



# Beyond 2025 Update

Habitat GIT Fall 2023 Meeting

Anna Killius

November 30, 2023



**Chesapeake Bay Program**

*40 years of science, restoration and partnership*



# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHARGE

“

Thus, this Executive Council charges the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) in recommending a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the Watershed Agreement leading up to and beyond 2025. The PSC is to report back to the Executive Council at our 2023 annual meeting with recommendations on how to best address and integrate new science and restoration strategies leading up to 2025. **At our 2024 annual meeting, the PSC is to prepare recommendations that continue to address new advances in science and restoration, along with a focus on our partnership for going beyond 2025.**

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# STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Entity	Name	Entity	Name
DC	Julie Wakeling	USFWS	Genevieve LaRouche
DE	Stephen Williams	USGS	Ken Hyer
MD	Kristen Fiddler	GIT1	Bruce Vogt
NY	Lauren Townley	GIT2	Bill Jenkins
PA	Jill Whitcomb	GIT3	KC Filippino
VA	Travis Voyles	GIT4	Jeff Lerner
WV	Dave Montali	GIT5	Shannon Sprague
CBC	Anna Killius	GIT6	Heidi Bonnaffon
DOD	Kevin DuBois	STAR	Peter Tango
EPA	Martha Shimkin	Stakeholders	Julie Lawson
NOAA	Kevin Schabow	LGAC	Don Phillips
NPS	Wendy O'Sullivan	STAC	Larry Sanford
USDA/NRCS	Leon Tillman	At-Large	Kristin Reilly
USFS	Katie Brownson	At-Large	Jana Davis

# STEERING COMMITTEE PROPOSED PRODUCT BY EC2024

## Where we are

### Summary of where we are with the 2014 Watershed Agreement

- Reaching 2025 Report
- CESR, Rising Temperatures, Forest Buffers & Wetlands Conference Reports, SRS meeting report, report, Advisory Committee Recommendations, and more. Crosswalk of common themes.

## Where do we want to be

### Vision

- Current Partnership Vision – Reaffirm? Refine?

## What we do

### Impact assessment

- What is the ability of our Partnership to positively impact each goal and outcome?
- Do we have the right outcomes for our goals and the right goals for our vision?

## How we work

### Assessment of our overall partnership

- Partnership Structure
- Governance and Adaptive Management

## Path Forward

### Recommendation on what to do with the Watershed Agreement post-2025

### Recommendations on the Partnership

# CONTRACTUAL SUPPORT: ERG

Product Component	ERG Evaluation Question
How we work? - Partnership Assessment	EQ1. To what extent does the current organizational structure of the Program and processes used by the Program support: (1) effective decision-making, (2) outcome attainment, (3) collaboration, (4) use and dissemination of science, (5) adaptive management, and (6) functioning as a partnership? If so, why? If not, why not? What aspects of the structure and processes need to be kept or changed to support those aspects?
How we work? - Partnership Assessment	EQ2. To what extent does the Program know the external decision-makers and stakeholders it needs to reach? To what extent does the Program understand the needs of the decision-makers and stakeholders outside the Program? To what extent is the Program providing decision-makers and stakeholders outside the Program with the information needed to assist the Program in attaining its outcomes?
What we do? - Impact Assessment	EQ3. What is the unique contribution of the Partnership in terms of outcome/goal attainment (i.e., the value-added)? Is the program investing in the appropriate outcomes and goals? Are there missing goals and/or outcomes?

# SMALL GROUPS: *PURPOSE*

- Guide the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee in thinking about, discussing, and ultimately forming recommendations around cross-cutting, high-level topics that have arisen in the EC Charge and partnership reports.
- Draft recommendations, based on full Steering Committee feedback, for integration into the Steering Committee's final product.
- Considerations:
  - Small and nimble enough for meeting and planning; inclusive enough to reach experts outside of SC, like GIT and AC members.
  - Overall makeup should encourage silo-breaking and diversity of viewpoint.

# HIGH LEVEL TOPICS

- Climate Change

Lead: Breck Sullivan (STAR/USGS), Bo Williams (EPA)

- Healthy Watersheds

Lead: Jeff Lerner (GIT 4)

- Clean Water

Lead: Jill Whitcomb (PADEP), Lee McDonnell (EPA), Joe Wood (GIT 3)

- Shallow Water Habitats

Lead: Gina Hunt (GIT 2), Brooke Landry (MD DNR)

- People

Lead: Julia Wakeling (DC)



# OVERARCHING QUESTIONS

## Vision

- What do we want to hand to the next generation?
- What does success look like?

## Value

- What are we doing that works?
- What could be improved?
- What changes would help us attain our vision?

## Vanguard

- What idea is transformational for the future of the Bay and its watershed?
- What would it take to implement that idea?



# CROSS-CUTTING CONSIDERATIONS

## Climate

- How does climate change interact with your recommendations?

## People

- Will this recommendation more effectively center people in Bay efforts in the future?

## Living Resources

- Does your recommendation maximize living resource response?

## Cross-Program Coordination

- How can coordination be strengthened by this recommendation?

# SMALL GROUP WORKPLAN

## November-January

- Small groups convene to guide full committee discussion.
- Recruit experts outside of the steering committee to participate.
- Consider guiding questions and cross-cutting considerations.
- Review and develop presentations, questions, resources, strawman recommendations to guide full committee discussion of topic.

## February

- Full committee discussion on topic, led by small group
- Two-day workshop

*Final Recommendations integrated into SC Final Product*

# PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE TIMELINE

**February 2024:**

2-day symposium

**March-April 2024:**

Adopt small group recommendations

Draft Steering Committee product

**May-June 2024:**

Solicit public feedback

**July 2024:**

Revise and affirm Steering Committee recommendations

**August-September 2024:**

Seek approval from Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee

**October 2024:**

Present to and request approval from Executive Council

# HOW TO BE INVOLVED

- Now through February:
  - Through your representatives on the Steering Committee
  - During Small Group outreach
    - Clean Water → Water Quality GIT
    - Climate Change → STAR meetings
    - Shallow Water Habitats → Wetlands, Stream Health, and Fish Habitat
  - By volunteering your expertise to Small Groups
- March through April:
  - Provide feedback during the drafting period
- May through June:
  - Provide feedback during public comment period





# THANK YOU

Beyond 2025 Steering  
Committee Co-Chairs

Anna Killius  
Chesapeake Bay Commission

Martha Shimkin  
EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office

2023