



WEST VIRGINIA RIVERS

Technical Advisory Council - Charter

3 September 2026

Purpose

The WV Rivers Technical Advisory Council (TAC) is an independent network of scientific, legal, and policy experts who strengthen the technical basis of our advocacy, expand staff capacity, and help translate emerging research into conservation policy and public understanding. The TAC helps WV Rivers by:

- Providing technical expertise to support campaigns and programs
- Expanding the breadth and depth of expertise available to staff
- Strengthening leadership in water science and conservation policy
- Communicating science and policy to decision-makers and the public

TAC structure

- We seek up to 12 members with demonstrated technical expertise.
- The Senior Scientist and Policy Specialist are responsible for TAC development and administration.
- TAC members provide independent scientific, technical, legal, and policy advice but do not establish or approve WV Rivers policy or legal positions. Membership does not imply endorsement of every position taken by WV Rivers, nor does WV Rivers necessarily endorse the individual views of TAC members.
- We seek diversity in disciplines, perspectives, professional backgrounds, and identities.
- TAC membership is a voluntary and unpaid position.
- Members are appointed for 2-year terms with an option to renew.
- Priority is given to experts based in West Virginia or with substantial expertise relevant to West Virginia, although membership is not geographically limited.

Roles and responsibilities

- TAC members provide scientific, technical, legal, and policy expertise to WV Rivers staff and campaigns on a rolling basis, consistent with their areas of expertise, interests, and availability.
- Members are expected to provide independent technical judgment and to identify financial, professional, institutional, or other conflicts relevant to matters on which they provide advice.
- Members serve in their individual capacities; participation does not imply endorsement by their employers or affiliated institutions.
- Members are encouraged to contribute to at least one science or policy communication activity each year, such as a blog post, media interview, webinar, social media content, press release, or conference presentation.
- Members consent to being listed on the WV Rivers website with their photo, professional credentials, and area of expertise.
- The TAC meets approximately quarterly online to discuss emerging research and policy issues, collaborative opportunities, communications, and technical-support needs. Additional meetings may be convened as specific needs or opportunities arise. Meetings are coordinated by the Senior Scientist and Policy Specialist.

Targeted areas for TAC representation

The TAC seeks complementary expertise across disciplines relevant to WV Rivers' mission, including but not limited to:

- Freshwater Biology
- Hydrology & Hydrogeology
- Environmental Public Health
- Forest Ecology & Forestry
- Geospatial & Data Science
- Economics & Public Policy
- Environmental Law

Selection Process

TAC members are selected by the Senior Scientist and Policy Specialist in consultation with the Deputy Director. Selection considers relevant expertise, experience, interest in WV Rivers' mission, ability to contribute to TAC activities, and the overall diversity and balance of expertise represented on the Council.

Applications for the inaugural TAC cohort will be accepted through September 22, 2026.