Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Meeting

May 30, 2024

Chesapeake Bay Program

Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Agenda

10:00a	Welcome and opening comments
10:10a	ERG Evaluation Report
10:50a	Presentations of Synthesis Narrative
11:30a	Synthesis Discussion: Partnership
12:25p	Lunch Break
1:10p	Synthesis Discussion: Restoration & Conservation
2:20p	Synthesis Discussion: Science
3:15p	Draft EC Charge Response & Remaining Actions
4:00p	Adjourn

Outcomes

1 **Thoughts shared on ERG considerations.**

2 **Full committee discussion and feedback on synthesis narratives**

Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

3 **Reviewed and received input on the approval process for June.**

Planned product for EC2024

Page 1 – 2: Critical Path Forward
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- 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
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- Summary of public engagement and outreach

4+ pages: Source material
- One-page summaries from small groups
- ERG report
- Partnership Reports

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: Final Draft to be shared June 18.

Steering Committee Draft: Phased approach for initial draft; 2nd 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

ERG Considerations

What do we get from this - what would you like to see the Program take up in Phase 2?

C1. **Developing a logic model** that works backward from the ultimate goals to appropriate activities incorporating a theory of change that reflects how outcomes can be obtained from activities and outputs.

C2. **Reducing the number of medium- or long-term outcomes** in any changed or future Agreement to better focus the Program at achieving its outcomes.

C3. Exploring ways to **streamline and simplify the Program's organizational structure** to reduce its complexity.

C4. Placing an **emphasis on eliminating a siloed approach** to Program design.

C5. Identifying need for and ways to **improving Program transparency** to all stakeholders.

C6. Ensuring an accessible **data and information repository**.

C7. Increasing the **use of social science** in achieving Program outcomes.

C8. Allowing for **flexibility in the SRS** review cycle.

C9. Making recommendations to ensure the **Management Board accesses the appropriate expertise** and experience during the SRS process.

C10. Continuing the **reach out to Tribal entities** in ways that allow consideration and incorporation of their viewpoints.

C11. Finding ways to ensure those working on GITs (or other teams) feel **supported in their work**.

Process Overview: Narrative Discussions

For each Narrative Analysis:

- **40 minutes**: Walk through each synthesis narrative by theme ~10 minute each. Each theme has 1-5 recommendations. Focus on the revisions needed to the recommendations. Full text is available online.

- **15 minutes**: Take pulse checks via Menti on your level of agreement considering the proposed revisions. Strong disagreements will be discussed.

- **Any remaining time**: Other observations that have not been captured.

Ground Rules

- Use the **hand icon in Teams** to be called on if you have input.
- **One speaker** at a time (avoid side conversations).
- **Comments will be spoken** (avoid Teams chat).
- Give **everyone a chance to speak**.
- Be mindful of the times in the agenda. We have **~10 minutes/theme**.
- **Focus on the recommendation text** (in bold) for each topic. Comments to unbolded text (supportive information) may be sent to the writer or put in the Teams chat.
- When offering edits, **explain the why**.
- Tangential discussions will be placed in a **parking lot**.
- Avoid word smithing, **focus on the intent** of the recommendation text.

Synthesis – Partnership

P1. Adopt a systems approach to streamline governance and structure:

- P1a. The Steering Committee recommends that the partnership review and revise the Chesapeake Bay Program's governance and structure to reduce complexity and improve adaptive management and decision-making.

Synthesis – Partnership

P2. Enhance Capacity Building and Technical Assistance through Local Networks:

- P2a. The Steering Committee recommends embracing the Program's role as a network of networks that connects partners with data, tools, resources and technical assistance that build capacity at the local level.

Synthesis – Partnership

P3. Strengthen Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice in the partnership and activate the DEIJ Implementation Plan:

- P3a. The Steering Committee recommends that the Partnership seek ways in which restoration can be relevant to all communities within the watershed by institutionalizing and actualizing the Program's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Implementation Plan.

Synthesis – Partnership

P4. Enhance Communications and Transparency to Foster Long-term Success:

- P4a. The Steering Committee recommends prioritizing the Partnership's communications and transparency to drive momentum and ensure long-term efficacy.

Pulse Checks on Recommendations

- Use laptop or phone and go to www.Menti.com, enter code: 3980 2992
- Pulse check on the recommendations by narrative synthesis topic.
  - Menti has a character limitation; recommendations are slightly abbreviated.
  - Recommendations in Menti do not reflect revisions made today; rely on our revisions when taking the pulse check. A side-by-side view of Menti and the revisions will be shared on the screen.
- Sliding scale of level of support:
  - 1 = strongly disagree (far left)
  - 5 = strongly agree (far right)
  - Option to skip or abstain on each recommendation
- Results will be shared once the SC completes the pulse check
- Focus remaining time on discussing those with disagreement

Synthesis – Restoration and Conservation

R1. Review and refresh existing goals, outcomes and management strategies to more effectively guide the partnership's restoration efforts beyond 2025:

- R1a. The Steering Committee recommends adapting some outcomes to be more compatible with and realistic in the face of anticipated future landscape conditions, accounting for climate and projected land use change.
- R1b. The Steering Committee recommends streamlining the Agreement structure to reduce complexity and improve integration and efficiency of restoration efforts.

Synthesis – Restoration and Conservation

R2. Support System-Scale Conservation and Restoration Planning for Vital Habitats:

- R2a. The Steering Committee recommends that conservation should be elevated as a key guiding pillar for the Bay Program, alongside Science, Restoration and Partnership.
- R2b. The Steering Committee recommends prioritizing the restoration of habitats along our tributary rivers and streams, as well as the Bay's nearshore waters– some of the most important places for the people of the watershed and the most productive habitats for our living resources.

Synthesis – Restoration and Conservation

R3. Improve the Program's holistic approach to planning, prioritization, progress-tracking and accountability:

- R3a. The Steering Committee recommends developing and adopting approaches to better incentivize practices that deliver multiple benefits.
- R3b. The Steering Committee recommends enhancing the local benefits of Chesapeake restoration by improving alignment with state and local plans and priorities.
- R3c. The Steering Committee recommends improving progress-tracking and accountability to further support efforts to adaptively manage and better target or prioritize resources and technical assistance.

Synthesis – Restoration and Conservation

R4. Build capacity to deliver technical assistance and community engagement through improved coordination and collaboration:

- R4a. The Steering Committee recommends building collective capacity for restoration through improved coordination and collaboration between existing programs, across multiple levels of government, and with new partners.
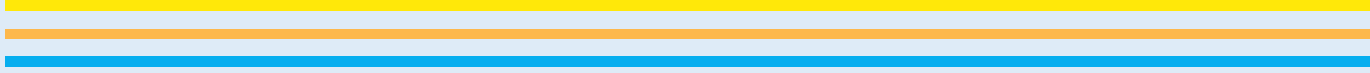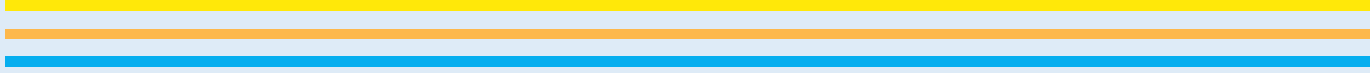
Synthesis – Science

S1. Prioritize research that addresses knowledge gaps in existing and emerging challenges:

- S1a. The Steering Committee recommends prioritizing climate science to enhance understanding of anticipated changes and restoration/conservation practices that can adjust to those changes.
- S1b. The Steering Committee 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.
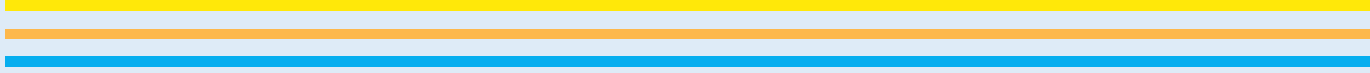
Synthesis – Science

S2. Integrate existing and new science findings in decision making, resource allocation, and communication strategies:
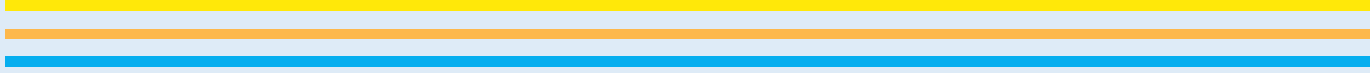
- S2a. The Steering Committee recommends the need to better adapt to these findings and communicate how they are integrated into decision making, resource allocation, and management strategies.
- S2b. The Steering Committee recommends increased efforts to integrating traditional indigenous knowledge and co-producing science with Native nations.

Synthesis – Science

S3. Optimize monitoring, modeling, and analysis:

- S3a. The Steering Committee recommends a partnership approach to establish a sustainable, long-term funding plan to maintain critical enhancements in monitoring.
- S3b. The Steering Committee recommends amendments to outcomes require a clear target and development of a monitoring plan because these factors are essential for assessing progress toward a healthy Bay and watershed.
- S3c. The Steering Committee recommends [in addition to CAST] incorporating multiple lines of evidence in the process to evaluate progress towards multiple goals.
- S3d. The Steering Committee recommends that all modeling efforts should integrate climate change projections to better understand changes across multiple indicators and inform strategic planning at the local and state level.
- S3f. The Steering Committee recommends focusing on local scales and analyzing stressor metrics (e.g., toxics, climate change, bacteria) alongside data on the response to the stressor.

Synthesis – Science

S4. Build Chesapeake Bay Program knowledge and capacity to apply scientific findings:

- S4a. The Steering Committee recommends strengthening its capacity to apply its [wealth of scientific data and] findings effectively.
- S4b. The Steering Committee recommends establishing better access and collaboration [for new tools in development].
- S4c. The Steering Committee recommends expanding its climate science support team and social science staff and dedicate funding for the strategic application of these topics.

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Critical Path Forward: Vision

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- **Our Vision for the Partnership**

A) Prepare and present a revised vision statement to the EC for the December 2024 EC Meeting, or

B) Suggest that a revision be discussed and drafted as part of Phase 2.

Integration

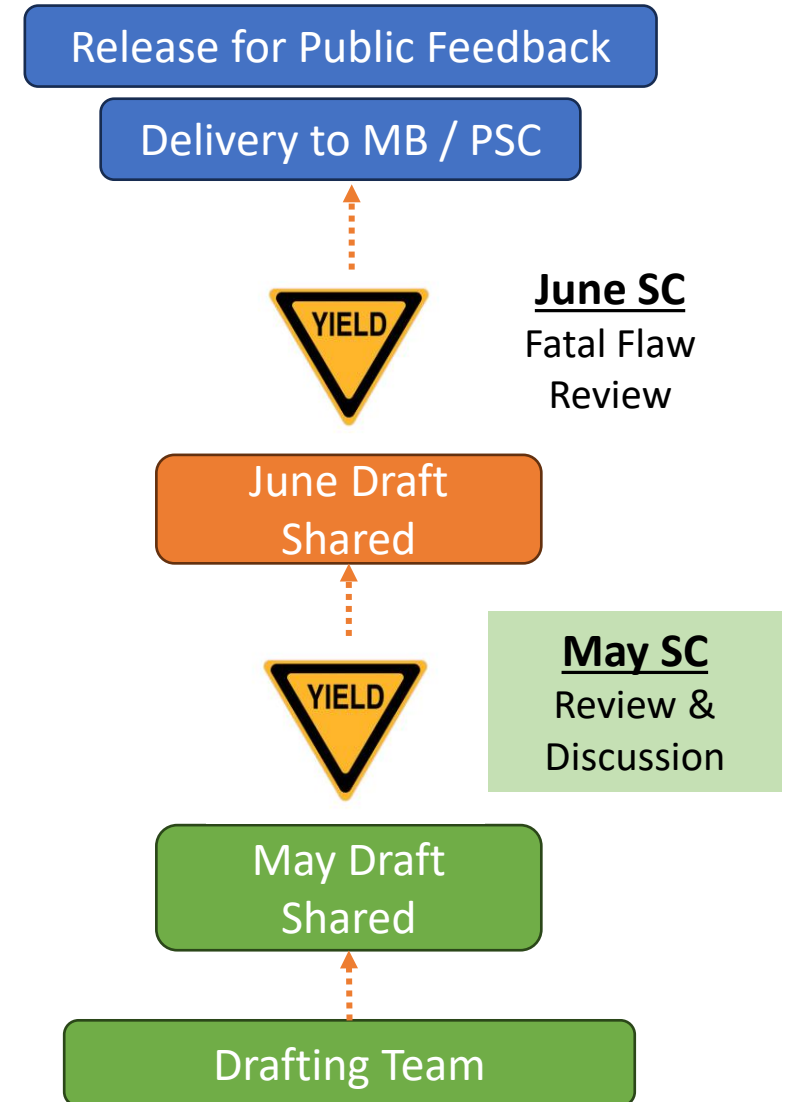**Page 1 – 2: Critical Path Forward**
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Release for Public Feedback

Delivery to MB / PSC

YIELD

June SC
Fatal Flaw
Review

June Draft
Shared

YIELD

May SC
Review &
Discussion

May Draft
Shared

Drafting Team

Schedule for Public Release

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30 WE ARE HERE ☀	31	**1 JUNE**
2	3	4 SC → Feedback Due on Synthesis Narrative **Partnership BLUF Released → SC**	5	6	7 Revisions by Drafting Team / Co-Chairs	8
9	10	11 SC → Feedback Due on Partnership BLUF Revisions by Drafting Team / Co-Chairs	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 **Release Final Draft EC Charge Response → SC**	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 **PSC Meeting**	26	27 **B25 SC Meeting**	28	29
30	**1 JULY** Release ASAP	2	3	4	5	6

June Agenda & Consensus

Extended Meeting Hold to Four Hours

- **Welcome & Opening Comments (40 min)**
  - Receive Final B25 Report
  - Recap June PSC

- **Draft EC Response Consensus Review (~3 hours + break time)**
  - Consensus Process Overview
  - Initiate Consensus working from Synthesis to BLUF