



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

# Management Strategies' Decisions

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# Background - Role and Purpose of Management Strategies

- “[CBP] will update or develop Management Strategies for the Outcomes and their Targets that support the Goals of this Watershed Agreement. These strategies shall **outline the means for accomplishing each Outcome and its Targets** as well as **monitoring, assessing and reporting progress and coordinating actions** among partners and stakeholders as necessary.”

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (CBWA) (CBP, 2025)

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# Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement also states...

- How partners will address changing environmental conditions
- How signatories, other state and federal agencies, local governments, Indigenous representatives, nonprofit and private partners are engaged
- Where actions, tools, financial support and technical assistance are needed to empower local governments and others
- What steps are necessary to facilitate greater participation in achieving the Outcome

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# Management Strategies Purpose

- Intended to coordinate partnership initiatives, prioritize resources and clearly describe the efforts that will be undertaken by partners over the next six-year period to make progress towards achieving CBWA Outcomes.
- Incorporates existing priorities, initiatives, and other actions that are required through state and federal programs; will also reflect applicable content from existing Management Strategies (not starting from scratch)
- Serves as an accountability measure – both internally and externally

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# Next Generation of Management Strategies

- Proposal: One high level, strategic planning document with four management strategies serving as goal chapters:
  1. Thriving Habitat, Fisheries, and Wildlife
  2. Clean Water
  3. Healthy Landscapes
  4. Engaged Communities
- Planning document primarily intended for internal partnership audience.
- Future discussions will be held regarding a public-facing version of the plan.
- Management Board (MB) will approve management strategies' template on or before June 11<sup>th</sup>.

**TODAY: Seeking approval on four decisions made at the January 15<sup>th</sup> MB meeting.**

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# PSC Decisions Requested

- Do you support the following Management Board decisions made at their January 15, 2026, meeting?

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## **DECISION – Number of Management Strategies**

- The MB agreed to develop a strategic plan consisting of a collaborative introduction and executive summary, followed by four goal management strategies that will serve as chapters. The MB will hold future discussions regarding a public-facing version of the plan and how work plans will be incorporated.

## **DECISION – Management Strategy Template Development Timeline**

- The MB agreed that a draft management strategy template will be developed by March, with final approval no later than June. Approval will occur at the MB level.

## **DECISION – When to Start MS Drafting**

- The MB agreed that the current GIT Chairs will begin preliminary work to compile background materials and research for the incoming GIT Chairs. Once the new Chairs are selected and the template is finalized, the new GIT Chairs will assume responsibility for drafting the management strategies.

## **DECISION – MS Authorship Officials**

- The MB agreed the Executive Summary, Introduction and Accountability sections will be developed by EPA in consultation with GIT Chairs, MB Chair and PSC Chair's representative. GIT Chairs will develop specific goal management strategy chapters.

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# What's Next?

- Establish new Goal Team Leadership who will be responsible for drafting the Management Strategies – no later than February 2026
- Discuss, refine, and finalize the Management Strategies' template – no later than June 2026
- PSC finalizes and approves the overarching strategic plan with four management strategies – Summer 2027





**Thank you! Questions?**

