



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

# Chesapeake Bay Program: Beyond 2025

# What is Beyond 2025?



The Beyond 2025 Steering Committee advises on the development of recommendations to meet the Chesapeake Executive Council charge to the Principals' Staff Committee on charting a course beyond 2025.

# Our Aim...

- Provide recommendations for the Executive Council that speak to:
  - What we do—the goals and outcomes of the ***Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement***.
  - How we work together—the structure of the **Chesapeake Bay Program partnership**.

# Two Phases...

## **Phase One:**

By the end of 2024,  
determine the scope and  
breadth of what should  
be undertaken.

## **Phase Two:**

Beginning in 2025,  
implement the plan!

# What has happened so far?



Five small groups of subject matter experts were formed to develop findings to support the recommendation(s) the steering committee will make to the Principals' Staff Committee.



A contractor (ERG) was retained to complete an independent evaluation of the partnership.

# Synthesizing Findings into Recommendations

- High-level recommendations and considerations in each of the Chesapeake Bay Program's mission areas: Science, Restoration and Conservation, and Partnership.
- Highlight potential actions the Executive Council can take this year to propel the partnership and our *Watershed Agreement* into the next phase of work.



# DRAFT REPORT



# Disclaimer

The public is invited to provide feedback on this draft report prepared by the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee, which reflects not only their thoughts and expertise, but also those of the many people who volunteered their time to help develop these recommendations. The report may be revised based on the received public feedback, prior to being presented to the Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee, as established in the [Governance and Management Framework for the Chesapeake Bay Program](#). The revised report will aid the Principals' Staff Committee in providing recommendations to the Chesapeake Executive Council, fulfilling the [charge](#) established in October 2022.

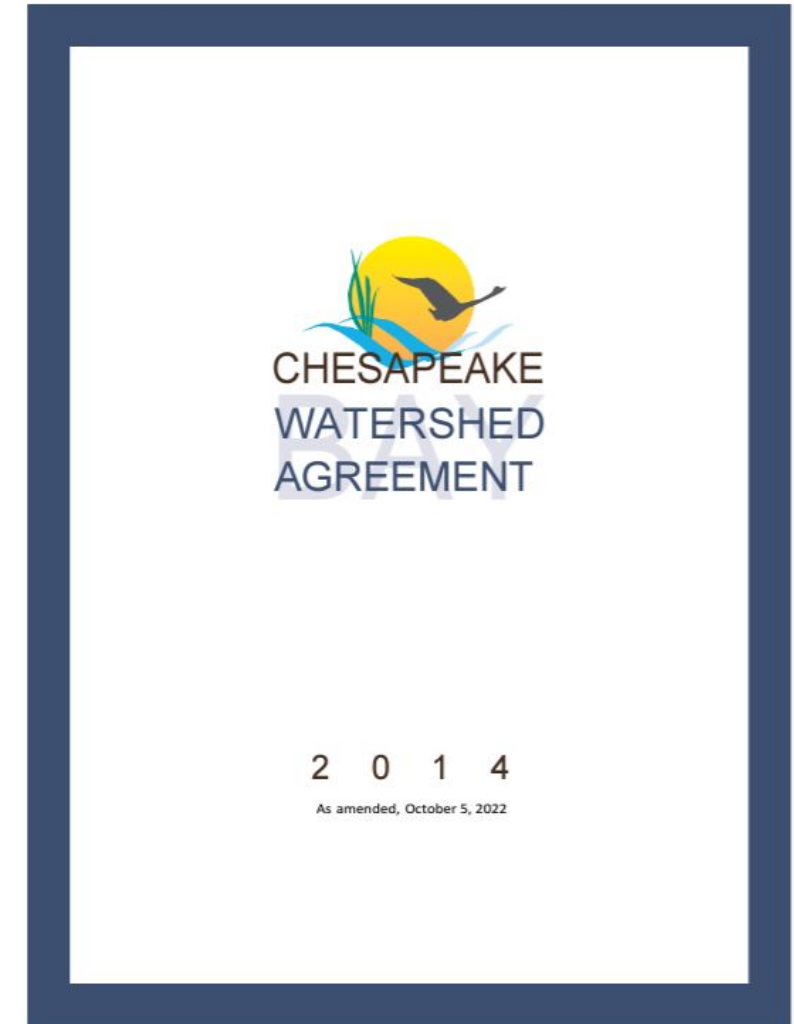


# Outline

- **Part I: Critical Path Forward Beyond 2025** (pp.1-5)
  - EC Charge & Beyond 2025 Steering Committee
  - Recommendations for the Executive Council's Consideration
  - Additional Background
  - Recognizing our Progress
- **Part II: High-Level Recommendations for the Chesapeake Bay Program** (pp.6-14)
  - Introduction & Steering Committee Process
  - High-level considerations related to Science, Restoration and Conservation, and Partnership
  - *Summary of public engagement and outreach (to be added after public feedback period)*
- **Part III: Source material**
  - One-page briefs of Small Group Findings
  - ERG report
  - Other Partnership Reports

# What is the Steering Committee recommending?

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.





## **What is the Steering Committee recommending?**

Strengthen the partnership by identifying ways to simplify and streamline the structure and processes to ensure partner commitments can be met.





## **What is the Steering Committee recommending to the Chesapeake Bay Program?**

### **Science**

- Optimize monitoring, modeling and analysis.
- Integrate existing and new science findings in decision making, resource allocation and communication strategies.
- Prioritize research that addresses knowledge gaps in existing and emerging challenges.
  - Includes prioritizing climate science and land use change research

# What is the Steering Committee recommending to the Chesapeake Bay Program?

## Restoration and Conservation

- Support system-scale conservation and restoration planning and implementation for habitats and communities.
  - Includes elevating conservation as a key pillar for the Program (alongside Science, Restoration, and Partnership)
- Review, and where necessary, revise existing goals, outcomes and management strategies to more effectively guide the partnership's restoration and conservation efforts beyond 2025.
- Improve the partnership's holistic approach to planning, prioritization, progress-tracking and accountability.
  - Includes developing and adopting approaches to better incentivize practices that maximize benefits to living resources and people.





## **What is the Steering Committee recommending to the Chesapeake Bay Program?**

### **Partnership**

- Adopt a systems approach to streamline governance and structure.
- Enhance capacity building and administrative/technical assistance through local networks.
- Strengthen the partnership's capacity to ensure watershed restoration is relevant to all communities.
- Enhance communications and transparency to foster long-term success.



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape featuring a patchwork of green and brown agricultural fields, interspersed with clusters of trees and several farm buildings. The scene is captured from a high angle, showing the intricate patterns of the land. The text "PUBLIC FEEDBACK" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

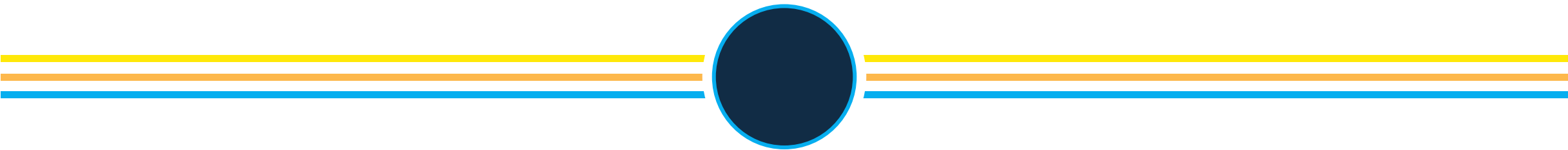


# Public Feedback Process


- The public feedback period will open on Monday, July 1, 2024 and close on Friday, August 30, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET
- **Anyone** is welcome to provide feedback.
- Public feedback will **only** be received through email to [comments@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:comments@chesapeakebay.net). You will receive an email confirming your feedback.
- All comments will be posted on the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee page on chesapeakebay.net but will not be responded to individually.
- After the public feedback period, a final revised document will be submitted to the Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee in preparation for the Executive Council meeting.

# 2024 Timeline

July 1 - August 31	September	October	December
<div>Public feedback</div> <div>A draft of the report will be published for public comment.</div>	<div>Revisions</div> <div>Revisions based on public feedback will be incorporated into the report.</div>	<div>Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee Review</div> <div>The Management Board and Principal's Staff Committee will receive and review the final report.</div>	<div>Executive Council Review</div> <div>The Executive Council will be presented with the findings of the report and have the opportunity to take action in response to its recommendations as a path forward for the Chesapeake Bay Program.</div>



Is there interest in submitting  
feedback on behalf of the  
FWG?  
Concerns about submitting  
feedback?





# Initial ideas on FWG feedback\*

- Express support for Steering Committee recommendation/encourage adoption by the PSC
  - Express particular support for the recommendation focused on elevating conservation as a key pillar of the Program
- Recommend expanding the consideration of changing environmental conditions to also call for considering the impacts of changing social conditions, given the relevance of growing development pressures for our restoration and conservation objectives.
- The report identifies the need to better account for the impacts of climate change in any updates to the Agreement. Suggest that land use change be considered in tandem.

\*Pending Workgroup interest/approval

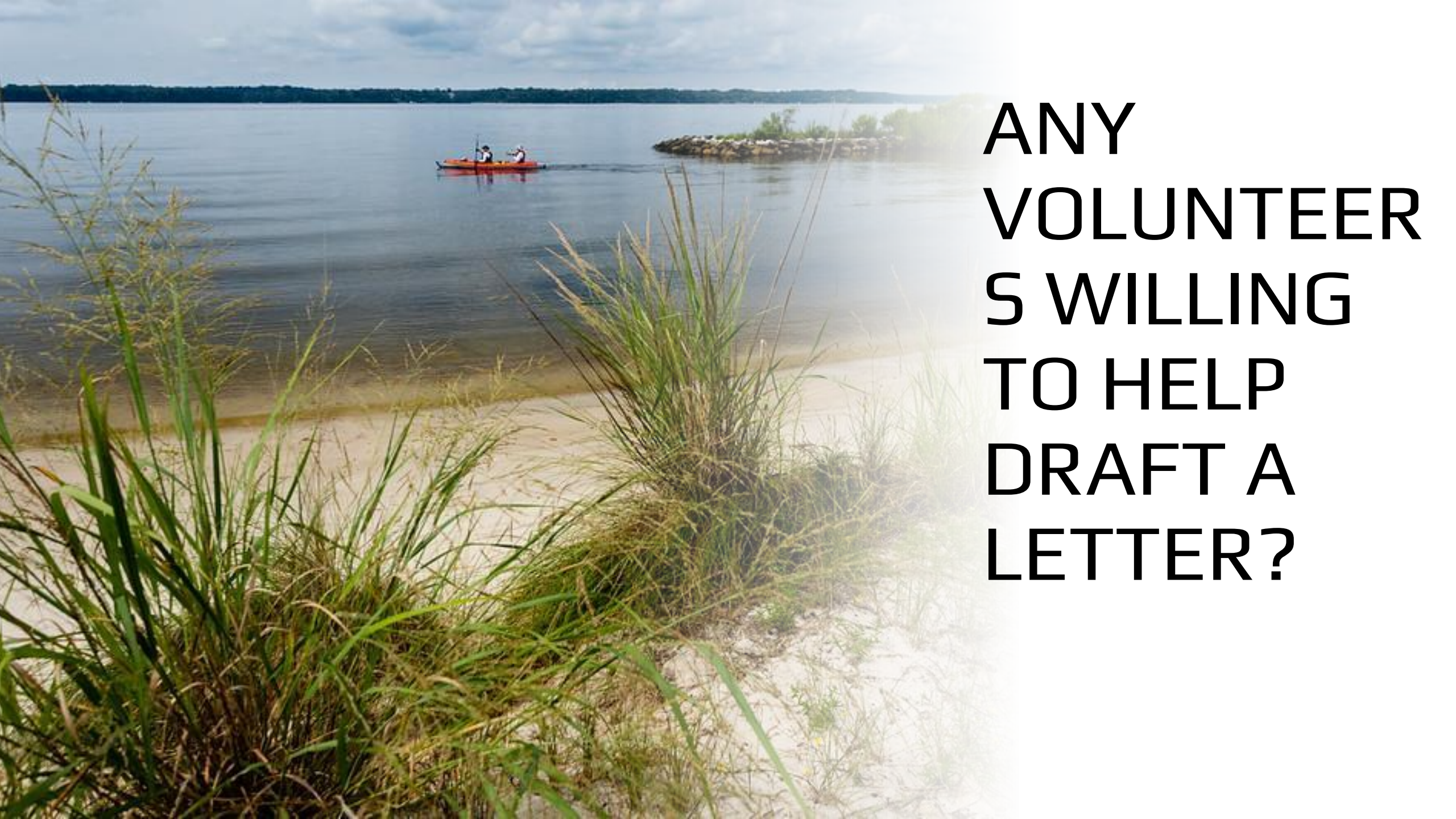
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# Initial ideas on FWG feedback cont'd\*

- Add some nuance to the recommendation to simplify and streamline the partnership to focus more on “right-sizing and updating” the partnership structure to improve efficacy.
- Recommend directing readers to the strategies identified in the Charting a Course to 2025 report for more detailed information on opportunities to strengthen forest buffer and tree canopy restoration efforts.
- In the notable partnership accomplishments, consider adding in a reference to recent progress on the Tree Canopy outcome.
- Recommend adding a definition of watershed health

A scenic view of a lake with a small island in the distance and tall grass in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**ANY  
VOLUNTEER  
S WILLING  
TO HELP  
DRAFT A  
LETTER?**



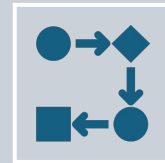
# What feedback would be most helpful?



Focus comments on Part I and Part II. The source materials in Part III will **not** be revised.



Focus on *what* the recommendations suggest, where they could be improved and what may be missing.



Save ideas for how to implement the recommendations for the next phase of work.



Consider grouping your comments under the categories of Science, Restoration and Conservation, Partnership, the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* and Miscellaneous.