



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR PRESENTATIONS AND FIELD TRIPS
2023 Choose Clean Water Conference**

May 23-24, 2022
Hilton Harrisburg
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

The Choose Clean Water Coalition (Coalition) is issuing a request for proposals from interested applicants who would like to lead an engaging presentation or field trip at the Coalition's 2023 Choose Clean Water Conference.

Deadline for submissions: January 13, 2023

Please read these instructions carefully before applying.

Each year, the Coalition's Choose Clean Water Conference brings together an inclusive and diverse group of more than 300 people from throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. The conference provides a two-day forum for participants to learn about the most important and up-to-date Chesapeake restoration issues, network with fellow Chesapeake Bay supporters and activists, develop strategies to advance federal, regional and local restoration goals, and learn from successes.

This unique gathering offers a tremendous opportunity to gain broad exposure for a wide range of issues facing the Chesapeake. **Any person or organization** with valuable experience and knowledge to share is invited to apply to lead a session, workshop, and/or field trip at the Conference.

The Conference is typically attended by Chesapeake watershed advocates, including policy experts, project implementation staff, communications staff, and executive directors of local, state, regional, and national environmental nonprofits. Additionally, the conference draws representatives of state and federal agencies, community groups, business, agriculture, and industry. Attendees have a range of knowledge about the Chesapeake and its rivers and streams, and are looking for compelling stories that explore policy issues, successful restoration projects, grassroots engagement strategies, and emerging issues.

This year's conference theme is *A Keystone Moment: Our Collective Future*. We are at a critical juncture, with the 2025 deadline rapidly approaching to have all pollution reduction practices in place as part of the Bay restoration effort. We must move without delay to protect and restore our local waterways.

Nowhere is this more the case than in Pennsylvania. We are excited to bring the Choose Clean Water Conference back to the Keystone State for the first time since 2018, highlighting the challenges, opportunities, and lessons headwater states have to inform us in our work for clean water.

But it's more than just Pennsylvania. The size of the Chesapeake Bay watershed is vast, covering 64,000 square miles and including parts of six states and Washington, D.C. All of us need to work together if we are to realize clean water for the 18 million people whose local waterways feed the Bay. This conference seeks to unite our Coalition of more than 275 nonprofit organizations. We hope the sharing of new tools, resources, and experiences—all while building and cultivating critical relationships—will equip and inspire conference attendees to accelerate their work for clean water.

The Coalition is looking for applications from local, regional, and national organizations or people working on issues of relevance to Chesapeake restoration. Organizations, businesses, or people participating in projects in historically underserved communities and/or representing cultural, racial, and other kinds of diversity are especially encouraged to apply.

Due to the location of the conference and relevance to the Chesapeake restoration effort, the Coalition also welcomes unique and diverse voices specifically related to the agricultural community. The Coalition is dedicated to using the conference to highlight all voices of the Chesapeake Bay region and strives to serve as an inclusive platform for the entire Chesapeake Bay community.

A Note on COVID-19

We will evaluate the complete list of health and safety protocols we will follow closer to the conference. We do plan on requiring all conference attendees to provide a negative COVID test. As always, we are committed to creating an environment where everyone feels safe and comfortable.

Questions? Contact Drew Robinson at RobinsonAQ@nwf.org.

I. Submitting a proposal

This year's conference theme is *A Keystone Moment: Our Collective Future*, which we hope will bring forward presentations and field trips that energize participants through thoughtful engagement, share new and innovative learnings, and stir enthusiasm for envisioning a bright future for our clean water movement. Proposals should incorporate this theme into their presentations and field trips. The Coalition is seeking innovative and creative proposals on the following categories: ***This is not an exhaustive list. We welcome proposals focused on topics outside of these categories.***

- Issues
 - Agriculture
 - Chesapeake Bay Restoration Effort (TMDL)

- Clean Water
- Climate Change/Adaptation/Resilience
- Environmental Justice
- Land Conservation
- Local Government
- Pipelines/Shale/Fracking
- Public Access/Recreation
- Public Health
- Source Water/Drinking Water
- Stormwater
- Toxics
- Skills – Organizational and Professional Development
 - Campaign/Movement Building
 - Capacity Building
 - Communications
 - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 - Environmental Education
 - Fundraising
 - Policy/Advocacy
 - Public Engagement

i. Submitting a proposal for a 45-minute session

Requirements

- Submit proposal no later than **January 13, 2023**.
- Submit applications through this form – <https://bit.ly/23conf-session>.
- May have **up to two speakers**; **we will not accept any panel proposals**.
- Leave at least 5-10 minutes for discussion and/or questions during the 45-minute period.
- We encourage, but do not require, presenters of 45-minute sessions to consider hosting their sessions outdoors. Outdoor sessions will meet within walking distance of the hotel and no buses are available. The session must also have no A/V needs (i.e. PowerPoint presentation, showing videos, etc.). Presenters can distribute paper handouts if necessary.

ii. Submitting a proposal for a 90-minute workshop

Requirements

- Submit proposal no later than **January 13, 2023**.
- Submit applications through this form – <https://bit.ly/23conf-workshop>.
- May have **up to four speakers**; panel proposals are accepted for workshops.
- Have no more than 45 minutes of presentation time with the rest dedicated to audience engagement. This can include small group work, role playing exercises, games, group discussions, and more.

iii. Submitting a proposal to lead a field trip

Field trips are three-hours long (including travel, which should not exceed 25 minutes each way). **We will host all field trips the afternoon of Tuesday, May 23, 2023.**

Background

Field experiences are a great way to develop a deeper understanding of the progress and challenges to protect and restore our waterways. The Coalition aims to schedule field trips that:

- Complement conference issues
- Allow participants to see restoration sites and completed projects by Coalition members and partners
- Provide participants the opportunity to interact with people who experience the connection to their local rivers and streams.
- Allow participants to experience the culture and unique flavor of the conference host city and surrounding areas

Transportation

- The Coalition will provide one (1) bus for transportation, to and from field trip location(s), if necessary. Any alternative transportation or other needs must be included in the application and coordinated between field trip organizers and Coalition staff.
- Travel time should not exceed 25 minutes in any direction.

Requirements

- Submit proposal no later than **January 13, 2023.**
- Submit applications through this form – <https://bit.ly/23conf-fieldtrip>.
- May have **up to two leads.**
- Not exceed three hours.
- All sites must not be more than 25 minutes from the Hilton Harrisburg.

II. Evaluation

i. Evaluation for 45-minute sessions and 90-minute workshops

The Coalition's Conference Planning Committee will review all session and workshop proposals. The Committee will judge applications based on the following considerations:

- All applications must meet the requirements. We will not consider incomplete applications.
- Preferred applications will:
 - Make a connection between the theme and closely match one or more of the categories.
 - **Include an interactive component that effectively engages audience participants.**
 - Feature speakers with demonstrated expertise in their field.

- Include diverse voices, particularly speakers from or who work in underserved communities.
- Include creative visual presentations (Exhibits, before and after photos, models, charts, handouts, etc.).
- Examine clean water issues throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed in a compelling way that underscores the connection of clean water to people, the urgency needed to solve problems, and manageable solutions.

ii. Evaluation for field trips

Choose Clean Water Coalition staff will judge applications based on the following considerations:

- All applications must meet the requirements. We will not consider incomplete applications.
- Preferred applications will:
 - Outline a **maximum three-hour field trip (including travel time each way)**, complete with proposed stops, descriptions, highlighted speakers, and overarching field trip theme. Travel time should not exceed 25 minutes in either direction.
 - Include leaders or presenters with demonstrated expertise in their field and/or the field trip site(s).
 - Highlight work in economically disadvantaged areas and/or with unique partners.
 - Examine Chesapeake Bay watershed issues in a creative, compelling, and fun way that underscores the connection of the Bay to people, the urgency needed to solve the problem, and manageable solutions.
 - With limited buses available, we encourage field trips that are walking tours departing from the Hilton Harrisburg or are visiting sites within a 20-minute walk.

III. Final Details

- Session and workshop presenters will have access to the standard audio/visual equipment provided by the Coalition, which includes projectors, screens and lectern microphones. Lectern computers will have internet access. Any additional audio/visual needs must be provided by the presenter, working with the Coalition staff and within the limitations of the conference facility.
- All presenters of sessions, workshops, and field trips will receive a free registration to the conference for the day they are presenting.
- Applicants will receive an acknowledgement of their proposal following their submission. We will notify all applicants of the status of their proposal by **February 17, 2023**.

Please direct all application inquiries to Drew Robinson at robinsona@nwf.org