

District Waterways Advisory Commission

Thursday, March 19, 2026



AGENDA

1. Meet and Greet
2. Swearing In
3. Opening Remarks
4. Agenda and Introductions
5. Project Overview
6. Process and Timeline
7. Initial Stakeholder Feedback
8. Discussion
9. Next Steps
10. Adjourn



INTRODUCTIONS



Advisory Plan Team

The Waterways Advisory Plan is being led by the DOEE Office of District Waterways Management (ODWM). HR&A Advisors is supporting DOEE ODWM in this effort.



HR&A Project management, commission and stakeholder engagement, real estate, economic development, climate and resilience, open space advisory

 **LINK** STRATEGIC PARTNERS
Community and stakeholder engagement, strategic communications

AECOM
Waterfront planning, waterways management, transportation planning advisory

Trueblood .city
Urban planning, state and local policy, and housing advisory; Commission engagement

Introductions

Office of District Waterways Management

Please introduce yourself and state:

Name

Title, Organization

One word you would use to describe the District's waterways (no repeats allowed!)

DC Waterways Advisory Commission

Darryl Madden

Jorge Galindo

Thomas Skinner

Trey Sherard

Melissa Bird

Nate Handy

Diane Groomes

Gilles Stucker

Andrew Horos

Kirti Rajpurohit

Matt Ries

Danielle Gurkin

Riley Piva

Lt. Cmdr. Kate Newkirk

Colonel Angelique Nelson

Ryan Washington

Ebony Payne

Robin McKinney

Ted Jutras

Kristina Noell

Jason Kopp

Tim Johnson

Rachel Clark

Alexandra (Ali) Lampson

Michael Puglis

Gretchen Mikeska

Hootan Kaboli

Charles Lindsay

Capt. Ryan Gaul

Diane Sullivan

Patrick Campbell

 Voting Member

 Ex Officio – District

 Ex Officio – Federal

Values for Discourse

Be **fully present** during meetings by avoiding multi-tasking

Know when to lead versus **creating space for others to speak** (we have a lot of ground to cover during these meetings)

Recognize that **each Commission member has been selected with a specific area of expertise in mind** and therefore bring different degrees of understanding

Respect that others may have a difference in opinion

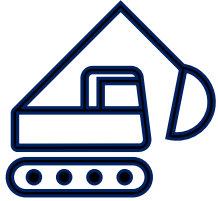
Share opinions collaboratively, using “yes, and” statements that aim to **move towards consensus**, recognizing that perfect alignment may not be achieved or necessary

OVERVIEW & COMMISSION OBJECTIVES



Background Context

Office of District Waterways Management



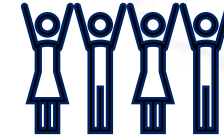
Increased Activity

- Economic Development
The Wharf, Navy Yard, etc.
- Recreational & Cultural
Yards Park, Canal Park, 11st Street Bridge Park, Nationals Parks, Audi Field, The Anthem, etc.
- Waterways Traffic
Yacht Clubs, Water Taxis, Commuter Ferries, etc.



Concerns

- Environmental
Flood risk, Polluted waters, etc.
- Equitable Access & Affordability
- Coordinated & Comprehensive Approach
Local jurisdictions, AWI Plan



Advise & Advocacy

- Space to hear stakeholders' concerns, and to advocate on their behalf
- Ongoing interagency communication and collaboration
- System for comprehensive planning that relies on community, stakeholder, and expert input



Office of District Waterways Management Establishment Act of 2022

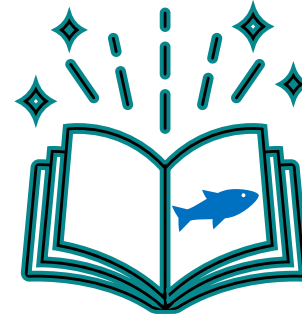
D.C. Law 24-336.



The purpose of the Office is to plan, promote and facilitate stakeholder cooperation for the diverse uses of and access to the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers, the Washington Channel, and adjacent property.



**District Waterways
Advisory Commission**



**District Waterways
Advisory Plan**



District Waterways Advisory Plan: Topics

The OWDM Establishment Act defined **eight topic areas** that the Waterways Advisory Plan should address:

1. The orderly, safe, and efficient use of the waterways for boating and recreation;
2. Public and private uses of property and infrastructure adjacent to the waterways;
3. Interagency and regional coordination on issues relevant to the waterways, and adjacent property;
4. Environmental conservation and management;
5. Strategies for coordinated economic growth;
6. Assessments of safety and security risks and needs;
7. Identification of transportation gaps on and adjacent to the waterways; and
8. Opportunities to increase local control.



Waterways Advisory Plan Components



The DC Waterways Advisory Plan will outline a set of goals and strategies for a set of priorities, all of which will be guided by an implementation roadmap.

Vision

Three Goals Per Topic Area

Three Strategies Per Goal

Implementation Roadmap

Advisory Plan

PROCESS & TIMELINE



District Waterways Advisory Plan Clarifications

✓ What This Plan Is...

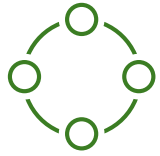
- A citywide effort to **identify goals and strategies** that improve access, safety, use, and stewardship of DC's waterways, informed by a wide range of **stakeholders**.
- A framework for **prioritizing** investments, policies, and implementation steps.
- A tool to **strengthen coordination** across agencies and jurisdictions.
- A way to **center equitable access and benefits** across all waterways.

✗ What This Plan Is Not...

- It is *not* a replacement for ongoing planning efforts or existing initiatives.
- It is *not* a referendum on specific development projects.
- It is *not* a one-time listening effort with no tangible actions.
- It is *not* a plan that DOEE alone will implement.

District Waterways Advisory Plan Guiding Principles

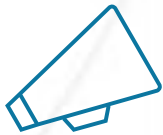
The engagement process will be guided by a set of core principles that inform how activities are designed, implemented, and evaluated.



Equity and Inclusive Access



Transparency and Trust



Responsiveness and Feedback Loop



Coordination Across Agencies and User Groups

Advisory Plan Overview

The Advisory Plan will provide the District with a clear, coordinated roadmap to guide waterways and waterfront uses, planning, and development.

INPUTS



Existing conditions analysis



Community and stakeholder engagement



Advisory Commission engagement



Vision development



Goals and strategies analysis

OUTPUT

Advisory Plan

- Orderly, safe, and efficient boating and recreation
- Public/private uses of property and infrastructure
- Interagency and regional coordination
- Environmental conservation and management
- Coordinated economic growth
- Safety and security
- Transportation
- Opportunities to increase local control



Stakeholder and Public Input

Additionally, we will collect stakeholder input throughout the process to shape the direction of the Advisory Plan.

INPUTS



17 engagement events
(surveys, workshops,
roadshows, and focus
groups)



Web-based input form
and email



Commission meeting
attendance

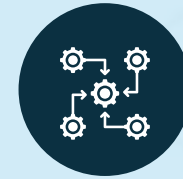


Draft plan public
comment period



2 public meetings on
Draft Advisory Plan

OUTPUT



Public Engagement and Commission Meetings

- Highlights from relevant input received to date shared in Commissioner's pre-read materials
- Option for attendance
- Web-based input form and odwm@dc.gov promoted during meetings
- Written or oral public comment, as time allows



District Waterways Advisory Plan Timeline

Throughout the project, we will prioritize a responsive feedback loop:
engage – communicate – listen – analyze.

Months	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27
Advisory Commission Meetings	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange		Orange		Orange		Orange				
Stakeholder & Community Engagement	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue											
Public Meetings												Green	Green		
Advisory Plan Development								Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple	Purple (P)

We are here

(P) Final Advisory Plan



INITIAL STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK



Preliminary Anecdotal Findings

Initial conversations with stakeholders suggest that there is a need to balance increased access to the waterways with a focus on safety, while also establishing clear roles and responsibilities.

Increased Interest in Waterways

Initial stakeholder conversations suggest there is increased desire to promote activity in and along the waterways, including swimming, recreational motorized and non-motorized boating, and commercial activities

Focus on Safety

Whether it be regarding water quality, commercial activity, or recreational boating, stakeholders indicated a need for clear guardrails to maintain safe use of the waterways.

Need for Governance

Several stakeholders pointed to the need for consistent coordination among the relevant agencies and for increased clarity on where to go to address challenges regarding the waterways. This was an important impetus of the Waterways Advisory Commission.



DISCUSSION



Discussion

PROMPT:

What is one priority that needs to be addressed in the Waterways Advisory Plan?

Instructions:

1. Consider and write down your response – 3 *minutes*
2. Turn to your neighbor to discuss – 5 *minutes*
3. Share out responses with the group



Discussion

PROMPT:

What is one question you believe needs to be answered in the Waterways Advisory Plan? What is one opportunity or barrier that the Plan can address?

Instructions:

1. Consider and write down your response – 3 minutes
2. Turn to your neighbor to discuss – 5 minutes
3. Share out responses with the group



Image Credit: Greg Kullman

NEXT STEPS



Long Term Timeline

Over the next seven commission meetings, we will focus on the major District Waterways topic areas.

Months	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27
Advisory Commission Meetings	█	█	█	█	█		█		█		█				
Stakeholder & Community Engagement	█	█	█	█											
Public Meetings												█	█		
Advisory Plan Development								█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█ ^P

We are here

^P Final Advisory Plan



Commission Meetings Overview

The first several Commission meetings will cover each of the eight topic areas, with two topic areas addressed per meeting.

Meeting #2

- 1 The **orderly, safe, and efficient use** of the waterways for boating and recreation.
- 4 **Environmental conservation and management** of the waterways, and adjacent property.

Meeting #4

- 6 Assessments of [and proposed solutions to] **safety and security risks and needs** on and adjacent to the waterways
- 7 Identification of [and proposed solutions to] **transportation gaps** on and adjacent to the waterways

Meeting #3

- 2 **Public and private uses of property and infrastructure adjacent** to the waterways
- 5 Coordinated **economic growth** on and adjacent to the waterways.

Meeting #5 and Throughout

- 3 **Interagency and regional coordination** on issues relevant to the waterways and adjacent property.
- 8 **Opportunities to increase local control** of the waterways and adjacent property.

Immediate Next Steps

1. Review and approve bylaws
2. Appoint a Vice Chair
3. Determine the need and desire for topic area conversations
4. Decide if the Commission will host stakeholder events or plan “field trips”
5. Share the survey with your networks.



Survey QR Code and Link



<https://bit.ly/DistrictWaterwaysSurvey>

APPENDIX – Commission Meetings Overview

Sequence and discussion topics for Commission meetings will inform the drafting of the Advisory Plan.

	Mar 2026 <i>In-Person</i>	Apr 2026 <i>Virtual</i>	May 2026 <i>In-Person</i>	June 2026 <i>Virtual</i>	July 2026 <i>In-Person</i>
Meeting Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions and Plan Objectives and Visioning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boating and Recreation Uses • Environmental Conservation and Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated Economic Growth • Public/Private Uses of Property and Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and Security • Transportation Gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interagency and Regional Coordination • Opportunities for Local Control • Identify Potential Goals for each topic
Intended Outcomes and Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish clear objectives • Establish shared values for discourse • Determine need for working groups • Generate preliminary questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a shared understanding of the top challenges and opportunities • Identify preliminary potential goals and action items for each topic • Raise additional information needed to inform decisions • Discuss implications regarding Interagency and Regional Coordination and Opportunities to Increase Local Control 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Preliminary Decision Matrix • Identify promising goals and strategies

APPENDIX – Commission Meetings Overview

Sequence and discussion topics for Commission meetings will inform the drafting of the Advisory Plan.

	Sept 2026 <i>In-Person</i>	Oct 2026 <i>In-Person</i>	Jan 2027 <i>In-Person</i>	Mar 2027 <i>Virtual</i>
Meeting Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Decision Matrix and Discuss Goals and Strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Draft Implementation Analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and Approve Draft Advisory Plan for Public Comment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Plan Approval Virtual Safety and Security and Transportation Gaps
Intended Outcomes and Decisions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and provide comments on the Decision Matrix. Identify which goals and strategies are most promising (to advance for implementation analysis). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide on set of goals/strategies for inclusion in plan, informed by results of implementation analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the Draft Advisory Plan for Public Comment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the Final Advisory Plan for delivery to Mayor and Council.