

## **2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Management Strategies Overview**

### **Background**

The 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (Agreement), signed by the Chesapeake Executive Council on June 16, 2014, identifies the Partnership's collective commitments for restoring and protecting the watershed through 10 goals and 29 outcomes.

- Goals articulate the high level aspects of the partners' vision;
- Outcomes express specific, time-bound, measureable targets that directly contribute to achieving each goal; and
- Management Strategies (MS) articulate the overarching and specific actions necessary to achieve these goals and outcomes.

### **General Framework/Key Elements**

A management strategy is a single document that summarizes the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) "Decision Framework" process and the collective thinking of the CBP Partnership for each outcome or related group of outcomes. The MS will outline the means for accomplishing each outcome as well as monitoring, assessing, reporting progress and coordinating actions among partners and stakeholders. They should be written in "plain English" and be concise.

The CBP's "Key Elements" document is a framework designed to guide the CBP's goal implementation teams (GITs) as they develop management strategies for each outcome. Each MS is expected to include each of the following "key elements":

- Executive Summary (to be developed by the CBP Communications Office)
- Outcomes and Baselines
- Jurisdictions and agencies participation, including plans for local engagement
- Factors influencing ability to meet goal
- Current efforts and gaps
- Management approach, including plans for local engagement
- Monitoring Progress
- Assessing Progress
- Adaptively Manage
- Biennial Workplan

### **Management Strategy Development**

The Partners agreed that the Chesapeake Bay Program's Goal Implementation Teams (GITs) and/or workgroups are responsible for developing the management strategies in consultation with stakeholders, organizations and other agencies.

- Scope
  - Each MS should articulate the overarching and specific actions necessary to achieve the goal and outcome(s) by 2025.

- Each MS must include a two-year workplan section that succinctly summarizes the specific commitments, actions and resources that each self-identified signatory and stakeholder will do to reach the two-year target for that outcome. It should also articulate the supporting activities the GIT/and workgroup will undertake to reach the target. While workplans should project the work to be done in the following two years, it may be updated more frequently.
- Participation
  - GITs and/or workgroups developing each MS should include all self-identified signatories and all stakeholders identified by the GIT as important to the development of the MS.
  - The Partners agreed to identify their intent to participate in the development of each MS within 90 days of the Agreement signing (September 16, 2014). Stakeholders may be added to the GIT/workgroups throughout the development process as appropriate. EPA and federal agencies will identify the lead agency and participating agency for each strategy.
  - Participation in the development of each MS will vary by signatory partners based on differing priorities and resources across the watershed.
  - Participation in both development and implementation may include sharing knowledge, data or information, educating citizens or members, working on future legislation and developing or implementing programs or practices. The adopted management strategies will identify participating signatories and other stakeholders, including local governments and nonprofit organizations.
- Outreach
  - GITs are expected to conduct targeted outreach to stakeholders to broaden input during the development of the management strategies. This includes stakeholder groups not currently involved in CBP activities.
  - Once the participating signatories are identified, GITs should consider conducting a gap analysis to identify other stakeholders who should be included in the development process.
  - GIT and workgroup meetings where the MS are being developed will be advertised on the web calendar and meetings will be open to the public. Meetings also will be announced in Bay Briefs and subscriptions to this newsletter are open to the public.
  - Beginning September 16, 2014, stakeholders will be able to indicate which management strategy they plan to participate.
- Decision-making
  - Decision-making during the development process should generally follow the decision-making process stated in the CBP Governance Document. Simply, an issue should be presented, discussed, options identified and a call for consensus should be made. Each member should be asked to clearly state their agreement, disagreement or make suggestions for modifications.

- If, after *substantial negotiations* consensus cannot be reached on an issue, the partners may use a super majority vote *as a last resort*. Because members of GITs are not necessarily the same as signatory representatives, a super majority is defined as at least two-thirds of the entire membership participating on the management strategy development team.
- If a jurisdiction or organization does not participate in a management strategy then it may not participate in the decision-making process.
- Progress updates
  - GITs/workgroups should provide basic status reports to the PSC at their quarterly meetings. Future Management Board agendas will include time for GITs/workgroups to discuss issues that may arise in the development of management strategies.
  - Status updates on
- Review and Adoption
  - The GITs will submit draft Management Strategies to the CBP Management Board for review.
  - The Management Board will formally accept the Management Strategies as complete and will oversee their implementation with annual reviews to ensure that actions are being implemented and are staying on track.
  - The Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) is charged with accepting the management strategies and will report on their adoption at the June 2015 Executive Council meeting. The PSC will further report on their implementation to the EC every two years.
  - GITs will re-evaluate biennially and update strategies as necessary, with attention to changing environmental and economic conditions. Partners may identify policy changes to address these conditions and minimize obstacles to achieve the outcomes.
  - Management strategies are considered living documents and their development is an ongoing process.
- Timeline

A general development process timeline was developed by CBP to be used as a guide for GITs as they begin their work. The Partners recognize that each outcome is in a different place and that the first management strategies (due June 2015) may include identified gaps (such as monitoring/metrics development etc.). Therefore, these management strategies will continue to improve over time. Key milestones and due dates agreed by the Partners include:

  - Aug.-Sept. 2014: Identify stakeholders and individuals to participate in the management strategy development process

- Sept. 16, 2014: Partners identify intent to participate in the development of each strategy (within 90 days of the Agreement signing). Stakeholders begin to identify those strategies in which they wish to participate in the development of.
- Sept. 2014-March 2015: Individual outcome teams meet to develop content
- Dec. 11, 2014: Progress check-in with CBP Management Board
- March 3, 2015: Latest date for publishing draft strategies for public comment
- April 2015: Review public comments and finalize strategies
- May 2015: Final strategies presented to CBP Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee
- June 2015: Final strategies presented to CBP's Executive Council
  - The commitment in the Agreement that "within a year of the signing of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Goal Implementation Teams will develop management strategies" should be interpreted as: developed, received public comment, accepted as complete by the MB, and accepted by the PSC as the starting point."
- Reevaluation
  - GITs/workgroups are expected to re-evaluate each MS biennially and update them annually as necessary with attention to changing environmental and economic conditions.