REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR PRESENTATIONS
2022 Choose Clean Water Conference
May 24-26, 2022
Omni Hotel
Richmond, Virginia

The Choose Clean Water Coalition (Coalition) is issuing a request for proposals from interested applicants who would like to lead an engaging presentation at the Coalition’s 2022 Choose Clean Water Conference.

Deadline for submissions: January 14, 2022
Please read these instructions carefully before applying.

Each year, the Coalition’s Choose Clean Water 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 in restoration or other relevant issues is invited to apply to lead a session at the conference.

The conference assembles a diverse group of people from throughout the Chesapeake Bay region. Typical attendees include Chesapeake watershed advocates, including policy experts, project implementation staff, communications staff, executive directors of local, state, regional, and national environmental nonprofits, and funders of Chesapeake Bay initiatives. 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 Revive. Restore. Reimagine. Gathering for the first in-person Choose Clean Water Conference in three years, we are excited to revive the energy of our Coalition, strengthen our resolve to restore our waterways, and reimagine our movement. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the members of the Coalition have demonstrated remarkable resilience in moving the Bay restoration effort forward despite unprecedented circumstances. This conference seeks to not only reenergize...
our members by offering some much-needed face-time, but also provide a platform for discovering new tools and resources to meet our clean water goals and a space for reflection and inspiration as we seek to center our work on principles of equity and justice.

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 economically disadvantaged communities and/or representing cultural, racial, and other kinds of diversity are especially encouraged to apply and will receive higher priority.

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 use 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 are planning to hold this conference in-person. While we will offer a hybrid option for individuals to attend virtually, all presenters are expected to present on-site in Richmond. We will closely follow several health and safety protocols. These include, but are not limited to:

- Mandatory vaccination requirement to attend in-person
- Wearing masks indoors
- Social distancing
- Limiting the number of people in each room
- Hosting sessions and workshops outside when possible
  o See note in proposal section on hosting an outdoor session

While it is impossible to predict the state of the pandemic months in advance, 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

With the conference theme of Revive. Restore. Reimagine., we hope to offer presentations 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. All sessions are 45 minutes in length.

- Requirements
  o Submit proposal no later than January 14, 2022.
  o All presentation applications must be submitted using the application form here.
• Sessions may have **up to two speakers**; **we will not accept any panel proposals**.
• Should leave at least 5-10 minutes for discussion and/or questions during the 45-minute period.
• **We are encouraging presenters to consider hosting their sessions outdoors if possible.** Outdoor sessions will meet within walking distance of the hotel and no buses are available. The session will have no projector, screen, or other electronic devices available. Presenters can distribute paper handouts if necessary.

**Evaluation**

The Coalition’s Conference Planning Committee will review all proposals for 45-minute sessions. The Committee will judge applications based on the following considerations:

• All applications must meet the requirements stated above. 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 & after photos, models, charts, handouts, etc.).
  ▪ Examine Chesapeake Bay issues in a compelling way that underscore the connection of the Bay to people, the urgency needed to solve the problem, and manageable solutions.
  ▪ Express willingness to host their session outside.

**Categories**
The Coalition is seeking innovative and creative proposals for presentations on the following categories:
• Agriculture
• Campaign/Movement Building
• Chesapeake Bay Restoration Effort (TMDL)
• Clean Water
• Climate Change/Adaptation
• Communications
• Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice
• Land Conservation
• Local Government
• Pipelines/Shale/Fracking
• Policy/Advocacy
II. Further Details and Follow-Up

- Presenters of indoor sessions 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. The presenter must provide any additional audio/visual needs, working with the Coalition staff and within the limitations of the conference facility.
- Applicants will receive notification of submission by email and acceptance for conference presentation by February 11, 2022.
- **Both presenters** (or just one if there’s only one presenter) from each accepted 45-minute session proposal will receive free registration to the conference for the day they are presenting.