

# Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Meeting

April 25, 2024



**Chesapeake Bay Program**

*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

# Agenda

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12:00p

Welcome and opening comments

12:15p

Update on public feedback

12:30p

ERG Interim Report

2:05p

15-minute break

2:20p

Discuss outline, synthesis, and integration

3:50p

Closing comments and recap actions

4:00p

Adjourn

# Outcomes

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- 1 Accept final Small Group findings.**
- 2 Receive and discuss ERG's Interim Evaluation Report.**
- 3 Determine next steps on drafting the Steering Committee recommendations.**



**Chesapeake Bay Program**

*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*



# Planned product for EC2024

Where we are

**Summary of where we are with the 2014 Watershed Agreement**

- Charting a Course to 2025, Chesapeake Progress: Outcome Attainability
- CESR, Rising Temperatures, Forest Buffers & Wetlands Conference Reports, meeting reports, Advisory Committee recommendations, and more.

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 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**

# Phase 1 timeline: Updates and considerations

	January				February				March				April				May					June			
Week	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4
Small Group Recommendations	Discuss & Draft				28/29 1-pagers				28																
ERG Evaluation Plan	Content Analysis   Discussions   Interim Draft Report												19	25	Draft Final Report							27			
Steering Committee Draft													Drafting		25	Drafting		30	Drafting		27				
Public Feedback																									
Approval Process																									25



	July					August				September				October					November				December				
Week	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
Small Group Recommendations																											
ERG Evaluation Plan																											
Steering Committee Draft					25					Revise		25															
Public Feedback	Dependent on Draft Release																										
Approval Process	MB / PSC Review											17		MB?	MB?	PSC									?		



- ERG:** Interim draft delivered on April 19; devoting 2 hours in April for briefing and discussion
- Steering Committee Draft:** Phased approach for initial draft; 2<sup>nd</sup> draft after public feedback & MB/PSC reviews
- Public Feedback:** July, following acceptance of the Steering Committee draft
- Delivery and Acceptance** – MB in October, PSC end of October; EC in December

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## **April (22<sup>nd</sup>)**

- Begin reviewing ERG's interim program evaluation report.
- Solidify drafting approach and needs for steering committee recommendations.

## **May (30<sup>th</sup>)**

- Review draft recommendations to EC (shared 2 weeks prior).
- In-depth discussion of ERG's Findings and Considerations.
- Determine remaining actions for synthesis and drafting.

## **June (27<sup>th</sup>)**

- Delivery of ERG's final program evaluation report.
- "Fatal flaw" review of recommendation draft to the EC (shared 2 weeks prior).
- Accept revised draft to release for public feedback.

# Draft Outline for EC 2024

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## Path Forward

## Where we want to be

### Page 1 – 2: Critical Path Forward

- Our Recommendation (Agreement/Partnership)
- Our Charge
- Our Mission: Science. Restoration. Partnership.
- Our Vision for the Partnership

### Page 3 – 4: Synthesized, Analyzed summary

- High-level considerations related to Science
- High-level considerations related to Restoration and Conservation
- High-level considerations related to Partnership
- Our process and what informed our work
- Summary of public engagement and outreach

## What we do

## How we work

### Additional pages: Source material

- One-page summaries from small groups, ERG report
- Charting a Course to 2025, Chesapeake Progress: Outcome Attainability
- Other partnership reports: CESR, Rising Temperatures, Forest Buffers & Wetlands Conference Reports, meeting reports, Advisory Committee recommendations

## Where we are

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# What is Phase 2?

- PSC and EC want clarity on what they are taking on in next Phase.
- Need to set and manage expectations for a thoughtful, grounded next step in the process.
- Allow time for the science, policy, and process to align.



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# **Major Agreement-related recommendations and time frame**

## **By 2025 EC meeting:**

- Update "macro parts" to the 2014 Chesapeake Watershed Agreement
- Re-state commitments to the Partnership and intent for continued and future collaboration

## **By 2026 EC meeting:**

- Reaffirm, refine, refresh Outcomes
- Commit to the renewed Partnership

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# Recommendations for Phase 2 – by 2025

## Update the Agreement as necessary:

- Maintain focus on core: clean water, vibrant living resources & habitats, healthy landscapes, engaged people
- Review and update “macro” components of Agreement:
  - Vision, Preamble, Principles, Goal descriptions, Management Strategies section
- Science. Restoration. Conservation. Partnership.
- Timelines for Goals and Outcomes in Management Strategies

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# Recommendations for Phase 2 – by 2026

## Review the Outcomes:

- Specific edits for outdated references to dates and metrics
- Review completed Outcomes, plan for maintenance
- Add climate change mitigation or resilience language
- Add people considerations language
- Identify where and how the Partnership adds value
- Review restoration-focused outcomes



**YEAR  
1 & 2**

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# Vision

Key messages from visioning exercises so far:

1. Center people as the beneficiaries and the agents of the change we make.
2. We need an adaptable and resilient watershed in the face of changing conditions.
3. Simple, relatable language.

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# Vision

"We envision a healthy, accessible, and sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, and conserved lands for the benefit, and through the engagement, of its people."



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# Synthesis - Science

1. Support Partnership's climate science needs
2. Support partners in living resources and habitat management
3. Optimize modeling, monitoring, and attainment
4. Better support the Partnership's capacity to strategically use social science

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# **Synthesis – Conservation and Restoration**

1. Review and refresh existing Goals and Outcomes
2. Enhance progress tracking to improve planning, performance, and prioritization
3. Support system-scale conservation and restoration planning for vital habitats

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# Synthesis – Partnership

1. Consider Partnership structure and governance
2. Enhance Program's ability to serve as a network of networks
3. Implement the Program's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice plan.
4. Enhance Program's communications

# Integration



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## 4+ pages: Source material

- One-page summaries from small groups Complete
- ERG report In-Process
- Partnership Reports

# Integration



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Complete

In-Process

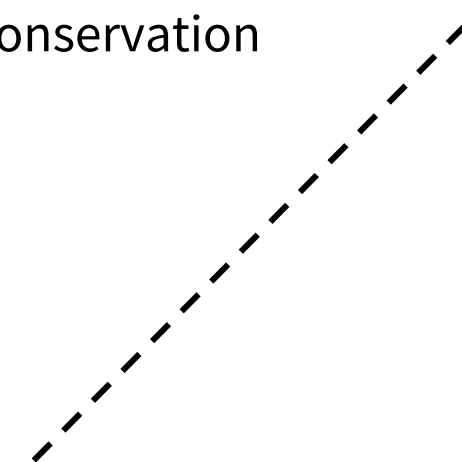
### Steering Committee Input

*Bucketing + Feedback*

*Pulse Check Comments*

*SC Comments → Chairs*

*Monthly Discussion*





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Complete

In-Process

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*Bucketing + Feedback*

*Pulse Check Comments*

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*Monthly Discussion*

Drafting Team –  
Words on Paper

*Develops narrative that links synthesized  
feedback with source material*

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