



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Agriculture Workgroup

March 2025

Agenda

- 1** **DEP Remote Sensing
Pilot – Method Report**
- 2** **Soil Health Outcome
Proposal**
- 3** **Review of AgWG
Priorities Spreadsheet**

DEP Remote Sensing Pilot – Method Report

Coordinator update (Jan 2025)

- Upcoming decision item
 - Decisions related to ag BMP verification made at AgWG
 - Introduction → Discussion → Vote
 - Ahead of vote, consider: do you have what you need to make an informed decision?
- Independent review kicked off this week
 - Review from Tetra Tech (staff: Aileen Molloy, Brian Pickard)
 - Final independent review due 4/3 for AgWG consideration ahead of 4/17 meeting
- Project Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Additional updates from Ashley; presentation from Tom

What to expect this month

- Presentation on proposed guidance
 - Model-agnostic approach
 - Supplement to – or “chapter” of – broader remote sensing verification guidance
- Question for workgroup: What additional information do you need, if any, to make an informed decision on the approval of this method?

What to expect next month

- Final materials
- Presentation from independent reviewer on their findings
- Vote (consensus continuum) on approval and adoption of proposed verification method



Presentation





Discussion



Soil Health Outcome Proposal

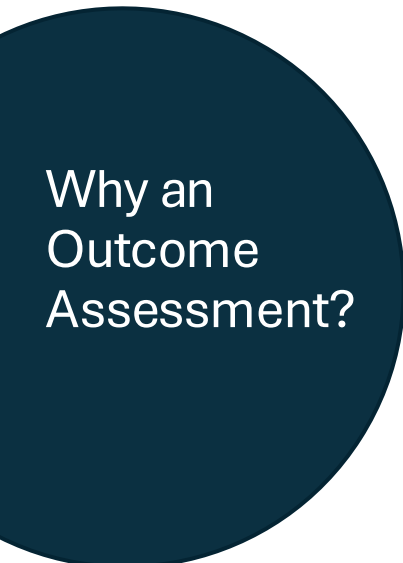
EXCERPT FROM THE DRAFT EC CHARGE:

Therefore, let it be resolved that we, the Chesapeake Executive Council, in recognition of the consensus-based work of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee, guided by the findings of their “A Critical Path Forward for the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership Beyond 2025” report and our continued commitment to meet the goals of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, hereby direct the Principals’ Staff Committee to complete the following by **December 31, 2025**:

1. Revisions to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, not a new Agreement. **Revisions to outcomes** should be executed pursuant to the Governance and Management Framework for the Chesapeake Bay Program. While not all outcomes will need revision, some **reviews will likely result in consolidating, reducing, updating, removing, replacing, or adding new outcomes.**

Proposed revisions should be considered as they are being reviewed, with every effort to complete most reviews and revisions by the end of calendar year 2025. Furthermore, it is the intent of the Chesapeake Executive Council, **that these changes reflect:**

- A renewed and greater emphasis on **engaging all communities** of the watershed as active stewards of a healthy and resilient Chesapeake Bay and its watershed;
- Our mandate to address 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;
- A grounding in the most recent scientific understandings and issues that have emerged since the current Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement was signed in 2014;
- Goals and outcomes that are **measurable and time bound**. Time frames should be sufficient to accomplish the outcomes as quickly as possible. In particular, our regulated nutrient and sediment load reductions, especially those within non-point sources;
- Acknowledgement that our scientific understanding is continuously evolving and that our efforts need to constantly adapt accordingly; and
- The fact that while each partner shares a common goal, we are all approaching this goal from different perspectives, challenges, and opportunities.

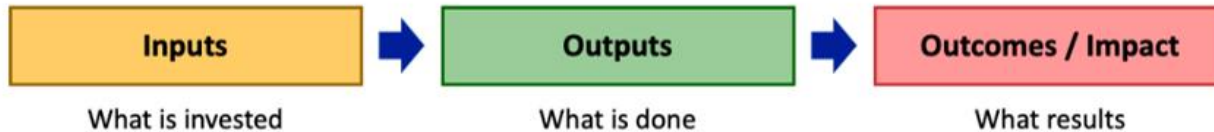


Why an
Outcome
Assessment?

A Simple Logic Model

In its simplest form, a logic model looks like this:

This **graphic representation** shows the logical relationships between:



- The resources that go into a program
- The activities the program undertakes.
- The changes or benefits that result.

The logic model describes the **sequence of events** thought to bring about benefits or change over time. It portrays the chain of reasoning that links investments to results.

A logic model is a **systems model** that shows the connection of interdependent parts that together make up the whole. As with systems thinking, we know that a total program is greater than the sum of the individual parts.

A Simple Logic Model

In its simplest form, a logic model looks like this:

This **graphic representation** shows the logical relationships between:



What is invested

- The resources that go into a program
- The activities the program undertakes.
- The changes or benefits that result.

What is done

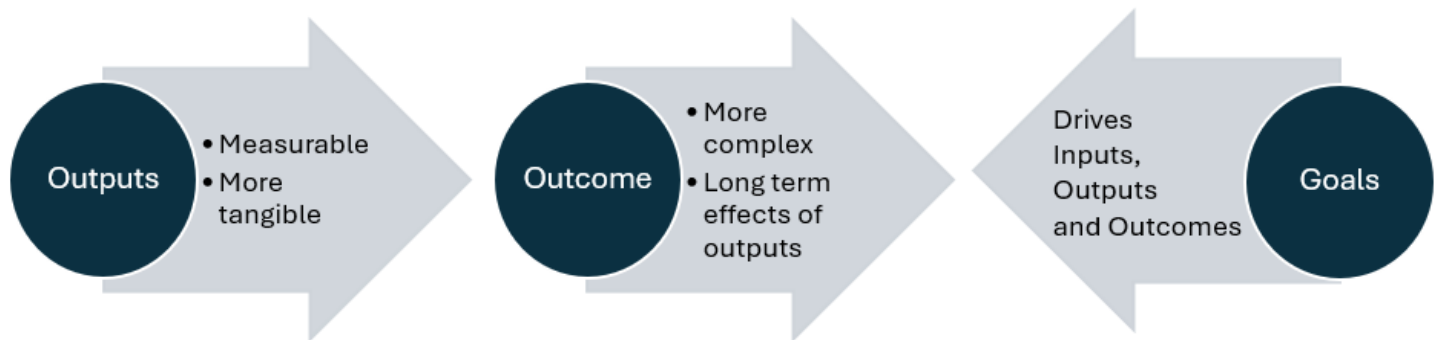
2025 WIP Outcome: By 2025, have all practices and controls installed to achieve the Bay's dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation and chlorophyll *a* standards as articulated in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL document.

What results

The logic model describes the **sequence of events** thought to bring about benefits or change over time. It portrays the chain of reasoning that links investments to results.

A logic model is a **systems model** that shows the connection of interdependent parts that together make up the whole. As with systems thinking, we know that a total program is greater than the sum of the individual parts.

The main difference between an output and an outcome is that an output is what is produced or accomplished, while an outcome is the effect of that output on the desired result.



Output

The tangible or observable results of an action, project, or process (i.e. Inputs/activities). Outputs are more immediate deliverables that can be measured and assessed. Outcomes answer the question “So what?” For example, XXX acres of wetland were restored due to the landowner outreach program (i.e., a specific action).

Outcome

Outcomes are the results of the Inputs/activities and Outputs that help achieve the desired result. For example, XXX acres of wetland were restored across the Bay watershed by 2030 (based on the Inputs/activities and Outputs).

Outcomes measure the long-term effects of a process, task or activity, such as a change in the environment or in people's behavior. Outcomes are often more complex and more difficult to measure than outputs, and can take a long time to manifest. Measures can be qualitative and overall trends.

Consider the **Secret Sauce** of a good outcome

Excerpt from *Retrospective on Lessons Learned from the Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System's 3rd Cycle with Suggested Adaptations to Address the Issues*

A good outcome is:

- Clear in its objective
- Measurable
- Has a monitoring program that supports the status and progress, and reinforces the outcome
- Has partner commitment
- Resources are identified and/or available to support the efforts necessary to achieve the outcome.
- Centers the work on benefits to people and living resources, not solely water quality.

What is the ask today?

- Think of an “outcome” as the priority work of the partnership, typically garnering:
 - Increased attention
 - Expectation for collaboration
 - Focused resources
- **Should soil health be among the partnership’s priorities?**
- **Should the partnership further consider soil health as a potential outcome? Why or why not?**
- **What can we as a group do with the topic of soil health even if it isn’t an outcome?**

What happens next?

- **3/24** – Outcome is presented to WQGIT; GIT is interested in AgWG’s feedback from today’s discussion
- **3/27** – Outcome proposed to MB; MB considers AgWG/WQGIT feedback
 - Recommend the novel outcome to the PSC, as provided by the GIT.
 - Recommend the novel outcome to the PSC with modifications to be specified in the Pulse Check “rationale” column.
 - Refer the recommendation back to the lead GIT for further revision and possible resubmission.
 - Reject the novel outcome recommendation.
- **4/10** – Formal MB vote on novel outcome recommendations to PSC



Presentation





Discussion



Review of AgWG Priorities Spreadsheet

From last month

- Determine where we feel we can best make headway
 - Identify topics of interest to AgWG members
 - List goals falling within the scope of those topics
 - Strategize how we can collectively build knowledge, expertise, discussions, and decisions to support those goals
- Have plan in place this spring to guide agenda development for remaining meetings this year and 2026

Today

- 1) Spreadsheet walkthrough
- 2) Next steps and what we need from you

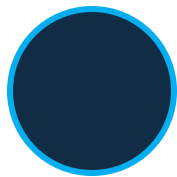
Key questions

- In what areas can and should we provide value to the partnership?
- What goals should be associated with each focus area that you deem important?
 - How can we build/gather the knowledge and expertise needed to support these goals?
 - What discussions would you like to see us have or decisions would you like to see us make to advance toward achieving these goals?
- What is missing/what would you change? Did we accurately capture our discussions from the past several months?



Questions?





New Business, Announcements & Updates

Agricultural Advisory Committee Update

- Last week, AAC's kickoff meeting was announced
 - Next Thursday, 3/27, 1-4PM
- CBP overview presentation, review of bylaws, etc.

Anything else?

- Send to Caroline Kleis (Kleis.Caroline@epa.gov) for inclusion in “Recap” email

Thank you!

Any questions?

You can contact me at Hughes.Eric@epa.gov

