

Elevating Conservation in the CBP

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STAR MEETING 1/23/25

Executive Council Beyond 2025 Charge

Furthermore, it is the intent of the Chesapeake Executive Council, that these changes reflect:

- Elevating conservation as a key pillar of the Chesapeake Bay Program, alongside science, restoration, and partnership;

Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Report

Restoration and Conservation Section

- The Steering Committee recommends that the Bay Program elevate Conservation as a key guiding pillar alongside Science, Restoration and Partnership (HW 4)
- The Steering Committee recommends planning for the restoration and conservation of nearshore habitats, inclusive of tributary rivers and streams— some of the most important places for people and the most productive habitats for living resources (CESR, P2, SW1).
- The Steering Committee recommends streamlining goals and outcomes, as well as overall partnership structure, to improve the integration, efficacy and efficiency of restoration and conservation efforts.

Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Report

Science & Partnership Sections

- The Steering Committee recommends enhancing the local benefits of Chesapeake restoration and conservation by improving alignment with regional, state and local plans and priorities (CW2, CW5).
- The Steering Committee recommends prioritizing and improving communications and transparency with the partnership's outreach and engagement activities to spur stewardship, drive restoration and conservation momentum and ensure long-term Program efficacy.
- The Steering Committee recommends enhancing the partnership's understanding of anticipated changes, and how conservation practices respond to those changes, by prioritizing climate science and research on land use change (EC Charge).
- The Steering Committee also 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 (ERG F8, C7).

Phase 1 Public Comments

- “The recommendations to support system-scale conservation and restoration planning and implementation for habitats and communities, and to integrate climate data and impacts into Bay program models and programs, are of special interest.”
- “The undersigned wish to state their support for the recommendation that the Bay Program elevate Conservation as a key guiding pillar alongside Science, Restoration, and Partnership.”
- “The proposed elevation of Conservation as a key guiding pillar alongside Science, Restoration, and Partnership marks a significant and much-needed step forward in our collective effort to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay watershed.”
- “The CBP needs to utilize conservation as a framework for their work.”