

PLANNING FOR 2025 AND BEYOND

Chesapeake Bay Program



Management Board Retreat

May 7, 2025

2024 Executive Council Charge

The Executive Council's Charge for Phase 2 activities directs the Principal Staff Committee to complete *“[r]evisions to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement with modifications to the existing vision, principles, preamble, goals, **and outcomes...**”*, and to do so by December 1, 2025.



May 7-8 Retreat Purpose:

- **GITs** propose draft Outcome language to the **Management Board (MB)**.
- **Decisional: MB** either recommends draft Outcome language to the PSC or plans to make revisions.
- **MB** discusses any changes necessary for Goals and Management Strategies based on Outcomes status.
- **MB** provides feedback to **GIT 6** on developments related to structure and governance work.

Big Picture Discussion





Resource Needs Discussion

- Compared to current efforts, would resource needs required for implementing, monitoring, and assessing work related to the proposed Outcome and targets **increase, remain the same, or decrease?**
 - Are we currently collecting the data needed to monitor progress towards each proposed target?
 - Do CBP signatories and partners have the capacity to support this work in the short and/or long term?
- Do some targets need to be prioritized over others?
 - Are some targets better articulated as activities in a Management Strategy or Workplan?
- Does this work have a Champion?



Next Steps for Outcomes Without Consensus

- If we can't agree to recommend an outcome today, what follow up actions are needed by the Management Board?
 - Management Board members lead negotiation of revisions.
 - June 5: Deadline for revised Outcome language.
 - June 12: MB finalizes all remaining draft Outcome language recommendations.

Overview of Today's Outcome Review Process





Outcome Review Process

- Each Outcome review will consist of:
 - 3–5-minute presentation – Outcome Lead succinctly reviews proposed language, challenges or areas of uncertainty, and topics where MB/PSC input is need.
 - Clarifying questions & resource needs discussion – all MB members (voting and non-voting)
 - Call for consensus – all MB members
 - Reconciliation attempt– as needed, all MB members discuss and negotiate Outcome language
- Approximately 25 minutes per Outcome. Times will be adjusted as needed.

Consensus Decision: Outcome Language

Are you comfortable releasing the proposed Outcome language for public feedback?

Please let us know if you are a “stop” or “hold.”

- **STOP:** I do not agree and feel the need to stand in the way of this decision.
- **HOLD:** I believe more work is needed before we make a decision.



Consensus Decision: Recommendations to PSC

- **Consensus achieved on proposed language –** Recommend the PSC release the draft Outcome language for public feedback.
 - Inform the PSC of any revisions that were agreed to.
- **Consensus is NOT Achieved –** MB provides the PSC with:
 - A list of outcomes for which consensus was not achieved
 - The reservations that were expressed for each outcome.
 - Plans to revise and finalize draft Outcome language for public feedback by the June 12 MB and late June PSC meetings.



[Outcome Name]: Recommend to PSC

- Consensus decision: Consensus achieved
- Resource needs compared to current level of effort: (Increase, Remain the same, or Decrease)
- Potential Champion(s):



[Outcome Name]: Negotiation Ongoing

- Consensus decision: # stop(s) and # hold(s)
- Resource needs compared to current level of effort: Increase, Remain the same, or Decrease
- Potential Champion(s):
- Signatory MB Outcome negotiation lead:
- Reservations for MB negotiation & plans for revision before June:
 - _____
 - _____



Next Steps for Outcomes Without Consensus

- **May 9 – June 4:** MB negotiates & revises draft Outcome language.
- **June 5:** Deadline for submitting revised Outcome language.
- **June 12:** MB meeting to discuss PSC feedback and finalize all remaining draft Outcome language recommendations.
 - If consensus cannot be reached by the full MB, signatory supermajority voting will be used.



Next Steps for Reaching Public Feedback Period

- **June 16 – 23:** Assemble draft of revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
- **Week of June 23:** PSC meeting to approve draft of revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
- **July 1:** Publish draft of revised Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and launch public feedback period.



Ground Rules

- Recognize change is going to be difficult and commit to being open to new ways of doing things.
- Commit to changing and upgrading our work initiative to attain the Phase 2 requirements and tight timeline for completion.
- Work effectively with our triggers and setbacks that prevent us moving forward. When we get stuck, be proactive to get us unstuck.
- The Agreement revision effort is a lengthy process. The information presented today may not be fully fleshed out, and we will use it to help us move forward to the PSC and public reviews.
- Bring issues to the table (avoid "back room" discussions, permit one speaker at a time)
- If you state a problem or disagree, offer a solution.



Housekeeping Notes

- Discussions will be via open mic (use Raise Hand to be called on); chat will be turned off.
- Open discussions are limited to voting and non-voting MB members
- Erin will run the slides.
- Outcome presentations are limited to 3-5 minutes to allow for discussion and decisions.
- When Sherry's video turns on (for virtual presenters) or she raises the cue card (for in-person presenters), wrap up your presentation in the next 30 seconds.
- Outcome Leads will respond to any questions during the discussion time.
- Park topics that are tangential to the agenda.



Outcome Discussion Debrief: Preview of Questions for Retreat Day 2

- What time horizon should we use for outcome targets? (2035, 2040, every two years)
 - Does there need to be full alignment or are different time horizons for outcome achievement ok?
 - How do we articulate the end state we hope to achieve and/or realistic and achievable targets by a certain date?
- How do we handle those outcomes that had placeholder targets? (20XX)
- After going through all the outcomes and targets, is there a need for standardization?
 - Is it alright for some outcomes to have shared, similar, or overlapping targets?
- Does the volume of work shared today represent the right balance to reflect near-term challenges with the longer-term vision?
- Does the MB have any recommendations for the PSC regarding Goals?

Lee McDonnell, EPA CBPO
mcdonnell.lee@epa.gov

Sarah Brzezinski, EPA CBPO
brzezinski.sarah@epa.gov

Sherry Witt, GDIT
sherry.witt@gdit.com

THANK
YOU