

# **Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Report**

Management Board Meeting October 10, 2024

Anna Killius & Martha Shimkin

## **EC Charge**

"recommend a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the *Watershed Agreement* beyond 2025"



**Phase 1** – by EC 2024 Scope & breadth of what should be undertaken



**Phase 2 –** after EC 2024 Execute plan

## **Key Takeaways**

- Still have 2 "Bottom Line Up Front" recommendations for EC consideration (slight changes in language)
- Substance of report and recommendations are largely unchanged from draft form
- Revisions made based on comments received to improve clarity and more accurately reflect the consensus of the Steering Committee
- SC reached consensus on final report at Sept 26 meeting
  - Secretary Kurtz able to join virtually to express PSC's thanks for the SC's work
  - Red-lined report made available immediately, clean version shortly after.
  - PSC meeting on October 25th

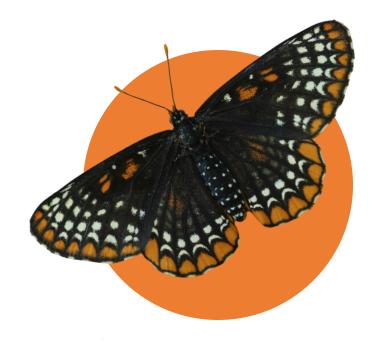
## **Outline of Draft**

Part I: Critical Path Forward Beyond 2025

Part II: Recommendations for the Chesapeake

Bay Program

Part III: Source Materials



## Part I:

# Recommendations for Potential Consideration by the Chesapeake Bay Program

- Affirm the partnership's commitment to work together in partnership to meet the goals of the *Watershed Agreement*. Direct partnership to continue implementation of existing goals. Direct PSC to make every effort to propose specific amendments to the *Agreement*, including outcomes, by end of calendar year 2025.
- 2 Keep the partnership strong. Simplify and streamline structure and processes.

## **Part I: REVISIONS**

# Recommendations for Potential Consideration by the Chesapeake Bay Program

- 1
- Direct partnership to continue implementation of existing goals
- Timing of Agreement amendments Every effort to complete by end of CY2025
- Adherence to Governance and Management Framework
- Effective coordination, collaboration, inclusion when streamlining

## **Additional Background**

- Consideration of SMART approach
- Acknowledged existing challenges as well as progress made
- Emphasize land use and population growth

## Part II:

### High-level Recommendations for the Chesapeake Bay Program

#### **SCIENCE**

- Monitoring, Modeling, Analysis.
- Decision-making, resource allocation, communication.
- Knowledge-gaps: Climate, land use, social science.

#### **PARTNERSHIP**

- Streamline.
- Build capacity through local networks.
- Strengthen relevance to all communities.
- Communication and transparency.

#### **RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION**

- Elevate conservation and nearshore habitats.
- Review all goals, outcomes and strategies.
- Holistic approach to maximize benefits.

## **Part II: REVISIONS**

## High-level Recommendations for the Chesapeake Bay Program

#### **SCIENCE**

- Explicit mention of toxics and emerging contaminants
- Added language towards nutrient imbalances and non-point source issues.
- Revised language and additions for social science

#### **RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION**

Revised explanation of "conservation."

#### **PARTNERSHIP**

Clarified "systems" approach.

## **Part III:**

## Source Materials: Many and Meaningful

- 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
- Chesapeake 2000
- Governance and Management Framework for the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Achieving Water Quality Goals in the Chesapeake Bay:
  A Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response
- Enhancing Chesapeake Bay Partnership Activities by Integrating Social Science
- Retrospective on Lessons Learned from the Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System's 3rd Cycle with Suggested Adaptations to Address Issues
- Advancing Monitoring Approaches to Enhance Tidal Chesapeake Bay Habitat Assessment
- Using Ecosystem Services to Increase Progress Toward, and Quantify the Results of, Multiple Chesapeake Bay Program Outcomes

- Charting a Course to 2025
- Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures:
  Ecological Implications and Management Responses
- Enhancing the Chesapeake Bay Program Monitoring Networks
- Chesapeake Governance Study: Report of 2021 Decision-Maker Interview Results
- Recognizing Political Influences in Participatory Socio-Ecological Systems Models
- Linking Soil and Watershed Health to In-Field and Edge-of-Field Water Management
- Using Local Monitoring Results to Inform the Chesapeake Bay Program's Watershed Model
- Cafe Summaries and Report Products from the Chesapeake Bay Program Strategy Review System's 3rd Cycle Biennial Meeting



## Reminder: Overarching Themes from Public Feedback

- Enhanced accountability and evidence-based restoration practices.
- Conservation as a focal area and integration into pillars of restoration and science.
- Address local and regional priorities of climate resilience, environmental justice, and other "emerging" issues.
- Importance of collaboration and balancing needs across all partners.
- Inclusive public engagement to foster greater transparency and trust.
- Technical assistance and financial support to sustain and grow local implementation activities.



# **Key Dates**

Sept 17 <sup>th</sup>	Update pr	ovided to P	PSC, guidance to	Co-Chairs,	discussion of	f next steps
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Sept 26<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting reached consensus on the report

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> Draft EC Charge shared with MB and SC members

Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> (now) Virtual briefing for PSC members and staff – 4:15pm

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> MB meeting, receipt of final SC report

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting, receipt of final SC report, decision on EC action in response

