

2024 MWMC Above and Beyond Award – Liz Chudoba



Liz has been a true champion for our waters. Her commitment to increasing watershed awareness is evident through her exceptional work in coordinating 19 Maryland community science organizations under the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) umbrella. By providing essential technical support and training, she empowers these organizations to monitor their local waters and fosters a strong sense of stewardship among community members. Liz has built a network where every participant feels equipped to use their monitoring data to advocate for the health of their watershed. Under her leadership, the CMC has developed standardized monitoring protocols and quality assurance procedures that ensure the data collected is of known quality. This is not just about data; it's about giving communities the tools they need to better understand and advocate for their local environments, influencing state assessments in meaningful ways.

Because of Liz's efforts, more high-quality community-based data was integrated into Maryland's 2024 Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality than ever before. Three community organizations—Blue Water Baltimore, Nanticoke Watershed Alliance, and Arundel Rivers Federation—collected and submitted high-quality, Tier III tidal dissolved oxygen data that was incorporated into the Chesapeake Bay Program's tidal interpolator model, and subsequently into Maryland's Integrated Report assessments. This showcases the power of community engagement in achieving broader watershed management goals.

Liz Chudoba's dedication and leadership have profoundly impacted watershed awareness and stewardship in Maryland. Her work exemplifies what it means to advocate for and protect the health of our Maryland waters.