



## **Chesapeake Bay Program**

*40 years of science, restoration and partnership.*

# Charting a Course to 2025

Climate Resiliency Workgroup

September 25, 2023

# Executive Council Charge

**“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.”**

- Identify new and emerging scientific data and studies which could modify our progress reporting and adaptive management approach, as well as the goals and outcomes under the *Watershed Agreement*.
- Enhance our monitoring and reporting capabilities to improve our understanding of existing conditions and trends.
- Define the existing and emerging challenges (e.g., climate change conditions, increasing growth, diversity, equity, inclusion and justice considerations) to accomplishing the partnership’s work under the *Watershed Agreement*, and how addressing those challenges might alter our collective restoration priorities, including the possibility of extending the target date for completing restoration of water quality beyond 2025.
- Identify opportunities to leverage action across multiple goals and outcomes of the *Watershed Agreement*.
- Provide snapshots of outcome attainability under the Agreement (e.g., which outcomes are likely to be met by the date(s) set by the partnership, which won’t, and why) and options for communicating these snapshots to demonstrate progress in achieving our outcomes and the remaining work to be done, including gaps to be addressed.

# Reaching 2025 Process

---



Steering Committee formed by the Management Board in early 2022.



Small subset of the steering committee formed the Drafting Team, including the CBP Indicators Coordinator and Communications Director.

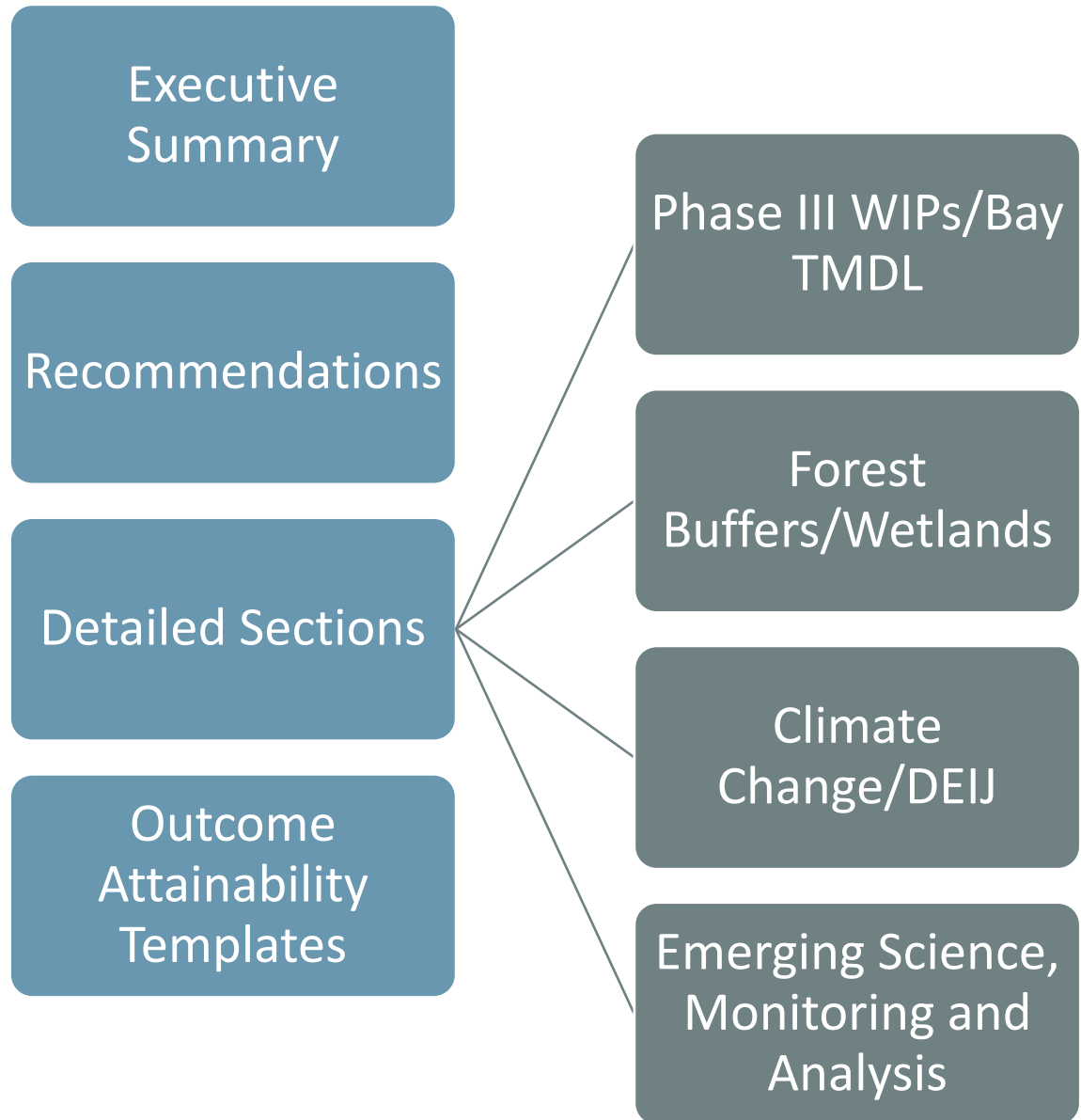


Sean Corson, former NOAA Chesapeake Bay Director, chaired the drafting team and set the outline for the report.



The Drafting Team created an updated outcome attainability template, pre-populated with information from each outcome's narrative analysis from their Strategy Review System review and each outcome lead was asked to edit and review.

# Reaching 2025 Outline



| Goal Implementation Team                       | Outcomes On-Course  | Outcomes Off-Course  | Outcomes Uncertain   |
|--|---|--|--|
| Sustainable Fisheries                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blue Crab Abundance</li> <li>Blue Crab Management (completed)</li> <li>Fish Habitat</li> <li>Forage Fish</li> <li>Oysters</li> </ul> |  |  |
| Habitat  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fish Passage</li> <li>Stream Health</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black Duck</li> <li>Brook Trout</li> <li>Submerged Aquatic Vegetation</li> <li>Wetlands</li> </ul>                    |  |
| Water Quality                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2017 WIPs (Completed)</li> <li>Toxic Contaminants Research</li> <li>Water Quality Standards Assessment &amp; Monitoring</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2025 WIPs</li> <li>Forest Buffers</li> <li>Toxic Contaminants Policy &amp; Prevention</li> <li>Tree Canopy</li> </ul> |  |
| Maintain Healthy Watersheds                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land Use Methods and Metrics</li> <li>Land Use Options Evaluation</li> </ul>   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthy Watersheds</li> </ul> |
| Fostering Chesapeake Stewardship               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Literacy Planning</li> <li>Protected Lands</li> <li>Public Access</li> <li>Sustainable Schools</li> </ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity</li> <li>Student</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stewardship</li> </ul>        |
| Enhance Partnering, Leadership and Management  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Leadership</li> </ul>  |  |  |
| Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Monitoring &amp; Assessment</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Adaptation</li> </ul>   |  |

# Outcome Attainability Status

# What Successful Outcomes Have in Common



Accounting, monitoring and tracking systems in place.



Has a champion.



Outcome plays a role in economic and ecological success.



Targeting and monitoring systems in place.



Enjoys public support and contributes to their well-being.



Important for equity and inclusion.



Contributes to the success of other outcomes.



Recognized as a success outside the partnership.



## Common Challenges

---

Quantitative and qualitative outcomes.

---

Geographic and numerical targets, standardized accounting and monitoring.

---

Roles, responsibilities and coordination.

---

Matching scope, responsibilities and cost.

---

Community engagement networks.

---

Tragedy of the commons.

# Climate Change and DEIJ

- The CBP does not currently have a structure in place to accommodate cross-cutting outcomes.
- The Diversity and Climate Resiliency workgroups are making progress on their outcomes with some intersection with the Executive Council directives.
- The directives are ambitious, far-reaching and appropriate but not sufficiently or consistently supported.
- Specific objectives/actions, cost estimates, commitments (roles/responsibilities) and accounting are needed.



# High-Level Findings

Outcome Status:  
Progress, some  
outcomes off track.

Dynamic Landscapes:  
Land use changes over  
time.

Partnerships Work!:  
Recipe for success.

Science: Robust  
monitoring networks,  
focus on social science  
and shallow waters.

# High-Level Findings

---



Bay TMDL: Won't reach targets by 2025, continue work with an emphasis on nonpoint source pollution.



Conservation: Proactive protection and protecting restoration investments.



Funding: New opportunities with BIL and IRA, climate and EJ and capacity news.

# High-Level Recommendations

---

1

## **Accelerate Investments**

- Increase speed and scale – IIJA/IRA, state investments
- Target toward lagging outcomes

2

## **Integrate Emerging Science and Monitoring**

- Geographic Targeting
- Shallow Waters
- Social Science
- Climate and Rising Temps
- Robust monitoring network

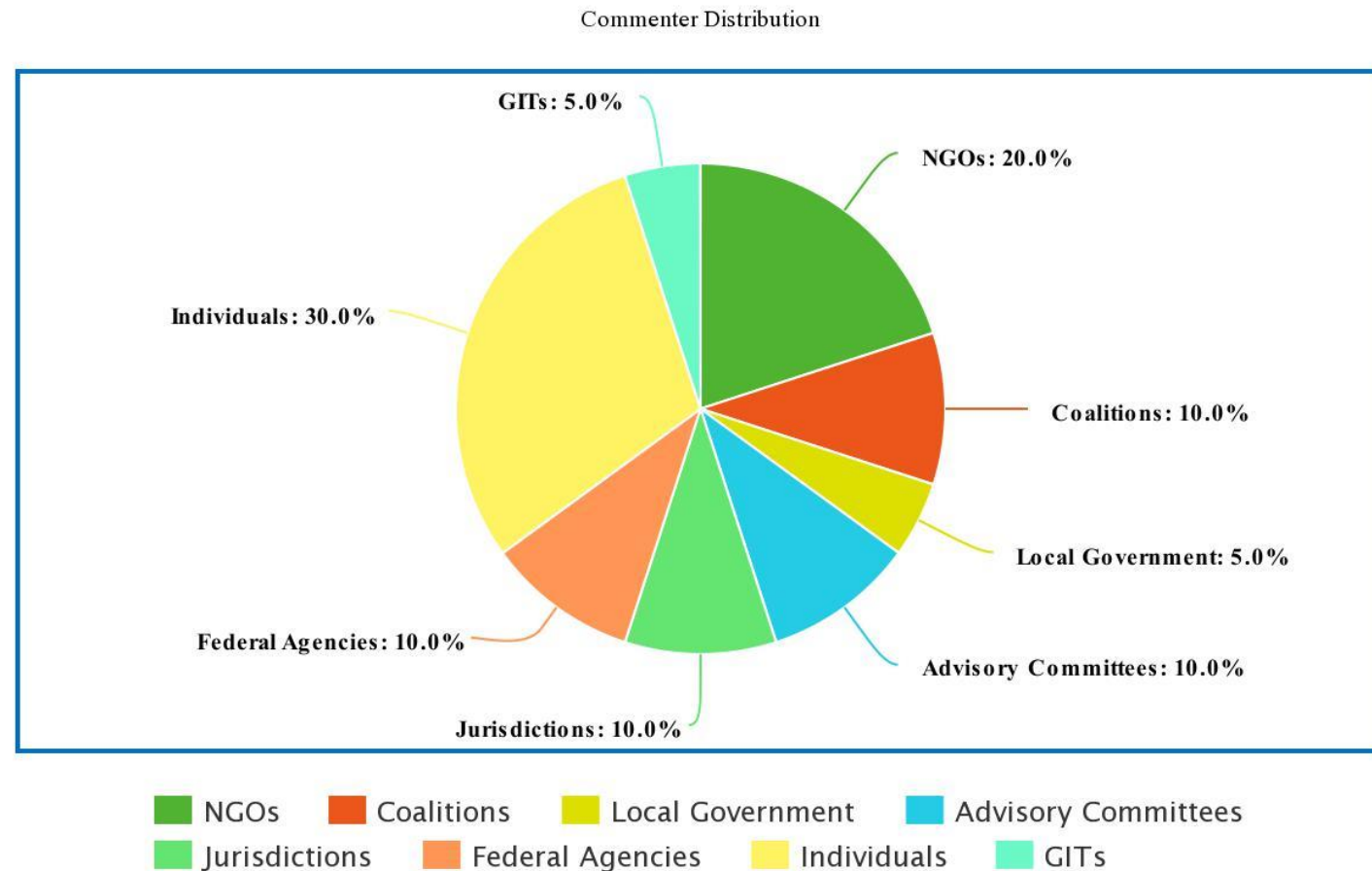
3

## **Fast-Track Implementation of Action Plans**

- Forest Buffers
- Wetlands
- WIPs
- DEIJ
- Climate

# Comments

- Public comment period opened on July 21 for 30 days.
- Received 391 comments from 20 different organizations.





# Editing Process

- Comments were divided into five categories:
  - Grammatical edits to be made in next version of the report.
  - Refer comments to subject matter experts for their response.
  - No response required.
  - Refer comments to Beyond 2025 steering committee.
  - General comments that applied to the entire report.

*These general comments were reviewed by a subsection of the Reaching 2025 steering committee, who recommended actions to be taken in addressing them.*

---

- Please split climate change and DEIJ into two sections.
- Better communicate the impacts of climate change to elected officials.
- Survey local governments to understand their current climate readiness.
- Emphasize and prioritize the need for greater investment in those communities on the frontline of climate change, using existing or new funding streams.
- Move toward climate adapted stormwater management.
- Develop climate-adopted best management practice efficiencies.
- Develop project management strategy and crosscut coordination approach before applying funding.

## Climate-Specific Comments

# What's Next

---



Will present a streamlined list of recommendations, as well as revised Executive Summary to the PSC on September 26.



Plan to have a complete second draft of the report ready for the Executive Council by October 19.



Public comments will be posted online and responded to over the next several weeks.

# Thank You!

Rachel Felver

Chesapeake Bay Program Communications  
Director

Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

[rfelver@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:rfelver@chesapeakebay.net)