

Near-Term Milestones

Monday April 7, 2025

Milestones Workgroup (WG) Meeting

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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).

Recommendation for Near Term Milestone Duration and Process

- Maintain two-year milestone schedule (January 2026-December 2027)
- Partners will develop 1–3-page high level programmatic actions to continue to support implementing the Phase III WIP during the milestone period. No numeric milestones will be required (i.e., no projected reductions are needed up front).
 - Option remains to provide more detailed programmatic milestones
 - Option remains to provide numeric milestones or BMP projections
 - Innovative actions are recognized but not evaluated based on their outcome
- At the end of the two-year milestone period, partners will develop a 2-page fact sheet outlining successes, barriers, and actions to overcome barriers in meeting programmatic initiatives and implementation.
- NOTE: Annual numeric progress reporting and updates to ChesapeakeProgress will continue.

Charge to the Milestones Workgroup

- Reach agreement on and develop a set of guidelines or expectations for “near-term” two-year milestones

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

Discussion Questions

- What should we carry forward from the past for the near-term two-year milestones?
- What new ideas or attributes should be considered in the near-term two-year milestone expectations?