Beyond 2025 Phase 2--Draft Priority Project List

Chesapeake Bay Program

November 25, 2024

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Fisheries Goal Implementation Team (GIT 1)

Task Name	Priority Living Resource Habitat Area – identification/quantification
Group Assigned	Fisheries GIT
Task Description	Develop Priority Living Resource Habitat Areas for 92 segments of the Tidal Bay
Task Rationale	CESR report suggests that focus should be given to shallow waters/living resources in addition to meeting the goals of the Bay TMDL. This activity will identify priority living resource areas and give scoring metrics to assist in prioritization of restoration and conservations efforts.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	WIP/Milestone Developers - Will provide critical information to allow/support **tiered implementation targets/focused restoration efforts**

Assignment (Objective)	Develop a habitat suitability model that focuses on shallow water
	• Select species/life stages representative of Bay LR
	• Determine appropriate habitat variables to evaluate for the above
	  • Water quality
	  • Physical characteristics
	  • Temperature
	  • Etc.
	• Develop habitat rating/scoring for geographic area's of the bay (all 92 segments)
	• Develop GIS based data visualization of LR habitat suitability at the highest resolution available.

MB Champion:	VA/MD/DC should have oversight
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	• January 1, 2026 – draft habitat suitability model complete • July 1, 2026 – habitat suitability scoring matrix complete • January 1, 2027 - data visualization tool to utilize suitability model and scoring matrix complete • Should be reported on with Tiered Implementation Targets • Should be reported on with Priority Living Resource Scoring Matrix
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	January 1, 2027
CBPO Support	GIS Team, Modeling Team, LR data manager

Task Name	Living Resource Outcome Measurement
Group Assigned	Fisheries GIT/WQGIT/workgroups
Task Description	Develop metrics to allow for progress measurement of effects to improve Priority Living Resource Habitat areas.
Task Rationale	CESR report suggests that focus should be given to shallow waters/living resources in addition to meeting the goals of the Bay TMDL. There is an effort underway to identify Priority Living Resource Habitat areas. Our current method of evaluating annual progress based on nutrient load reductions may not be suited to measure progress toward improving habitat. In addition, both the CESR report and the Clean Water Small Group recommendations suggest that the Partnership look to measure outcomes vs. load reductions. The Partnership need to have a way to measure progress of habitat improvement.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, implementors of WIPs/milestones,
Assignment (Objective)	Determine ways/provide options to measure habitat improvement through time. • Develop options to track the effects of restoration (both physical land change/habitat modifications and traditional Water Quality BMPs,) • Develop options to show how WQ BMPs are tracked against local targets • Develop methods to measure specific outcomes
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Quarterly check-in with MB on progress –
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	January 1, 2026 – Draft Recommendation on outcome measurement July 1, 2026 - final recommendations on outcome measurement
CBPO Support	Living Resource Data Manager, GIS Team

Task Name	Priority Living Resource Habitat Scoring Matrix
Group Assigned	STAR /Fisheries GIT
Task Description	Develop scoring matrix for Priority Living Resource Habitat areas to be use it tiered (prioritized) targeting
Task Rationale	
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, Developers/implementors of WIPs/milestones
Assignment (Objective)	Develop a habitat scoring matrix that utilizes the information developed by the fisheries goal team to equate habitat into a scoring mechanism for each of the 92 segments of the Bay and highlight variables that drive each segment. • Develop an analysis method to take the individual species/lifestage habitat information into some type of combined scoring result for a segment of the Bay • Develop and perform an analysis for each of the 92 segments that identifies which variables in each segment have the most impact. • Follow on with an analysis that show which variable we have the ability to control in that segment • Distill this analysis into a table that WQGIT can incorporate into tiered (prioritized) targeting.
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Quarterly check-in with MB on progress – includes presentation on methods pursued/project viability and project needs • Should be reported on with Priority Living Resource Habitat Areas • Should be Reported on with Tiered Implementation Targets
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	January 1 2026 – draft construct of how scoring matrix can be employed January 1 2027 – Framework for scoring matrix completed
CBPO Support	Monitoring Team

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT, GIT2)

Task Name	BMP Verification – Remote Sensing
Group Assigned	WQGIT/WQGIT workgroups
Task Description	Develop methods to remotely sense as many BMPs as possible. Utilize remote sensing as the primary mechanism for all BMPs in the list above so that future re-verification is completed by remote sensing.
Task Rationale	The Partnership has struggled with BMP verification and reporting information for evaluation of annual progress. Problems occurred with overreporting of BMP implementation which led to creation of the Partnership BMP verification framework, which has been deemed incredibly onerous by many partners. In addition, we have numerous issues with privacy laws regarding the protection of agricultural BMP information. Technology has improved to the point that through the use of new satellite data and machine learning methods that we should be able to reliably count BMPs through this. The Partnership as a whole could save time, effort and energy that could be invested technical assistance relationship building.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, implementors of WIPs/milestones, BMP reporters
Assignment (Objective)	• Develop a list of BMPs that may be able to be verified utilizing remote sensing • Develop alternatives for BMP verification into the future utilizing remote sensing and machine learning methods • Develop rules for verification of remotely sensed BMPs • Consider setting the landscape at a point in time and measuring forward (establishing a baseline condition of "now") • Consider the growth cycle for some BMPs (example: forest buffers) in the recommendations
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Quarterly check-in with MB on progress –
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	January 1 2027 – Draft Recommendation on deployment of remote sensing for BMP verification July 1, 2027 - final recommendations on deployment of remote sensing for BMP verification
CBPO Support	Implementation and Evaluation Team, GIS Team

Task Name	Future Planning Efforts – WIPs/Milestones
Group Assigned	WQGIT/WQGIT workgroups
Task Description	Develop timeline and strategy for development of next planning effort (WIP) and frequency and content of interim check-in on plan achievement (Milestones).
Task Rationale	The Partnership is poised to make many decisions on operation into the future. One of the cornerstone activities has been development of plans (WIPs) to outline how partners will meet their water quality goals, and the subsequent development of short term strategies to meet those goals Milestones. Many partners have identified that the milestone development/review process has not had the intended effect increasing implementation. There is an opportunity to shape the future of planning efforts and effect how our tracking and reporting of that progress and interim steps can be refined. The partnership can evaluate and determine the best path forward for future planning and reporting activities.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, implementors of WIPs/milestones,
Assignment (Objective)	• Develop methods/alternatives/option for planning to address increased effort needed to meet WQS that include 2035 climate change • Evaluate the impact/develop framework for how this planning effort can incorporate tiered implementation targets • Consider how to use multiple lines of evidence for evaluation and reporting of progress on meeting defined goals and objectives • Based on feedback from 2026-202? Milestone process, develop plan for future milestones ○ Consider frequency and evaluation timelines for milestones • Consider options an alternative to spur innovation in meeting goals and objectives • Consider the model update schedule as part of this recommendation
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Quarterly check-in with MB on progress –
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	January 1, 2026 – Draft Recommendation on next planning effort July 1, 2026 - final recommendations on next planning effort
CBPO Support	Implementation and Evaluation Team

Task Name	Model Update Schedule – Phase Change/Data Updates
Group Assigned	WQGIT/Modeling Workgroup
Task Description	Develop and provide alternatives for future model updates that include recommended timeframes for Phase changes as well as data updates.
Task Rationale	The Partnership has struggled to make data updates to the CAST model. The current schedule for making data updates to the CAST model is every 2 years. There was so much disagreement on CAST21 that it was never released. There was considerable discussion throughout the Partnership on changing the frequency of data updates. There currently is no plan for the frequency of when Phase changes (opportunity to incorporate what we have learned and recalibrate our models) occur. The Partnership would be well served to have a clear schedule for model updates and that would allow for better resource planning for all Partners.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, Developers and implementors of WIPs/milestones
Assignment (Objective)	Develop multiple options/schedules that could be used to dictate future model updates • Consider the frequency of model updates • Consider the frequency/availability of important data set used in the models o Should consider partner provided/program developed/national datasets • Consider effort to both develop and review new models o Consider/evaluate the date update model review schedule developed by the watershed technical workgroup to deal with illogical results • Consider both data updates and phase changes in any new proposed schedule • Consider milestone update frequency in final recommendation
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Quarterly check-in with MB on progress –
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	January 1 2027 – draft construct of what the future of model update will be July 1, 2027 – final recommendation on model update schedule
CBPO Support	Modeling team, all dataset providers

Task Name	NPS incentivization-tracking-communicating
Group Assigned	WQGIT/WQGIT workgroups
Task Description	Investigate methods to incentivize Non-point source (NPS) pollution reductions, track and highlight innovation, and develop communication materials that display all activity initiated since the TMDL or Mid-point assessment.
Task Rationale	The Partnership's many active participants have collectively identified the need to address and focus our restoration activities on the mitigation of non-point source pollution. This is a known issue in the partnership, and it has been suggested through multiple entities that we need to attach this known issue in a focused manner. We have heard from many partners that they would like space and opportunity for experimentation and innovation in how we pursue NPS mitigation. It is also important that we have the ability as a Partnership to communicate the great work and new programs that have been put in place in recent years. Individual partners do a great job at communicating their efforts, however, there not been a concerted effort to put together a communications package for the overall Partnership on NPS mitigation activities.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, implementors of WIPs/milestones, BMP reporters

Assignment (Objective)	• Strategize and develop new/innovative options for scaling up and incentivizing NPS pollution mitigation
	  ○ Consider how this innovation can be considered and incorporated into milestones
	  ○ Consider how innovation and incentives can be measured and accounted for
	• Develop options for gathering information on NPS mitigation activities (new programs, new funding, scaled up implementation effort) from jurisdictional partners to highlight activities occurring throughout the watershed

MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Quarterly check-in with MB on progress
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	April 1, 2025 – Develop plan to gather and communicate new programs and activities regarding NPS pollution mitigation August 1, 2025 – Roll out communication on January 1 2026 – Draft Recommendation on incentivization/innovation January 1, 2027 - final recommendations on incentivization/innovation
CBPO Support	Communications Team, Implementation and Evaluation Team, GIS Team

Task Name	Tiered Implementation Targets
Group Assigned	WQGIT/Modeling Workgroup
Task Description	Develop methods to employ tiered implementation targets for future Partnership planning, restoration, and conservation activities
Task Rationale	Recommendations from the CESR report and clean water small group recognize the value of pursuing planning restoration and conservation activities that will meet local objectives to restore improve local conditions for living resources in shallow waters of the Bay in addition to continued effort to meet the objectives of deep water/deep channel in the Bay TMDL.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, Developers and implementors of WIPs/milestones
Assignment (Objective)	Develop alternatives to implement a system of tiered implementation targets • Develop methods to incorporate methods to incorporate dual/multiple implementation targets into WIPs/milestones. o Methods should be based on evaluation results from all 92 Bay segments for D.O. Criteria; Priority Living resource habitat area scoring; SAV habitat area scoring • Develop an interactive geographic area-based analysis that demonstrates where work on the landscape will have the most effect in the tidal bay (looking downstream) • Develop an interactive geographic area-based analysis that shows what upland areas have the most significant impact on a portion of the tidal bay (looking upstream) • Incorporate the findings of the priority living resource habitat areas into a tool that assists resource managers with decision making. • Incorporate findings SAV habitat scoring that assists resource managers areas with decision making. • Develop boundary conditions that will insure that Deep Water Deep Channel D.O. Levels will not cause baywide harm
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Quarterly check-in with MB on progress – includes presentation on methods pursued/project viability and project needs • Should be reported on with Priority Living Resource Habitat Areas • Should be reported on with Priority Living Resource Scoring Matrix
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	January 1 2026 – draft construct of how tiered targeting can be employed January 1 2027 – Framework for tiered targeting completed
CBPO Support	GIS Team, Modeling Team

Task Name	2026 – 202_ Evaluation of annual Progress
Group Assigned	WQGIT
Task Description	Develop and provide alternatives for making comparison toward goal evaluations/calculations for the annual progress analysis for the period of 2026 through the start of use of the Phase 7 model.
Task Rationale	The Partnership has had a clear understanding of how they would be evaluated in terms of meeting annual nutrient and sediment reduction goals since the introduction of the TMDL in 2010. It has been a straight line trajectory from 2010-2025 with an expected load reduction made each year to go from 0% in 2010 to 100% in 2025. Post 2025, there is no comparison method that has been agreed to by the Partnership. To provide consistent future comparison toward goals a new comparison marker would need to be utilized
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, Developers and implementors of WIPs/milestones
Assignment (Objective)	• Develop plan/alternatives for annual progress comparison goals for the period 2026 through implementation of new planning targets using the Phase 7 model • Report progress to MB every 3 months • Have recommendation for the MB by September 2025
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Quarterly check-in with MB on progress –
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	May 2025 - Draft recommendation to MB September 2025 – Final Recommendation to MB
CBPO Support	Implementation and Evaluation Team

Task Name	Incorporating WQ Monitoring Data into EPA and Partnerships evaluation of Progress
Group Assigned	WQGIT/WQGIT workgroups
Task Description	Investigate and develop methods to incorporate WQ monitoring data into the EPA and Partnership evaluations of progress toward meeting TMDL objectives
Task Rationale	The Partnership's many active participants have collectively identified the importance of monitoring data in our programs. Currently EPA assesses annual progress of the WIP outcome based primarily on modeled load reductions. There are many reasons for this, however, the Partnership has expressly asked for the increased use of monitoring data to be used to evaluate progress and for other decision making. We have created a new TMDL indicator and an associated tool METRIC to assist the partnership in looking at both modeling and monitoring data. This is a good starting point in evaluating/determining how and if monitoring data can be given a greater priority in our assessments of annual and long term progress.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, implementors of WIPs/milestones, BMP reporters

Assignment (Objective)	• Strategize and develop new ways to utilize the vast array of Partnership monitoring data to inform progress toward meeting water quality outcomes
	• Consider how the METRIC tool can be incorporated into progress evaluations at all timesteps and scales
	  ○ Look at the options for representing data from the METRIC tool and loading magnitude in addition to percentage reductions
	  ○ Evaluate stations where the modeled and monitored loads have the greatest disparity
	  ○ Evaluate using station data as a 10 year look-in for priority areas identified by METRIC
	  ○ Use the difference between lagged effort and the NTN data to identify areas of concern or focus points
	• Evaluate and prepare recommendations for presenting additional ways to focus our progress reviews on monitoring as well as modeling

MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Quarterly check-in with MB on progress
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	August 1, 2025 – Present suite of recommended options for inclusion of Monitoring data into evaluations March 2026 – Present draft options for inclusion of Monitoring data into evaluations January 1, 2027 - Present final recommendations for inclusion of Monitoring data into evaluations
CBPO Support	Monitoring Team, GIS Team

Stewardship Goal Implementation Team (GIT 5)

Task Name	DEIJ Champions
Group Assigned	Diversity Steering Committee, Diversity Workgroup, GIT 5
Task Description	Develop and implement a DEIJ champions program across the partnership
Task Rationale	The Partnership has had a clear understanding of how they would be evaluated in terms of meeting annual nutrient and sediment reduction goals since the introduction of the TMDL in 2010. It has bee a straight line trajectory from 2010-2025 with an expected load reduction made each year to go from 0% in 2010 to 100% in 2025. Post 2025, there is no comparison method that has been agreed to by the Partnership. To provide consistent future comparison toward goals a new comparison marker would need to be utilized
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Each of the GITs and workgroups

Assignment (Objective)	• Define DEIJ champion and the ask
	• Design DEIJ champion program
	  ○ Competencies and values
	  ○ Tasks and timeline
	  ○ Reporting
	  ○ Assignments

MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	
CBPO Support	

Task Name	Equitable grantmaking
Group Assigned	Diversity Steering Committee, Diversity Workgroup, GIT 5
Task Description	Promote DEIJ principles in grantmaking throughout the partnership
Task Rationale	The CBP needs to address gaps in equitable grantmaking and funding accessibility. This is a priority identified in the Diversity Workgroups Workplan and the DEIJ Implementation Plan but insufficient action has been taken so far. There are various barriers non profits face in applying for grants including matching requirements, language, accessibility, training, and grants management lifecycle.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	NGOs, partners
Assignment (Objective)	Work in partnership with organizations like the Chesapeake Funders Network to accomplish the following: • Promote resources from the Equity in Grantmaking project • Create accessible guidance materials • Lead relevant trainings and adopt best practices across the partnership
MB Champion:	Diversity Workgroup
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	
CBPO Support	CBPO Grants Team

Task Name	Network strategy for capacity building
Group Assigned	Stewardship GIT, STAC, SET
Task Description	Create intentional partnerships with networks focused on issues related to Watershed Agreement goals
Task Rationale	It is difficult for the CBP to meaningfully engage with all of the communities within the watershed. In order to successfully engage people from across the watershed, the Partnership should evolve to better coordinate and engage with the growing number of existing networks, partnerships, and coalitions. These organizations are already connected to and have trusted relationships with key demographics of people (farmers, restoration practitioners, community leaders, local governments, etc.) and can help to not only engage these audiences in the restoration effort more but serve as a feedback loop to the Partnership on their needs and concerns. Improving collaboration with networks of local partners and planners would facilitate both the development of restoration and conservation approaches that align with community priorities and where appropriate, the incorporation of watershed actions into local and tributary planning processes
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall partnership
Assignment (Objective)	• Research all of the existing networks across the watershed. Identify their role, their audience, operating area, etc. Identify gaps in the existing networks. • Determine the capacity needs of the existing networks to support the work of the Partnership and foster connections at the local level. • Provide funding to support existing local liaison programs through trusted networks. o Create a structure for increasing collaboration between community organizations to increase progress towards Student, Schools and Env Literacy Goals. o Create a structure for supporting local leadership liaison programs. • Provide technical assistance for trusted messenger outreach.
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Quarterly check-in with MB on progress –
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	
CBPO Support	

Task Name	Social science incorporation
Group Assigned	Stewardship GIT, STAC, SET
Task Description	Support the strategic application of social science within the partnership
Task Rationale	Social science helps us to understand human behavior, effective policy and governance structures, community engagement, conflict and resolution among stakeholders, and the economic valuation of ecosystems services critical to developing effective conservation strategies. Social science must be applied where it can have the greatest overall impact and applied strategically rather than opportunistically. Resources are currently inadequate and spread too thinly across many goals and some easy-to-address issues are getting repeated attention at the expense of more fundamental, difficult problems.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, SRS
Assignment (Objective)	• Create a detailed strategic plan for social science adoption o Timeline and resources o Set priorities, identifies gaps and develops partnerships • Create a series of social science best practices to incorporate into relevant indicator/outcome reviews
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Quarterly check-in with MB on progress –
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	
CBPO Support	

Task Name	Conservation tools
Group Assigned	Stewardship GIT/HW GIT/workgroups
Task Description	Update necessary tools used by the partnership and practitioners
Task Rationale	There is a gap when it comes to accounting protected lands from local conservation organizations/trusts. The Bay Program's conservation focus entities should support adoption, development and coordination around conservation monitoring tools. This will assist the partnership in engaging with local conservation organizations and account for their number of protected lands, which is an area of need.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, project implementors, land owners
Assignment (Objective)	• Develop a community of practice that focuses on GIS matters and is able to help share GIS-knowledge • Convene state GIS experts and coordinate data collection among jurisdictions and acquire the missing number of lands conserved • Using high res data to separate out wetland conservation from non-wetland forested conservation to update information related to PLWG sub-goals • CCP Narrative Toolkit; create other relevant tools for communicating conservation messaging; conservation status fact sheet
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	
CBPO Support	

Task Name	Increased landowner outreach
Group Assigned	Stewardship GIT/HW GIT/workgroups
Task Description	Complete further landowner outreach
Task Rationale	There is a gap when it comes to landowner outreach and being able to acquire private lands in conservation due to competing entities. This action will fill in this gap by making it easier to communicate with landowners and by giving them something tangible to react to when it comes to the impact conserving their land will have.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, project implementors, land owners
Assignment (Objective)	Determine ways/provide options to create materials for and complete landowner outreach • Develop communication materials and resources to support landowner outreach • Develop a series of talking points that can be used when communicating with landowners and the public • Develop tools for communicating conservation messaging, CCP Narrative Toolkit
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	
CBPO Support	

STAR

Task Name	Phase 7 Model
Group Assigned	STAR/Modeling Workgroup/WQGIT
Task Description	Develop the next suite of CBP models to be (Phase 7) used by the partnership to inform decisions related to nutrient and sediment reduction goals outlined in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement. Integral to this updated suite of tools is the ability to project climate change effect through 2035.
Task Rationale	The partnership is constantly learning new things about the watershed, airshed and the estuarine models. Periodically, based on new scientific findings and new questions asked by the Partnership, the Partnership has pursued an update to the suite of models. The models represent the collective learning of the Bay Program and help us plan better ways to meet the new challenges we encounter. One of the more pronounced challenges is the effect of climate change. We are well underway with the update to the suite of models. The intention for this assignment is to keep this critically important piece of the Bay Program focused in our sights.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, Developers/implementors of WIPs/milestones
Assignment (Objective)	Develop the next iteration of the Chesapeake Bay suit of models. Model development has been broken into 8 distinct pieces. Adhere to the schedule that has been approved by the WQGIT/MB/PSC. The criteria assessment piece is being given its own assignment as the 4D interpolator. 1. High Resolution Land Use 2. Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST) 3. Optimization 4. Agricultural Inputs 5. Atmospheric Deposition Modeling 6. Watershed Modeling 7. Estuarine Modeling 8. Criteria Assessment
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Quarterly check-in with MB on progress –
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	January 1, 2026 – Phase 7 Suite of models ready for review January 1, 2027 – Deploy Phase 7 suite of models for use in generating scenarios for planning January 1, 2028 – Phase 7 models fully operational for Partnership Use
CBPO Support	Modeling Team, Monitoring Team, Implementation and evaluation Team, GIS Team, Data Center Team

Task Name	4D Interpolator
Group Assigned	STAR/Integrated Monitoring Network Team/Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG)
Task Description	Develop a new tool that will allow integration of multiple datasets of varying spatial and temporal scales to provide interpolation of water quality data (dissolved oxygen) across the tidal bay.
Task Rationale	The Partnership cannot currently assess all 92 segments of the Chesapeake Bay for all of its dissolved oxygen criteria. The current method of assessment relies on a tool that was developed over 30 years ago to determine attainment with water quality standards and can only assess the longer term 30 day mean dissolved oxygen criteria. There are shorter duration criteria, instantaneous minimum, 1-day mean, 7 day mean that are crucial to living resources and their habitat areas. This tool will allow for assessment of all of those dissolved oxygen criteria which will provide insight into the recommendations from the CESR report to focus on living resource outcomes and not load reductions.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, implementors of WIPs/milestones, Assessors of WQ criteria
Assignment (Objective)	• develop a new water quality interpolation tool to generate DO estimates across space and through time, improving upon the current spatial interpolation used in the Chesapeake Bay. The output of the tool will allow for expanded evaluation of short-duration criteria (i.e., instantaneous minimum, 1-day mean, 7 day mean) and aid in habitat assessments. • Consider and incorporate data from multiple spatial and temporal scales into the tool o Utilize continuous monitoring data o Utilize new data from vertical arrays o Utilize data traditional cruises o Utilize data collected by community scientists o Anticipate that new data sources may become available and have plan for incorporation • Consider the new grid utilized for P7 estuarine model when developing the 4D interpolator • Develop communication materials to explain how the tool operates
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Quarterly check-in with MB on progress –
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	January 1, 2026 – Detailed presentation on interpolator and methods January 1, 2027 – Draft Interpolator completed for Partnership Review January 1, 2028 – 4D interpolator Complete
CBPO Support	Implementation and Evaluation Team

Task Name	Geographic Targeting for BMP Implementation
Group Assigned	STAR
Task Description	Develop and enhance targeting tools and integrate the BMP optimization into those tools
Task Rationale	The Partnership is currently evaluating ways to focus on living resources and shallow water habitats in addition to the current focus of meeting the deep water/deep channel water quality criteria. This is a new look at how the Partnership goes about their work. The Partnership has invested in determining the best places to implement BMPs based throughout the watershed to have the greatest impact on deep water dissolved oxygen. There have also been investments in wide scale optimization for BMP implementation. These efforts need to be combined with the work of the GIS Team targeting portal to bring forward the best information we can to support water quality restoration efforts.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, WIP/Milestone Developers, Resource managers, Implementers of BMPs
Assignment (Objective)	Enhance the targeting portal and marry up the optimization work that was done by Michigan State University • Develop data visualization aids for targeting BMP implementation • Work with Fisheries team to develop visualization tools for aid in understanding living resource/shallow water habitat endpoints • Work with the modeling team to integrate the BMP optimization routines to aid targeting efforts
MB Champion:	VA/MD/DC should have oversight
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Semi-annual check-ins with MB
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	• January 1, 2026 – present draft targeting tools to MB • January 1, 2027 - Complete BMP targeting package
CBPO Support	GIS Team, Modeling Team

Task Name	Monitoring Network – Funding the Future
Group Assigned	STAR/Integrated Monitoring Team
Task Description	Develop strategy/recommendations for funding the CBP core monitoring networks into the future
Task Rationale	The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partners invest heavily in monitoring networks across the watershed because high-quality monitoring data are critical for status and trend assessments, tracking progress towards shared restoration goals, and informing modeling efforts. Recent efforts like the "Enhancing the Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Networks" Report (link) have documented the state of the monitoring networks to include both priority needs for enhancement, as well as areas where inflationary pressures have stressed the network to a breaking point. Fortunately, funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provided to EPA were used to support over 90% of the recommendations for network investment. However, Infrastructure Law funding will only support the network through 2026, and new resources will be needed thereafter to support the networks and prevent a significant contraction. We need to explore what is needed to sustain our networks and show what will be missed additional funding is not available.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, Developers/implementors of WIPs/milestones
Assignment (Objective)	Develop a set of strategies/recommendations that partners can use to advocate within their respective agencies for funding of the core monitoring networks. Strategy should address/consider the following: o Understanding the existing monitoring networks within the CBP partnership o Capture and articulate the critical role each of them serves in the CBP partnership o Capture the scale of the potential 2026 contraction when the Infrastructure support finishes o Identify alternate funding opportunities to support these monitoring networks beyond 2026 through increased collaboration between federal, state, academic and local monitoring programs
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	Semi-annual updates to the MB and PSC
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	January 1, 2025 – Updates to the MB and PSC July 1, 2025 – Updates to the MB and PSC January 1, 2026 – final recommendations/strategy to MB and PSC
CBPO Support	Monitoring Team

Goal Team Not Specified

Task Name	Conservation as a guiding pillar
Group Assigned	Entire partnership/all GITs
Task Description	Elevate conservation as a guiding pillar alongside Science, Restoration and Partnership
Task Rationale	Given the land use pressures associated with a growing population, the Chesapeake Bay Program should elevate Conservation as a key guiding pillar alongside Science, Restoration and Partnership. To increase the impact of our work, we should broaden our vision of restoration to include conservation and stewardship of our natural and cultural resources. Protecting our natural and cultural resources (including lands, waterways and wildlife) from the impacts of development and other land use transitions can help protect investments made to restore water quality and natural habitats and improve quality of life in our communities. Conservation and stewardship of land and aquatic environments can support watershed health, expand and enhance publicly accessible natural areas and ensure the resilience of ecosystems that provide clean water, store carbon and provide numerous other ecosystem service and socio-economic benefits to local communities.
Task Outcome/ "End" User	Overall Partnership, implementors
Assignment (Objective)	Define and implement mechanisms to integrate conservation priorities and messaging throughout the partnership • Define what conservation means to the different stakeholders within the partnership; multiple definitions and flexibility in them • Define mechanisms to integrate conservation further throughout the partnership • Provide conservation data and analysis to help identify priorities and focus on where benefits can be achieved • Facilitate development of collaborative partnerships, especially between landowners, conservation organizations, and government agencies
MB Champion:	
Coordination Requirements (MB check-in frequency)	
Delivery Date (Month or Quarter / Year)	
CBPO Support	