



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

June 27, 2024

Beyond 2025

Draft Steering Committee Report - Overview

Outline of draft



Part I: Critical Path Forward Beyond 2025 (pp.1-5)

- EC Charge & Beyond 2025 Steering Committee
- Recommendations for the Executive Council's Consideration
- Additional Background
- Recognizing our Progress

Part II: High-Level Recommendations for the Chesapeake Bay Program (pp.6-14)

- Introduction & Steering Committee Process
- High-level considerations related to Science
- High-level considerations related to Restoration and Conservation
- High-level considerations related to Partnership
- *Summary of public engagement and outreach (to be added after public feedback period)*

Part III: Source material

- One-page briefs of Small Group Findings
- ERG report
- Other Partnership Reports



1

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUFF)

Recommendation for EC:



The Beyond 2025 Steering Committee recommends that the Chesapeake Executive Council affirm its continued commitment to meeting the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement through partnership and direct the Principals' Staff Committee to propose specific amendments necessary to improve the partnership's efficacy in doing so.

- Affirm commitment to the 2014 Agreement at the 2024 EC Meeting
- Consider any necessary amendments to the Agreement's vision, principles, preamble or goals at the 2025 EC Meeting
- Direct Program to review all outcomes for potential updates, replacement, consolidation, or elimination.

Recommendation for EC:



The Beyond 2025 Steering Committee recommends strengthening the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership by identifying ways to simplify and streamline the partnership's structure and processes, including potential changes to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Governance and Management Framework, to ensure that partner commitments can be met.

- Direct PSC to enhance Program efficacy and transparency by streamlining processes, modifying structure, and improving capacity for adaptive and science-based decision-making
- Existing structures, including the Management Board, Goal Implementation Teams, workgroups, and action teams, may require updates and benefit from them



1

Science

Optimize monitoring, modeling, and analysis

- The SC recommends developing a long-term strategy to maintain the integrity of core monitoring networks and pursue opportunities for enhancements in monitoring.
- The SC recommends that any updated outcomes have a clear target for reporting and an existing monitoring plan or coincident development of a fundable monitoring and analysis plan to support assessment.
- The SC recommends better utilizing our monitoring and assessment capacity, **with increased emphasis towards** to characterizing watershed health at the local level as well as for the entire basin

Integrate existing and new science findings in decision making, resource allocation, and communication strategies.

- The SC recommends ~~continued~~ adaptation to the latest scientific findings as well as improved communication on how these findings are integrated into decision making, resource allocation, and management strategies.
- The SC recommends improved access to information and cooperation among organizations to share data

Prioritize research that addresses knowledge gaps in existing and emerging challenges.

- The SC recommends enhancing the partnership's understanding of anticipated changes, and how conservation practices respond to those changes, by prioritizing climate science and research on land use change.
- The SC recommends a greater focus on conducting social science research and applying its findings to ensure restoration and conservation efforts align with the well-being of people.

Restoration and Conservation

Support System-Scale Conservation and Restoration Planning and Implementation for Habitats and Communities.

- Elevate Conservation as a key guiding pillar alongside Science, Restoration and Partnership
- Planning for the restoration and conservation of nearshore habitats, inclusive of tributary rivers and streams– some of the most important places for people and the most productive habitats for living resources

Review and, where necessary, revise existing goals, outcomes and management strategies to more effectively guide the partnership's restoration and conservation efforts beyond 2025.

- Reviewing and adapting the partnership's portfolio of outcomes as needed to be more compatible with anticipated future landscape conditions, accounting for climate, population growth and projected land use change.
- Streamlining goals and outcomes, as well as overall partnership structure, to improve the integration, efficacy and efficiency of restoration and conservation efforts.

Improve the Program's holistic approach to planning, prioritization, progress-tracking and accountability

- Developing and adopting approaches to better incentivize practices that maximize benefits to living resources and people.
- Enhancing the local benefits of Chesapeake restoration and conservation by improving alignment with regional, state and local plans and priorities.
- improving progress-tracking and accountability to further support efforts to adaptively manage, to better target and prioritize resources and to provide technical assistance and communication of outcomes.



3

Partnership

Adopt a systems approach to streamline governance and structure.

- Contract an independent party to help review and revise the Chesapeake Bay Program's governance and structure.
- Revisit the Partnership's adaptive management principles to better enable efficient and effective decision-making.

Enhance Capacity Building and Administrative/Technical Assistance through Local Networks.

- Enhancing the Program's structure so it can better serve as a partnership of networks that connect local implementors with data, tools, resources and technical assistance that build capacity at the local level.

Strengthen the Program's capacity to ensure watershed restoration is relevant to all communities.

- The Program and partnership should commit to inclusive and meaningful engagement of people and communities that have been historically underrepresented, under resourced, and underserved.
- Institutionalize and actualize the Program's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Implementation Plan.

Enhance Communications and Transparency to Foster Long-term Success.

- Prioritizing and improving communications and transparency with the partnership's outreach and engagement activities to spur stewardship, drive restoration and conservation momentum and ensure long-term Program efficacy.

2024 Timeline

July 1 - August 31	September	October	December
<div>Public feedback</div> <div>A draft of the report will be published for public comment.</div>	<div>Revisions</div> <div>Revisions based on public feedback will be incorporated into the report.</div>	<div>Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee Review</div> <div>The Management Board and Principal's Staff Committee will receive and review the final report.</div>	<div>Executive Council Review</div> <div>The Executive Council will be presented with the findings of the report and have the opportunity to take action in response to its recommendations as a path forward for the Chesapeake Bay Program.</div>

Discussion Questions

Do you agree with the recommendations?

Were there any that are particularly insightful, surprising, and/or helpful?

Is there anything actionable you want to see added to the narrative, or examples of actions you think could be done or are already being done based on the recommendations?

Thank you!

Any questions?
You can contact me at
bsullivan@chesapeakebay.net



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.