



Chesapeake Bay Program Update

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September 2024

Overview



EPA CBPO Funding



Follow-up to 2023 LGAC letter



Beyond 2025



December 2024 Executive Council Meeting



Questions

EPA CBPO Funding Update

- Progress to date:
 - CBPO awarded more than \$103M in FY24 funding via grants, including \$43M from Infrastructure
 - FY24 funding continued to include just under \$5M for local government implementation activities
- Upcoming activities:
 - EPA will award FY25 Infrastructure funding beginning in October 2024 to prevent delays and accelerate implementation activities.
 - CBPO is planning a significant revision to its Grant Guidance in FY26 to improve readability. As part of this effort, CBPO will review guidance on state implementation funding to identify opportunities to streamline guidance and increase effectiveness.



Follow-up to 2023 EC Letter

September 2023 LGAC letter to Executive Council highlighted the importance of regulatory sandboxes and increased technical support for local implementation



EPA responded on behalf of the Management Board in March 2024



EPA CBPO has been at work in response

EPA CBPO technical assistance funding for local communities



Local Leadership Workgroup Project

Key tasks of the project:

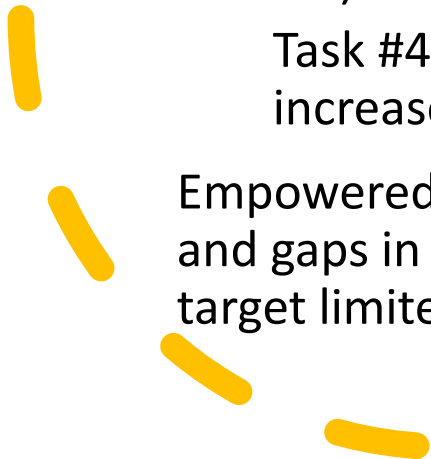
Task #1: **Identify and inventory** existing local government technical assistance programs that align with the watershed agreement outcomes.

Task #2: **Compile** standardized **information** about each technical assistance program (state, funding source, local governments in service area, type of services offered, costs, outcomes etc).

Task #3: **Define and analyze gaps** (regions, types of local governments, types of services offered etc) in existing technical assistance programs.

Task #4: **Recommend approach to fill gaps** in technical assistance to local governments to drive increased implementation towards meeting watershed agreement outcomes.

Empowered with detailed information on existing local government technical assistance programs and gaps in the current system, decision-makers at state and federal levels can more effectively target limited resources to the local governments that need it most.



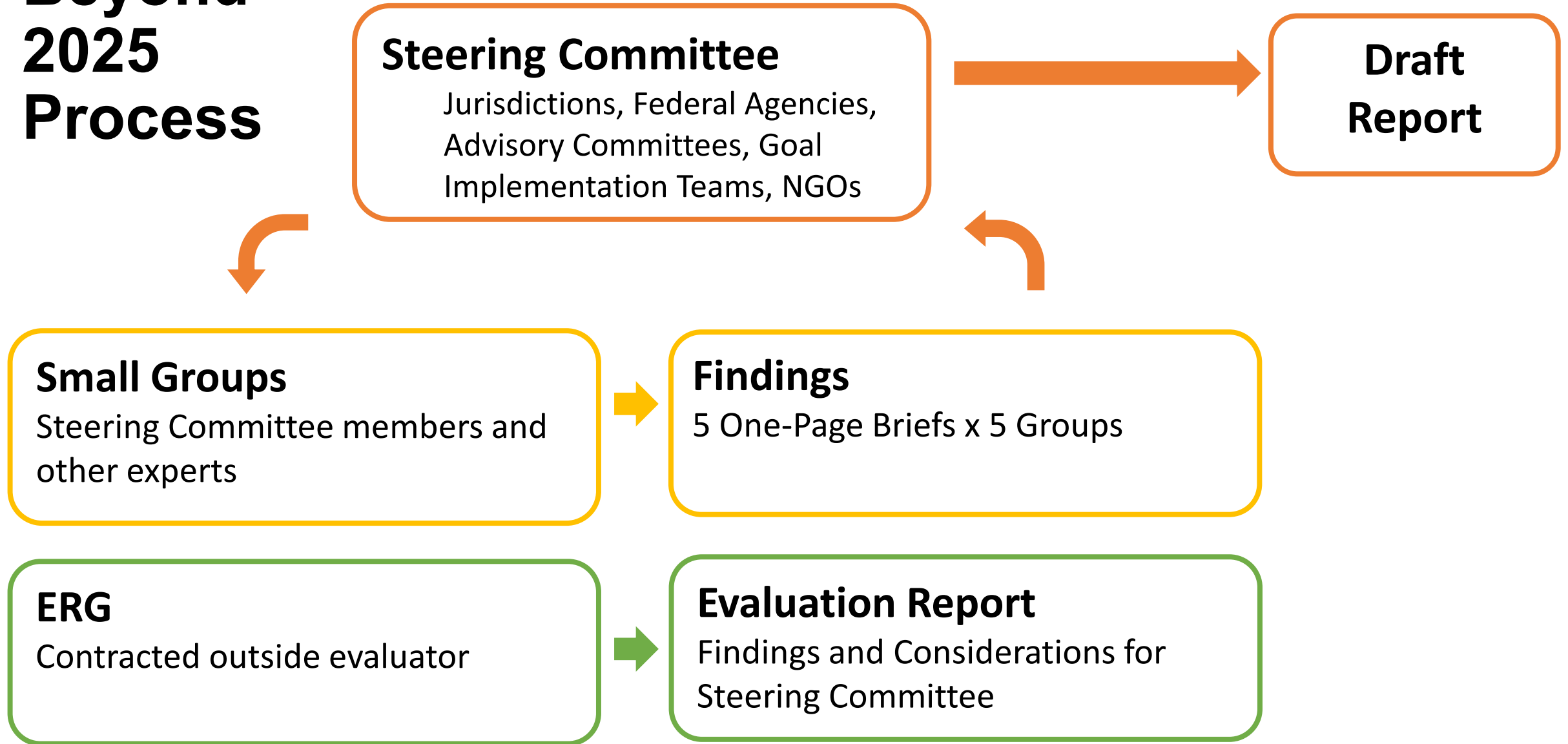
Beyond 2025

Charting a course to 2025 and beyond 2023 Executive Council Charge:

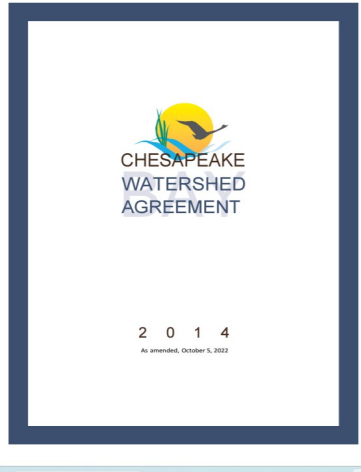
“Thus, this Executive Council charges the Principals’ Staff Committee (PSC) in recommending a critical path forward that prioritizes and **outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes** of the Watershed Agreement leading up to and beyond 2025. The PSC is to report back to the Executive 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.**”



Beyond 2025 Process



Steering Committee Recommendations



Affirm the partnership's continuing commitment to meet the goals of the *2014 Watershed Agreement*, and direct the Principals' Staff Committee to propose specific amendments necessary to improve efficacy.

Strengthen the partnership by identifying ways to simplify and streamline the structure and processes to ensure partner commitments can be met.



Summary of Feedback Received on the Draft Report

60-day public feedback period: July-August

81 total unique respondents

538 unique responses

1814 action emails from Chesapeake Bay Foundation

82 action emails from Waterkeepers Chesapeake Supporters



Overarching Comment Themes

Conservation as a focal area and integration into pillars of restoration and science.

Inclusive public engagement to foster greater transparency and trust.

Importance of collaboration and balancing needs across all partners.

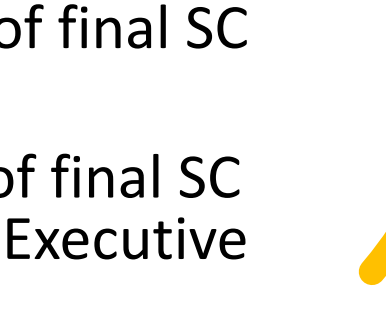
Enhanced accountability and evidence-based restoration practices.

Technical assistance and financial support to sustain and grow local implementation activities.

Address local and regional priorities of climate resilience, environmental justice, and other “emerging” issues.



Key Dates

- Public feedback period July 1st - August 30th
 - All comments posted
 - Sept 12th - Updated Management Board (MB)
 - Sept 17th - Updated Principals' Staff Committee (PSC)
 - Steering Committee (SC) reviewed feedback, Revision team drafted edits
 - Sept 24th – SC flagged “showstoppers” comments
 - Sept 26th - SC meeting: Reviewed revisions, called for consensus on final report
 - Oct 2nd - Optional, virtual briefing for PSC members and staff
 - Oct 10th - MB meeting, formal receipt of final SC report
 - Oct 25th - PSC meeting, formal receipt of final SC report, decision on action at December Executive Council (EC) meeting
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Executive Council Meeting

- Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Annapolis State House, Annapolis, Maryland
- Public Meeting from 11:15 - 12:30pm
- Expected attendees: MD Governor Moore, Representatives from all jurisdictions, Advisory Committee Chairs

Anticipated Executive Council Actions:

- 1) Formally sign a directive creating the Agricultural Advisory Committee
- 2) Issue a charge accepting the Beyond 2025 recommendations and directing the PSC to begin implementation of Phase 2

Questions

