

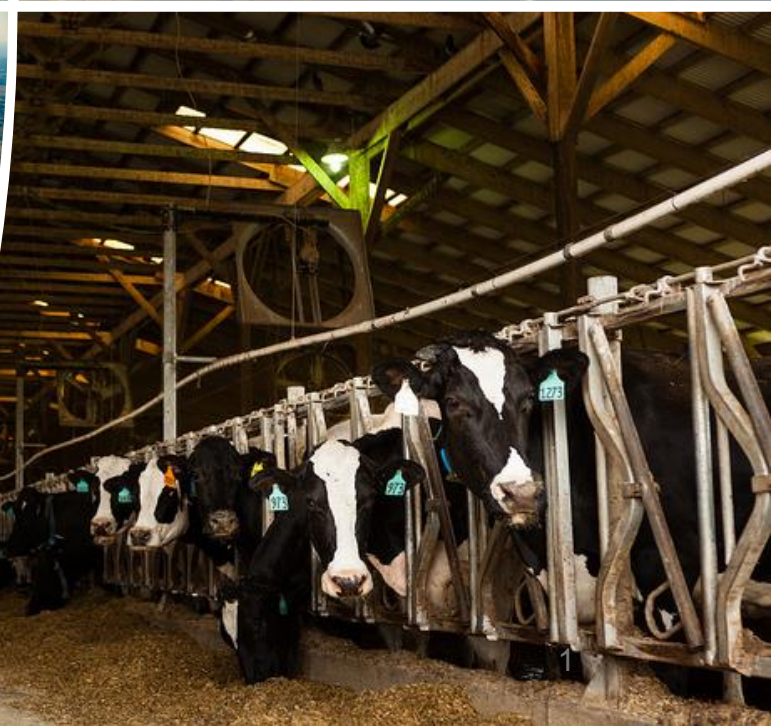


# Water Quality Outcomes “Office Hours”

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February 11, 2025

Thank you to our colleagues from  
the Habitat GIT (GIT2) and  
Stewardship GIT (GIT5) whose  
slides we’ve adapted and built on



Photos credit to Chesapeake Bay Program

# Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction
- Overview of draft outcome review documents
- Summary of feedback so far
- Receive Live Feedback & Open Discussion
- Reminder on schedule

For more information about Beyond 2025 process:

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/what-guides-us/planning-for-2025-and-beyond>





The **Chesapeake Executive Council** has reaffirmed their **continued commitment to meet the goals** of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and has charged the partnership with **revising the outcomes of the Agreement** by the end of 2025.

**The Partnership is starting a process to revise the Agreement – not writing a new agreement.**

# Intent of Agreement Revisions

It is the intent of the Chesapeake Executive Council, **that revisions to the existing Agreement reflect:**

- A renewed and greater emphasis on engaging all communities
- Addressing water quality and living resources throughout the Bay and watershed;
- Elevating conservation as a key pillar of the Chesapeake Bay Program, alongside science, restoration, and partnership
- Grounding in the most recent scientific understandings and issues
- Ensuring goals and outcomes are measurable and time bound (SMART)
- Acknowledging that our scientific understanding is continuously evolving and that adaptability is key
- Understanding that while we share a common goal, we approach this goal from different perspectives, challenges, and opportunities

## First Step

# First Step: Outcome Assessment

While not all outcomes will need revision, the Partnership is starting with a rapid outcome assessment to answer whether the review of some outcomes will result in:

- **Consolidating**
- **Reducing**
- **Updating**
- **Removing**
- **Replacing**
- **Adding new outcomes.**

# 2014 Agreement Language

## WATER QUALITY

Restoring the Bay's waters is critical to overall watershed restoration because clean water is the foundation for healthy fisheries, habitats and communities across the region. However excess amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment in the Bay and its tributaries have caused many sections of the Bay to be listed as "impaired" under the Clean Water Act. The Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is driving nutrient and sediment reductions as described in the Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), adopted by the states and the District of Columbia, and establishes the foundation for water quality improvements embodied in this Agreement. These plans set nutrient and sediment reduction targets for various sources—stormwater, agriculture, air deposition, wastewater and septic systems.



**GOAL:** Reduce pollutants to achieve the water quality necessary to support the aquatic living resources of the Bay and its tributaries and protect human health.

# Today: Water Quality Outcomes



## 2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) Outcome

By 2017, have practices and controls in place that are expected to achieve 60 percent of the nutrient and sediment pollution load reductions necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards compared to 2009 levels.



## 2025 WIP Outcome

By 2025, have all practices and controls installed to achieve the Bay's dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation and chlorophyll a standards as articulated in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL document.

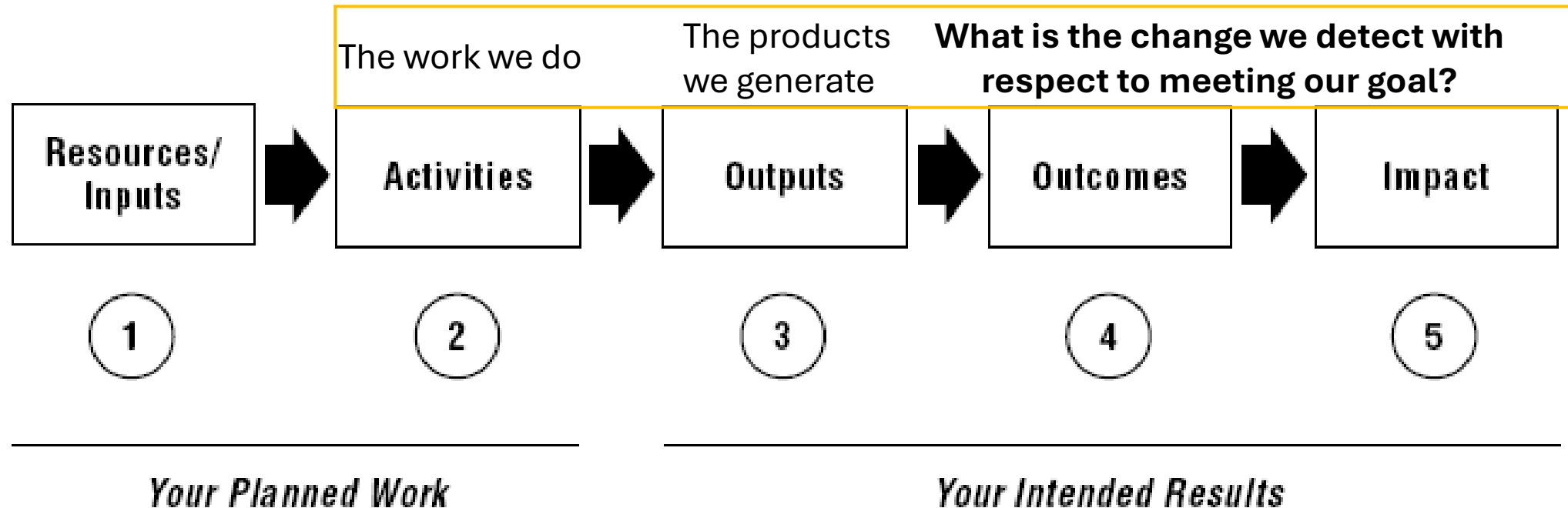


## Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome

Continually improve the capacity to monitor and assess the effects of management actions being undertaken to implement the Bay TMDL and improve water quality. Use the monitoring results to report annually to the public on progress made in attaining established Bay water quality standards and trends in reducing nutrients and sediment in the watershed.

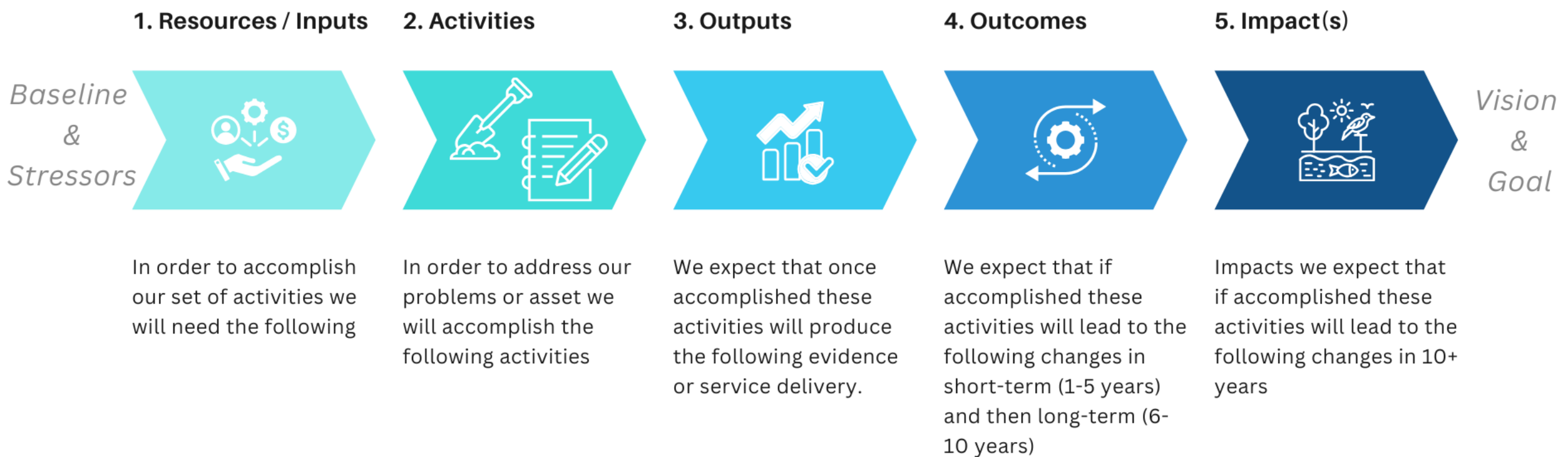
# What is a Logic Model?

A systematic and visual way to present and share your understanding of the relationships (linkages) among the resources you have to operate your program, the activities you plan, and the results, outcomes or impacts you hope to achieve.





# LOGIC MODEL (ADAPTED FROM KELLOGG FOUNDATION)



# Current Water Quality Outcomes



## 2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) Outcome

By 2017, have practices and controls in place that are expected to achieve 60 percent of the nutrient and sediment pollution load reductions necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards compared to 2009 levels.



## 2025 WIP Outcome

By 2025, have all practices and controls installed to achieve the Bay's dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation and chlorophyll a standards as articulated in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL document.



## Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome

Continually improve the capacity to monitor and assess the effects of management actions being undertaken to implement the Bay TMDL and improve water quality. Use the monitoring results to report annually to the public on progress made in attaining established Bay water quality standards and trends in reducing nutrients and sediment in the watershed.

# Water Quality Standards Attainment & Monitoring

Breck Sullivan, USGS, STAR Coordinator

# 2025 WIP Outcome

Suzanne Trevena, EPA, WQGIT Chair

Jeremy Hanson, CRC, WQGIT Coordinator

# Feedback so far

- Jan 14 office hours & Jan 27 WQGIT meeting
  - Questions raised on cross-cutting or other issues such as:
    - Other Water Quality pollutants or issues – bacteria, toxics, plastics, water temp
    - Crediting land conservation; accounting for climate and other changing factors
    - Conowingo
- Feedback survey
- Emailed feedback on the draft document



# Initial Options: Revised Outcome

A new outcome name is warranted. Options will depend on the MB and PSC preferred approach, but can include:

- **BMP Implementation Outcome**
- **Nutrients and Sediment [Reduction] Outcome**
- **Water Quality Outcome**



## Option 1

Have practices and systems in place to achieve the Bay's dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation and chlorophyll a standards.

## Option 2



Have practices and systems in place using tiered implementation to reduce point and nonpoint sources of pollution to achieve the Bay's dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation and chlorophyll a standards to protect, conserve, and restore the living resources of the Bay.

## Option 3



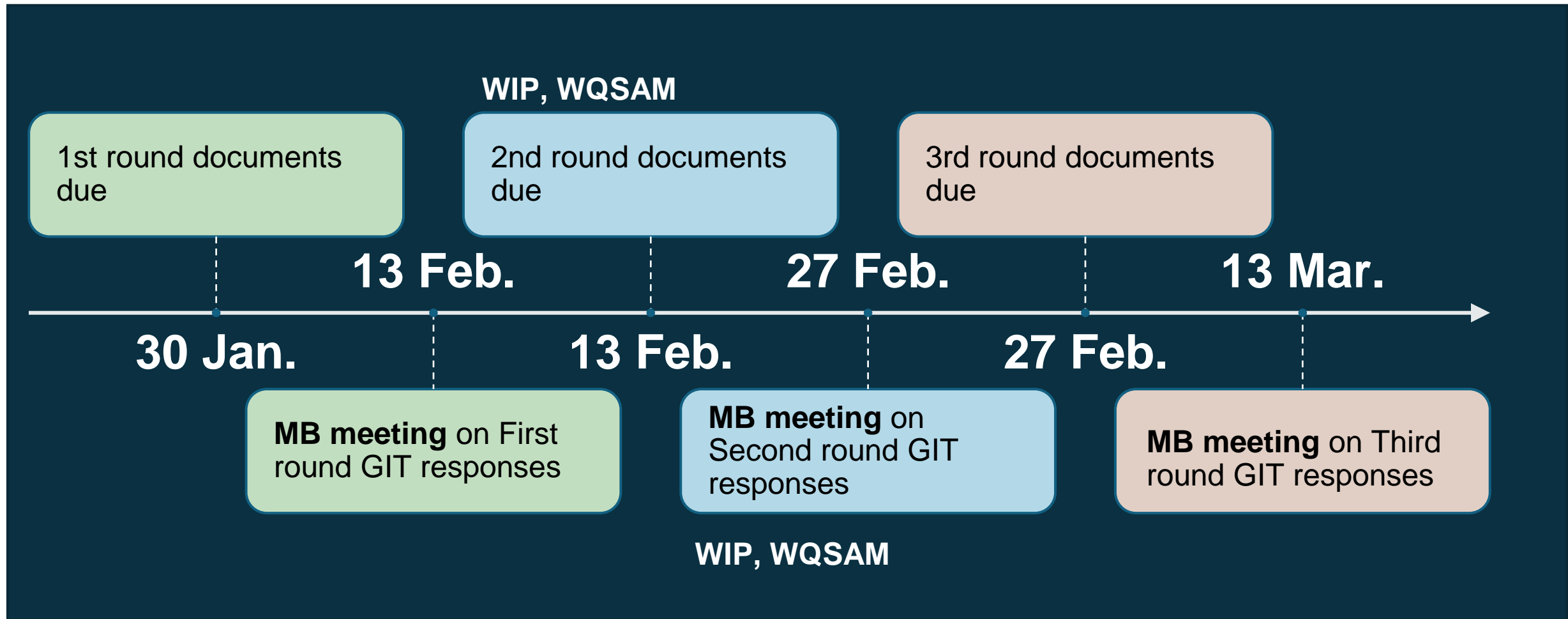
Achieve the Bay's dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation and chlorophyll a standards.

# Outputs

This is not a full and complete list and timelines will be determined after new targets are finalized:

- Assess the effects of the management actions (trends in N, P, S) ~~as compared to a 2025 baseline;~~
- Assess water quality criteria and report on progress in water quality standards ~~as compared to a 2025 baseline;~~
- Assess implementation progress toward the latest planning targets to meet water quality standards ~~as compared to a 2025 baseline;~~

# TIMELINE for Management Board Presentations



# Timeline – Outcome Assessment

<i>February</i>	<i>Outcome Assessment</i>
<b>Feb 13</b>	<p>MB Meeting to review Round 1 Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review advice from GITs – elevator pitch</li><li>• Discuss value added to federal and state partners – round robin</li><li>• Receive advice of Advisory Committees</li><li>• Ask questions and identify need for additional work by or information from GITs</li><li>• Provide “pulse check” for guidance but not final disposition.</li></ul> <p><b>Round 2 of Outcome Assessment advice due from GITs (Modified SRS responses). [WIP + WQSAM]</b></p>
Feb 20	STAR Outcome Prep
<b>Feb 27</b>	<p><b>MB Meeting to review Round 2 Outcomes</b></p> <p>Round 3 of Outcome Assessment advice due from GITs (Modified SRS responses).</p>

# Timeline – Begin Outcome Revision

<b>March</b>	<b>Complete Outcome Assessment</b>
Mar 13	MB Meeting to review Round 3 Outcomes
Mar 27	MB Meeting to complete outcome assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review all 31 outcomes and any additional information provided</li> <li>• Prepare draft recommendation with disposition of all existing outcomes.</li> <li>• Discussion of any new/missing outcomes</li> </ul>
TBD	PSC meeting to review draft outcome disposition
<b>April</b>	<b>Begin Outcome Revision</b>
Apr 10	MB Meeting to begin revising Outcome language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize disposition based on PSC direction.</li> <li>• Assign Outcomes to revising teams with SMART principles in mind.</li> <li>• Encourage revising teams to bring in external partners with expertise</li> </ul>
TBD	MB Meeting with Advisory Committees to discuss & receive feedback during revision process
<b>May</b>	<b>Outcome Revision Recommendations</b>
May 7-8	MB Retreat to finalize recommended Outcome revisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare list of recommended draft Outcome revisions for PSC</li> </ul>
TBD	PSC Meeting to review recommended Outcome revisions, direct MB
<b>June</b>	<b>Outcome Revision Recommendations</b>
Jun 12	MB Meeting to review PSC direction, prepare final recommendation for public feedback



# Continued Management Board Process and Timeline

<b>April 10, 2025</b>	Continued discussion to consolidate, reduce, update, remove, replace or add new outcomes.  Outcomes identified as being kept or combined are assigned to workgroups for rewriting
<b>May 7-8, 2025</b>	<b>Finalize outcome assessment/evaluation</b>
<b>May 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· PSC Check in on Draft List of Outcomes. Share approach for structure development and governance review</li> <li>· Advisory Committee Presentation – all together</li> </ul>
<b>June 12, 2025</b>	Work through any PSC feedback on outcomes. <b>Prepare final outcome list for public sharing</b>
<b>July 1, 2025</b>	Discussion of overall Partnership Structure. Includes all partnership Goal Teams/workgroups/action teams
<b>August 14, 2025</b>	Continue Grouping /Structure Development/ Governance
<b>August 2025</b>	PSC Check-in Grouping /Structure Development/ Governance
<b>September 11, 2025</b>	Continue work on Structure/ Governance and draft list of outcomes
<b>October 9, 2025</b>	<b>Finalize outcomes and Complete Draft of New Structure</b>
<b>October 2025</b>	Presentation of Final Draft to PSC
<b>November 2025</b>	Preparation of Final Package Based on PSC feedback





**Thank you!**