCP develop a task force around solar and data center needs. A big component of this would be helping to compile and distribute policy recommendations for best practices to communicate with local government.
- There is a lot of data out there about where solar sites are located but more data/mapping around the type of lands these projects reside on is needed. Being able to better understand nameplate capacity with a suitability analysis near grid sites on developed lands.
- CCP can help develop more educational tools and story maps to prioritize projects and assist partners connect with landowners whose land is targeted for projects.

Scoping Habitat Corridors: A Mini Workshop Stewards: Jonathan McKnight, Associate Director, National Heritage Program, Maryland Department of Natural Resources

- Presentations:

- [Maryland DNR Maryland Natural Heritage Program](#)
- [CCP Habitat Breakout Session Slides](#)

- **Key Takeaways:**

- There are a lot of helpful tools and data sources that map out biodiversity locations and more such as [NatureServe Network](#), [MD Bionet](#), and [MERLIN Online](#). The data is out there but we need a central location of where partners can find these tools and data sets.
- State Wildlife Action Plans (SWAPs) can help you be more successful when working with your state government if you can figure out where you fit in with the plan. When they are redone, it is a good time to see where you can fit into the new SWAP.
 - Possible Idea: A State Wildlife Action Plan regional synthesis.
- It is important to consider areas that the marsh will move into in the future and take a holistic approach when planning to conserve an area. Areas with unique geographies tend to be cheaper.
- A greater focus from CCP on blue corridors and how we can use them to stitch together landscapes is needed.

[Making Conservation Foundational to the Bay and the Importance of Good Data](#) Stewards: Aurelia Gracia, Outdoor Recreation Planner for NPS Chesapeake Gateways; Peter Claggett, Research Geographer, U.S. Geological Survey; Sophia Waterman, Researcher, U.S. Geological Survey; and Steve Storck, Chesapeake Conservancy.

- **Key Takeaways:**

- The public often struggles to make a connection between land conservation and the benefits to the water quality because those ecological effects are not obvious. To make a connection, we should focus more on the people in the watershed instead of just water quality.
 - Relate conservation to everything we do (public access, water quality, stewardship, resiliency, etc.) so that people can understand why conservation is important to the Bay Program.
 - Data is an important tool that should be utilized to present all of the benefits of conserving land and not just data on acreage.
- The **date of establishment** for all conserved lands will give us confidence in the data and allow full trend analysis, not just a snapshot. This will allow us to better communicate to communities and elected officials what needs to be done to protect the Bay.
 - If we don't have data that tells us where we are right now and current trends, then it will be harder to set any future acreage goals in Beyond 2025.
- We now have the tools to better map and analyze those issues, and figure out agreed metrics, but we lack the capacity to collect current data and maintain future data.
 - It is difficult for land trusts to track data due to low capacity, but having that data from many land trusts can make a difference in the data across the watershed.
 - More funding is needed to increase capacity and technical assistance for backtracking the data for GIS purposes.

Frederick as an Epicenter

- **Presentations:**

- [Journey Through Hallowed Ground Presentation](#)
- [Catoctin Land Trust Presentation](#)

- **Speakers:**

- **Ava Hampton (speaker):** Public Outreach Manager with Journey Through Hallowed Ground
- **David Lillard (speaker):** Executive Director of the Catoctin Land Trust

- **Key Takeaways:**

- Journey Through Hallowed Ground manages a 180-mile corridor from Gettysburg to Charlottesville.
 - Route 15 is the backbone of the conserved coverage area, and it is used to encourage exploration, tourism, and conservation.
- As of 2022, 27% of Frederick County is permanently protected. This includes almost 68 thousand acres of agricultural land.
- Frederick County is an epicenter for data center and solar threats.
 - There is an effort to remove 6 thousand acres of prime preservation land from a priority list of areas for solar development.
- The Heart of MD Collaborative works to preserve and restore land and water by taking a watershed approach through regenerative agriculture, stream buffers, and land protection focused on water.
 - They decided to take the approach of **protecting water by preserving land.**

Day 2:

Measuring What's Important – Balancing Large and Small-Scale Conservation Work

- **Speakers:**
 - **Brendan Shane (speaker):** Climate Director with the Trust for Public Land
 - **Will Klein (speaker):** Director of Parks Research with the Trust for Public Land
 - **Louis Keddell (speaker):** Conservation Data Manager with the Conservation Innovation Center, Chesapeake Conservancy

- **Key Notes:**
 - The perfect is the enemy of the good for a new metric. We need something measurable, meaningful, and easy to understand.

 - It is difficult to understand which existing tools are useful. It would be helpful if CCP could compile a list of existing tools and provide advice on how to use them to advance goals and measure outcomes.

 - We need to find the metrics that matter most to our communities and promote them.
 - An example is walkability to park access: neighborhoods of color have much less park space.

 - A metric could also be informed by a few quantitative measures that capture the essence of urban land conservation issues that could help support the larger overarching qualitative measure.

 - Look into the idea of supporting informal (unprotected) habitat creation on private property to create **small corridors** (e.g., pollinator corridors). This can create engagement in the greater conservation conversations and maybe even permanent conservation easements.

 - [Worksheet for Metrics for Urban Land Conservation - Google Docs](#)

Success Begets More Success. Lightning Rounds

[Beyond 2025 - Making Conservation Foundational to the Future of the Bay Program:](#)

Katie Brownson, USFS Liaison to the Chesapeake Bay Program with the US Forest Service

- The Chesapeake Bay Program Beyond 2025 Steering Committee was formed to develop recommendations about the next stage of the work.
- We are moving into phase two, working to execute the plan outlined in the new Executive Council charge that came out of the December Executive Council meeting.
- [Look to the CCP sign-on letter](#) that was sent around/ submitted for important issues, including:
 - Make conservation foundational to the Chesapeake Bay Program's efforts
 - Incentivize conservation
 - Advocating for new goals Beyond 2025: Such as 2030, 2040, and 2050 permanently protected acreage goals
 - Prioritize living resources
 - Ensure that acres are protected equitably by infusing DEIJ into all the work we do

[Evergreen Cemetery:](#) Nathan Burrell, Government and Public Relations Director with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation

- First established in 1891 for African Americans buried in the city of Richmond, VA, and is the burial site of many prominent African American residents, including Maggie L. Walker and John Mitchell Jr.
- It fell into disrepair in the 1900's and was left in unstable ownership.
- From the 2000's to today, the restoration of this site began due to family-led efforts, broader community support, volunteer efforts, and state-pledged financial and legal support.
- Enrichmond Foundation purchased, protected, and transferred to the City of Richmond.
- This site presents a roadmap for a future master plan focusing on community engagement/investment, education/outreach, and fundraising.
- Our landscapes help tell our stories.

[The Boy Scouts and Camp Tuckahoe:](#) Cameron Weiser Land Protection Specialist with Central PA Conservancy

- The property has been used since 1940 and has a huge network of trails (spanning 10 miles). It is a strategic location with a huge amount of conserved space just north of it.
 - This site is contiguous with the Application Trail and state game lands.
 - There is 2,300 acres area of existing protected space and the Boy Scout Camp covered roughly 1,300 acres of it.
- The Boy Scout Camp wanted to consolidate its locations and services so they subdivided the property and acquired 906 topographically complex acres with lots of microhabitats.
 - The scouts used the proceeds of the sale to renovate their existing building/office.

- Funded by a huge grant from PA DCNR.

Chesapeake WILD Program, Revitalizing Habitats for the Future: Chase Douglas, Partnership Coordinator Partnership Coordinator Chesapeake Conservation Partnership

- In Fiscal Year 2024, \$8.9 million dollars were awarded. There were 69 project applicants (up from 46 the previous year), and 30 of them were funded for implementation and planning/technical assistance grants.
 - During this grant cycle, roughly 10,200 acres of grasslands, forest, and wetlands were protected as well as 2 thousand new acres of enhanced public access.
- The **FY2024WILD Project Mapper** is now online.
 - This is a mapping communication tool to share what WILD has invested in. Not necessarily a decision-making tool, but it can help us understand where we need to put more resources or do more work.
- The WILD Roundtable plans to start a goal-setting process around Pillar 1 in 2025. They are also planning WILD grantee project showcase meetings for 2025 to provide applicants with funded examples of projects to spark proposal ideas and answer questions.
- **The next round of RFP's to drop is likely in January, so get proposals ready now!**

Land Conservation Efforts in the Upper Susquehanna: Gregory Farmer, Executive Director for Otsego Land Trust

- Three local nonprofit conservation organizations that work in partnership
 - Otsego Land Trust (protect land in perpetuity and provide free public access)
 - Otsego County Conservation Association focuses on science and community education.
 - Otsego 2000 protects and enhances the significance of the greater Otsego Lake region.
- They work together on improving the quality of life in the Upper Susquehanna region in a multi-dimensional to meet the wide variety of conservation and restoration needs in the region.
- Public Land/ Public Access: Only 19% of land in NY State is protected, the majority of that is two major parks and the rest is only 6% of the protected land. *According to [2022 data](#), Only 8% of New York's Chesapeake Bay Watershed (the headwaters of the Susquehanna River) are protected.*

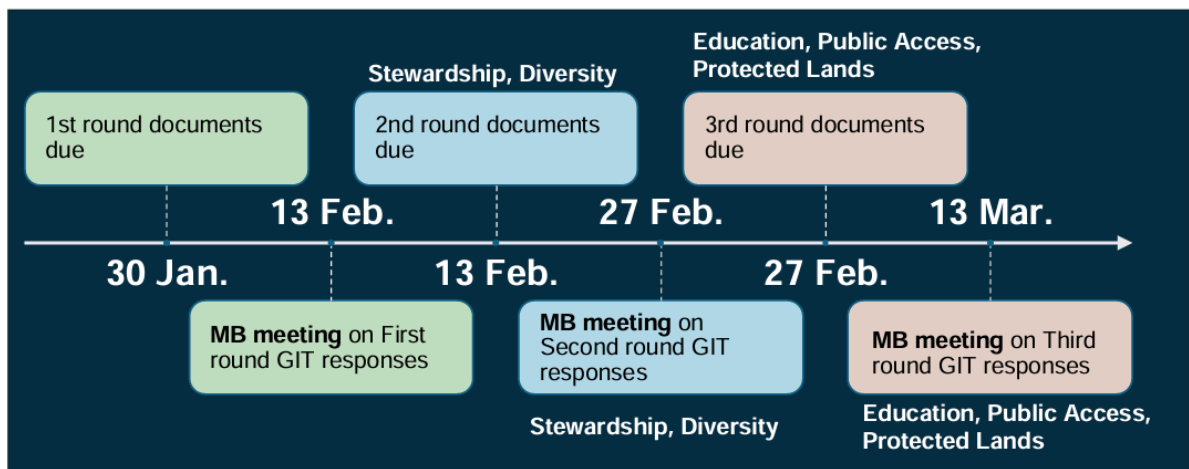
New Southern MD National Wildlife Refuge: Dan Murphy US Fish and Wildlife Service

- It is a Landscape-scale refuge that expands over four counties - modeled after Rappahannock.
- A 500 thousand-acre acquisition boundary, aiming to protect 40 thousand acres within the boundary.
- The Establishment took from 2009 to 2024 and was officially inaugurated on 12/13/2024.
 - CCP partners, including TNC and Chesapeake Conservancy, played a huge role in getting the first parcel established, which was necessary in order to establish the refuge.
- The 2009 White House Executive Order that aimed to protect another 2 million acres by 2025 and the establishment of America the Beautiful Act enabled the acquisition boundary to get approved & get the initial parcel established.
- Coalition Building was critical to their success. They held stakeholder meetings and public listening sessions, consulted the tribes, collected public input, created a public-facing web page, developed an email address for folks to provide comments, and gave numerous presentations to anyone who requested it.
- The US Fish and Wildlife Service developed a map that overlays the impact layers for terrestrial habitats, imperiled species, aquatic species, and connectivity to show the most critical areas to protect for fish & wildlife.

- Big takeaway lesson: By working together for years and not giving up when there are obstacles, we can make huge accomplishments happen for conservation and the region.

[Keeping Land Conservation and Public Access Front and Center](#)

- **Speakers:**
 - **Wendy O'Sullivan:** Superintendent of Chesapeake Bay Office, National Park Service
- **Key Takeaways:**
 - The Chesapeake Executive Council reaffirmed its commitment to meet the goals of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and charged the partnership with revising the outcomes of the Agreement by the end of 2025.
 - Git 5 incorporates 4 of the Goals from the agreement: Land conservation, Public Access, Environmental Literacy, and Stewardship and Diversity.
 - [Here is the Link to the survey](#) to get your input on the outcomes laid out by GIT 5. We need your feedback to understand what recommendations and additions need to be made to these outcomes. Open through **January 3rd.**
 - The presentation and survey above are slightly different from the ones presented at the meeting as they have clearer language around the recommendations. *(If you are not a workgroup member, check the other box "other" on question 1)*
 - You can fill out the form multiple times for multiple outcomes.
 - Below is a calendar of upcoming Beyond 2024 dates and meetings you should keep an eye on and attend. We encourage you to join the Management Board meeting on **March 13.**



- **Feedback Received Onsite:**
 - We need to promote the importance of establishing access to lands as well as waters.
 - We need to emphasize the public benefits of conservation, which include metrics.
 - We need to emphasize that we can't reach a cleaner Bay or water quality goals without a great focus on land conservation and preservation. This requires building relationships between people, the land, and the water through public engagement.

- We need to be very invested in the Beyond 2025 process to make sure these goals are central to the agreement. If we are going to achieve these goals within the construct that the Environmental Protection Agency has provided, we need to be connected to it, coordinated with it, and be adjacent to it.

Bringing our New Strategic Playbook to Life!

- **Speakers:**
 - **Ben Alexandro:** Program Director, Chesapeake Conservation Partnership
 - **Andrew Szwak:** Mid-Atlantic Program Manager, Land Trust Alliance
 - The CCP went through a strategic process over the last year to develop the new Strategic Playbook with the help of ICL.
 - This playbook is still in the works and based on your feedback will be released in full in 2025.
 - The playbook does not alter the CCP's
 - Mission
 - Vision
 - CCP's acreage outcomes for 2025, 2030, and 2050 (e.g. 30x30)
 - Below are the goals, strategies, and sub-strategies that are presented in the new strategic playbook. The names below are those who have volunteered to help be part of the efforts around these strategies and sub-strategies. These are a culmination of all the input and comments from you, and the partnership over the last several months.
 - If you are not on this list but would like to be, please reach out to Ben Alexandro (balexandro@chesapeakeconservation.org)
 - **Goal 1: Partnership**
 - With an equity lens in mind, strengthen the Partnership's work towards equitable land conservation across the watershed by empowering current members and by seeking out new members to support the collective mission and vision of the partnership.
 - Conservation Innovation Center (Chesapeake Conservancy)
 - **Strategy 1:** Develop opportunities to allow members to share lessons learned, challenges, and opportunities to collaborate.
 - Neighbor Space Baltimore
 - Baltimore Greenspace
 - Land Trust Alliance
 - Piedmont Environmental Council
 - Idea: Regular workgroup on key issues
- Sub Strategy (Collaborate):** Encourage the formation, facilitation, and functioning of conservation partnerships and state associations (eg. Regional Conservation Collaboratives, Forever Maryland, South Mountain Partnership, etc.).
- Land Trust Alliance
 - Cacapon Lost Land Trust: Marika Suval
 - Appalachian Trail Conservancy: Katie Allen
 - Piedmont Environmental Council
 - The Nature Conservancy: Mari Beth Delucia

- Ann Jones
- National Parks Conservation Association: Kyle Hart
- **Strategy 2:** Engage new members with an equity lens in mind to diversify perspectives within CCP of how to approach and grow land conservation work.
 - The Lebanon Valley Conservancy
 - Neighbor Space Baltimore
 - Baltimore Greenspace: Katie Lauter
 - Trust for Public Land: Thomas and Brendan
 - Defensores de la cuenca
 - Piedmont Environmental Council
 - Idea: Local concierge with multiple agencies
 - Idea: Conservation speed dating

Sub Strategy (Engage): Conduct intentional outreach to engage with potential new members in areas that should be activated (i.e. local governments and state agencies, agricultural community green space and heritage preservation in urban areas, agencies and organizations in the headwater states, African American communities, tribes, etc.).

- Piedmont Environmental Council
- The Nature Conservancy: Catherine Workman
- Baltimore Greenspace: Katie Lauter
- Conservation Innovation Center (Chesapeake Conservancy): Louis Kedell
- Defensores de la Cuenca
- Northern Virginia Conservation Trust

● **Goal 2: Equitable Solutions and Needs**

- Champion bold, cross-sector equitable solutions to amplify members' funding needs, dismantle roadblocks, and fast-track impactful change for healthier, more inclusive landscapes.
- **Strategy 1:** Create and identify opportunities to diversify funding options for conservation across the landscape.
 - Ann Jones
 - Data Rank Mitigation Funds for Land Conservation (Idea)
 - Piedmont Environmental Council
 - Idea: Local funding
 - Idea: Mitigation fund for data centers, solar sites, and other uses
 - Idea: Private money

Sub Strategy #1 (Equip): Organize collaborative opportunities for partners to actively engage in activities to pursue funding opportunities together.

- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Neighbor Space Baltimore
- Trust for Public Land: Brendan Shane (conservation finance)
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy: Katie Allen

Sub-Strategy #2 (Organize): Identify and organize support for key federal funding programs that benefit land conservation in cooperation with partners. (For example, protections of Bay Program funding)

- Chesapeake Bay Commission
 - National Park Conservation Association: Renee Reber
 - Defensores de la Cuenca
 - Defenders of Wildlife: Mary Pfaffko
 - Land Trust Alliance
 - Piedmont Environmental Council
- **Strategy 2:** Elevate tools and resources for conservation and advocacy that can assist members in their work to address capacity-building needs.
- Defensores de la Cuenca
 - Neighbor Space Baltimore
 - Land Trust Alliance
 - Piedmont Environmental Council
 - Idea: Shared GK Mapper
 - Idea: Joint Mailings/tentative partners
- **Goal 3: Drive Action on Emerging Issues**
- Drive action on the Chesapeake Bay's most urgent environmental and social threats and opportunities to protect and conserve the land permanently.
- **Strategy 1:** Provide watershed-wide conservation data and analysis to help identify potential conservation priorities and focus on potential increased benefits.
- The Conservation Fund: Bill Crouch
 - Defensores de la Cuenca
 - Conservation Innovation Center (Chesapeake Conservancy): Louis Keddell
 - Piedmont Environmental Council
- **Strategy 2:** Identify threats and opportunities in conservation efforts and organize conversations on how to address them (i.e., data centers, renewable energy siting, regulatory changes) using education and advocacy.
- Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
 - Piedmont Environmental Council
 - Ann Jones
 - Land Trust Alliance
 - Defensores de la Cuenca
 - Neighbor Space Baltimore
 - Baltimore Greenspace: Katie Lauter

Strategy 2 Sub Strategy (Engage): Assist partners in developing and evaluating options for improving policies that avoid and mitigate the impacts of development projects on protected and valued resource lands. For example, collaborate with partners to develop and disseminate policy options for siting and accommodating solar power generation facilities in ways that complement landscape conservation goals and mitigate damages.

- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Ann Jones

- Land Trust Alliance
 - National Park Conservation Association: Kyle Hart
 - Chesapeake Bay Commission (follow and support)
 - The Nature Conservancy: Mari Beth Delucia
- **Strategy 3:** Organize conversations on how to expand the land conservation metric beyond acres protected
 - Trust for Public Land: Brendan Shane
 - Piedmont Environmental Council
 - Neighbor Space Baltimore

Sub-Strategy (Convene): Host a working session for CCP partners to engage them in a brainstorming session on other potential metrics that could be used.

- Piedmont Environmental Council
 - Northern Virginia Conservation Trust: Matt Gerhart
 - Conservation Innovation Center (Chesapeake Conservancy): Louis Kedell
 - Defensores de la Cuenca
 - Trust for Public Land: Brendan Shane
 - Baltimore Greenspace: Katie Lauter
- **Strategy 4:** Pursue collective policy efforts for positive land conservation.

Sub-Strategy (Champion): Influence the direction of the Chesapeake Bay Program to ensure that permanent and equitable conservation is foundational to all the Bay Program goals and activities. For example, work with the Chesapeake Bay Program to ensure that conservation is foundational to Chesapeake Bay partnership efforts Beyond 2025 and have new stated acreage and equity-related goals for conservation.

- Land Trust Alliance
- Defensores de la Cuenca
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- National Park Conservation Association: Renee Reber