



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Drafting the New Chesapeake Bay Agreement, Goals and Outcomes – *Decision/Actions*

**From Management Board Meetings
June 13 and 18, 2013**

Goals

Management Board Discussion on Draft Goals to be Forwarded to the PSC

- At the June 13, 2013 meeting of the Management Board, draft goals offered by the Goal Implementation Teams were considered.
- Draft Goals were grouped into 3 categories:
 - Goals that will be forwarded to the PSC with no changes from the Management Board first draft Chesapeake Watershed Agreement
 - Goals where there were recommended modifications
 - New Goals to be considered
- On June 18, 2013, the Management Board had a follow-up conference call to discuss outcomes. The following changes were discussed by the Management Board for PSC consideration.

Goals

Recommended by MB for PSC Consideration with no changes

Sustainable Fisheries Goal

- Restore, enhance, and protect the finfish, shellfish and other living resources, their habitats and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem in the watershed and bay.

Vital Habitats Goal

- Restore, enhance, and protect a network of land and water habitats to support priority species and to afford other public benefits, including water quality, recreational uses and scenic value across the watershed

Land Conservation Goal

- Conserve landscapes treasured by citizens to maintain water quality and habitat; sustain working forests, farms and maritime communities; and conserve lands of cultural, indigenous and community value.

Public Access Goal

- Expand public access to the Bay and its tributaries through existing and new local, state and federal parks, refuges, reserves, trails and partner sites.

Goals

Modified Goals To Be Considered by PSC (Identified Management Board members and GITs have until June 19 to comment)

Maintain Healthy Watersheds (VA, PA, NY and GIT 4 to vet)

- Protect state-identified healthy waters and watersheds, recognized for their exceptional quality and high ecological value.

Environmental Literacy (VA to vet)

- Every student in the region graduates environmentally literate having participated in **teacher supported** meaningful watershed educational experiences.

Water Quality (VA to vet)

- Reduce pollutants to achieve the water quality necessary to support the aquatic living resources of the bay and its tributaries while protecting human health.

Goals

New Goals Proposed

1. To Be Considered by PSC (Identified Management Board members and Affected GITs have until June 19 to comment):

Stewardship (VA, PA, DE, NY, WV to vet)

- ~~Foster a dramatic increase in~~ Promote and support initiatives that increase the number and diversity of stewards who ~~support and~~ carry out local conservation and restoration to achieve the goals and commitments of the agreement.

2. No Consensus Reached. Will not be forwarded by the Management Board for PSC Consideration as a new draft goal:

Sound Land Use

- Support land use practices which protect and restore water quality and living resources.

Outcomes

Outcomes

Sustainable Fisheries Goal

Restore, enhance, and protect the finfish, shellfish and other living resources, their habitats and ecological

- **Blue Crab Outcome:** Maintain sustainable blue crab population based on the current 2012 target of 215 million adult females (1+ years old) and continue to refine population targets between 2013 through 2025 based on best available science.
- **Oyster Outcome:** Restore native oyster habitat and populations in ~~20~~ ? tributaries by 2025.
 - ** (Note: This outcome relates to oysters for habitat as well as populations. GIT1 is considering modifying this outcome to reflect ecological restoration outcome [in accordance with oyster metrics] and consider a separate goal in support of oyster aquaculture [oysters as seafood].
 - **GIT 1 agreed to keep tributary based approach, number of tributaries may change (from 6/18/13 GIT1 meeting)

Outcomes

Sustainable Fisheries Goal

Restore, enhance, and protect the finfish, shellfish and other living resources, their habitats and ecological

- **Fisheries Outcome:** GIT 1 is considering one of the following three areas for a third outcome:
 - Forage fish outcome
 - Invasive species outcome
 - Ecosystem-based fisheries outcome

Outcomes

Vital Habitats Goal

Restore, enhance, and protect a network of land and water habitats to support priority species and to afford other public benefits, including water quality, recreational uses and scenic value across the watershed

- **Wetlands Outcome:** Restore a total of **30,000-83,000*** acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands, primarily on resource and agricultural lands and enhance function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands.
 - **Black Duck:** Restore wetland habitats to support a wintering black duck population in the watershed of 100,000 birds by 2025.

****Not yet vetted by GIT**

Outcomes

Vital Habitats Goal

Restore, enhance, and protect a network of land and water habitats to support priority species and to afford other public benefits, including water quality, recreational uses and scenic value across the watershed

- **Stream Health Outcome:** Restore stream health and function by 10% above the 2008 level of sampled stream sites* throughout the watershed by 2025 rating far, good, or excellent as measured by the Index of Biotic Integrity, by 2025"

**Note: STAR's NTWG will re-assess baseline. Monitoring and assessment of IBI should be compiled by states between 2008-2016 and between 2017 and 2025.

- **Brook Trout:** Restore naturally reproducing brook trout populations with an 8% increase in total cumulative brook trout patch area by 2025 in Chesapeake headwater streams.

Outcomes

Vital Habitats Goal

Restore, enhance, and protect a network of land and water habitats to support priority species and to afford other public benefits, including water quality, recreational uses and scenic value across the watershed

- **Fish Passage Outcome:** During the period 2011-2025, restore historical fish migratory routes by opening 1,000 additional stream miles, with restoration success indicated by the presence of river herring, American shad, Hickory shad, Brook Trout and/or American eel.
**(Note from GIT1: The Brook Trout and Fish Passage outcomes both relate to fish. Should consider whether to consolidate under the Sustainable Fisheries Goal).
- **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Outcome:** Achieve and maintain 185,000 acres of SAV or sufficient water clarity to support 185,000 acres of SAV in the Chesapeake Bay by 2025.

Outcomes

Vital Habitats Goal

Restore, enhance, and protect a network of land and water habitats to support priority species and to afford other public benefits, including water quality, recreational uses and scenic value across the watershed

- **Forestry Outcome:** 1) Restore 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffer and conserve buffers until at least 70% of riparian areas are forested, and 2) Expand urban tree canopy by 1,000 acres per year in 120 communities by 2025.

Outcomes

Water Quality Goal

- **2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) Outcome:** Have **practices and controls in place** by 2017 that are expected to achieve 60 percent of the load reductions necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards compared to 2009 levels.
- **2025 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) Outcome:** Have **all practices and controls** installed by 2025 **necessary** to achieve the Bay's DO, water clarity/SAV, and chlorophyll a **standards**.
 - **Agricultural Conservation:** Work with producers to apply new conservation practices on 4 million acres of agricultural working lands in high priority watersheds by 2025 to improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Outcomes

Water Quality Goal

Toxic Contaminants Outcome:

- (a) **Identify and** Implement practices to reduce loadings of persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic (PBT) contaminants and non-PBT contaminants that have **an effect** on the ecosystem resources **and human health**.
- (b) Improve knowledge of the effects of contaminants of emerging concern on the health of fish and wildlife so future strategies can be considered.

* Proposed by Toxics Contaminants ad hoc workgroup.

Outcomes

Healthy Watersheds Goal: Protect state-identified healthy waters and watersheds, recognized for their exceptional quality and high ecological value.

- **Healthy Watersheds Outcome:** By 2025 100% of state-identified currently healthy watersheds remaining healthy (baseline year: _____)

Outcomes

Land Conservation Goal

Conserve landscapes treasured by citizens to maintain water quality and habitat; sustain working forests, farms and maritime communities; and conserve lands of cultural, indigenous and community value.

- **Protected Lands Outcome:** Protect an additional two million acres of lands ~~from the 2010 baseline year,~~ throughout the watershed currently identified as high conservation priorities at the federal, state or local level ~~by 2025,~~ including **225,000 acres of wetlands and** 695,000 acres of forest land of highest value for maintaining water quality ~~and an additional 225,000 acres of wetlands by 2025.~~

Outcomes

Public Access Goal

Expand public access to the Bay and its tributaries through existing and new local, state and federal parks, refuges, reserves, trails and partner sites.

- **Public Access Site Development Outcome:**
Increase public access by adding 300 new public access sites by 2025. (from the 2010 baseline)

Outcomes

Environmental Literacy Goal

Every student in the region graduates environmentally literate having participated in **teacher supported** meaningful watershed educational experiences.

- **Student Outcome:** Increase the number of students participating in meaningful watershed educational experiences in elementary, middle, and high school.
- **Educator Outcome:** ~~Improve~~ **Increase the number of teachers receiving** ~~access to sustained professional development opportunities, tools, and resources that support teacher efforts to provide~~ **and support** students **meaningful watershed** ~~with high quality environmental educational~~ **experiences.**

****redline edits received from Education Workgroup on 6/12/113.**

Outcomes

Environmental Literacy Goal

Every student in the region graduates environmentally literate having participated in **teacher supported** meaningful watershed educational experiences.

- **School Outcome:** Increase the number of schools in the region ~~that maintaining~~ **ing** their buildings, grounds, and operations **using best practices** to support ~~positive~~ environmental and human health ~~outcomes~~.
- **Local Education Agency Outcome:** Increase the number of local education agencies **implementing** ~~that establish and support a system wide approaches for to~~ environmental education that includes meaningful watershed educational experiences.

****redline edits received from Education Workgroup on 6/12/113.**

Outcomes

Identified Gaps

- Toxic Contaminants
- Social/Environmental Indicators
- Sound Land Use Planning
- Accelerating Implementation