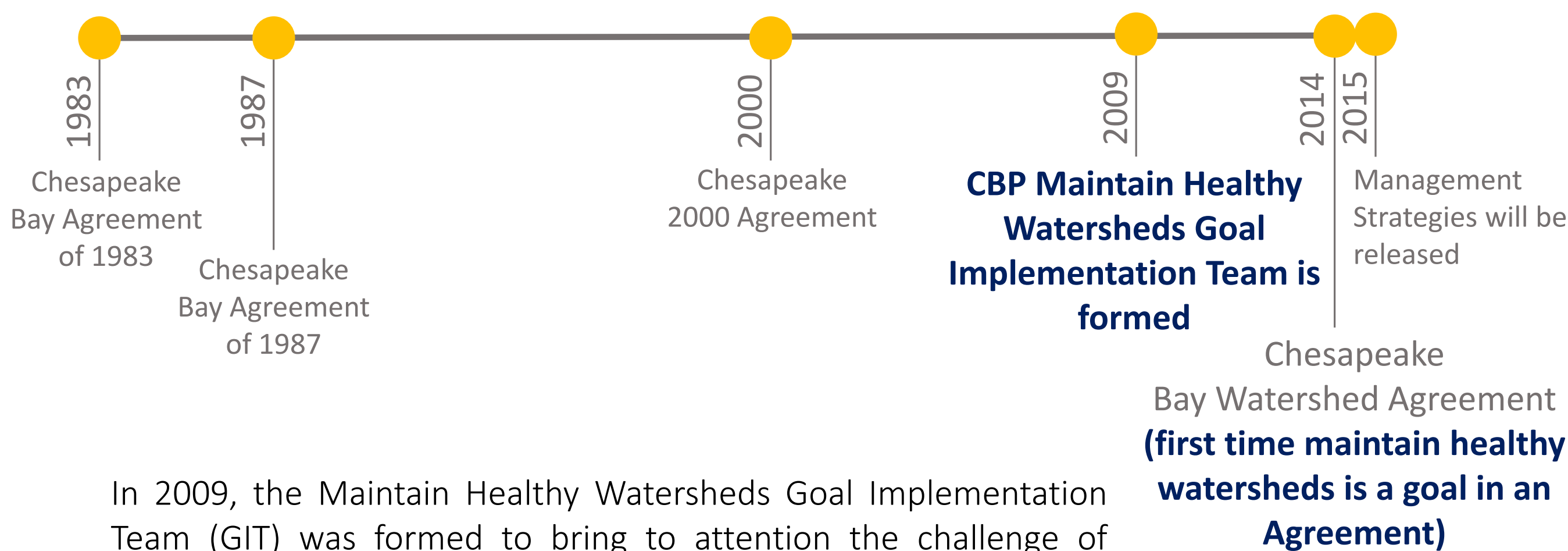




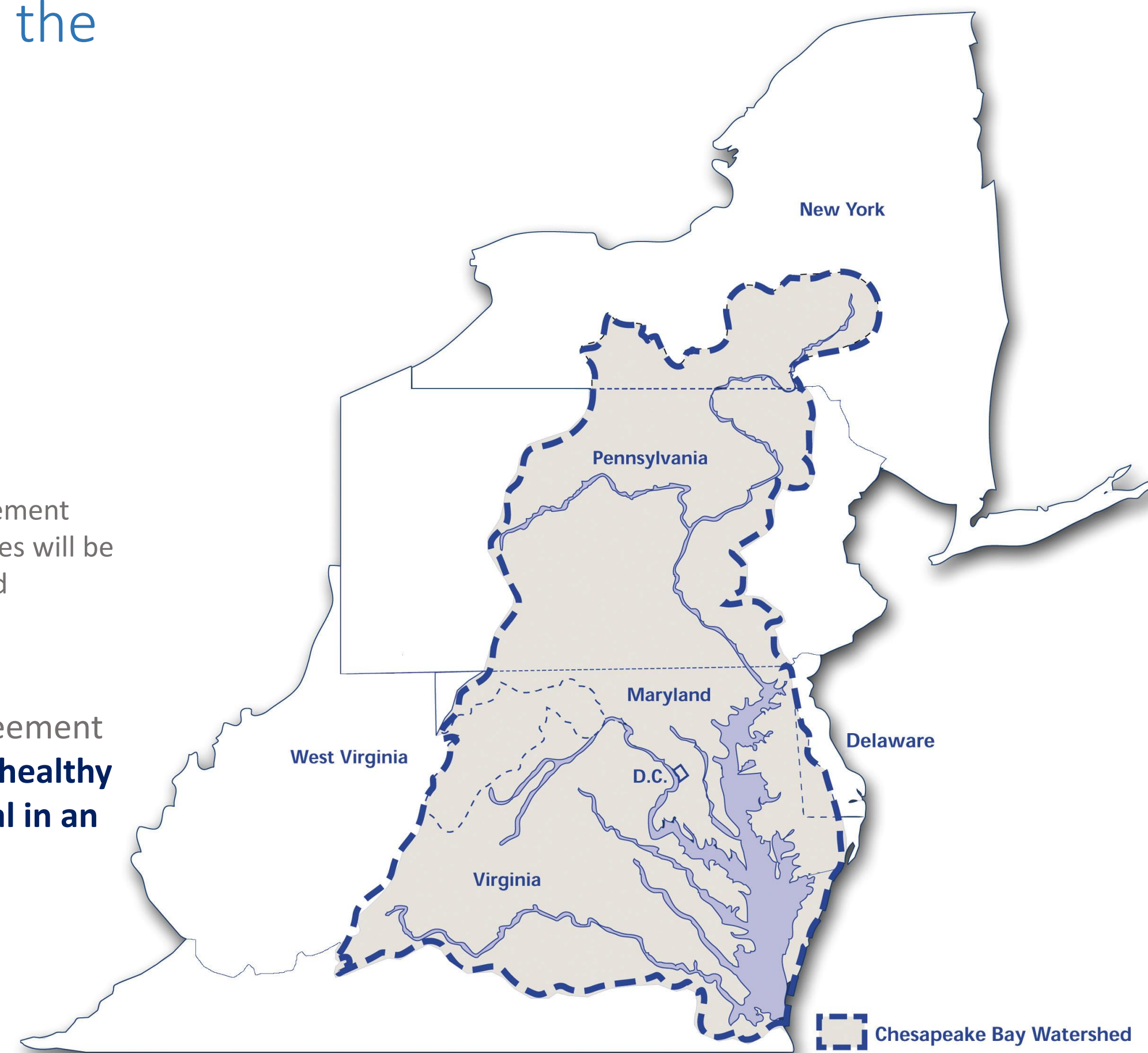
Strategies for Maintaining Healthy Watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay Region

Maintaining healthy watersheds, a relatively new goal in the Chesapeake Region...

The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) is a unique regional partnership that has led and directed the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed since 1983. CBP partners include federal and state agencies, local governments, non-profit organizations and academic institutions.



In 2009, the Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Implementation Team (GIT) was formed to bring to attention the challenge of protecting streams and watersheds that are healthy today, as a programmatic complement to the “impaired waters” approach which focuses on restoring waters if they become degraded.



Healthy watersheds are an insurance policy for the Bay; maintaining them will provide resilience to the Bay as they deliver clean water and critical habitat while we seek to restore areas that have been degraded.

STRATEGIES

1 Track the health...

of watersheds and our effectiveness in protecting them

1) Where are the healthy watersheds located?

4) How are we tracking the health and viability of those watersheds over time? (E.g., landscape characteristics, changes in land use)

2) Which healthy watersheds are threatened? (E.g., by energy or urban development)

3) What is being done to ensure that healthy watersheds are protected? (E.g., local land policies, easements, citizen stewardship)

A framework for tracking healthy watersheds and waters protection could be thought as a four legged stool or feedback loop, as seen above.

3 Increase communication within the federal family...

so that federal programs and agency decision-making are more protective of healthy watersheds

2 Strengthen local commitment and capacity...

to protect healthy watersheds

Local leadership is the key to unlocking local potential and harnessing the power and creativity of local actors to protect healthy watersheds.



Land Trusts



Local Officials



Watershed Organizations



Other champions

4 Support state-based efforts...

encourage and recognize important activities within states