

Chesapeake Bay Program
Propose amendments to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
DRAFT: January 6, 2025

Objective: Affirm the partnership's continuing commitment to meet the goals of the 2014 Watershed Agreement and direct the Principals' Staff Committee to propose specific amendments necessary to improve efficacy

Proposed Process

The PSC Chair will lead the effort to minimally amend the agreement from start of the agreement to the end. The PSC will take the lead on amending language to the “Vision”, “Preamble”, and “Principles”, and will direct the Management Board to review and recommend amendments to the Goals and Outcomes. Although the PSC and Management Board are embarking on parallel reviews for their respective assignments, every effort will be made to connect and integrate the work so the resulting recommendations all work together to support holistic, meaningful and consistent recommendations to the Executive Council.

- CBPO will staff and support as needed/requested.

Activity Timeline

<p>January 15- February 14, 2025</p>	<p>Review and Make Changes in Word Track Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSC Chair and jurisdictional staff for the state “delegation” review and agree to changes that can be made to the agreement to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bring up to date. 2. Elevate conservation as a key pillar. 3. Weave in climate change aspects. 4. Ensure renewed and greater emphasis on engaging all communities and centering people as stewards of a restored Chesapeake Bay and Watershed. 5. Other changes important to the PSC Chair and to fulfill the EC charge. 6. Changes can be additions, strike-throughs, rewording. <p>Ask PSC members what information they need in order to proceed with this work – what would help them make recommendation and decision?</p>
<p>Feb 15- March 14, 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send to PSC signatory delegations: 7 jurisdictions , Chesapeake Bay Commission, EPA (for federal agencies). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Send in Word format with edit rights. b. Signatory “delegations” will review agreement. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. If a comment/question is needed, add comment using comment function. ii. If additional changes are wanted, mark in with track changes function.
<p>March 15- April 14, 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combine all comments into one document. March 1 – 31 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Staff for PSC Chair and/or CBPO staff will review sets of changes, combine into one, identify conflicting comments/changes. b. PSC Chair (with jurisdictional staff from “delegation”) will review combined document. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Changes agreed upon or not in conflict remain.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Conflicting input [bracket]. iii. Additional changes based on combined input highlight.
April 15- May 14, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with PSC members. April 1 -30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Review changes agreed upon – gain consensus. b. Review conflicts, discuss, negotiate, resolve. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Keep text bracketed until agreed upon. ii. Take out brackets when issues are resolved. c. Review new language. d. General discussion of where the delegations are: basically, what remains to be agreed upon and how to go about resolving. e. Identify next steps.
May 15- June 14, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue negotiating/seeking resolution to any conflicting comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Send each delegation home with electronic copy of document that shows remaining areas for negotiation. b. One-on-one negotiations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. PSC Chair reaches out individually. ii. Various delegations interact to resolve issues.
June 15-30, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional meetings to resolve outstanding issues. • Via email or special session virtual meeting - Call the question, reach agreement.
July 1-Aug 31, 2025	Partner engagement period - includes public webinar presentation/Q&A at the beginning of the period – could be 30-60 days
Sept 1-30, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review/address comments – finalize changes – Staff for PSC Chair and/or CBPO staff will review, combine, and organize/categorize comments
Oct 1-30,2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSC meeting – adopt final changes for EC presentation