



Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Report

Principals' Staff Committee Meeting
October 25, 2024

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EC Charge

“recommend a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the *Watershed Agreement* beyond 2025”



Phase 1 – by EC 2024
Scope & breadth of what should be undertaken



Phase 2 – after EC 2024
Execute plan

Key Takeaways

- Still have 2 "Bottom Line Up Front" recommendations for EC consideration (slight changes in language)
- Substance of report and recommendations are largely unchanged from draft form
- Revisions made based on comments received to improve clarity and more accurately reflect the consensus of the Steering Committee
- SC reached consensus on final report at Sept 26 meeting
 - Secretary Kurtz able to join virtually to express PSC's thanks for the SC's work
 - Red-lined report made available immediately

Outline of Draft

Part I: Critical Path Forward Beyond 2025

Part II: Recommendations for the Chesapeake
Bay Program

Part III: Source Materials



Part I:

Recommendations for Potential Consideration by the Chesapeake Bay Program

- 1 Affirm the partnership's commitment to work together in partnership to meet the goals of the *Watershed Agreement*. Direct partnership to continue implementation of existing goals. Direct PSC to make every effort to propose specific amendments to the *Agreement*, including outcomes, by end of calendar year 2025.
- 2 Keep the partnership strong. Simplify and streamline structure and processes.

Part I: REVISIONS

Recommendations for Potential Consideration by the Chesapeake Bay Program

- 1
 - Direct partnership to continue implementation of existing goals
 - Timing of Agreement amendments – Every effort to complete by end of 2025
 - Adherence to Governance and Management Framework
- 2
 - Effective coordination, collaboration, inclusion when streamlining

Additional Background

- Consideration of SMART approach
- Acknowledged existing challenges as well as progress made
- Emphasize land use and population growth

Part II:

High-level Recommendations for the Chesapeake Bay Program

SCIENCE

- Monitoring, Modeling, Analysis.
- Decision-making, resource allocation, communication.
- Knowledge-gaps: Climate, land use, social science.

RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

- Elevate conservation and nearshore habitats.
- Review all goals, outcomes and strategies.
- Holistic approach to maximize benefits.

PARTNERSHIP

- Streamline.
- Build capacity through local networks.
- Strengthen relevance to all communities.
- Communication and transparency.

Part II: REVISIONS

High-level Recommendations for the Chesapeake Bay Program

SCIENCE

- Explicit mention of toxics and emerging contaminants
- Added language towards nutrient imbalances and non-point source issues.
- Revised language and additions for social science

RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION

- Revised explanation of "conservation."

PARTNERSHIP

- Clarified “systems” approach.

Part III:

Source Materials: Many and Meaningful

- 2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*
- Chesapeake 2000
- Governance and Management Framework for the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay: A Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response
- Enhancing Chesapeake Bay Partnership Activities by Integrating Social Science
- Retrospective on Lessons Learned from the Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System's 3rd Cycle with Suggested Adaptations to Address Issues
- Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment
- Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Results of, Multiple Chesapeake Bay Program Outcomes
- Charting a Course to 2025
- Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures: Ecological Implications and Management Responses
- Enhancing the Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Networks
- Chesapeake Governance Study: Report of 2021 Decision-Maker Interview Results
- Recognizing Political Influences in Participatory Socio-Ecological Systems Models
- Linking Soil and Watershed Health to In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management
- Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model
- Cafe Summaries and Report Products from the Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System's 3rd Cycle Biennial Meeting



Public Feedback

Reminder: Overarching Themes from Public Feedback

- **Enhanced accountability and evidence-based** restoration practices.
- **Conservation as a focal area** and integration into pillars of restoration and science.
- **Address local and regional priorities** of climate resilience, environmental justice, and other “emerging” issues.
- **Importance of collaboration** and balancing needs across all partners.
- **Inclusive public engagement** to foster greater transparency and trust.
- **Technical assistance and financial support** to sustain and grow local implementation activities.

Timeline



Key Dates

- Sept 17th Update provided to PSC, guidance to Co-Chairs, discussion of next steps
- Sept 26th Steering Committee meeting reached consensus on the report
- Sept 27th Draft EC Charge shared with MB and SC members
- Oct 2nd Virtual briefing for PSC members and staff
- Oct 10th MB meeting, receipt/acceptance of final SC report
- Oct 25th PSC meeting, receipt of final SC report, decision on EC action in response

An underwater photograph showing a clear blue environment. Sunlight rays penetrate from the surface, creating a shimmering effect. In the foreground, several green aquatic plants with small leaves and buds are visible. Two small, slender fish are swimming horizontally in the middle ground. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Thank You
Questions?