

WATERKEEPERS CHESAPEAKE 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



*Our Vision is clean water for all Chesapeake
and coastal communities.*

Waterkeepers Chesapeake fights for clean water and a healthy environment by supporting Waterkeepers throughout the Chesapeake and coastal regions as they protect their communities, rivers, and streams from pollution.



ROBIN BRODER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



NAVIGATING INTO THE FUTURE

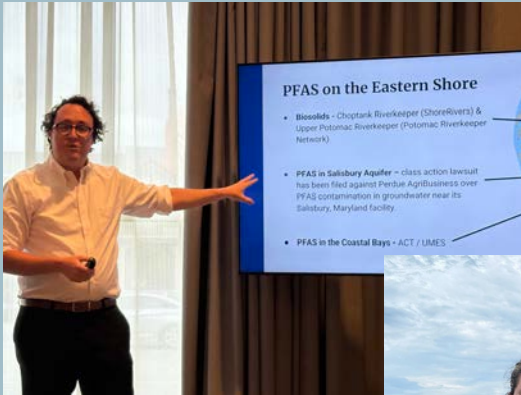
2025 was a year of change and transition for Waterkeepers Chesapeake, our country and our laws governing the protection of our water and promotion of science. While the basis for our work as Waterkeepers – laws rooted in science – is under attack, Waterkeepers are redoubling their efforts to protect local waterways and communities. To that end, Waterkeepers Chesapeake explored new strategic partnerships to strengthen and leverage the impact of our coalition. As we closed out 2025, we had consensus to join forces with Chesapeake Legal Alliance. 2026 began with working out the final agreement to integrate Waterkeepers Chesapeake into Chesapeake Legal Alliance as a sponsored major program. Next year, we will report on the progress of this exciting partnership.

2025 was also a year of some big successes. After more than a decade working on the Conowingo Dam's new 50-year federal license, we entered into a historic settlement with MDE and Constellation for a \$341 million investment over the next 50 years to restore and protect water quality of the Susquehanna River and the Bay.

We received our first federal grant - an EPA Thriving Communities grant through Green & Healthy Homes Initiative for a collaborative project with our Maryland Waterkeepers to improve monitoring for bacteria. Look for project updates in 2026.

As always, we invite you to join our Waterkeepers in making a difference for our communities and waterways.

Robin Broder



TRAINING & SUPPORT

Training, assistance, coordination and support of our member programs is at the heart of Waterkeepers Chesapeake. In addition to our 2025 retreat in Pittsburgh, PA on November 11 - 12 (ahead of the Waterkeeper Alliance North American Summit), we provided monthly trainings and facilitated group meetings with external partners like the EPA. We received our first federal grant - an EPA Thriving Communities grant through the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative for a collaborative project with Maryland Waterkeepers to improve bacteria monitoring. This grant provided significant passthrough funding for the Waterkeepers.

ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement is critical to implementing the laws and policies that protect our watershed. Nationally, a quarter of all enforcement actions comes from Waterkeepers. Protecting our rights has become urgent. We submitted several comments opposing the weakening of Clean Water Act protections and federal rollbacks of toxic coal ash and PFAS regulations.

ENGAGEMENT

Our program of outreach and communications is part of our strategy to amplify our Waterkeepers collective impact and build up grassroots voices for change. With the addition of Martinna Parham to our staff, our communications got a boost with impactful blogs, social media series and videos. In the fall, communications uplifting the Waterkeepers' bacteria monitoring was launched. WKC participated in events to benefit our Waterkeepers, including being a beneficiary of the annual Bay Paddle and sponsoring and presenting at conferences.

POLICY

Our Waterkeepers are at the forefront of addressing the urgent public health crisis of PFAS, the forever chemicals. WKC coordinates efforts under a Regional PFAS Pollution Campaign. In 2025, we championed PFAS legislation in Maryland and Virginia, as well as amplified the data collection, research and advocacy of our Waterkeepers.

In Maryland, we organized our 2nd annual Waterkeeper Advocacy Day, bringing Waterkeepers and their staff to meet with lawmakers on priority policy issues.

Historic WIN for the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay



\$341 MILLION

in Environmental Investments

Over a decade ago, Waterkeepers Chesapeake and Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association made a commitment to local communities and other stakeholders that a certification that meets enforceable water quality standards must be included in the 50-year federal license for the operation of Conowingo Dam. On October 2, 2025, Governor Moore announced a historic agreement with the owner of the Conowingo Dam that includes commitments, valued at over \$340 million, to cleaner water and continued progress in the restoration of the Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay. The agreement – negotiated in partnership with Waterkeepers Chesapeake and Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association – clears the way for the relicensing and continued operation of the dam.

In the spring of 2024, Waterkeepers Chesapeake and Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper began participating in confidential mediation with the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and Constellation. After over 30 mediation sessions and several one-on-one meetings with MDE and Constellation, we reached a settlement and revised water quality certification.

The agreement marks a new era for the dam and a new commitment for clean water. The funding for water quality projects, a pathway to dredging, and investments in living resources such as the freshwater mussel hatchery are significant steps forward. Though more than a decade in the making, this agreement is not the end of our efforts, but rather the beginning of an important new chapter. Waterkeepers Chesapeake and Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper look forward to providing oversight and working in partnership with the state and Constellation on the implementation of this important agreement. [Learn more](#)

We want to give a big thank you to the tremendous efforts of our attorneys during the mediation process: Evan Isaacson of Chesapeake Legal Alliance and attorneys Sandra Franco and Jesse Dillon. We also want to thank our attorneys from Earthjustice who provided counsel for over a decade.

WHO WE ARE

2025 WATERKEEPERS

Assateague Coastkeeper Taylor Swanson
Anacostia Riverkeeper Trey Sherard
Baltimore Harbor Waterkeeper Alice Volpitta
Chester Riverkeeper Annie Richards
Choptank Riverkeeper Matt Pluta
Gunpowder Riverkeeper Theaux Le Gardeur
James Riverkeeper Tom Dunlap
Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Ted Evgeniadis
Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper John Zaktansky
Miles-Wye Riverkeeper Ben Ford
Potomac Riverkeeper Dean Naujoks
Sassafras Riverkeeper Zack Kelleher
Severn Riverkeeper Sara Caldes
Shenandoah Riverkeeper Mark Frondorf
South, West & Rhode Riverkeeper Elle Bassett
Upper Potomac Riverkeeper Brent Walls

STAFF

Robin Broder, Acting Executive Director
Martinna Parham, Program Associate

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

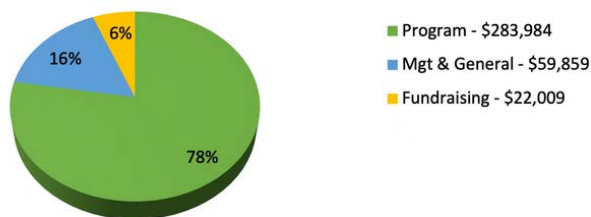
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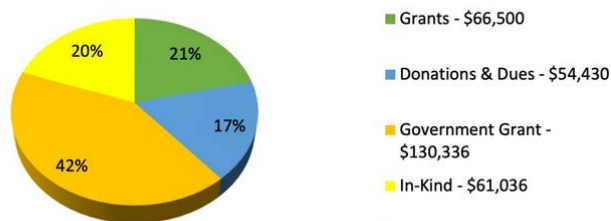
2025 Maryland Advocacy Day in Annapolis

FINANCIALS

Expenditures Total: \$365,852



Revenue Total: \$312,302



SUPPORTERS

Waterkeepers Chesapeake is grateful to the following:

Foundation Partners:

Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds
Curtis & Edith Munson Foundation
Oak Hill Fund
Rouse Family Foundation

Corporate & Other Funding Partners:

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative (EPA
Thriving Communities Grant)
Mom's Organic Market
Patagonia Baltimore
Chesapeake Bay Paddle

Pro Bono Legal Counsel:

Earthjustice
Chesapeake Legal Alliance
Center for Biological Diversity
Environmental Integrity Project



Thank you to all our individual donors at all levels! Your gifts make our work possible!