



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

September 18, 2025

# **Governance & Accountability**

Briefing for the Stakeholders Advisory Committee

*Slides prepared by Doug Bell, CBPO-EPA*

# Governance and Management Framework for the Chesapeake Bay Program



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



**SCAN ME**

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/publications/chesapeake-bay-program-governance-document>

## **1. Priority Setting, Decision Making, and Resources**

Clear methodology, align priorities & capacity

## **2. Role Definition and Logistics**

Explicitly define, improve collaboration and coordination framework

## **3. Complexity, Structure, Disconnect to Local Communities**

Streamline connection between implementation actors

## **4. Transparency**

Decisions, priorities, resources, actions, reporting

## **5. Accountability and Adaptive Management**

Clear guidelines for outcome attainment, decrease burden, enable innovation

## **6. Communication**

Ensure awareness and connection is robust where needed

# Role Definition and Logistics

## 1. **Emphasize the EC's function and better delineate specific roles and responsibilities across the governing bodies of the CBP.**

EC

- Functions emphasized would include pledging overarching commitment to achieve the CBWA, establishing and adhering to the Vision of the CBWA, and serving as the public face of the CBP.
- Amendments to the roles and responsibilities, would including rephrasing “policy direction” and specifying that any amendments to CBWA Outcomes is at the discretion of the PSC, rather than the EC.

## 2. **Strengthen the PSC's function as a body of politically appointed executives.**

PSC

- Functions strengthened would be related to strategic direction, priority setting, executive-level decision making, and resource mobilization.
- Succession planning using a chair and vice-chair framework is also recommended to maintain priority commitment.

# Role Definition and Logistics

MB

## 3. **Emphasize the MB's function and delineate specific roles and responsibilities across the governing bodies of the CBP.**

- Functions emphasized would be related to oversight and execution of the PSC's priorities, operational and implementation-related decision making, and staff coordination.

AC

## 4. **Updates the roles and operations of the ACs to target their engagement across the CBP, while working collaboratively amongst the ACs.**

- Given the breadth of the CBP and the voluntary commitment of AC members, the ACs are recommended to streamline membership-specific positions, so that information transfer is facilitated from members participating in technical deliberations and into executive-level decision-making bodies.
- Operationally, the ACs are recommended to convene together on an annual basis to share best practices.

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## Priority Setting, Decision Making, and Resources

1. **A priority setting framework, established by the PSC, is recommended to provide strategic direction.** An effective priority setting framework would likely incorporate:
  - Robust engagement with the advisory committees and relevant public interest groups.
  - Transparency regarding the availability and allocation of resources towards a specific priority.
  - Implementation gaps (staffing or technical needs) related to Outcome attainment.
2. **The appropriate authority and expertise are recommended to be a key component in defining membership between governing levels,** particularly when considering how best to streamline outcome implementation actions.
3. **Federal membership and coordination are recommended to be clearly defined at each level of the governing structure.**

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# Ongoing Work

## Structure, Complexity, Disconnect to Local Communities

- Structural considerations of the Bay Program overlay all of the Challenges and Considerations we are discussing
- 9/11 MB Meeting – Seeking guidance from PSC. Anticipating a possible example for MB's deliberation and iteration at the Retreat.

## Transparency

- Example: Transparency could be improved by identifying resources at each level of the CBP and from each participating entity.

## Accountability and Adaptive Management

- Example: The CBP should clearly articulate expectations related to CBP's accountability to the public (e.g., outcome progress, standard public feedback procedures).

## Communication

- Example: The responsibility of the EC and PSC to engage with the Advisory Committees and general public should be clearly articulated in the GMF.
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# Governance and Accountability Team

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