



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

October 28, 2025 PSC Meeting

# **Finalizing the Amended Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement**

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# 2024 Executive Council's Beyond 2025 Charge

- “*Therefore*, let it be resolved that we, the Chesapeake Executive Council...hereby direct the Principals’ Staff Committee to complete the following by December 31, 2025:
  - Revisions to the *2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, not a new Agreement. Revisions to outcomes should be executed pursuant to the Governance and Management Framework for the Chesapeake Bay Program. While not all outcomes will need revision, some reviews will likely result in consolidating, reducing, updating, removing, replacing, or adding new outcomes.



## 2024 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHARGE: WHAT DID WE ACCOMPLISH?



Members directed the Bay Program's Principals' Staff Committee to take the following actions by the end of 2025:



Revise the existing *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. ✓



Elevate conservation as a key pillar of the partnership. ✓



Address both water quality and living resources (e.g., habitat, wildlife). ✓



Place a greater emphasis in engaging all communities of the watershed. ✓




Ensure goals and outcomes are measurable, time-bound and sufficient to complete the outcome as quickly as possible. ✓



Ground revisions in the most current scientific understandings and issues. ✓

# TIMELINE: RECENT PROGRESS & STATUS

Dates	Lead	Deliverable(s)
July 1 – Sept 1	Public	60-day public feedback period on amended Agreement
September 11	MB	Begin to review, organize, and address public feedback; update on interim structure and governance recommendations
Sept 30 – Oct 2	MB	Retreat to discuss Agreement amendments and interim structure and governance recommendations
October 9	MB	Finalize Agreement amendments and interim structure and governance recommendations for PSC review
October 28 	PSC	Finalize Agreement amendments; discuss governance and structure recommendations
November 6	PSC/M B	Finalize materials for December 2 EC meeting (e.g., finalize interim structure and governance recommendations)
December 2	EC	Approve recommended amendments to the Agreement and interim structure and governance revisions



# **Recap of Policy Decisions from the October 9 Management Board Meeting**



# CBWA Time Horizon

**The MB supermajority votes resulted in adoption of a 2040-time horizon for the Watershed Agreement with a 2033 check point.**

Do you support a ____ time horizon?	2035	2040
Chesapeake Bay Commission	Nay	Yea
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Nay	Yea
Commonwealth of Virginia	Yea	Nay
District of Columbia	Nay	Yea
State of Delaware	Nay	Yea
State of Maryland	Yea	Nay
State of New York	Nay	Yea
State of West Virginia	Nay	Yea
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Stand Aside	Stand Aside

# CBWA Time Horizon

The MB agreed via consensus to adopt a six-year cycle for Management Strategy implementation.

MS Develop. (up to 18 months)		Management Strategy (6 yrs)						Management Strategy (6 yrs)						Agreement Revision	
		Program Evaluation & Strategy Updates													
2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	

The Program will report progress to the public and update work plans on a shorter-term basis for each Outcome in accordance with adaptive management.

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# **Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment (RENPS) Target #1**

## **Virginia Proposal Accepted by Management Board Through Supermajority Vote:**

“Through 2030, signatories will continue to accelerate completion of all interim water quality planning targets through implementation of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plans, two-year milestone commitments and other innovative strategies to achieve and maintain reduced levels of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment.”



# Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment (RENPS) Target #1

Do you support the inclusion of _____ in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement?	Maryland's proposed RENPS Target 1 language	Virginia's proposed RENPS Target 1 language
Chesapeake Bay Commission	Nay	Yea
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Nay	Yea
Commonwealth of Virginia	Nay	Yea
District of Columbia	Nay	Yea
State of Delaware	Nay	Yea
State of Maryland	Yea	Nay
State of New York	Nay	Yea
State of West Virginia	Nay	Yea
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Nay	Yea

→ **Maryland's proposed language on Target #1:** "By 2035, achieve all interim planning targets by implementing the existing Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plans, two-year milestone commitments and other innovative strategies."

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# Waterbirds

**The language on waterbirds under the Wetlands Outcome has been advanced to the PSC for a final decision.**

The MB conducted a signatory vote to determine if waterbirds should be removed from the Agreement. A supermajority was not achieved to remove it, after which the language proposed by Maryland achieved consensus to be shared with the PSC.

# Waterbirds

Should waterbirds be included in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement?	Waterbirds
Chesapeake Bay Commission	Yea
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Yea
Commonwealth of Virginia	Nay
District of Columbia	Yea
State of Delaware	Nay*
State of Maryland	Yea
State of New York	Yea
State of West Virginia	Nay
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Nay

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# Waterbirds

The MB is recommending to the PSC that waterbirds remain in the Agreement under the Tidal Wetlands Target and the Nontidal Wetlands Target, per Maryland's **proposal**.

- **“Tidal:** Restore or create at least 3,000 acres and enhance 15,000 acres of tidal wetlands by 2040, **focusing on habitats that support populations of waterbirds and represent healthy wetlands across the watershed.**”
- **“Nontidal:** Restore or create at least 3,000 acres and enhance 15,000 acres of nontidal wetlands by 2040, **focusing on habitats that support populations of waterbirds and represent healthy wetlands across the watershed.**”

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# Decision Requested

- Does the PSC approve the final amended Watershed Agreement for submission to the Chesapeake Executive Council?