



CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

Policy for the Bay | www.chesbay.us

Agenda State College, PA September 4-5, 2025

As bus space is limited, only Members of the Commission are permitted to join Thursday's field experiences. Members of the public interested in attending Friday's meeting should contact jdieux@chesbay.us for location information.

Thursday, September 4, 2025

PART 1: EVERGREEN FARMS AND SPRUCE CREEK

10:45 A.M. MEET IN LOBBY OF NITTANY LION INN

11:00 A.M. BOARD BUS FOR EVERGREEN FARMS

11:30 A.M. ARRIVE AT EVERGREEN FARMS

At Evergreen Farms, 3,500 Holstein cows are milked three times per day. Another 3,700 young calves and heifers are raised for herd replacements. The dairy operation is supported by over 6,000 acres of forage and grain crops. The Harpster family uses several best management practices to improve soil and water conservation, benefiting both their operation and Spruce Creek, a world-class wild trout stream that runs through the farm.

Abraham Harpster, Aaron Harpster, and Andrew Harpster
Co-owners of Evergreen Farms

12:30 P.M. DEPART FOR SPRUCE CREEK

1:15 P.M. SPRUCE CREEK SITE VISIT

The high-quality water of Spruce Creek supports a wild trout population that lures anglers from across the globe. The Harpsters have turned this into a business opportunity, with rental cabins along the creek. Frequent visitors were the late President Jimmy Carter and wife Rosalynn, both avid and accomplished fly fishers.

1:45 P.M. BREAK
15-minute break

PART 2: ACID MINE DRAINAGE (AMD)

2:00 P.M. DEPART FOR AMD SITE

2:45 P.M. ARRIVE AT AMD SITE

Approximately 2,000 miles of streams in the Bay watershed are impacted by drainage from abandoned coal mines. This acidic water contains high levels of dissolved metals that impact the chemical and physical properties of the stream. In addition to spoiling local aquatic habitat, these changes disrupt the natural cycling of nutrients with consequences downstream. Thanks to a network of local partnerships, treatment systems are being installed to restore water quality, but challenges remain before widespread adoption and ecological benefits can be fully realized.

Bobby Hughes, Executive Director
Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation

Eric Rosengrant, President
Moshannon Creek Watershed Association

Kelly Williams, Watershed Specialist
Clearfield County Conservation District

4:00 P.M. DEPART AMD SITE

4:45 P.M. ARRIVE BACK AT NITTANY LION INN

Friday, September 5, 2025

BREAKFAST LOCATION AND MEETING LOCATION:

The Nittany Lion Inn

8:00 A.M. DELEGATION BREAKFAST BREAKOUTS

Boardroom 1 – Nittany Lion Inn

Delegations will discuss news and issues relevant to their jurisdictions. Breakfast is available for members only.

9:15 A.M. WELCOME

Ballroom DE – Nittany Lion Inn

CALL TO ORDER

NEW MEMBER & STAFF INTRODUCTION

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ADOPTION/MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

9:30 A.M. MAY MEETING FOLLOW-UPS

9:45 A.M. POLICY ROUNDTABLE

As Virginia and Maryland begin strategizing for their 2026 legislative sessions and Pennsylvania continues progress on its 2025-2026 General Assembly, this structured discussion will help plan future policy initiatives and revisit ongoing priorities. Chesapeake Bay Commission staff will provide a brief introduction for each topic and guided questions for action-oriented discussion:

- Grading our Pay-For-Performance: Assessing Existing Programs
 - Understanding Your Canopy: County and Municipal Tree Canopy Coverage
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10:45 A.M. BREAK

11:00 A.M. RESUME ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- Preventing the Spread: Addressing PFAS in Biosolids

11:30 A.M. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LIGHTNING ROUND UPDATES

- Federal Policy Matters
- Draft Revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

11:50 A.M. NEW BUSINESS & OPEN DISCUSSION

**12:05 P.M. INTERIM ACTIONS
PUBLIC COMMENT**

12:15 P.M. ADJOURN

*The next meeting of the full Chesapeake Bay Commission
will be held in Stratford, Virginia, on November 13-14, 2025.*