



# Water Quality Standards Attainment & Monitoring (WQSAM) Outcome

**Scott Phillips**  
*USGS, STAR Co-Chair*  
**Bill Dennison**  
*UMCES, STAR Co-Chair*

**Amy Goldfischer**  
*CRC, STAR Staffer*  
**Alex Gunnerson**  
*CRC, STAR Staffer*

**Breck Sullivan (speaking)**  
*USGS, STAR Coordinator*  
**Peter Tango**  
*USGS, CBP Monitoring  
Coordinator*

*Through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program has committed to...*



Goal: *Water Quality*







Outcome:

Continually improve water quality monitoring and assessment capabilities and actions by the Bay Program. The Bay Program will use the most current water quality data to report annually to the public on progress made in attaining established Bay water-quality standards and trends in reducing nutrients and sediment in the watershed.

**OUTLOOK  
OFF COURSE**



## What is our Outlook and Recent Progress?

	Capacity to Monitor	Attainment of Tidal Water Quality Standards	Watershed Response to 2025 WIP	Report Trend Results
Outlook	 <b>OUTLOOK OFF COURSE</b>	<b>OUTLOOK MIXED RESULTS</b>	<b>OUTLOOK MIXED RESULTS</b>	 <b>OUTLOOK ON COURSE</b>
Recent Progress	 <b>RECENT PROGRESS INCREASE</b>	 <b>RECENT PROGRESS DECREASE</b>	 <b>RECENT PROGRESS NO CHANGE</b>	 <b>RECENT PROGRESS INCREASE</b>



## Successes and Challenges

### Scientific

- Extensive analysis, reporting, publishing of water quality status & trends
- Tributary Summaries and reports on factors affecting watershed trends
- Successful case study with 4D water quality interpolator
- Built database for Strategic Science and Research Framework (SSRF)
- Targeting portal for multiple outcomes

### Policy

- Engagement with jurisdictions on monitoring findings for policy implications

### Fiscal

- Completed Monitoring Report with funding needs
- Gained funding and additional partners to support capacity for parts of networks



## Successes and Challenges

### Scientific

- Data collection capacity less than requirements identified in Monitoring Report
- No tidal segment has been assessed for its full suite of WQ standards
- Incorporating ecosystem services based on water quality

### Policy

- Limited application of monitoring results to 2025 WIP Outcome

### Fiscal

- CBP (EPA) lacks resources to fund all monitoring requirements on its own
- Sustained funding plans with partners are not yet in place

A large, stylized, light blue letter 'F' is positioned on the left side of the slide. It is set against a dark blue background that occupies the left half of the slide. The letter is composed of solid blue shapes.

# Fill the Gap

*How can the Management Board  
help achieve the Outcome?*



## Filling the Gap

- **Scientific support** –
  - Management Board members and their agencies use the Strategic Science and Research Framework (SSRF) to guide when applicable for federal and jurisdictional grants, proposals, and strategic planning
    - Example: NFWF
- **MB Response:** 2; Multiple members spoke to the benefits of using the Science Needs Database

## Management Board Response Options

1. Acknowledge that the MB is not committing to take specific action; Express gratitude for the work and information.
2. Handle the outcome request
3. Elevate to the PSC
4. Refer to another team/workgroup



## Filling the Gap

- **Fiscal Support –**
- Address remaining funding gaps for priority needs from the PSC Monitoring Review
  - Commit staff to attending to Monitoring Report “Kick off” meeting in late October/November and subsequent discussions
  - Identify potential resources
- **MB Response:** 2; Multiple contacts shared as of date

## Management Board Response Options

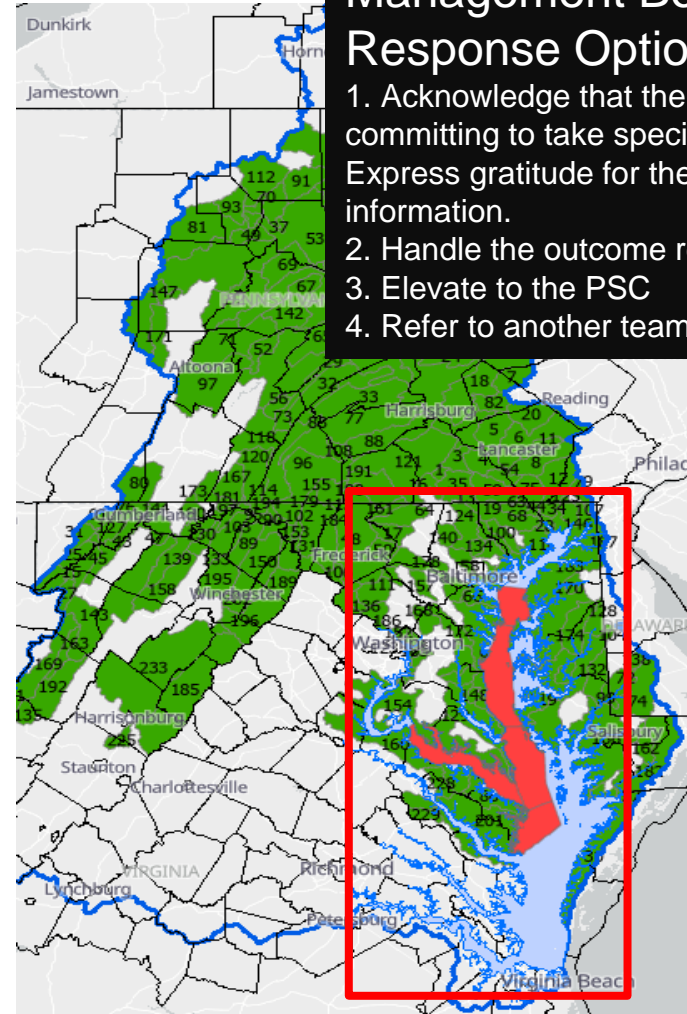
1. Acknowledge that the MB is not committing to take specific action; Express gratitude for the work and information.
2. Handle the outcome request
3. Elevate to the PSC
4. Refer to another team/workgroup





## Filling the Gap

- **Policy support** –
- Apply monitoring results and analysis results to accelerate progress in 2025 WIP
  - Interaction with WQ GIT, MB, and PSC
- **MB Response:** 2; Noted this will take more discussions and collaboration in the future



## Management Board Response Options

1. Acknowledge that the MB is not committing to take specific action; Express gratitude for the work and information.
2. Handle the outcome request
3. Elevate to the PSC
4. Refer to another team/workgroup



## ITAT's Role

- **Ongoing efforts –**
- Tidal Trends
- Cluster Analysis
- Tributary Summaries
- WQ Tools
  - Baytrendsmap
  - Baycluster
  - WQS Attainment



## ITAT's Role

- **Future efforts –**
- Connect research on watershed loads and trends to water-quality responses in the estuary
- Share resources and tools with jurisdictions for monitoring-based decision making
- Share research at WQGIT meetings more regularly
- Utilize new data streams to enhance our understanding of spatial and temporal patterns in water quality



## WQSAM Outcome Next Steps

- Identify WQSAM Science Needs – Due 11/10
- Identify Actions for next 2-years Workplan – Due 11/18
- **What is missing from our Ongoing/Future efforts?**
- **What science do we need better understanding to advance progress in our WQSAM Outcome?**



# Questions