

Consensus Based Decision-making

What does the Governance Document say?

“Decision-making at the EC, PSC, and MB is done through consensus by signatory representatives. As a last resort, if consensus cannot be reached, a supermajority vote will be utilized.

Decision-making for GITs is done through consensus by members participating in Management Strategies.” *(this approach applies to Workgroups and Action Teams as well)*

Consensus Continuum



Consensus Based Decision-making

What are the implications?

1. The partnership has set, memorialized in its Governance Document, and repeatedly reaffirmed a very high bar for deciding when and how to take action.
2. Inherent in that policy, is that a decision to cease or modify a previously agreed upon action can be made only by meeting an equally high bar.
3. Therefore, the default position should always be to implement previously agreed upon actions. Recommendations to cease or modify previously agreed upon actions can only go forward by consensus or, in the case of the MB, PSC, or EC, by supermajority vote.

Previous partnership decisions on updating the models:

1. hold the assumptions set at the beginning of the milestone period constant over the two-year period and
2. at the end of the milestone period, the partners will factor in the new information, BMP efficiencies, and data **previously approved by the partnership** into the present and past history of progress runs, back through 2009.

- For the 2017-2019 milestones, #1 was fulfilled through using CAST 2017 at the beginning and end of the milestone period. ✓
- For the 2019-2021 milestones, #2 was fulfilled through CAST 2019. So, did CAST 2019 follow what they agreed to: ✓
 - At the end of the milestone period ✓
 - Factor in ✓
 - the new information (ag census) ✓
 - BMP efficiencies (from BMP panels) ✓
 - And data ✓
 - Previously approved by the partnership

Question: Were all of the data, information, and BMP efficiencies “approved by the partnership?”

If yes, then unless there is consensus to reject the original decision, CAST 2019 should be approved.

Reframing Today's Decision

Consistent with existing partnership decisions on updating the model, CAST 2019 should be released unless the Management Board reaches consensus approval on reversing the decision by the WQGIT and the Management Board in 2015 and 2016.

Decision

- Consensus or a supermajority vote to reverse the 2015 and 2016 WQGIT and Management Board decisions on model updates and identify a new path forward
 - If consensus or a supermajority vote is not reached on reversing that decision, CAST 2019 will be released, consistent with existing partnership decisions on the process for updating the model.
 - If consensus or a supermajority vote is reached on reversing that decision, CAST 2017 would be the model available for use.