

# Near-Term Milestones

Monday September 23, 2024

Water Quality Goal Implementation Team Meeting

Suzanne Trevena, WQGIT Chair, Milestones WG Chair

# Agenda

- Where we are now
- Where we've been
- Where we're going



# Near Term Milestones

Partnership agreed to continue to use milestones during Phase 2 Beyond 2025 discussions

Maintains continuity and accountability under the Phase 3 WIPs and allows opportunity to explore changes to the milestones.

“Near term” milestones are those milestones that span 2026 through when there are new targets established by the partnership using the Phase 7 modeling tools (approximately 2028 or 2029).

# August 2024 WQGIT Decision

WQGIT will develop near term milestones recommendations/options for:

- Timeline options (2, 3, 4 year) and rationale to support the option
- Considerations for piloting/sandboxing new ideas to include in the milestone period(s)
  - Recommendations should include any boundaries or constraints believed to be necessary for piloting/sandboxing

Need to have recommendations for the Partnership by Feb 2025

# Milestones History:

## 2008

---

2008 EC commitment to speed up the pace of Bay restoration and be more accountable to reduce pollution to the Bay and its rivers

---

Short term goals and actions to intensify restoration efforts

---

Part of the CBP partnership Water Quality Accountability Framework to support the WIPs

---

Showcase incremental progress in meeting water quality goals

# Milestones Guiding Principle: 2009

“While milestones for each jurisdiction will likely vary considerably with respect to proposed specific actions, it is critical that the overall combined milestones product be consistent and comprehensive.”

# Milestones Guidelines: 2009

---

Will focus strictly on Bay water quality restoration goal

---

Jurisdiction-specific milestone outcomes can be rolled up into a single, basin-wide summary

---

Milestone outcomes include: pounds reduced, acres implemented, adoption of new regulations, legislation, policies

---

Account for implementation actions of all partners

# Milestones Guidelines

## Continued

---

Consist of both numeric and programmatic commitments

---

Identify and commit to implement specific pollutant reduction measures to achieve the two-year milestone commitments

---

Contain more detail and will be more transparent reporting to the public than past Bay restoration efforts



# Template Examples

- 2009-2011
  - [2011 Milestones for Reducing Nitrogen and Phosphorus](#)
  - [June 2012 Progress Report](#)
- 2012-present
  - [Optional Programmatic Milestones Template](#)
- 2018
  - [Options for numeric milestones](#)

# Milestones Lessons Learned

2011 a Milestones Workgroup was formed

Use of the modeling tools

Balance in using the latest information

Comparing commitments vs. progress

Transparency

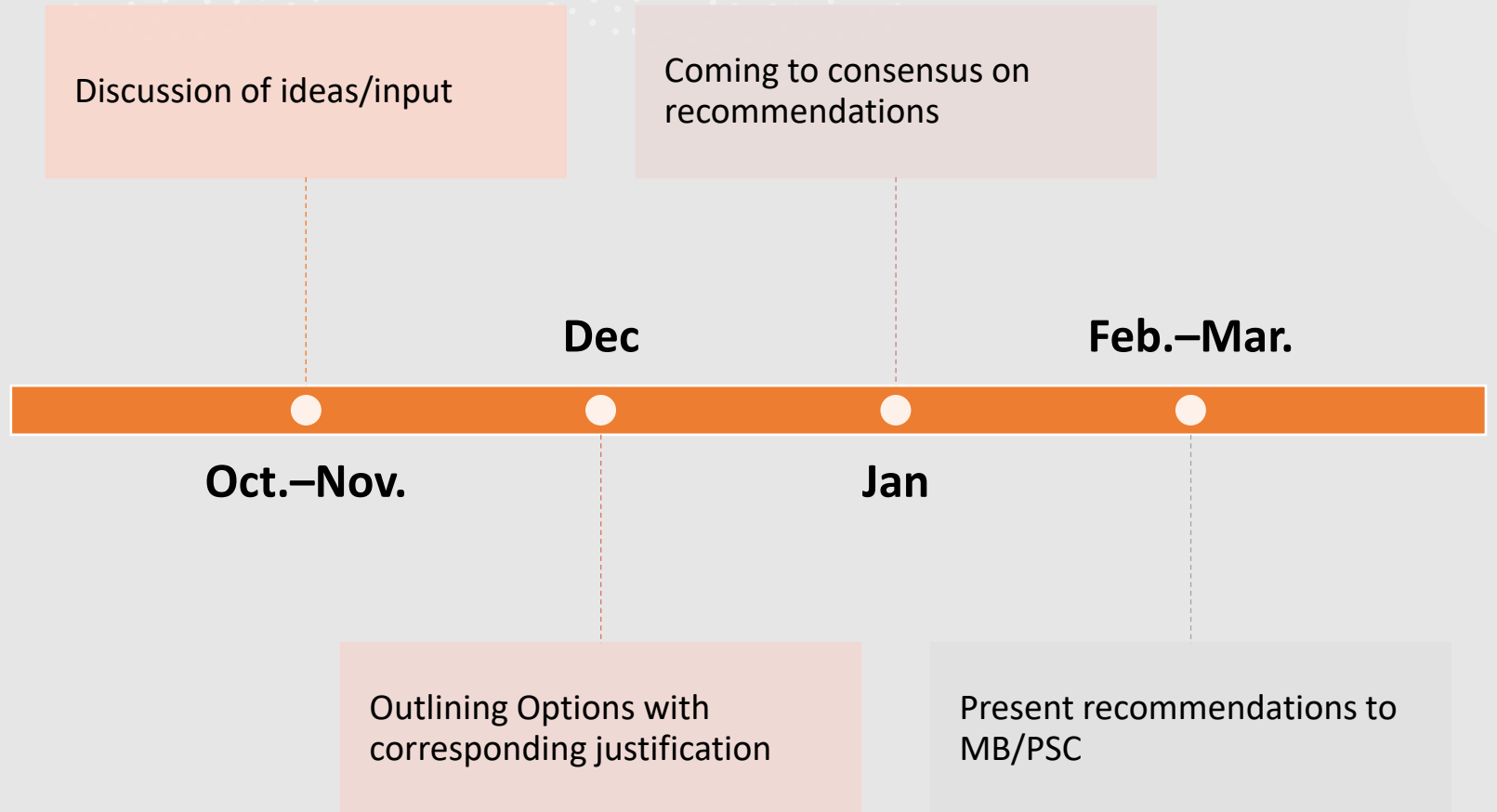
# Path Forward for Future Milestone Discussions

Pro/Cons on various  
timeframes for  
milestones

Bring innovation into  
milestones

Balancing accountability  
and innovation  
opportunities

# Anticipated Timeline



# October (Nov, Dec) – Come with ideas and examples



Consider pros/cons for various time length for milestones



Review the existing template for milestones and are there elements missing for transparency and accountability



Consider what innovative ideas you'd include in milestones if there were no expected evaluation of progress (no "ding")



How would you balance accountability and innovation?



Should other outcomes be incorporated in some fashion the milestones?