



Update on Beyond 2025

Review to be completed by Workgroups, recommendations made by the Management Board to the PSC for decision



2025 Timeline for Agreement Revision (tentative)

- Jan-March: Outcome Assessment. Management Board decides whether to recommend consolidating, reducing, updating, removing, replacing or adding new outcome. PSC reviews agreement for additional revisions
- April-June: Outcome Revision. Management Board recommends any new/revised outcome language. PSC completes any additional revisions on Agreement
- July-Sept: Public feedback and revisions
- End of 2025- Executive Council to review recommended revisions to the Agreement and its outcomes

Where are we now?

- Principals Staff Committee (PSC):
 - Close to finalizing updates to the vision, principles, and preamble of the Agreement
 - Starting to explore Goal revisions and reorganization
- Management Board (MB)
 - All outcomes have been reviewed
 - Reached consensus on the “final disposition” of all outcomes, although there are still some questions to be resolved that may result in changes to the final disposition
 - Considering four “novel” outcomes
 - MB will vote to approve final list of outcomes at April 10th meeting
 - Moving into the outcome revision process

Current Organization

 Sustainable Fisheries	 Toxic Contaminants
 Healthy Watersheds	 Public Access
 Stewardship	 Climate Resiliency
 Land Conservation	 Vital Habitats
 Environmental Literacy	 Water Quality

- 31 Outcomes
- 10 Goals
- 6 GITS
- 5 Themes
 - Abundant Life
 - Clean Water
 - Conserved Lands
 - Engaged Communities
 - Climate Change
- 4 SRS Cohorts
- 1 Vision

Possible Goal Reorganization

WATER: Clean Water



LIFE: Abundant Life



LANDS: Conserved, Productive Lands OR Healthy Land and Watershed



PEOPLE: Community Connection



Outcome Assessment



What advice do you have for the Management Board on how to consolidate, reduce, update, remove, replace, reclassify or add new outcomes?

EXCERPT FROM THE NEW EC CHARGE:

While not all outcomes will need revision, some reviews will likely result in **consolidating, reducing, updating, removing, replacing, or adding new outcomes**. Furthermore, it is the intent of the Chesapeake Executive Council, **that these changes reflect:**

- A renewed and greater emphasis on **engaging all communities** of the watershed as active stewards of a healthy and resilient Chesapeake Bay and its watershed;
- Our mandate to address water quality **and living resources** throughout the Bay and watershed;
- **Elevating conservation** as a key pillar of the Chesapeake Bay Program, alongside science, restoration, and partnership;
- A grounding in the most recent scientific understandings and issues that have emerged since the current Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement was signed in 2014;
- Goals and outcomes that are **measurable and time bound**. Time frames should be sufficient to accomplish the outcomes as quickly as possible. In particular, our regulated nutrient and sediment load reductions, especially those within non-point sources;
- Acknowledgement that our scientific understanding is continuously evolving and that our efforts need to constantly adapt accordingly; and
- The fact that while each partner shares a common goal, we are all approaching this goal from different perspectives, challenges, and opportunities.

Outcome Assessment

MB Consensus Achieved – No Follow Up Needed

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Sustainable Schools – Reclassify (to Environmental Literacy Planning) | 12. Toxic Contaminants Research– Consolidate |
| 2. Environmental Literacy Planning - Update | 13. Toxics Policy and Prevention – Consolidate |
| 3. Student - Update | 14. Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring – Update |
| 4. Stewardship - Update | 15. 2017 Watershed Implementation Plan – Remove |
| 5. Diversity - Replace | 16. 2025 Watershed Implementation Plan – Update |
| 6. Public Access – Update | 17. Black Duck – Reclassify (to Wetlands) |
| 7. Protected Lands – Update | 18. Wetlands – Update |
| 8. Submerged Aquatic Vegetation – Update | 19. Local Leadership – Update |
| 9. Oysters – Update | 20. Adaptation – Update |
| 10. Blue Crab Abundance – Update | 21. Land Use Methods and Metrics Development – Reclassify (to Land Use Decision Support) |
| 11. Blue Crab Management – Remove | |

Update - 13
Reclassify - 3
Remove – 2
Consolidate – 2
Replace - 1

MB Consensus Achieved – Follow Up Needed

1. Tree Canopy – **Update**

2. Forest Buffers – **Update**

3. Monitoring and Assessment – **Replace**

4. Land Use Options Eval - **Replace**

5. Healthy Watersheds – **Reclassify**

6. Fish Habitat - **Update**

7. Forage Fish – **Reclassify**

8. Brook Trout - **Update**

9. Stream Health- **Update**

10. Fish Passage - **Update**

Update - 6

Reclassify - 2

Remove – 0

Consolidate – 0

Replace - 2

Update on Healthy Watersheds outcome

- Original proposal: Update
 - “Maintain watershed processes and landscape conditions contributing to ecosystem services and healthy aquatic ecosystems. Support the conservation, restoration, and management of natural and working lands such as riparian areas, floodplains, and forests, including timberlands.”
- **Revised proposal: Reclassify as outputs** supporting Stream Health, Protected Lands, and Land Use Decision Support
- Update the Healthy Watersheds goal as a Watershed Health goal
- Management Board supported reclassifying but wants to make sure watershed health maintains appropriate focus within the partnership

Update on Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome

- Original proposal: Replace with a “Watershed Planning” Outcome
 - *Continually reduce the per-capita rate of natural and agricultural land conversion to development in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Develop and disseminate locally relevant information to organizations involved in the planning process on the suitability of lands for conversion and associated environmental consequences*
- Revised proposal: Replace with a “Land Use Decision Support” outcome
 - *Develop and disseminate locally-relevant and actionable information to organizations involved in the land use planning process on past, present, and future landscape conditions and the potential environmental consequences of landscape change*
 - LUWG would be reconstituted as a community of practice for land use planning

Updates on Protected Lands Outcome

- Consensus to “update”
- Management Board supported the approach of targeting conservation to places where it can deliver the greatest benefit
- Developing a suite of sub-outcomes, including:
 - Healthy Watersheds
 - Forests
 - Riparian Forests
 - Wetlands
 - Tribal Lands
 - Agricultural Lands

Feedback from the Management Board on Tree Canopy and Forest Buffers

- Recognize the importance of and supports maintaining an emphasis on Tree Canopy and Forest Buffers
- Direct the FWG to consider how we can broaden and better highlight opportunities for forest conservation and restoration
- The FWG will consider if consolidation or reclassification under a single outcome makes sense, with the inclusion of distinct Tree Canopy and Forest Buffer targets
- This discussion will be revisited on April 10, 2025
- Consensus was reached on the plan to “Update” these outcomes as long as we considered options for a single outcome
 - PA voted to “reclassify” as outputs under a new “forest conservation” outcome
 - PSC also encouraged us to consider if combining into a broader outcome would help drive towards the ultimate watershed restoration goal



Key Upcoming Dates

- April 10th: Management Board (MB) meeting to approve final list of outcomes (including any novel outcomes)
- April 25th: Draft updated outcome language due to MB
- May 7-8: MB retreat – Finalize recommended Outcome revisions
- May 23rd: Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) meeting to review recommended Outcome revisions, discuss possible changes to Goals
- June 12th: MB meeting to review PSC direction and approve final recommendations for public feedback
- July 1st: 60-day public feedback period begins



Questions?

