Feedback on revised “WIP” outcome language

WQGIT Leadership

April 28, 2025

Opening thoughts

- **THANK YOU for providing your time, thoughts and input!**
- We read it all and appreciate the time and effort you each contributed
- We won’t walkthrough the full written feedback today
- Instead, we will focus on the key points that guided us and shift to the draft templates requested for the MB

EXISTING AGREEMENT LANGUAGE

GOAL PREAMBLE: Restoring the Bay's waters is critical to overall watershed restoration because clean water is the foundation for healthy fisheries, habitats and communities across the region. However excess amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment in the Bay and its tributaries have caused many sections of the Bay to be listed as "impaired" under the Clean Water Act. The Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) is driving nutrient and sediment reductions as described in the Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs), adopted by the states and the District of Columbia, and establishes the foundation for water quality improvements embodied in this Agreement. These plans set nutrient and sediment reduction targets for various sources—stormwater, agriculture, air deposition, wastewater and septic systems.

GOAL language: Reduce pollutants to achieve the water quality necessary to support the aquatic living resources of the Bay 7 and its tributaries and protect human health.

Current Outcomes:

- **2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) Outcome:** By 2017, have practices and controls in place that are expected to achieve 60 percent of the nutrient and sediment pollution load reductions necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards compared to 2009 levels.
- **2025 WIP Outcome:** By 2025, have all practices and controls installed to achieve the Bay's dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation and chlorophyll a standards as articulated in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL document.
- **Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome [not stated here for space; STAR is lead]**

DRAFT language that was provided

Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Outcome

The CBP partnership will have practices and controls installed to achieve the Bay's dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation, and chlorophyll-a water quality standards. By no later than the end of 2030, the CBP partnership will update this outcome with a longer-term restoration date. The updated outcome will be informed by science-based information that includes using updated CBP partnership tools such as the Phase 7 model, planning targets, and available strategies developed by the jurisdictions and Conowingo to achieve the water quality targets for nutrients and sediment and also address any potential growth in loads and changing environmental conditions.

Through 2030, the partnership will continue to accelerate progress toward achieving water quality standards by installing practices and controls that implement the Phase III WIPs and the two-year milestone commitments. The partnership will demonstrate net reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment through annual progress reporting and monitoring data.

If we fit that DRAFT language into the “targets” approach…

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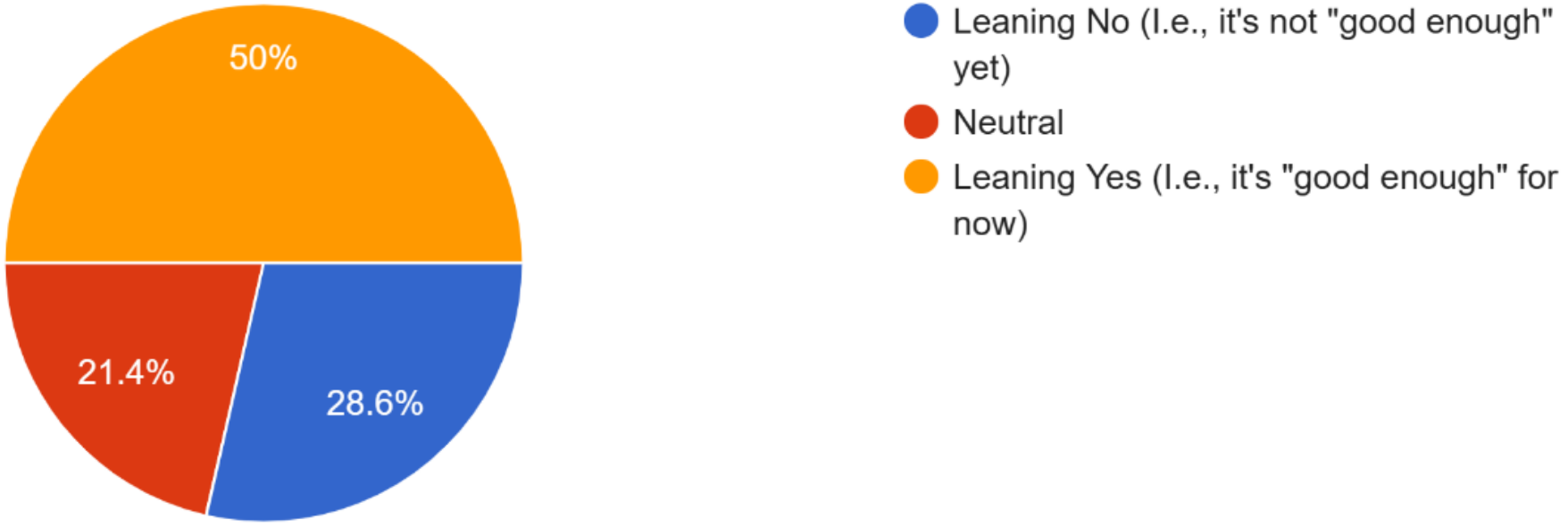
Initial reaction to provided language

What's your stance on the draft outcome language as it's written above?

14 responses



Guiding thoughts for our revised language

- Only propose a longer-term timeline once we have new tools and establish new target loads AND be clear about when that update will occur
- In the meantime, make progress toward existing target loads and Phase III WIPs
- “Multiple lines of evidence” where possible
- MB was clear they wanted separate “Monitoring” and “WIP” outcomes
- Plain language to the extent feasible

Again, thank you!

Now we'll switch over to the draft slides for the May 7-8 MB