



BEYOND 2025: THE FUTURE OF CHESAPEAKE BAY RESTORATION

The Vision for the Chesapeake
Bay Program and *Watershed
Agreement*



Presentation Overview

- Review high-level updates to the draft revised Watershed Agreement
- Discuss next steps
- Provide an overview of the public feedback period

THERE'S MORE TO THE WATERSHED AGREEMENT THAN THE OUTCOMES...

Watershed Agreement Section	Revision Lead
Vision	Principals' Staff Committee
Preamble	Principals' Staff Committee
Principles	Principals' Staff Committee
Goals	Principals' Staff Committee, Management Board
Outcomes	Management Board, Outcome Leads
Management Strategies	Management Board

VISION REVISIONS

2014: The Chesapeake Bay Program partners envision an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, conserved lands and access to the water, a vibrant cultural heritage and a diversity of engaged stakeholders.

2025: The Chesapeake Bay Program partners envision an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, conserved and **healthy working** lands, a vibrant cultural heritage and a **wide range of engaged individuals whose communities enjoy access to the waters and natural landscapes of the region**.

REVISIONS TO PRINCIPLES

- Adds recognition of Tribal nations.
- Expands holistic social science integration.
- Strengthens local knowledge inclusion.
- Removes specific reference to environmental justice but is still implied through added language stating strong inclusion of all and welcoming participation.
- Several principles updated for clarity, specificity and impact.



STRUCTURE OF THE REVISED WATERSHED AGREEMENT

Goals: Desired high-level aspects of the Watershed Agreement vision.

Outcomes: Long-term, high-level change that is desired or the difference made by the partnership's actions.

Targets: Direct products of the actions planned for and taken as partners.

Activities: Specific actions taken to achieve the targets.



Thriving Habitats and Wildlife

Sustainable Fisheries
Vital Habitats



Clean Water

Water Quality
Toxic Contaminants



Healthy Landscapes

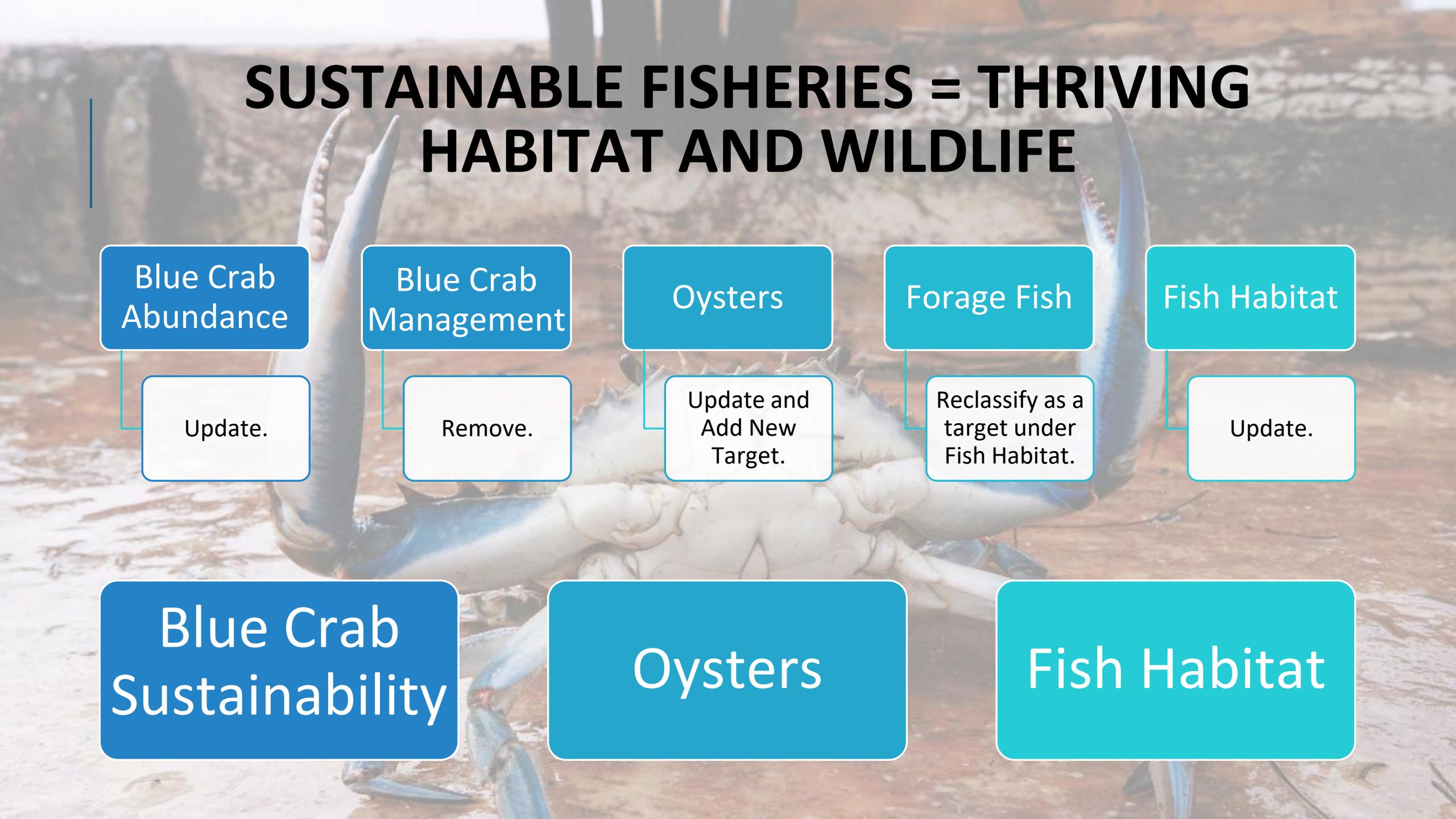
Land Conservation
Healthy Watersheds
Climate Resiliency



Engaged Communities

Local Leadership
Public Access
Stewardship

REVISED GOALS



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES = THRIVING HABITAT AND WILDLIFE

Blue Crab
Abundance

Update.

Blue Crab
Management

Remove.

Oysters

Update and
Add New
Target.

Forage Fish

Reclassify as a
target under
Fish Habitat.

Fish Habitat

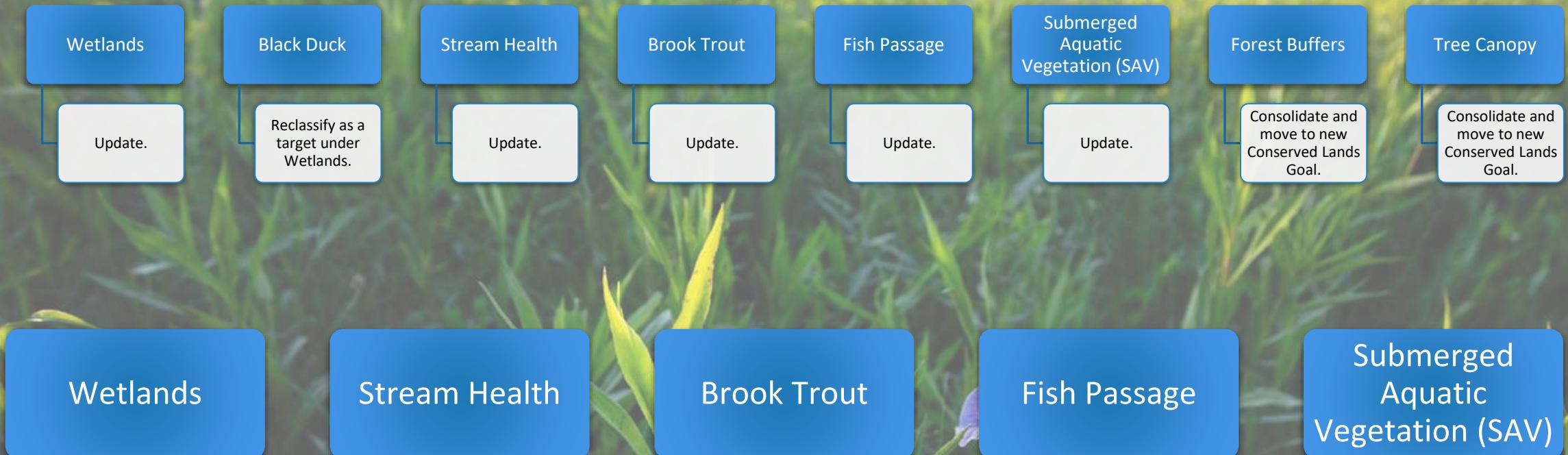
Update.

Blue Crab
Sustainability

Oysters

Fish Habitat

VITAL HABITATS = THRIVING HABITAT AND WILDLIFE



WATER QUALITY & TOXIC CONTAMINANTS = CLEAN WATER

2017 Watershed
Implementation
Plans

Remove.

2025 Watershed
Implementation
Plan

Update.

Water Quality
Standards and
Attainment

Update.

Toxic Contaminants
Research

Consolidate.

Toxic Contaminants
Policy and Prevention

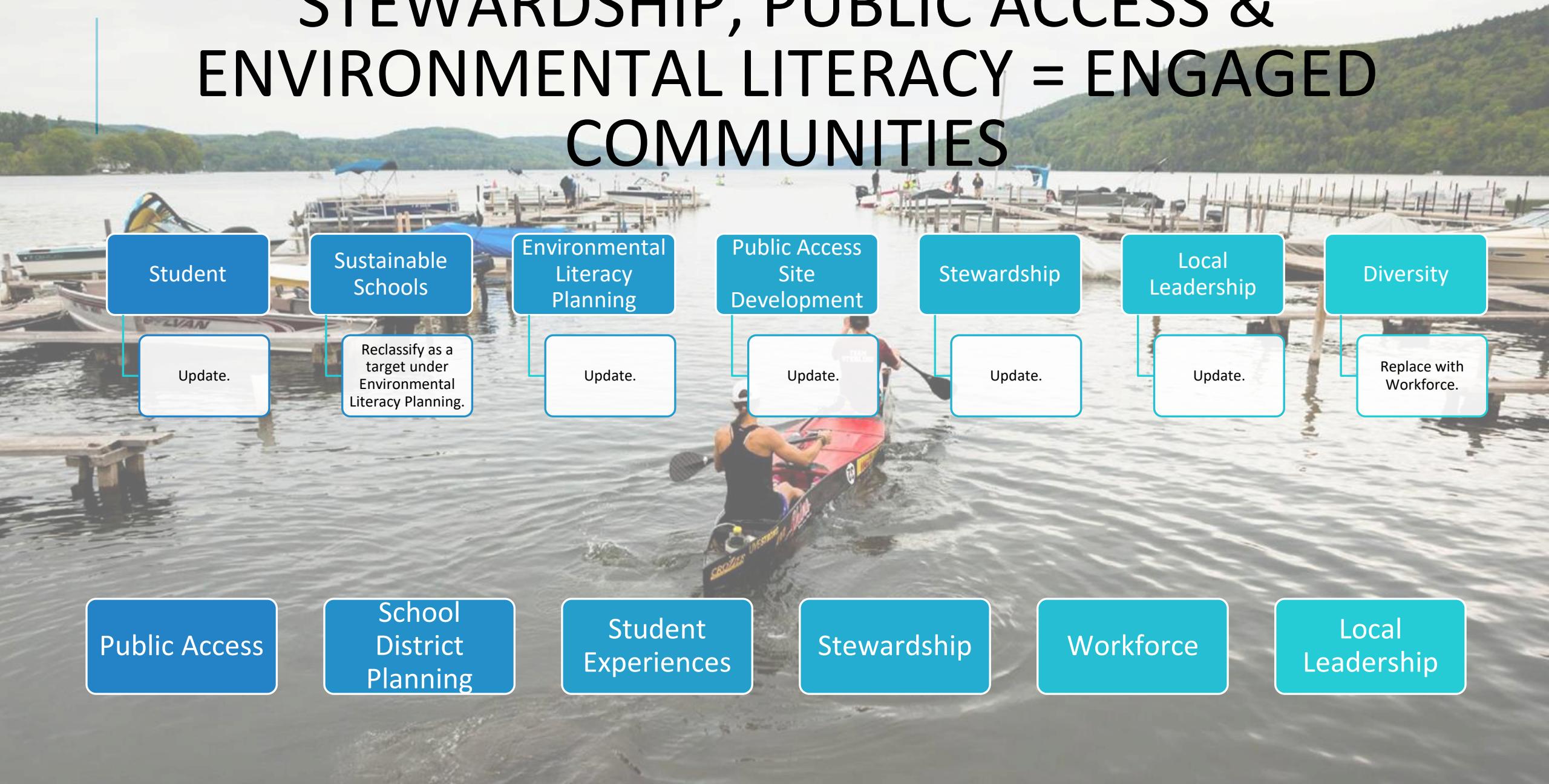
Consolidate.

Reducing Excess
Nitrogen,
Phosphorus and
Sediment

Water Quality
Attainment and
Monitoring

Toxic
Contaminants
Migration

STEWARDSHIP, PUBLIC ACCESS & ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY = ENGAGED COMMUNITIES



Student

Update.

Sustainable Schools

Reclassify as a target under Environmental Literacy Planning.

Environmental Literacy Planning

Update.

Public Access Site Development

Update.

Stewardship

Update.

Local Leadership

Update.

Diversity

Replace with Workforce.

Public Access

School District Planning

Student Experiences

Stewardship

Workforce

Local Leadership

HEALTHY WATERSHEDS, LAND CONSERVATION & CLIMATE RESILIENCY = HEALTHY LANDSCAPES



REVISED OUTCOMES

Healthy Landscapes	Clean Water	Thriving Habitat and Wildlife	Engaged Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adaptation to Changing Environmental Conditions• Healthy Forests and Trees• Land Use Decision Support• Protected Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment• Toxic Contaminants Mitigation• Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blue Crab Sustainability• Brook Trout• Fish Habitat• Fish Passage• Oysters• Stream Health• Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)• Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Leadership• Public Access• School District Planning• Stewardship• Student Experiences• Workforce

*Climate Monitoring and Assessment will be replaced with Climate Science Integration and become a support function across all levels of the partnership.

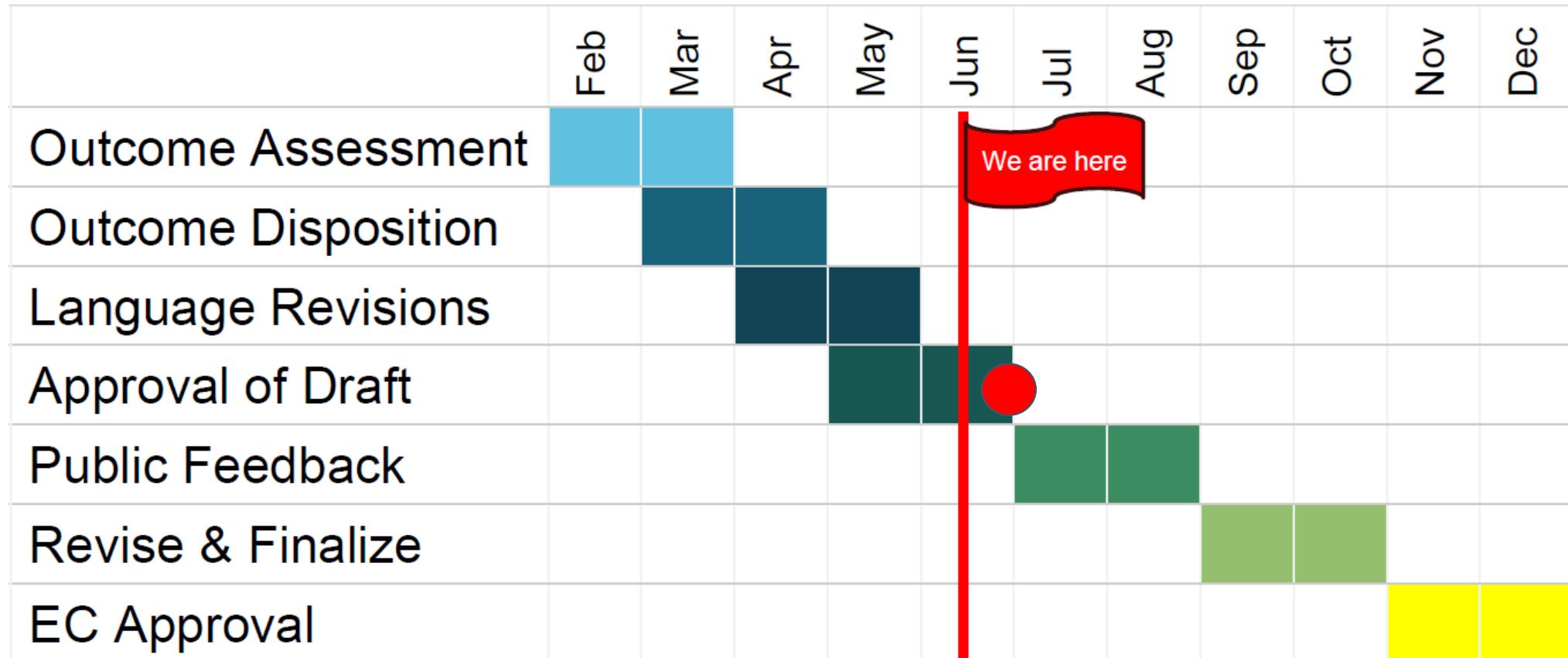
Healthy Landscapes

The well-being of the Chesapeake Bay depends on the health of the lands that make up its watershed. As communities within the region continue to grow, the demand for land and resources can put our waters and habitats at risk. Sound land use management and conservation of areas with ecological, historic and cultural value can reduce pollution, maintain healthy ecosystems and ensure the health of forests, farms and open spaces, all while supporting growing economies. These cost-effective strategies will help communities adapt to changing environmental conditions and ensure clean water for future generations.

GOAL: Conserve, restore and enhance landscapes of ecological, economic and cultural value to maintain water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and increase resilience.



The Road to Watershed Agreement Revisions



What is after public feedback period?

SEPTEMBER	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
Public feedback period ends	X																													
RT classify and review comments		X	X	X	X			X	X	X																				
MB meeting: RT presents on public feedback received													X																	
Expert input, as needed														X	X	X	X	X												
RT consolidates & agrees on revision recommendations																			X	X	X	X	X							
MB reviews recommendations																								X	X	X				
PROPOSED MB Retreat: RT presents suggested revisions. MB discuss & vote to approve or flag issues for negotiation																								?	?	?	?	?		
MB negotiates & resolves any remaining revisions																											X	X		

RT: Review Team who volunteered to consider public feedback



WE WANT ALL THE FEEDBACK!

- Public feedback period will open on Tuesday, July 1 and run for 60 days until Monday, September 1.
- Everything you need to know can be found at <https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/what-guides-us/planning-for-2025-and-beyond>
- Feedback can be emailed to comments@chesapeakebay.net.
- Chesapeake Bay Program staff is available to talk with any of your members or groups about Beyond 2025.