Conceptual Overview

Beyond 2025 Steering Committee

Co-Chairs Martha Shimkin and Anna Killius

September 21, 2023

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHARGE

"Thus, this Executive Council charges the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) in recommending a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the Watershed Agreement leading up to and beyond 2025. The PSC is to report back to the Executive Council at our 2023 annual meeting with recommendations on how to best address and integrate new science and restoration strategies leading up to 2025. At our 2024 annual meeting, the PSC is to prepare recommendations that continue to address new advances in science and restoration, along with a focus on our partnership for going beyond 2025."

TWO-PHASED APPROACH

- Step 1 – Determine the scope and breadth of what will be undertaken to meet the EC Charge and develop a plan to complete that work
  - Use a Steering Committee to develop plan/scope of work for all activities to be undertaken to strengthen Partnership in years ahead
  - Membership based on Management Board
  - Contract support
- Step 2 – Execute the plan after EC 2024.

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GOAL

We will assess where we are and where we want to be in

reaching our shared vision for the Chesapeake Bay and its

watershed; and identify a path forward for the Chesapeake Bay

Program focused on what we do and how we work.

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Where we are	*What have we, as a partnership, accomplished through our current theory of change, based on the Reaching 2025 report, CESR, and other reports and program evaluations?*
Where we want to be	*How do we define a healthy, sustainable, productive Chesapeake Bay and watershed, responding to climate change and community needs?*
A path forward	*What is our plan & who will be part of executing the plan? What does this plan mean for the foundational guides of our program?*
What we do	*What is our approach to the goals and outcomes we have achieved and those we have yet to meet; and to the monitoring and modeling we do to set strategies and measure progress?*
How we work	*How do we improve our Partnership, Governance, Adaptive Management, Time and Resource Allocation, Public Engagement, Communication to do more, better, faster?*

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STEERING COMMITTEE PROPOSED PRODUCT BY EC2024

Where we are

Summary of where we are with the 2014 Watershed Agreement
- Reaching 2025 Report
- CESR, Rising Temperatures, Forest Buffers & Wetlands Conference Reports, SRS meeting report, report, Advisory Committee Recommendations, and more. Crosswalk of common themes.

Where do we want to be

Vision
- Current Partnership Vision – Reaffirm? Refine?

What we do

Impact assessment
- What is the ability of our Partnership to positively impact each goal and outcome?
- Do we have the right outcomes for our goals and the right goals for our vision?

How we work

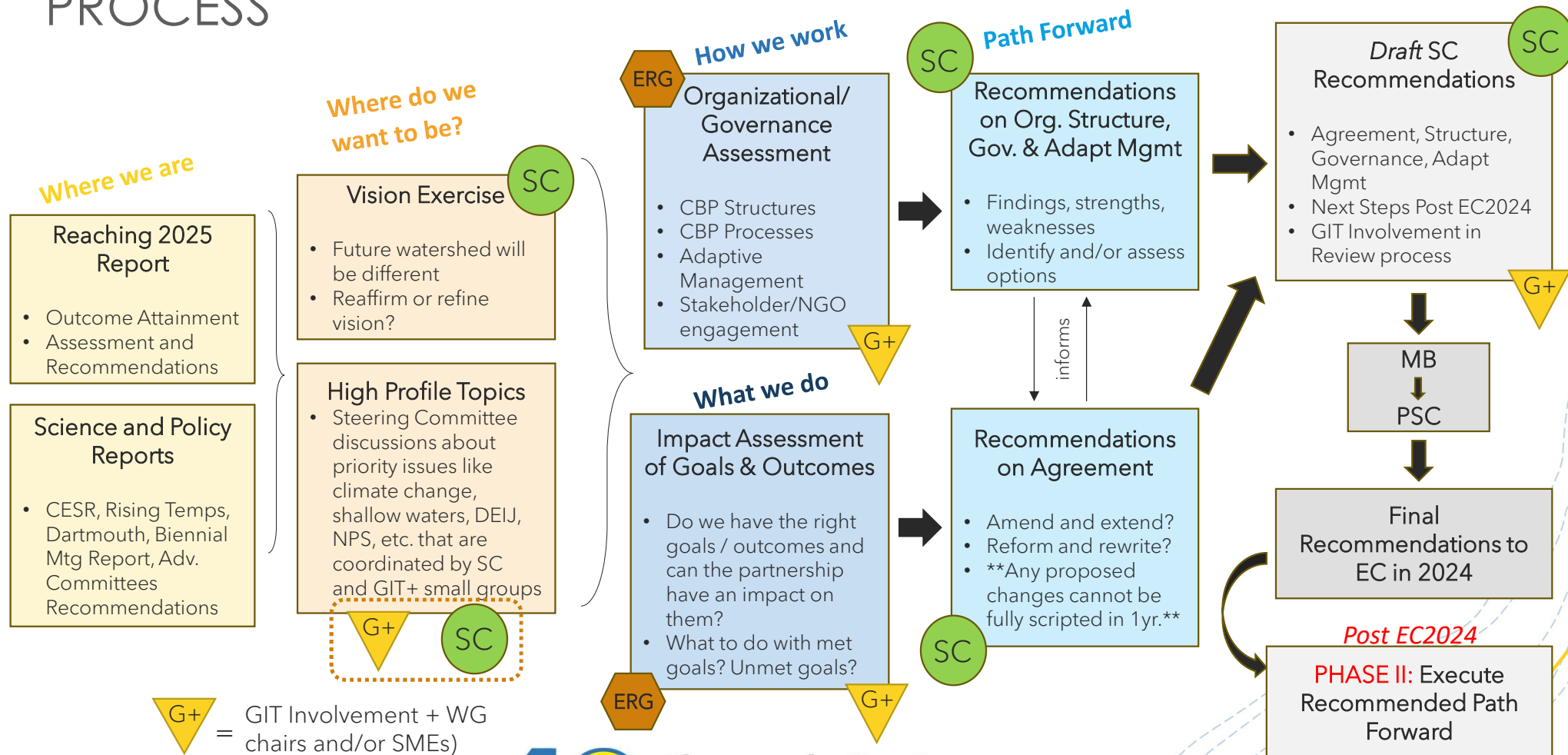Assessment of and recommendations for our overall partnership
- Partnership Structure
- Governance and Adaptive Management

Path Forward

Recommendation on what to do with the Watershed Agreement post-2025

Recommendations on the Partnership

PROCESS

Where we are

Reaching 2025 Report
- Outcome Attainment
- Assessment and Recommendations

Science and Policy Reports
- CESR, Rising Temps, Dartmouth, Biennial Mtg Report, Adv. Committees Recommendations

Where do we want to be?

Vision Exercise _(SC)_
- Future watershed will be different
- Reaffirm or refine vision?

High Profile Topics
- Steering Committee discussions about priority issues like climate change, shallow waters, DEIJ, NPS, etc. that are coordinated by SC and GIT+ small groups

_(G+ SC)_

How we work _(ERG)_

Organizational/ Governance Assessment
- CBP Structures
- CBP Processes
- Adaptive Management
- Stakeholder/NGO engagement

_(G+)_

What we do

Impact Assessment of Goals & Outcomes
- Do we have the right goals / outcomes and can the partnership have an impact on them?
- What to do with met goals? Unmet goals?

(ERG) _(G+)_ _(SC)_

Path Forward _(SC)_

Recommendations on Org. Structure, Gov. & Adapt Mgmt
- Findings, strengths, weaknesses
- Identify and/or assess options

informs

Recommendations on Agreement
- Amend and extend?
- Reform and rewrite?
- **Any proposed changes cannot be fully scripted in 1yr.**

_(SC)_

Draft **SC Recommendations** _(SC)_
- Agreement, Structure, Governance, Adapt Mgmt
- Next Steps Post EC2024
- GIT Involvement in Review process

_(G+)_

MB

PSC

Final Recommendations to EC in 2024

Post EC2024

PHASE II: Execute Recommended Path Forward

_(G+)_ = GIT Involvement + WG chairs and/or SMEs)

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TIMELINE

Beyond 2025 Steering Committee – Schedule of Milestones [DRAFT]
September 20, 2023
Updates since August Draft

	Steering Committee	ERG
June 22	Review EC Charge; establish steering committee leadership and process; discuss stakeholder participation	Present proposed evaluation process
July 27	Briefed on evaluation process; discuss and agree upon process to gather input from partnership on questions, documents, etc.	Present details of evaluation process
August 24	Introduce proposed questions and high-profile topics for committee discussion	Summarize and present small group feedback and draft evaluation questions
September 21	Discuss and agree on final evaluation plan; confirm initial high-level topic schedule	Present proposed evaluation plan
October 26	*Small Group Thematic/Topics Virtual "Workshop" and Public Engagement Discussion*	
November 30	*Monthly meetings would be cancelled to allow for small groups to convene and plan for Steering Committee presentations and discussions.*	Execute Evaluation Plan
December 21		Attend/Facilitate Meetings as Needed
2024		
January 25	*During October Meeting, determine best framework for thematic/topical discussions – use monthly meetings in Jan/February, two-day workshop, etc.*	*January/February: Present Content Analysis*
February 29		*March/April: Report out on Interviews and Discussions*
March 28	*TBD – (e.g., continuation of in-depth discussions)*	
April 25	*TBD (e.g. discuss drafting strategy for Committee recommendations report to EC)*	
May 30	*Discuss findings*	*Present draft results of evaluation, facilitate discussion*
June 27	Discuss findings and refine recommendations	
July 25	Discuss findings and refine recommendations	Submit final Evaluation Report, facilitate discussion
August 29	Agree on recommendations	Facilitate discussion
September	Present findings to MB	
September 26	Agree on final changes	Facilitate discussion
October	Present findings to PSC	
October	Present Findings and Recommendations to EC	

Link

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WE'LL RETURN
AFTER A BREAK

2023

All photos by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program

CONTRACTOR SUPPORT: ERG

Where we are

| Assessment of where we are with the 2014 Watershed Agreement
• Reaching 2025 Report et al. | *Indirect role*. ERG's work informed by this information through content analysis and in the development of interview questions. |

Where do we want to be

| Vision
• Reaffirm? Refine? | *Indirect role*. Impact assessment may inform any changes to the vision |

Path Forward

| Impact assessment
• Ability of Partnership for positive impact?
• Right outcomes and goals for our vision? | *Direct role*. EQ3 will address the unique contribution of the Partnership's efforts, its relative investments, and any gaps in strategy. |

What we do

| Recommendation on Watershed Agreement
• Extend? Amend? Rewrite? | *Indirect role*. Will provide broad assessments of what has been working and what needs to be improved. |

How we work

| Assessment of and recommendations for our overall partnership
• Partnership Structure
• Governance and Adaptive Management | *Direct role*. EQ1 and EQ2 will provide a detailed assessment of the structure and processes of the Partnership (EQ1) and how the it works with external stakeholders (EQ2). |

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PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Add 2 At-Large, non-voting seats on Steering Committee
- Circulate meeting dates and materials
- Ensure opportunities throughout agenda for public comment, with time for response
- Collect and disseminate public feedback received between meetings
- Coordinate with network organization to share periodic updates and to organize opportunities for additional public and stakeholder engagement

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