



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

June 25, 2024

Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Update

June 2024 Principals' Staff Committee Meeting

Martha Shimkin, Director
Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Anna Killius, Executive Director
Chesapeake Bay Commission



Timeline & Responsibilities

Discussion of the requested decision



Current Steering Committee Draft

Review of draft under review on Thursday

EC Charge

“recommend a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the *Watershed Agreement* beyond 2025”



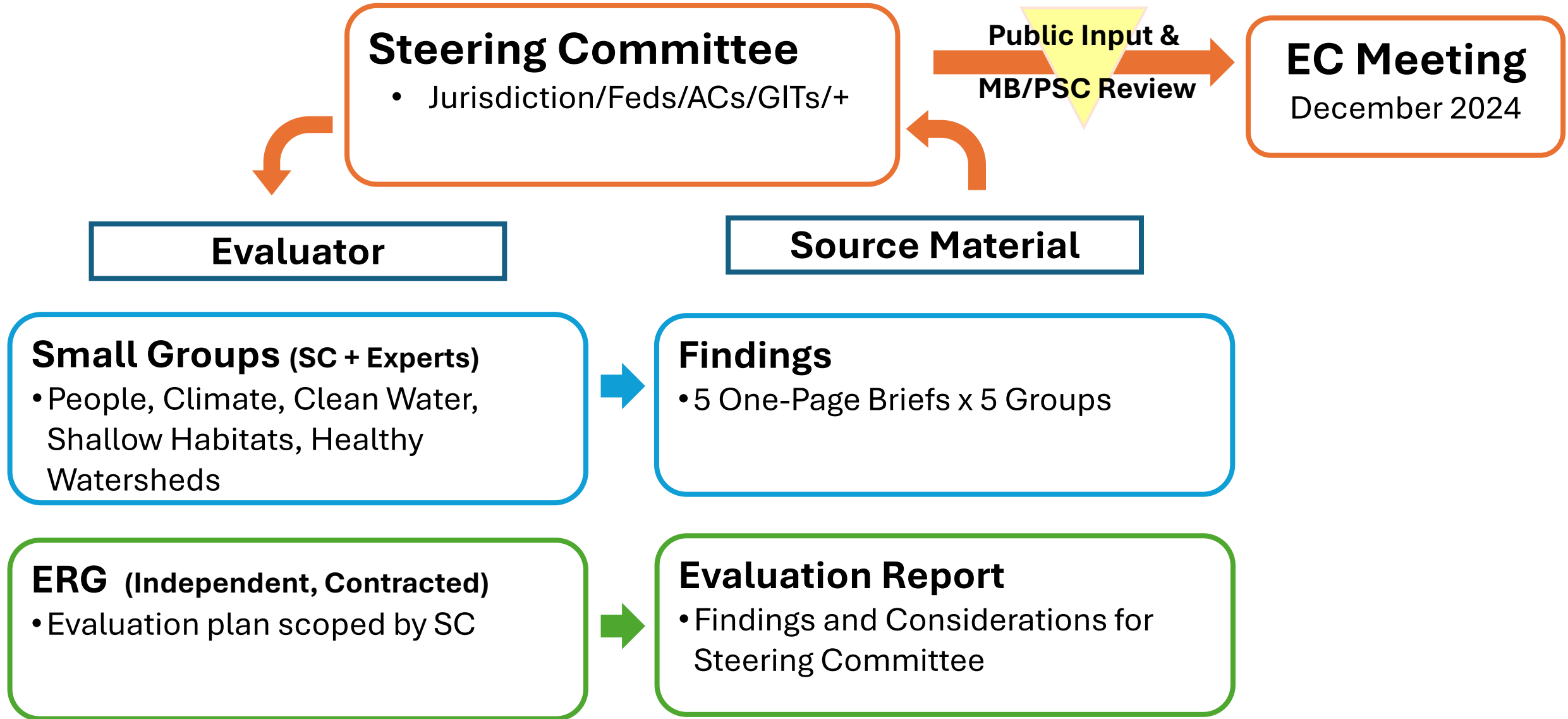
Phase 1 – by EC 2024
*Scope & breadth of what
should be undertaken*



Phase 2 – after EC 2024
Execute plan

Phase 1: Process

1





Timeline and Responsibilities to complete Phase 1

Planned Timeline

June/July 2024						
		25 PSC	26	27 SC	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
August 2024						
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2024						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 PSC	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 SC	27	28
29	30					
October 2024						
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10 MB	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 PSC	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Under the Decision in the Agenda ...

September

17

- Final SC Report to PSC
- PSC may accept or send back

October

25

- PSC submits report for EC
- PSC finalizes EC Action

December

10*

- EC Action

Under the Decision in Agenda ...

June/July 2024						
		25 PSC	26	27 SC	28	29
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Concerns

- Steering Committee will have 2 weeks to review public feedback, revise, and reach consensus on final report.
- PSC will not receive the report 2 weeks in advance of making a decision on whether to accept or return.
- If PSC returns the report, it is unclear how to get back on track for PSC acceptance and any PSC edits needed before Oct 25th.

Suggested Plan



September

17

- Update to PSC on public feedback
- Guidance from PSC based on draft & feedback

October

1-3

- Dedicated PSC Briefing on final SC report

October

25

- PSC approves report for EC
- PSC finalizes EC Action

December

10*

- EC Action
- Report in EC briefing book

Proposed Timeline

June/July 2024						
		25 PSC	26	27 SC	28	29
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Benefits

- Steering Committee has 4 weeks to review, revise, and finalize the report.
- PSC keeps opportunity to register any concerns and share revisions before SC finishes the report.
- PSC members are briefed on the full, final report weeks before making a decision.

During the Public Input Period

- The Steering Committee co-chairs would be happy to coordinate with you and your MB/SC member to schedule individual briefings to:
 - Discuss the draft report
 - Receive feedback/revisions
 - Provide an update on public feedback

To review, we suggest:

June 27 th	SC consensus to release draft report for 60-day public input period
July-Aug	Public Feedback Period, individual briefings for PSC members
September	SC reviews feedback and revises report
Sept 17 th	Update to PSC, guidance from PSC
Sept 26 th	SC consensus on final report
Oct 1 st - 3 rd	PSC briefing on final report
October	PSC makes any necessary edits to report & drafts EC Action
Oct 25 th	PSC approves EC Action & submission of report to EC
Dec 10 th	EC Meeting, EC approval of Action



Current Steering Committee Draft under review on Thursday *v6.18.2024*

Outline of draft



Part I: Critical Path Forward Beyond 2025 (pp.1-5)

- EC Charge & Beyond 2025 Steering Committee
- Recommendations for the Executive Council's Consideration
- Additional Background
- Recognizing our Progress

Part II: High-Level Recommendations for the Chesapeake Bay Program (pp.6-14)

- Introduction & Steering Committee Process
- High-level considerations related to Science
- High-level considerations related to Restoration and Conservation
- High-level considerations related to Partnership
- *Summary of public engagement and outreach (to be added after public feedback period)*

Part III: Source material

- One-page briefs of Small Group Findings
- ERG report
- Other Partnership Reports

Recommendation for EC:



The Beyond 2025 Steering Committee recommends that the Chesapeake Executive Council affirm its continued commitment to meeting the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement through partnership and direct the Principals' Staff Committee to propose specific amendments necessary to improve the partnership's efficacy in doing so.

- Affirm commitment to the 2014 Agreement at the 2024 EC Meeting
- Consider any necessary amendments to the Agreement's vision, principles, preamble or goals at the 2025 EC Meeting
- Direct Program to review all outcomes for potential updates, replacement, consolidation, or elimination.

Recommendation for EC:



The Beyond 2025 Steering Committee recommends strengthening the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership by identifying ways to simplify and streamline the partnership's structure and processes, including potential changes to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Governance and Management Framework, to ensure that partner commitments can be met.

- Direct PSC to enhance Program efficacy and transparency by streamlining processes, modifying structure, and improving capacity for adaptive and science-based decision-making
- Existing structures, including the Management Board, Goal Implementation Teams, workgroups, and action teams, may require updates and benefit from them

Part II: Recommendations for Bay Program

- In Part II, we identify the full suite of synthesized recommendations and considerations, organized by the EC Charge's categories: Science, Restoration and Conservation, and Partnership.
- Stronger language is used for ideas and strategies that have the strongest support or comfort.
- All of these ideas and strategies will need further exploration, deliberation, and detail in Phase 2 before the partnership can decide whether and how to implement them. We believe they merit continued consideration.

To review, the draft report:

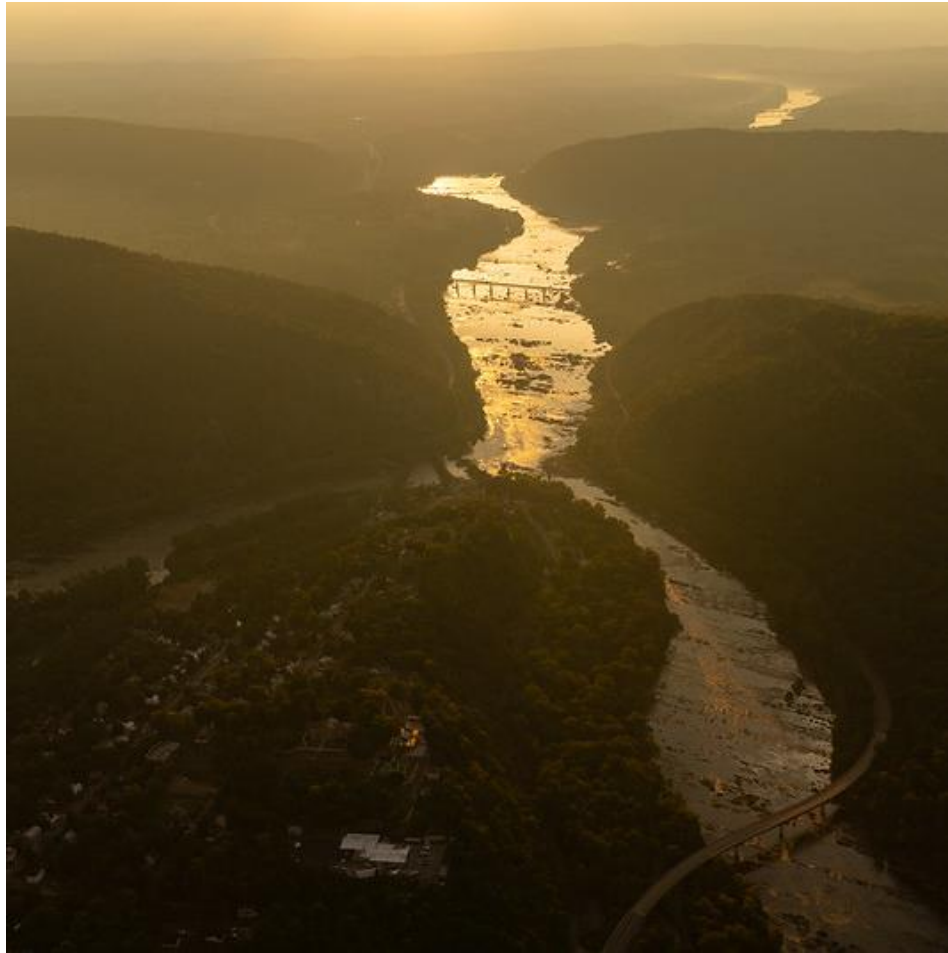
- Recognizes our continued commitment to partnership and the goals of the 2014 Watershed Agreement
- Proposes EC actions that direct the Program to prepare updates to the the Watershed Agreement and Partnership necessary to ensure efficacy, efficiency, and relevance. This includes a review of all outcomes.
- Identifies ideas and strategies worthy of further exploration within each of the Program's core mission areas: science, conservation and restoration, and partnership.

Public Feedback Process

- Public feedback open July 1– August 31
- Anyone can submit comments
- Public feedback time announced: online article, social media. Partners: please amplify the announcement!
comments@chesapeakebay.net
- Comments reviewed by a team of subject matter experts
- All comments received to be posted online
- Track changes to be posted online
- Comments will not be addressed individually

Decision item from PSC agenda:

- The Beyond 25 Steering Committee Report is, remains, and will be clearly and publicly presented as a product of the Steering Committee until informed by the public input process and subsequently presented and accepted by the PSC.
- The Steering Committee will make every effort to ~~present~~ **prepare** a final draft **by the end of September** for PSC acceptance. ~~a~~ **At the September 17 PSC meeting, the Co-Chairs will brief the PSC on the public feedback period and any drafting updates.**
- At ~~that~~ **its October** meeting, the PSC may choose to ~~either~~ accept the Steering Committee Report **as is** or ~~return it back to the Steering Committee for further work.~~ ~~Once accepted by the PSC, the PSC may make further revisions prior to submission to the EC, which must occur 30 days prior to the EC's 2025 meeting. As per current plans, this means that the PSC will need to make near final decisions at their October 25 meeting in order to submit the final Report and any resulting Directive, Charge, Affirmation etc to the EC in early November.~~



Thank you

Martha Shimkin
Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Anna Killius
Chesapeake Bay Commission



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.