



Choose Clean Water CONFERENCE

A Keystone Moment:
Our Collective Future

May 23-24, 2023

Hilton Harrisburg | Harrisburg, Pennsylvania



ChooseCleanWater.org

CleanWater23

@ChooseCleanh2o

Choose Clean Water Coalition



Hello!

Welcome to the 2023 Choose Clean Water Conference! We are very excited to once again gather in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Over the past 13 years, our annual conference has served as an important venue for watershed advocates to learn about innovative restoration approaches, build partnerships, share best practices with attendees from other parts of the watershed, and learn about successful practices in the host city.

This year's conference theme, *A Keystone Moment: Our Collective Future*, captures where we are in the effort to protect and restore the rivers and streams that feed the Chesapeake Bay, as well as the critical importance of Pennsylvania. With the 2025 deadline for Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals rapidly approaching, we must move without delay to advocate for clean rivers and streams in all communities in the Chesapeake Bay region. Nowhere is this more the case than in the Keystone State. This conference is designed to highlight the challenges, opportunities, and lessons headwater states have to inform us in our work for clean water.

But it's more than just Pennsylvania. With the vast size of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, 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. Over the next two days, you will have the opportunity to attend plenaries, sessions, workshops, and field trips that cover a wide range of issues, from public access and agriculture, to stream restoration and the Farm Bill. But we're most looking forward to spending time together as a Coalition.

We all have so much to learn from each other. The relationships built and cultivated here will pay tremendous dividends to accelerate our work for clean water. Whether mingling at the reception, walking to your next session, or waiting in the buffet line, take a moment to connect with friends new and old. Together, our collective power is greater than the sum of our parts.


Thank you again for joining us at this much-loved event! We look forward to these two-days of learning and growing with you.

Yours in clean water,

Choose Clean Water Coalition Steering Committee Co-Chairs



Jen Mihills
National Wildlife
Federation



Pam Goddard
National Parks Conservation
Association



Molly Parzen
Conservation Voters of
Pennsylvania



All photos were shot in Pennsylvania and provided by the Chesapeake Bay Program unless otherwise indicated.

Conference Topic Descriptions

Rather than having designated tracks, we center our workshops and sessions around different topics. You will find that some sessions and workshops have a primary topic and then a few sub-topics that will also be touched on during the presentation. Our hope is that this encourages people to move around to different sessions instead of following a formal track. This year's topics include:

AGRICULTURE

Join these sessions to learn about innovative tools, funding opportunities, and unique collaborations that connect agriculture to conservation.

CLEAN WATER

It's the reason why we're here! Join these sessions to explore recent developments in policy and science and their implications on clean water.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications sessions will build the capacity of organizations to be their own communications professionals through trainings and knowledge sharing opportunities.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND JUSTICE

These sessions build off the Coalition's continued work on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) and how to effectively integrate it into programs, communications, and outreach.

ENERGY

Throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the presence of energy projects impacting local rivers and streams is omnipresent. These sessions will explore these impacts and how we can raise a united voice for clean water and healthy communities.

PARTNERSHIPS

Despite varying goals and addressing different issue areas, these sessions will explore the power of partnerships to effectively plan and execute campaigns that bring us closer to our ultimate goal of clean water.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

There is always room to professionally grow in our individual roles. These sessions will provide lessons and instruction to equip ourselves to become more effective and impactful in our work for clean water.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Our movement is nothing without the dedicated members of the public who make our restoration dreams a reality. Join these sessions to learn more about unique ways to engage your current and new audiences.

STORMWATER

Interested in learning from the experts about stormwater issues facing the Chesapeake Bay watershed? Want to hear more about innovative solutions to reducing this source of pollution? Join a session with a stormwater focus this year!



Tuesday, May 23							
8:00 a.m.	9:00-9:45 a.m.	10:00-10:45 a.m.	11:00-11:45 a.m.	11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.	1:15-2:00 p.m.	2:30-5:30 p.m.	6:00-10:00 p.m.
Registration and breakfast open Location: Harrisburg Pre-function	Welcome Location: Harrisburg Ballroom	WORKSHOP Interest Based Communication in Conservation Location: Leland		Lunch Opens A Keystone Effort: Fighting for Environmental Justice in Pennsylvania Location: Harrisburg Ballroom	SESSION Renaming: Breaking Eggs to Make an Omelet Location: Leland		Reception at Historic King Mansion
		WORKSHOP A Watershed Understanding of Fracking Impacts in Pennsylvania Location: Penn Harris			SESSION Conowingo Court Victory and the TMDL Location: Penn Harris		
		WORKSHOP Data Centers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Location: Harrisburger			SESSION PL 566, Mine Lands, and Legacy Sediment Repurposing Location: Governor		
		SESSION A Keystone First: Creating an Agricultural Cost-Share Program in Pennsylvania Location: Governor	SESSION Pollinators and Produce: Combining Food Security and Conservation Location: Governor		SESSION The Bay Watershed's National Lead Buying Water Quality Outcomes Location: Harrisburger		
		SESSION Tree Care in Baltimore City Location: William Penn			SESSION Infusing Environmental Action Civics into High School Ecology Location: William Penn		
		SESSION The Bay Watershed's National Lead Buying Water Quality Outcomes Location: Harrisburger			SESSION Lancaster County Dairy Farm Tour		
		SESSION Tree Care in Baltimore City Location: William Penn			SESSION Leaders Need Not Be Lonely Location: William Penn		
		SESSION Tree Care in Baltimore City Location: William Penn			SESSION A Sportsman's Impact on Conservation Film Showing		
		SESSION Tree Care in Baltimore City Location: William Penn			SESSION Harrisburg: One City, Two Very Different Streams		
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- Agriculture
- Clean Water
- Communications
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice
- Energy
- Partnerships
- Professional Development
- Public Engagement
- Stormwater

Wednesday, May 24						
8:00 a.m.	9:00-9:45 a.m.	10:00-10:45 a.m.	11:00-11:45 a.m.	11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.	1:15-2:00 p.m.	2:15-3:00 p.m.
Registration and breakfast open Location: Harrisburg Pre-function	What is "A Snot Otter?" Jeopardy, Networking, and Open Forum	WORKSHOP Removing Coal Ash from Our Waterways Location: Penn Harris		Lunch Opens 2025 and Beyond: What's Next for the Chesapeake Bay Cleanup? Location: Harrisburg Ballroom	SESSION Navigating Waterway Access Location: William Penn	
		WORKSHOP Modernizing Infrastructure: A Panel Discussion on Combined Sewer Overflows Location: William Penn			SESSION Brook Trout: Pennsylvania's Water through a Fisheye Lens Location: Leland	
		WORKSHOP Growing Conservation through the Farm Bill Location: Harrisburger			SESSION Building Organizational Capacity through a Grant Training Program Location: Harrisburger	
		SESSION Eroding History: The Disappearance of Black Communities Location: Leland	SESSION Utilities Workforce Development and the Future of Water Location: Harrisburger		SESSION Chocolate Milk to Chicken Nuggets: Corporate Sustainability Model Location: Governor	
		SESSION Volunteer Monitoring and Data Interpretation: Stream Team Data Stories Location: Governor			SESSION Empowering Underserved Communities in Resiliency Actions Location: Leland	
		SESSION Volunteer Monitoring and Data Interpretation: Stream Team Data Stories Location: Governor			SESSION Tell Your Climate Story: Rising to the Challenge of Effective Climate Communications Location: Penn Harris	
		SESSION Volunteer Monitoring and Data Interpretation: Stream Team Data Stories Location: Governor			SESSION Grass Roots against Plastic Pollution at Play Location: Penn Harris	
		SESSION Volunteer Monitoring and Data Interpretation: Stream Team Data Stories Location: Governor			SESSION Tell Your Climate Story: Rising to the Challenge of Effective Climate Communications Location: Penn Harris	
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- Agriculture
- Clean Water
- Communications
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice
- Energy
- Partnerships
- Professional Development
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- Stormwater

TUESDAY, MAY 23

8:00 A.M.

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST OPEN

Location: Harrisburg Pre-function
Breakfast is only available until 9:00 a.m.

9:00-9:45 A.M.

WELCOME TO THE 2023 ANNUAL CHOOSE CLEAN WATER CONFERENCE

Location: Harrisburg Ballroom
Mariah Davis, Acting Director, Choose Clean Water Coalition
Molly Parzen, Executive Director, Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania
Secretary Cindy Dunn, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Join us to kickoff the 2023 Choose Clean Water Conference!

10:00-11:45 A.M.

WORKSHOPS AND SESSIONS

10:00-11:45 A.M.

**WORKSHOP
INTEREST BASED COMMUNICATION IN CONSERVATION**

Topic: Communications
Sub-topic: Professional Development

Location: Leland

The ability to communicate and form creative, sustainable solutions with others is foundational to our fight for clean water and healthy communities. This workshop will introduce participants to the principles of interest-based communication—a tool that helps people create and collaborate around issues that traditionally

cause disagreement and conflict. By developing a better understanding of the interests involved in a situation, participants learn to build value out of disagreement and find solutions through communication, collaboration, and creativity.

Presenters:

Molly Brown, Chesapeake Legal Alliance
Angela Haren, Chesapeake Legal Alliance
Patrick DeArmey, Chesapeake Legal Alliance



10:00-11:45 A.M.

**WORKSHOP
A WATERSHED UNDERSTANDING OF FRACKING IMPACTS IN PENNSYLVANIA**

Topic: Energy
Sub-topic: Clean Water

Location: Penn Harris



This workshop is an exploration of the impacts of oil and gas drilling on local water quality in Pennsylvania's Susquehanna River Basin. In recent years, FracTracker Alliance has conducted in-depth analyses of the watersheds for Pine Creek, Loyalsock Creek, Lycoming Creek, and Towanda Creek. The impacts of fracking on the landscape, water, recreation, and people in these communities are profound. We've also conducted aerial reconnaissance of these watersheds and have found that viewing this industry from 1,000 feet gives a true sense for the totality of impacts including pads, compressor stations, access roads, and more. Join us to explore the consequences of fracking and discuss our path forward to protect and restore local rivers and streams.

Presenters:

Matt Kelso, FracTracker Alliance
Ted Auch, FracTracker Alliance
Brook Lenker, Keystone Trails Association

10:00-11:45 A.M.

**WORKSHOP
DATA CENTERS IN THE CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED**

Topic: Clean Water
Sub-topic: Partnerships

Location: Harrisburger

Data centers are one of the fastest growing industries in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. And this industry has direct consequences on local water quality. As proposals for new data centers have increased and moved beyond planned industrial corridors, localities are often failing to recognize their impacts on regional water supplies, the electric grid, and state and National Parks. The proposals for these massive projects would add incredible amounts of impervious surface throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed; add electric consumption to the grid; and threaten water quality, climate change mitigation efforts, and land conservation. Join NPCA, PEC, and CLA to learn more about what data centers are, the threats they pose, and strategies to regulate them locally and regionally.

Presenters:

Kyle Hart, National Parks Conservation Association
Julie Bolthouse, Piedmont Environmental Council
Will Halnon, Chesapeake Legal Alliance



10:00-10:45 A.M.

SESSION
A KEYSTONE FIRST: CREATING AN AGRICULTURAL COST-SHARE PROGRAM IN PENNSYLVANIA
 Topic: Agriculture
 Sub-topic: Partnerships

Location: Governor

To protect and restore Pennsylvania's rivers and streams, we need to implement more conservation practices on farms throughout the Keystone State. And after many years of advocacy, Pennsylvania finally created and funded its first state agricultural cost-share program in 2022. But what is the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program? What is it not? How does it fit in the Clean Streams Fund? And how can we collectively make it a success? Join us to explore these questions and more.

Presenters:

Trisha Salvia, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Kristen Hoke, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

10:00-10:45 A.M.

SESSION
TREE CARE IN BALTIMORE CITY
 Topic: Clean Water
 Sub-topics: DEI, Public Engagement

Location: William Penn

As Baltimore's principal tree planting organization, Baltimore Tree Trust (BTT) works to increase the urban tree canopy by planting trees at a neighborhood scale. Once trees are in the ground, the work continues: ongoing tree care is critical to the success and longevity of any urban forestry project. This presentation will delve into the skills, systems, and tools that BTT uses in a year-round maintenance program built on a foundation of season-specific tree care to ensure that trees planted throughout Baltimore will thrive and play a critical part in protecting local waterways from pollution.

Presenters:

Gabriela Amaya-Williams, Baltimore Tree Trust
Marcus Tuah, Baltimore Tree Trust

11:00-11:45 A.M.

SESSION
POLLINATORS AND PRODUCE: COMBINING FOOD SECURITY AND CONSERVATION
 Topic: DEI
 Sub-topic: Public Engagement

Location: Governor

Our collective future depends on our ability to design conservation projects that also work toward environmental justice and directly support communities. Funded by an EPA Small Watershed Grant administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Pollinators and Produce project addresses this challenge by combining wildlife conservation with food security and vacant lot restoration in Baltimore. In collaboration with local urban farms and community gardens, NWF is installing pollinator gardens at food-producing sites on previously vacant lots. Participants will learn more about the power of partnerships and intersectional project goals, the critical web of conservation landscapes and community assets, and tools for developing similar projects.

Presenters:

Lindsey Walker, National Wildlife Federation
Atiya Wells, Backyard Basecamp

11:00-11:45 A.M.

SESSION
INFUSING ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION CIVICS INTO HIGH SCHOOL ECOLOGY
 Topic: Partnerships
 Sub-topic: Public Engagement

Location: William Penn

Join Earth Force and a Fish & Wildlife teacher from rural Pennsylvania sharing about their strategic partnership that empowers young people to take civic action on environmental issues in their community. This process is currently taking place in Mifflin

County, where hunting and fishing is integral to students' lives but many students struggle academically and are frequently cited with "behavior issues." Recently, Mifflin County offered science electives based on student interest. One teacher has created strategic partnerships with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and Earth Force in order to facilitate a student-led "curriculum" that elevates students' lived experiences to make community-level change.

Presenters:

Sarah Jennings, Earth Force
Cara Huerbin, Mifflin County High School



11:45 A.M.

LUNCH OPENS

Location: Harrisburg Ballroom

12:15-1:00

A KEYSTONE EFFORT: FIGHTING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Location: Harrisburg Ballroom

Environmental stewardship is key to protecting Pennsylvania’s air, land, and water. Developers, corporations, and energy conglomerates continually pursue projects that often times result in harmful environmental outcomes which frequently target and more adversely impact marginalized communities already overburdened by pollution. These projects not only harm the environment but also come with severe consequences to public health, quality of life, and local economies. Join this engaging discussion with our esteemed panelists as they share their experiences and professional perspectives on the importance of effective community engagement and empowerment through advocacy, mobilization, education, and awareness of environmental injustices across the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Panelists:

Winnie Okello, PE., Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Environmental Justice

Rafiyqa Muhammad, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Environmental Justice Advisory Board

Moderator:

Mariah Davis, Choose Clean Water Coalition



1:15-2:00 P.M.

SESSIONS

1:15-2:00 P.M.

SESSION RENAMING: BREAKING EGGS TO MAKE AN OMELET

Topic: Communications
Sub-topic: DEI/J

Location: Leland

At the ripe old age of 125, the oldest independent environmental organization in the Washington, DC region changed its name. Transforming from the Audubon Naturalist Society to Nature Forward, we will discuss the nuts and bolts: gathering feedback (including the haters) and gaining buy-in from members, donors, partners, staff, and the public; funding; working with a branding firm; copyright/intellectual property implications; and marketing the new name. As the first Audubon organization in the U.S. to change its name, we will also explore motivations for the change, the history of our evolving organization, and how we see ourselves positioned to move into the future.



Presenters:

Eliza Cava, Nature Forward

Amy Ritsko Warren, Nature Forward

1:15-2:00 P.M.

SESSION CONOWINGO COURT VICTORY AND THE TMDL

Topic: Clean Water
Sub-topic: Partnerships

Location: Penn Harris

The Chesapeake Bay received a major victory when the Constellation Power Corporation’s license to operate Conowingo Dam was vacated by the court for failure to protect clean water. But much work remains to address the significant pollution threat from the Dam. Join us to discuss what this victory means for the larger Bay restoration effort and how we can use this win to accelerate progress.

Presenters:

Betsy Nicholas, Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Ted Evgeniadis, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association

1:15-2:00 P.M.

SESSION

PL 566, MINE LANDS, AND LEGACY SEDIMENT REPURPOSING

Topic: Energy

Sub-topic: Clean Water

Location: Governor



Public Law 566 is an important new funding source for Pennsylvania. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Water Science Institute are working collaboratively to develop a pilot approach in the Chiques Creek watershed that utilizes lidar data to identify stream restoration hotspots and develop management strategies and funding to address related water quality initiatives. This approach will generate millions of pounds of high-quality soil (legacy sediment) that is a cost sink for project funding. NRCS is funding several programs to identify new purposes for legacy sediment repurposing that includes abandoned

mine reclamation with a focus on restorations that target potential environmental justice areas in the Commonwealth. This presentation will discuss current progress and challenges with these initiatives.

Presenters:

Joe Sweeney, Water Science Institute

Denise Coleman, U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS

1:15-2:00 P.M.

SESSION

THE BAY WATERSHED'S NATIONAL LEAD BUYING WATER QUALITY OUTCOMES

Topic: Clean Water

Sub-topic: Agriculture

Location: Harrisburger

This presentation will discuss new programs in Maryland and Pennsylvania: the Clean Water Commerce Program and Clean Water Procurement Program. These first-of-their-kind, multi-million-dollar programs use Pay for Success contracts to directly purchase the most cost-effective guaranteed pollution reductions. The Environmental Policy Innovation Center's Senior Agriculture Policy Analyst will discuss the potential of outcomes-based programs to achieve clean water goals faster and cheaper, walk through how you can apply for this funding, and share the vision of the Bay watershed as a model for the world in addressing the pernicious problem of nonpoint source pollution.

Presenter:

Harry Huntley, Environmental Policy Innovation Center

1:15-2:00 P.M.

SESSION

LEADERS NEED NOT BE LONELY*

Topic: Professional Development

Location: William Penn

It can be lonely at the top—but you're not alone! In this discussion-based session, Executive Directors will examine a wide range of topics impacting nonprofit leadership today. Using creative storytelling techniques, leaders from across the watershed will have an opportunity to engage with their fellow colleagues, share a challenge they face in their organization, and hear from others on their experiences. We invite all Executive Directors, regardless of how long they've served in the position, to join us and be open to sharing, listening, and asking thoughtful questions.

**Note: This session is specifically targeted toward Executive Directors of organizations.*

Presenter:

Brenna Goggin, River Network

2:15-5:30 P.M.

FIELD TRIPS

ALL FIELD TRIPS REQUIRE ADVANCED REGISTRATION.

Participants who signed up for a field trip should meet in Harrisburg Ballroom at 2:15 p.m., unless otherwise noted below.

SUSQUEHANNA DISCOVERY FLIGHT

Hosted by: SouthWings

With SouthWings, general aviation aircraft become flying classrooms. This field trip offers an educational flight excursion to uniquely illuminate the cumulative factors that either contribute to or undermine the health of the Susquehanna River watershed. A local resource expert will accompany each aircraft to lead discussions and lend expertise.

Note: Participants are required to complete/sign a waiver prior to participation.

CITY BEAUTIFUL H2O: A TOUR OF HARRISBURG GREENING

Hosted by: Capital Region Water

With Capital Region Water as your tour guide, come see the breadth of community greening work happening in Harrisburg. We will visit four unique projects that are representative of the broader City Beautiful H2O Program Partnership Initiatives: Enhancement to the Capital Area Greenbelt with Stream Restoration, Greening Neighborhoods through the Transformation of Vacant Lots, Green Streets connecting to the Historic City Beautiful, and Green Stormwater Management through Wholistic Parks Planning.

PADDLE THE SUSQUEHANNA!

Hosted by: Susquehanna Outfitters and the Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association

Take a break and go play outside! Join Susquehanna Outfitters in Wormleysburg and experience the mighty Susquehanna! Shuttles will take you from their shop to Siebert Park along the Conodoguinet Creek in Camp Hill. Watch herons hunt the shallows and hear smallmouth splash the surface as you paddle down the Conodoguinet and into the Susquehanna. Take in gorgeous views of Harrisburg and the Capitol as you make your way past a series of islands and back to the Outfitters. All gear is provided, including kayak, PFD, and paddle.

Note: Participants are required to complete/sign a waiver prior to participation.

MEADOWS AND BEER WITH TRÖEGS AND THE ALLIANCE

Hosted by: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

In collaboration with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Tröegs Independent Brewing, the official beer sponsor of the 2023 Choose Clean Water Conference, invites you on a tour of their beermaking process and their native wildflower meadow in the making. Equal parts educational and fun, tour attendees will see how Tröegs brews their beer (with the option of a taste test or two) and learn about how converting lawn to native meadow habitat benefits local waterways and ecosystems.

Note: Each field trip attendee will receive one beer but are responsible for purchasing any additional food or beverages.

PENNSYLVANIA CAPITOL TOUR

Hosted by: Pennsylvania Department of the Environment

Get a behind-the-scenes look of what President Theodore Roosevelt called “The handsomest building I ever saw.” Walk through the halls where state legislation is crafted and see the chambers of the House, Senate, and State Supreme Court, as well as the Governor’s office. With beautiful architecture incorporating various Renaissance designs, attendees will leave with a greater appreciation for this uniquely American building. Attendees will have to pass through security and are encouraged to limit belongings they bring.

LANCASTER COUNTY DAIRY FARM TOUR

Hosted by: American Dairy Association North East

Participants should meet promptly at 2:15 p.m. The trip will depart from the hotel at 2:20 p.m.

Dairy farmers use numerous practices to protect local water quality and their downstream neighbors. There’s more work to be done, but we share the same goals for clean water and a healthy environment. On this wagon tour of family-owned Brubaker Farms, you’ll learn first-hand about the farm operation and its many environmental practices, which include an anaerobic digester, solar panels, riparian buffers, manure storage and separation, soil health practices, water recycling, and more. The tour is rain or shine, so bring your inclement weather gear. Close-toed shoes are required.

A SPORTSMAN’S IMPACT ON CONSERVATION FILM SHOWING

Hosted by: Trout Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited

Enjoy a film showing of “Wings over Water” at the Whitaker Center. The film represents remarkable video footage of North America’s amazing waterways and flyways carved out after the last ice age. After the film attendees will hear about how the PA Sportsmen & Women Policy Workgroup was created and how this newly found partnership has created a unique approach to conservation advocacy through a sportsman lens in Pennsylvania, and how the group has been effective. The Whitaker Center is next to the hotel, so attendees should expect a very short walk.

HARRISBURG: ONE CITY, TWO VERY DIFFERENT STREAMS

Hosted by: Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Two streams flow through Harrisburg: Paxton Creek and Spring Creek. Despite their adjacency and urbanization (73 percent and 86 percent developed land, respectively), these streams tell two very different stories. Paxton Creek has been subjected to extreme hydromodification, minimal buffering, vast impervious landcover, and for all intents and purposes, is dead. Conversely, Spring Creek, flanked by buffers, restoration projects, and the regional greenbelt, is thriving, even boasting a vibrant population of wild trout. On this field trip, we’ll explore these different outcomes and examine how, given the right policies, even streams in developed areas can thrive.

Note: Field trip participants are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes as this walking tour will include 3.2 miles of walking.

6:00–10:00 P.M.

RECEPTION AT HISTORIC KING MANSION

Location: 2201 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110

Join the Coalition at Historic King Mansion for our evening reception as we reconvene for the best clean water networking event of the year! The reception will feature delicious fare from JDK Group Catering and beer donated from Tröegs Independent Brewing.

Transportation is provided to and from Historic King Mansion. Shuttles will depart at 5:50 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 6:10 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. Attendees wanting to board a shuttle should gather in the Hotel Lobby. Attendees are also welcome to take a scenic walk along the Susquehanna River to Historic King Mansion, though are advised it is two miles from the hotel.

Shuttles back to the hotel will depart at 9:30 p.m., 9:50 p.m., and 10:10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24

8:00 A.M.

REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST OPEN

Location: Harrisburg Pre-function

Breakfast is only available until 9:00 a.m.

9:00-9:45 A.M.

**WHAT IS, "A SNOT OTTER?":
JEOPARDY, NETWORKING, AND OPEN FORUM**

Choose your own adventure and select from these options:

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Jeopardy

Location: Leland

Test your clean water knowledge! Jeopardy contestants will divide into geographical teams and the Coalition's own Peter Marx will lead participants through a fun board of Bay watershed-related trivia.

Networking Bingo

Location: Governor

Get to know your fellow conference-attendees and play a special version of Bingo diving into our work for clean water.

Open Forum

Location: Harrisburg Ballroom

Not up for a game? The ballroom will remain open for attendees to connect.

10:00-11:45 A.M.

WORKSHOPS AND SESSIONS

10:00-11:45 A.M.

**WORKSHOP
REMOVING COAL ASH FROM OUR WATERWAYS**

Topic: Energy

Sub-topics: Clean Water, Public Engagement

Location: Penn Harris

Coal fired power plants are closing throughout the region, but they are leaving all of their wastes in place to contaminate our groundwater and surface water. Through GIS analysis and mapping, we have identified the locations and quantities. Now we face the challenge of removing these contaminants from our waterways. Join us in this workshop to learn more about the consequences of coal ash and discuss the strategies and tactics to protect communities from this threat.

Presenters:

Betsy Nicholas, Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Dean Naujoks, Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Serena Moncion, Potomac Riverkeeper Network
Jason Litten, Frostburg State University

10:00-11:45 A.M.

WORKSHOP

**MODERNIZING INFRASTRUCTURE: A PANEL DISCUSSION
ON STOPPING SEWER OVERFLOWS**

Topic: Stormwater

Sub-topics: Clean Water

Location: William Penn

When it comes to water pollution in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment often take center stage. Many older cities and towns, including Harrisburg and Baltimore, have aging and outdated infrastructure polluting waterways with sewage during "combined sewer overflow" (CSO) or "sanitary sewer overflow" (SSO) events. When these systems experience events beyond their capacity, they can discharge directly into waterways untreated. This panel discussion will feature case studies, including what's being done to address CSOs and SSOs, what are the hurdles, and how affordability and access to funding plays a role.

Presenters:

Renee Reber, National Parks Conservation Association
Ted Evgeniadis, Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association
Lia Mastropolo, American Rivers
Tom Pelton, Environmental Integrity Project
Evan Isaacson, Chesapeake Legal Alliance

10:00-11:45 A.M.

WORKSHOP

GROWING CONSERVATION THROUGH THE FARM BILL

Topic: Agriculture

Location: Harrisburger



More than half of the land in the contiguous US is farmed or ranched. Farmland makes up one-quarter of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, but runoff from agriculture is by far the largest—and perhaps most intractable—source of water pollution in the Bay and across the Nation. Learn how you can influence the federal Farm Bill, which drives day-to-day decisions on farms and ranches that have a direct impact on the water you drink and the health of our rivers, estuaries and oceans.

Presenters:

Ben Knuth, National Wildlife Federation
Duane Hovorka, National Wildlife Federation
Lekha Knuffman, National Wildlife Federation
Michael Mehrazar, PennFuture

10:00-10:45 A.M.

SESSION

ERODING HISTORY: THE DISAPPEARANCE OF BLACK COMMUNITIES

Topic: DEI/J

Sub-topic: Communications

Location: Leland

Join us for a 28-minute film and discussion with the filmmaker about the Eastern Shore's eroding history and how you—scientists, policy makers, and advocates—can help change the trajectory. Climate change will harm the planet in many ways, but it is going to harm it disproportionately. And few places illustrate that as much as the Black communities on the Eastern Shore, where so much history has already washed away. The Eastern Shore's rate of sea level rise is about twice that of the rest of Maryland, and is the second highest in the United States after Louisiana. Within the Shore, the water is rising the fastest and the land is sinking the quickest in Dorchester County. Half of the county's "mostly the southern part" will be underwater by 2100, according to predictions from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Somerset County is next on the list. Our film will show the ways that Dames Quarter, on Deal Island, has suffered, and what are the solutions that could help it and other places.

Presenter:

Rona Kobell, Environmental Justice Journalism Initiative

10:00-10:45 A.M.

SESSION

VOLUNTEER MONITORING AND DATA INTERPRETATION: STREAM TEAM DATA STORIES

Topic: Public Engagement

Sub-topics: Clean Water, Communications

Location: Governor

When volunteer monitors transition from doing science to understanding science, there are exponential opportunities for unique impacts and outcomes. Dickinson College's Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring's (ALLARM) volunteer monitors, also known as Stream Team, annually perform a facilitated data interpretation process aiming to identify compelling stories from the monthly water quality data they have collected. This session will explore the benefits of volunteer engagement in the data interpretation process and volunteer findings from this process. Participants will also have the opportunity to experience the guided data analysis themselves.

Presenters:

Isabel Ruff, Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM)

Lindsay VanFossen, Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM)



11:00-11:45 A.M.

SESSION

UTILITIES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND THE FUTURE OF WATER

Topic: Public Engagement

Sub-topic: Partnerships

Location: Governor



Often, we think of conservation, environmental justice, and workforce development as separate concerns. However, the influx of funding for infrastructure is providing ample opportunity to execute projects that directly impact drinking water, wastewater, equitable access to resources, and environmental conservation. Local community workers are essential to making these projects viable and sustainable. Because of trends in workforce turnover, there is also a real opportunity to integrate conservation and environmental justice concerns into workforce development and

training. So, bring your ideas to this session, where we anticipate a lively discussion about how to support local water industry workers!

Presenter:

Amanda Giorgio, Southeast Regional Community Assistance Project

11:00-11:45 A.M.

SESSION

EMPOWERING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES IN RESILIENCY ACTIONS

Topic: DEI/J

Sub-topics: Partnerships, Public Engagement

Location: Leland

The Chesapeake Bay Program's Habitat Goal Implementation Team launched a successful pilot called the Targeted Outreach for Green Infrastructure in Vulnerable Areas (TOGI) project in 2021. This presentation will share how state and federal agencies came together to support socially and economically vulnerable communities in areas susceptible to climate change. Learn how trust was built with local leaders to design projects that met both community needs and watershed restoration goals. This project illustrates how to think beyond stormwater when designing green infrastructure stormwater strategies, find ways to adapt to evolving needs and challenges in community-based planning, and recognize historical inequities when planning for the future.

Presenters:

Briana Yancy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Alisa Wilson, Skeo Solutions

11:45 A.M.

LUNCH OPENS

Location: Harrisburg Ballroom

12:15-1:00

2025 AND BEYOND: WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY CLEANUP?

Location: Harrisburg Ballroom

The 2025 deadline for Chesapeake Bay cleanup goals is rapidly approaching. Bay Program assessments show that the region is unlikely to meet many of those goals, including targets for nutrient pollution. That raises many questions. How are we going to accelerate progress? And what lies beyond 2025? How will we define success moving forward? What issues need more attention and new thinking? What resources are needed? Hear the perspectives of leaders working for clean water address these and other questions as the region faces a keystone moment in protecting the Bay and the streams and rivers that feed it.

Panelists:

Allyson Gibson, Lancaster Clean Water Partners
Adam Ortiz, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Chris Thompson, Lancaster County Conservation District

Moderator:

Lara Lutz, Bay Journal



1:15-2:00 P.M.

SESSIONS

1:15-2:00 P.M.

SESSION
NAVIGATING WATERWAY ACCESS

Topic: Public Engagement

Sub-topic: Partnerships

Location: William Penn

Accessing the waterways in our communities is important for mental, social, and physical health. Yet there are often substantial obstacles to creating that access. This session is designed to explain the importance of waterway access, the legal hurdles to gaining waterway access, and outline various methods to engage municipalities and the public in overcoming those hurdles. We intend to break down those obstacles and give the attendees tools to take out into their communities that will help them secure access for the public.

Presenters:

Tim Fitchett, Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services
Meagan Niebler, Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services



1:15-2:00 P.M.

SESSION
BROOK TROUT: PENNSYLVANIA'S WATER THROUGH A FISHEYE LENS

Topic: Clean Water

Location: Leland

In 1970, Pennsylvania adopted the brook trout as its state fish. A "keystone" species in every sense, the past, present, and future of the brook trout encapsulate the Commonwealth's complicated relationship with the waters that sustain us both. The only salmonid native to Pennsylvania's inland rivers and streams, the brook trout's connection to a very special molecule represents a thread that ties together nearly every aspect of water quality in our state. In this session, we'll take a fun and informative look at this tenacious fish and see how we can choose clean water through a new and novel "fisheye" lens.

Presenter:

Brian Gish, Chesapeake Bay Foundation

1:15-2:00 P.M.

SESSION
BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY THROUGH A GRANT TRAINING PROGRAM

Topic: Professional Development

Location: Harrisburger

In 2022, Environmental Defense Fund and Virginia Conservation Network partnered on a grant training program to demystify the grant-seeking process for community-based organizations working on flood resilience in Virginia. Over four months, five organizations met with a professional grant writer to learn about persuasive writing for grant seeking, best practices for funder cultivation, and develop and get feedback on draft proposals. The program resulted in two organizations receiving a five-figure unrestricted grant, with other proposals still pending. This session will cover key outcomes and a framework for success for other groups interested in fundraising capacity-building.

Presenter:

Grace Tucker, Environmental Defense Fund



1:15-2:00 P.M.

SESSION
**CHOCOLATE MILK TO CHICKEN NUGGETS:
 CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY MODEL**

Topic: Partnerships

Location: Governor

This presentation will highlight the Alliance's successes in engaging with the agriculture supply chain in sustainability. Since 2015, the Alliance has assisted dairy producers throughout Pennsylvania to leverage existing public funds in order to maximize contributions made by corporate partners towards conservation goals. This successful model is expanding now into the poultry industry. Achieving clean water will require many diverse stakeholders working together to make the greatest impact. We will demonstrate how to replicate the lessons learned from our model and how this model can drive more conservation impact across industries and regions.

Presenters:

Brittany Smith, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Tyler Walston, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

1:15-2:00 P.M.

SESSION
**TELL YOUR CLIMATE STORY: RISING TO THE CHALLENGE OF
 EFFECTIVE CLIMATE COMMUNICATIONS**

Topic: Communications

Sub-topic: Public Engagement

Location: Penn Harris

Land conservation and river restoration efforts play an important role in capturing greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating climate impacts, and preparing our communities for a hotter, more extreme future. As trusted messengers, conservation leaders need to effectively communicate about the climate crisis with our audiences and promote nature-based measures as key solutions in our communities. Potomac Conservancy will share best practices when communicating about climate change, audience assessment tools, and key lessons learned from Rising to the Challenge, an online report series on local climate impacts and solutions.

Presenter:

Melissa Diemand, Potomac Conservancy

2:15-3:00 P.M.

SESSIONS

2:15-3:00 P.M.

SESSION
INTRODUCTION TO THE CLEAN WATER ACT PLAYBOOK

Topic: Public Engagement

Sub-topic: Communications

Location: William Penn

The Clean Water Act gives every person the right and the tools to enforce the law when the government fails to protect clean water. On the heels of the Clean Water Act's 50th anniversary, the Clean Water Act Playbook was created as a resource for frontline communities so they know how to report pollution and seek assistance. This online resource includes Clean Water Act basics, videos of how communities dealt with water pollution, and links to tools and organizations that can help. This session will introduce the CWA Playbook and solicit feedback for potential improvements.

Presenters:

Robin Broder, Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Betsy Nicholas, Potomac Riverkeeper Network

2:15-3:00 P.M.

SESSION
**NOT SO CHICKEN LITTLE: CONCENTRATED ANIMAL FEEDING
 OPERATION PERMITS IN MARYLAND**

Topic: Agriculture

Location: Leland



Animal Feeding Operations are a significant contributor of nutrient pollution in local waterways. This workshop will review Maryland's permitting scheme for Animal Feeding Operations and discuss our landmark victory with Assateague Coastkeeper and its potential implications in other jurisdictions and watersheds. We'll explore some similarities and differences with other Chesapeake Bay states and offer an interactive audience discussion of how to address pollution from Animal Feeding Operations throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Presenter:

David Reed, Chesapeake Legal Alliance

2:15-3:00 P.M.

SESSION

CLOSING THE GAP: ADVOCATING FOR INCREASED CONSERVATION FUNDING

Topic: Partnerships

Sub-topics: Agriculture, Communications, Public Engagement

Location: Harrisburger

It's no secret that Pennsylvania has lagged behind in its support for water conservation funding. But years of advocacy culminated in historic investments in the 2022-23 Pennsylvania state budget. Join us for a comprehensive look at the process we've taken to build greater support for clean water programs. In this session, attendees will learn how to navigate the legislative process, build coalitions, develop a persuasive message, and amplify that message through the media. The session will also feature a group discussion allowing participants to brainstorm how to best apply these tactics to their own circumstances.

Presenters:

Michael Mehrazar, PennFuture

Ezra Thrush, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

2:15-3:00 P.M.

SESSION

FUNDING AND FINANCING LOCAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

Topic: Partnerships

Sub-topic: Clean Water

Location: Governor

The Environmental Finance Center and program partners are serving as the Water Infrastructure Environmental Finance Center for the Mid-Atlantic for the next five years. Learn more about how our training and technical assistance can help connect your community to the resources, funding programs, and financing strategies that will help you accomplish your local priorities.

Presenters:

Jen Cotting, Environmental Finance Center

Ellen Kohler, Water Center at William Penn



2:15-3:00 P.M.

SESSION

GRASS ROOTS AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION AT PLAY

Topic: Stormwater

Sub-topic: Clean Water

Location: Penn Harris

Plastic sports field and lawn carpeting (a.k.a. synthetic or artificial turf or synturf) is a 'hot mess' of pollutants including PFAS chemicals. They are hotter than asphalt and contain a 'Pandora's box' of toxins from the plastic and tire waste that disintegrates and disperses into air, soil, and water. The carpets are meant to mimic the look of grass, usually for athletic fields or landscaping, but couldn't be less grass-like in their impact on the environment. This session will educate and discuss a road map for advocacy to keep playfields and yards natural instead of paving with greenhouse gas producing plastic.

Presenter:

Kathleen Michels, Safe Healthy Playing Fields

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**Thank you to this year's
Conference Planning Committee:**

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Mauricio Rosales, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Trisha Salvia, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
Mariah Davis, Choose Clean Water Coalition
Sara Ramotnik, Choose Clean Water Coalition
Kristin Reilly, Choose Clean Water Coalition
Molly Parzen, Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania
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Evan Bechtel, Dickinson College
Shannon Smith, FracTracker Alliance
Allyson Gibson, Lancaster Clean Water Partners
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Michael Mehrazar, PennFuture
Tali MacArthur, Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers
Brenna Goggin, River Network
Alexandra Kozak, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Rachel Stahlman, Watershed Alliance of York

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