

Coordinating Chesapeake Bay Program and Federal Leadership Committee Goals, Outcomes, and Actions

Challenge:

The Chesapeake Bay Program's Executive Council (EC) and the Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay (FLC) have called for coordinating and, where appropriate, integrating the goals, outcomes, and actions of the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) with the goals, outcomes and actions described in the Executive Order Strategy. At the same time many of the dates and targets associated with outcome-oriented commitments made in the most recent blueprint for the Chesapeake Bay restoration effort - the *Chesapeake 2000 Agreement* – have largely expired, whether or not they were fulfilled. Additionally, some partners feel that there was insufficient collaboration with the states to develop the Executive Order strategy and outcomes. A path forward to address the goals and outcomes of the broader CBP Partnership, and to refresh the governance and leadership of that Partnership, is needed. The EC agreed on July 11, 2011 to use a four stage process as the path forward to update the commitments in the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement. The CBP partnership will continue to have the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement as its guiding document as it considers ideas to update the commitments.

Purpose:

- Evaluate C2K and streamlining of commitments
- Ensure a set of shared priorities that fully represents the interests of the Partnership including consideration of emerging issues(e.g., climate change)
- Clarify governance (roles, organization, operations)
- Design efficient operational structure for collaboration
- Enable effective communication of Partnership's refreshed goals, outcomes and accomplishments

Process: Four Stages

Stage 1: Using Goal Implementation Teams to Set Direction (begin immediately)

Priorities and areas of programmatic and geographic focus for each major goal area (*i.e.*, fisheries, habitats, water quality, healthy watersheds, and stewardship) are refined by the relevant CBP Goal Implementation Teams as guided by key strategies or agreements such as C2K, EC directives, and the Executive Order Strategy. While key quantitative performance measures still drive individual agencies or groups of partners (*e.g.*, Federal agencies), for the time being explicit priorities of the Partnership as a whole will be narrative (*e.g.*, *increase lands permanently protected from development for high priority purposes*), rather than quantitative (*e.g.*, *permanently protect x million acres by y year*) with the exception of on-going measurable commitments of the EC (*e.g.* fish passage by 2014). It is understood that some partners (*e.g.*, headwater states) have not signed on to all goals covered by the GITs and may not be able to participate in the priority setting of those GITs at this time. While those partners would not be held accountable for the priorities set by those GITs, they may lose the benefit of collaboration between federal and state implementation actions. A decision making framework using ChesapeakeStat as a supporting tool will be the means for: 1) expressing these goals/priorities/areas of focus; 2) assessing gaps/overlaps of partner programs; 3) developing mutually beneficial management strategies; 4) developing monitoring programs to assess performance; and, 5) initiating adaptive management measures.

This work will serve as the foundation for any future Agreement

Goal Implementation Teams (GITs), supported by the standard Advisory Committees and the Science, Technical Analysis and Reporting (STAR), will be the central element of the operational structure during this stage. The GITs will continue to receive guidance and oversight by the Management Board (MB). GITs will

include appropriate membership from all key federal, state, and local agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs). GITs will provide a primary forum for coordination, collaboration, and leveraging of programs of participating Federal and jurisdictional agencies (including the Chesapeake Bay Commission) with participation as appropriate by NGO and local entities. STAR will provide support to the GITs by assisting in data collection, analysis, and performance reporting. The three Advisory Committees will continue to provide independent perspectives through their participation on the MB, and their advice to the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) and EC. The MB will provide oversight and guidance to the GITs on behalf of the Partnership, and elevate key policy issues to the Principals' Staff Committee as necessary. The MB will identify opportunities for strategic coordination and leveraging of complementary efforts, and suggest programmatic redirection as appropriate.

Governance: During this stage, discussions on necessary changes to the structure, operational functions, and membership of the MB will also be initiated. The Enhanced Partnering, Leadership, and Management Goal Implementation Team (GIT 6) will begin to explore and develop options for negotiation protocols in Stage 2.

Stage 2: Develop Negotiation Protocols (2012 following completion of Phase II WIPs)

A review process to assess the status of existing commitments, subsequent Executive Council actions and future commitments is established during this stage. The results of the review process will be used to determine if negotiating a new agreement would provide added value to the future direction of the partnership. If determined that a new agreement would be necessary, the partnership would complete stages 3 and 4.

Governance: The protocol for including federal, state, and local partners in the development of the new Agreement, with reasonable deference to the current operational structure of the Partnership as the collaborative model, is established during this stage. A protocol for getting public input in the process of developing a new Agreement is also developed.

IF DECIDED IN STAGE 2:

Stage 3: Negotiate a New Agreement (to be presented at the 2013 EC meeting)

C2K vision and goals will be updated during this stage. Refreshed C2K content and the shared priorities of the GITs will become as the basis for establishing a current set of goals and commitments. Emerging issues will also be evaluated and may also necessitate consideration during the establishment of current goals and commitments.

Governance: During this stage it is appropriate to revisit the governance and operations of the Chesapeake Bay Program and Partnership in order to clarify relationships between previous agreement signatories, other federal agencies, and headwater states, and to formalize the role and relationships with the FLC. At this time the organizational structure and operational framework of the Chesapeake Bay Program and Partnership will be revisited to ensure that interests of all key players are represented and that their roles are clear. This will determine the eligibility and interest of prospective signatories to a new Agreement.

Stage 4: Implement the New Agreement (2013 – 2025)

It is expected that any new agreement would be implemented beginning in 2013 following the EC meeting and would extend through 2025.