



## REDUCING EXCESS NUTRIENTS AND SEDIMENT (RENS) OUTCOME

### WATER QUALITY GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (WQGIT)

#### CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT OUTCOME LANGUAGE

#### PROPOSED DRAFT OUTCOME LANGUAGE:

**Options and proposed language are provided here for Management Board deliberation and do not reflect a WQGIT consensus position.**

**Option 1:** Bay Program partners will have practices and controls installed throughout the watershed to reduce excess nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment and achieve the Bay's dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation, and chlorophyll-*a* water quality standards.

**Option 2:** Install practices and controls that will reduce excess nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment to support living resources and protect human health by achieving water quality standards.

#### EXISTING 2014 OUTCOME LANGUAGE (2025 WIP Outcome):

By 2025, have all practices and controls installed to achieve the Bay's dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation and chlorophyll-*a* standards as articulated in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL document.

PROPOSED TARGET *	New Target / Update of Existing Target	Date estimate for target being developed
1. Through 2030, continue installing practices and controls to reduce excess nutrients and sediment to achieve the <a href="#">interim water quality targets</a> . Partners may meet this target by implementing the Phase III Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), the two-year milestone commitments, or other innovative strategies.	Update	2025
2. By December 2028, complete updates to the CBP partnership Phase 7 modeling tools and set updated water quality targets.	New	2025
3. By December 2030, develop updated WIPs/strategies to meet the water quality targets developed with the Phase 7 modeling tools, and address any potential growth in loads and changing environmental conditions.	New	2025
4. By December 2030, update this outcome with a longer-term implementation timeline to meet the updated water quality targets for nutrients and sediment and aim to address any potential growth in loads and changing environmental conditions.	New	<b>This placeholder target will be ready 2025; updated outcome expected by Dec 15, 2030</b>
5. Demonstrate net reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment toward meeting the <a href="#">interim water quality targets</a> , through multiple lines of evidence, including annual progress reporting and monitoring data. [in coordination w/ WQSAM]	Update/shared target	2025 – progress 2026 – mult. lines of evidence

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### Rationale and context for proposed draft outcome language:

There was general consensus at the Management Board (MB) to remove the 2014 Bay Watershed Agreement's "2017 WIP Outcome" and update the "2025 WIP Outcome". A few Management Board members had a different disposition and comments on the proposed recommendations for these two outcomes. After individual discussions with partners, there was tentative agreement to remove the "2017 WIP Outcome" and to revise the recommendation for the "2025 WIP Outcome" to include explicit commitments for incremental progress and deadlines. This language is an attempt to address the concerns raised by partners.

There was not full WQGIT consensus on the proposed language for the outputs/targets. Concerns include that some partners are closer than others to meeting the interim water quality targets outlined in item 1 in the table and the impact to these target dates for items 2-4 in the table if there are delays in developing and finalizing the Phase 7 modeling tools update.

Timelines are included in the outputs/targets for now. The CBP partnership has an approved schedule to update the water quality modeling tools. Once completed those tools can be used to inform a longer term accountability timeline.

The end of 2030 is suggested as a date to revise/update this outcome and outputs based upon completion of the following steps to facilitate in-depth partnership discussions: the completion of the Phase 7 model (2026, review in 2027, in use 2028), the partnership to approve new water quality targets (~2028), and for partners to update WIPs or other strategy documents as agreed upon by the partnership (~2029-2030) to meet water quality targets.

### Topics/challenges for Management Board guidance (Optional):

- The determination of a quantitative timeline for achieving the outcome and targets if different than proposed.
- Do you support examples of shared outputs/targets (example 5<sup>th</sup> target in chart)?
- What is the MB level of interest in future outputs/targets that are sector and living resource based?
- Do you support renaming of the "WIP" Outcome to more accurately reflect the intended result?
  - o Option 1: Reducing Excess Nutrients and Sediment Outcome (RENS)
  - o Option 2: Nutrients and Sediment Reduction Outcome (NSR)
  - o Option 3: Keep WIP for familiarity/consistency

### Methodology for data collection and tracking of each Target (Optional):

1. "[Interim water quality target](#)" and two-year milestones tracking
2. PSC approved Phase 7 schedule
3. TBD on CBP partnership decisions related to updated WIPs or other strategies to be developed. Follow schedules if/when approved.
4. TBD. Follow partnership approved schedules if/when approved.
5. Annual progress, biennial water quality trends, biennial updates to TMDL Indicator, METRIC tool

### Links to documentation that provide Target justification/context and/or rationale (Optional):

<https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/clean-water/watershed-implementation-plans>

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/programs/modeling/phase-7-model-development>