

# Reaching 2025 Group

## 5/23/2023 Meeting Summary

### In attendance:

1. Doug Austin (EPA)
2. Katheryn Barnhart (EPA)
3. Greg Barranco (EPA)
4. Sarah Brzezinski (EPA)
5. Jeffery Learner (EPA)
6. Sean Corson (NOAA)
7. Dinorah Dalmasy (MDE)
8. Rachel Felver (ACB)
9. Dave Maginnes
10. John Surrick (CBF)
11. Chris Guy (USFWS)
12. Mark Hoffman (CBC)
13. Evan Isaacson (CLA)
14. Julie Lawson (CAC)
15. Dave Montali (Tetra Tech/WV)
16. Lucinda Power (EPA)

### Action Items/Decisions:

- Decision: Find a 1-hour time for a special meeting for Management Board members. The Reaching 2025 Report will be shared during this meeting
- Decision: The Drafting Team will have a frank conversation at its next meeting to assess its ability to meet deadlines
- Action: Reaching 2025 participants should email Rachel Felver and Katheryn Barnhart if they want to participate in the Subject Matter Expert (SME) meetings that will be hosted by the Drafting Team.
- Decision: Cancel the Reaching 2025 meeting that was scheduled for next Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> and reconvene for a meeting in June to review the recommendations developed with the SMEs.
  - Action: Sarah Brzezinski will cancel the Teams calendar invitation for the May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.
- Action: Rachel Felver will suggest dates for the June Reaching 2025 meeting after meetings with SMEs are scheduled

### Meeting Summary

#### Welcome and Agenda Review

- Sean Corson welcomed attendees to the Reaching 2025 meeting.

#### **Schedule Review**

- Rachel Felver shared the Reaching 2025 schedule
- The full Reaching 2025 report was scheduled to be shared with the Management Board on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, but changing meeting schedules (MB and Beyond 2025, in particular) may not permit this.
- DECISION: Find a 1-hour time for a special meeting for Management Board members. The Reaching 2025 Report will be shared during this meeting
- With the revised schedule for Outcome Attainability template reviews and meeting conflicts, CAC has not been able to reach out to Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to provide input.
- Advisory groups will be able to provide feedback during the 30-day public review period
- CAC is interested in possible co-drafting with SMEs and will work to provide feedback prior to the public review, but recognize challenges in the timetable
- Concerns were expressed about the ability of the Reaching 2025 Team to meet established deadlines
- DECISION: The Drafting Team will have a frank conversation at its next meeting to assess its ability to meet deadlines

#### **High-level findings and feedback from two-day SRS meeting**

- Katheryn Barnhart provided a high-level overview of the Strategy Review System (SRS) Biennial Meeting that was recently hosted in Charlottesville, VA from May 10-11, 2023. Comments highlighted:
  - Prioritizing how we can support classifying outcomes as on/off course come 2025
  - Emerging issues: taking into consideration how systems will change in response to climate change and increasing human population
    - For Reaching 2025, this is particularly relevant for consideration with the reporting of our goals and adaptive management as we move into the 4<sup>th</sup> Cycle
  - Application of CESR to adaptive management: begin to increase our capacity to identify and evaluate uncertainties and gaps in system response
  - Making sure the CBP is meeting the needs of the public and that we are focusing on meaningful engagement with stakeholders moving forward
  - The recognition that developing a communications strategy is challenging
- A subsequent discussion took place about the elements identified at the SRS Biennial that should be included in the Reaching 2025 report. Comments from this discussion include:
  - A fundamental shift in how the Bay Program does business and where it focuses seems unlikely to occur prior to 2025.
  - It was suggested that the report include statements about challenges identified as restricting progress towards outcomes
    - Challenges that have hindered progress are documented through the SRS process and will be reported in the indicator reports of Reaching 2025
  - Members recognized the importance of engaging diverse communities and stakeholders, as well as responding to emerging and established challenges such as climate change and flooding
  - Historically, broad goals have been narrowed down to specific outcomes, that in 2014 were deemed to be aspirational but achievable within ten years. Science needs, as well as new stressors, have since been identified. Some outcomes may now be unrealistic, within that timeframe, in the face of climate change.

- Outcomes, when spelled out in 2014, didn't include climate change as a stressor
  - GIT funding was created to fill some of the identified gaps
- The "scope and scale" question of this group's charge has been revisited several times. The Reaching 2025 Team is largely focusing on outcome attainability and several focus areas to establish a "baseline" for Beyond 2025 to move forward from
  - There may be a few areas identified where we can redirect what we are currently doing as we approach 2025, but realistically, those areas are limited
  - Given the tight timeline, revisiting what we know and assembling the knowledge will support the work of Beyond 2025
- Today's meeting is one opportunity for input. Additional opportunities will be provided throughout the drafting process.

### **Proposed drafting review schedule**

- Rachel Felver reviewed the proposed schedule for drafting the Reaching 2025 report, including brainstorming with subject matter experts and timing for steering committee review.
  - Kathryn and Rachel will be meeting with SMEs over the next weeks
    - Rachel offered to include anyone who wants to participate in these meetings
    - ACITON: If you want to participate in the SME meetings with the Drafting Team, please email Rachel and Kathryn
  - Previously, the Reaching 2025 Team had discussed sending out sections of the report as they are developed, as opposed to waiting for the whole report to be drafted. Is this still the way forward?
    - General agreement was given, with the caution that there may be challenges with viewing "a piece of the elephant" as opposed to the whole
  - There is recognition amongst the Reaching 2025 Group that challenges about the perception of the Reaching 2025 work remain, especially with respect to confusion about the distinct roles of the Reaching 2025 and Beyond 2025 Groups.
    - This has implications for the public comment period. Reaching 2025 should be prepared to receive comments that would be more appropriately addressed by the Beyond 2025 group.

### **Discuss options for developing recommendations**

- The meeting proposed for next week was intended to develop recommendations that would be taken to the SMEs
- Alternatively, the SMEs could be approached first, with their thoughts then being shared and discussed at a future Reaching 2025 Meeting
- DECISION: Cancel the Reaching 2025 Meeting that was scheduled for next Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> and reconvene for a meeting in June to review the recommendations developed with the SMEs.
- DECISION: Rachel will suggest dates for the June meeting after SMEs meetings are scheduled

### **Review action items and next steps**

- Closing recommendations from the group included:
  - Having a conversation about Rachel and Kathryn's work schedules/loads at the next Drafting Team meeting
  - Making staffer time available to support of the Reaching 2025 efforts