

Principles guide the way in which we do our work; they describe how we do science, restoration, and partnership

How do we ensure that they show up in the work?

- Collaborate to achieve the Goals and Outcomes of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
- Achieve Goals and Outcomes in a measurable and timely way and at the least possible cost to the public.
- Represent the interests of all communities throughout the watershed fairly and effectively.
- Use place-based approaches, where appropriate, to target specific geographic areas and produce recognizable benefits to local communities while contributing to larger ecosystem goals.
- Acknowledge, support and embrace local governments and other local entities in watershed restoration, conservation and protection activities.
- Operate with transparency in program decisions, policies, actions and reporting on progress to strengthen public trust and confidence in our efforts.
- Use science-based decision-making, consider Indigenous and local knowledge and seek out innovative technologies and approaches to support sound management decisions in a changing system.
- Maintain and enhance a coordinated watershed-wide monitoring and research program to support decision-making, track progress and assess the effectiveness of management actions.
- Anticipate and respond to changing conditions, including long-term trends in sea level, temperature, precipitation, land use and other variables.
- Adaptively manage at all levels of the partnership to foster continuous improvement informed by the best available science and strong working relationships.
- Seek consensus across the partnership when making decisions.
- Meaningfully engage the public to foster collaboration and grow the partnership to support and carry out the restoration, conservation and protection activities necessary to achieve the Goals and Outcomes of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement.
- Integrate Tribal Nations into the partnership in a manner that appropriately considers their unique status as Independent Sovereign Nations.
- Integrate social science holistically throughout the partnership to better understand and measure how human behavior can drive natural resource use, management and decision-making.
- Purposefully involve all communities in the partnership's activities, decisions, and implementation of this agreement

Connecting Principles to Practice

Foundational Strategies

- **Observation-based evaluation** - Evaluations of goal and outcome achievement will be based on documented observations, both quantitative and qualitative, capturing previous and current conditions, and collected across relevant spatial scales. Observational information will be publicly available and searchable.
- **Model-based predictions** - Predictions about the effectiveness of management actions will be based on explicitly recognized models, whether conceptual, statistical, or numerical. These models will be publicly available, well-documented, verifiable, scalable, and regularly updated to remain current and relevant.
- **Braided knowledge streams** – Multiple sources of knowledge, including scientific, indigenous, and local perspectives, will be braided together towards restoring ecological integrity, promoting community well-being, and fostering sustainable land and water management practices.
- **Changing Environmental Conditions** – Bay and watershed restoration and conservation efforts are being implemented during a time of considerable environmental change. Management strategies will account for the potential effects of these changing environmental conditions on program goals and outcomes.
- **Interconnectedness** - The Bay and its Watershed, along with their living resources and human populations, are one interconnected ecosystem. Program goals and outcomes will be interconnected accordingly to provide a holistic understanding of ecosystem management and response.

Proposed Watershed Agreement Revision (in red)

Points to Foundational Strategies

- **MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION:** Within one year of the **revision** of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Goal Implementation Teams will **update or** develop Management Strategies for the Outcomes that support this Agreement's goals. These strategies outline the means for accomplishing each Outcome as well as monitoring, assessing and reporting progress and coordinating actions among partners and stakeholders as necessary. Management Strategies describe how local governments, **indigenous representatives**, nonprofit and private partners **are** engaged; where actions, tools or technical support are needed to empower local governments and others to do their part; and what steps **are necessary** to facilitate greater local participation in achieving the Outcome. **Management Strategies also refer to Foundational Strategies to ensure that the Guiding Principles of the Agreement are evident in the work being done.**