BIENNIAL STRATEGY REVIEW SYSTEM Chesapeake Bay Program

Narrative Analysis



Stewardship Outcome – Analysis of 2020-2021 for Quarterly Progress Meeting February 2022

ABSTRACT: The Stewardship Outcome is currently making progress on a foundational piece of the work necessary to measure and advance the overall Outcome and to help plan future actions; though during this process, other actions have not been addressed collectively by the Workgroup. During the recent Bay Program effort to provide status updates for the Chesapeake Progress dashboard, as the Stewardship Outcome has no set numerical target, we designated the progress as "outlook uncertain," as the option to note that we were not able to ascertain a more definitive progress designation without a quantifiable metric. The Outcome states that by 2025, we will "increase the number and diversity of trained and mobilized citizen(*) volunteers who have the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the health of their local watersheds." It was determined years ago that before we can increase the stewards in these ways, we need to know more about the starting point: who and how are the residents engaged (or not) in stewardship, and what are the possibilities for growing from there? This effort to examine and advance behavior change approaches for building stewardship has taken years to complete, using the majority of staff resources available to the Workgroup. Although fully establishing the baseline and developing a mechanism for collecting, analyzing, and presenting the data in the future is still in progress, a web-based tool chesapeakebehaviorchange.org has been launched and the data has been displayed through the Chesapeake Bay Report Card/ Chesapeake Progress. This important work has set the stage for determining what can be done next, including activities to encourage and enable practitioners to use the tool to help guide effective engagement and behavior change programs. It will also inform what the Workgroup plans for its future collective actions. Due to the enormity of the task of creating the Stewardship Indicator, web tool and website, significant work toward many of the other actions in the Logic & Action Plan did not take place. There is a need to focus additional attention and resources on programmatic efforts and building desired behavior, among individuals in the watershed, but also through community actions led or supported through local leaders and champions. With a new coordinator on board in 2021, and additional capacity added through two new co-chairs at the beginning of 2022, and the prior team continuing work on the indicator and associated tools, the Workgroup is poised for renewed planning and progress for the 2022-23 cycle.

(* see response to question 5)

1. Are we, as a partnership, making progress at a rate that is necessary to achieve this outcome?

There is not currently a numeric target to measure stewardship. The Outcome states, "Increase the number and diversity of trained and mobilized citizen volunteers with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance the health of their local watersheds." Much of the work that has occurred over the last few years has been around determining a baseline by which to measure future progress and to help in identifying opportunities to increase stewardship, and significant efforts to raise the visibility of social science(**) throughout the CB Partnership. Advances in various areas have continued, as described below.

(** defined at end of document)

Accomplishments during the 2020-2021 cycle toward the Stewardship Outcome:

• Increased social science relevance in the CBP partnership. Efforts have been underway to incorporate social science approaches within other goal teams and workgroups, with support from the Communications team. CBP made an important move in establishing a new staff position to focus on integrating social science throughout its work, which has included providing technical assistance,

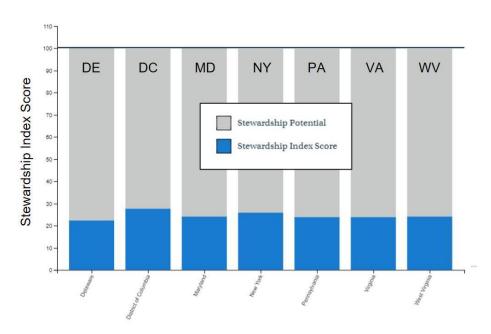
trainings and other presentations, and leading a GIT-funded social science assessment project that will produce recommendations for implementation. While there has been a high level of interest and acceptance among the various groups that this is critical to making progress in all areas of Bay restoration work, a lot more is needed going forward to help them identify and implement appropriate actions.

- Chesapeake Behavior Change website launched to share data with practitioners, and drive more effective resident engagement throughout the Watershed. In an accessible way, this site conveys the latest in social science to help practitioners create and deploy engagement programs with behavioral outcomes, rather than "information-only" outreach. An interactive data tool housed on the site displays and analyzes the Stewardship Indicator data to identify behaviors and prioritize audience segments that will result in highest impact behavior change programs. https://www.chesapeakebehaviorchange.org/
- Partners continue leveraging the Stewardship Outcome. On the ground, programmatic implementation of a wide variety of stewardship activities has taken place continually among the multiple partners agencies, organizations, communities throughout the watershed. Multiple regionally focused social science based projects have been launched by partners.

In 2021, the baseline Stewardship Index data from 2017 was used to establish a new indicator to both measure future progress and inform effective engagement programs. A second survey will take place in 2022 to gather new data, and results from that will be compared to the baseline. The survey is planned to recur on a 5-year cycle. Chesapeake Progress displays the data from 2017: https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/engaged-communities/citizen-stewardship. The new indicator was incorporated into the Chesapeake Bay Report Card, available at https://ecoreportcard.org/report-cards/chesapeake-bay/ and https://ecoreportcard.org/ report Cards (ecoreportcard.org)

<u>Stewardship in Chesapeake Bay Jurisdictions (2017)</u> – For a jurisdiction to earn a score of 100, each of their residents would need to do everything they could in their daily lives to improve water quality and environmental health, including personal actions, volunteering and advocating for the environment.

Jurisdiction	Stewardship Potential	Stewardship Index Score
Delaware	77.59	22.41
District of Columbia	72.45	27.54
Maryland	75.79	24.21
New York	74.06	25.93
Pennsylvania	76.06	23.93
Virginia	76.22	23.78
West Virginia	75.95	24.04



2. Looking back over the last two or more years, describe any scientific (including the impacts of climate change), fiscal, and policy-related developments that impacted your progress or may influence your work over the next two years. Have these resulted in revised needs (e.g., less, more) to achieve the outcome?

Scientific:

Over the last two years, the analysis of the Stewardship Index data and the process of developing a web based campaign development resource has been instructional. While a few local governments have used Stewardship Index data to inform behavior change campaigns, the raw data set was not useful to most practitioners due to its complexity. The process of distilling and displaying this data so that it is accessible and informative for practitioners, most of whom are not social science experts, was challenging. The resulting interface has tremendous potential, and is now considered to be a cutting edge tool, even beyond the Bay region. Additional focus will be needed in the coming two years to assist practitioners to use the website and to provide assistance with other facets of the behavior change process. The current data set and tool provides quantitative guidance on behavior selection and audience prioritization, but is not useful for barrier and benefit research or strategy development. These gaps will also need to be addressed to more fully achieve desired stewardship behaviors on a broad scale. Additionally, the site collects and shares behavior change case studies to reduce duplicity and aid in our collective improvement of behavioral programs.

In the upcoming two years, the next iteration of the Stewardship Index will collect new data for 2022. Analysis of that data and how it compares to the 2017 survey results will inform approaches for the near future. This process may take the full 2022-23 cycle to complete, so it likely will not affect planned work during this time, but will influence actions planned for 2024-25.

Fiscal and Policy:

Fiscal and/or policy developments that impacted our work in the **last two years**:

- Federal restrictions on surveying or other means to collect data has been a barrier to this and other similar efforts [the Information Collection Request approval process has been lengthy and slow]. Continued data collection is a necessity if we are to measure progress toward this Outcome as well as tracking perhaps the impact of stewardship efforts on other natural resources -focused Outcomes. This will require continued funding for the collection and analysis of this data, and the approval to do so. While CBP has supported the effort with funding, we will not be able to measure progress without the approval and ability to collect data.
- The Chesapeake Bay Program has made a commitment to supporting and integrating **social science**, as noted in question 1, above.

In the **next two years**, the following developments will likely affect our work:

New or increased funding sources (Federal, some state) will be available that can support stewardship efforts, particularly on the ground efforts. The Biden Administration's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is presenting an almost overwhelming number of possibilities to combine infrastructure improvements with environmental needs, such as including best practices for green infrastructure in transportation or housing related projects, to address flooding and climate resiliency, and integrate recreational opportunities to benefit health. Any or all of these efforts can manifest in increased workforce opportunities as well as associated training programs. Stewardship efforts planned now should have strong ties to workforce development. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Chesapeake WILD program (awaiting funding appropriation in 2022) will provide funding for habitat conservation/enhancement and includes engaging people, communities, education, and recreation. The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund State and Local Assistance Program was permanently funded and the associated Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program (administered through NPS) has added \$150M in grants for large urban areas that can fund parks and amenities for recreation which can increase opportunities to engage community members in stewardship activities. Several global, federal and state efforts in place or emerging are focused on planting trees as a climate solution and to address environmental justice and equity in communities. These include programs and funding. In Maryland, for

example, the <u>Tree Solutions Now Act of 2021</u> established a state goal of planting 5 million trees within the next decade, with at least 500,000 (10%) of those planted in targeted urban, underserved areas. Implementing the Act includes a number of statewide programs to administer the funding (e.g., <u>Urban Trees Grant Program</u>), provide technical support, and address concerns such as supply of trees, maintenance, etc., and associated job opportunities. These are just a few examples of programmatic and funding enhancements that will open numerous avenues to engage and benefit watershed residents and increase interest and participation in caring for the local environment.

- Cross-Outcome opportunities: Within CBP, efforts toward reaching forest, riparian buffer, tree canopy, wetlands and land conservation Outcomes are being amplified as we get closer to 2025, needing to increase progress to reach their targets. These can be connected to stewardship strategies through multiple CBP workgroups and networks. We will need to determine capacity and best approaches for working effectively across Outcomes for mutual benefits, and incorporate appropriate actions into our next two year plan (and ongoing in the future).
- Increased awareness of and emphasis on **diversity**, **equity**, **inclusion and justice** (**DEIJ**) has and will continue to demand improved approaches to stewardship that are more effective at engaging watershed residents in appropriate, meaningful ways. This will entail a rethinking of the reliance on volunteers and volunteerism, which can be exclusive to those who have the time and the means; determining successful ways to enlist local leaders and champions at the community level as well as working with local governments; and developing programs with input from and involvement of audiences to account for their needs and preferences, and to assure that previously marginalized communities and/or communities of environmental justice concern are not de-prioritized. Attention to connections with workforce development will be included in these efforts. To this end, the Stewardship Workgroup will need to coordinate more with the Diversity WG and the Local Leadership WG.
- Stormwater credits for behavior change: One of the actions included in our 2020-2021 Logic & Action Plan stated that the workgroup intended to "pursue options for increasing effectiveness of stormwater outreach programs that are required under existing permitting structures, specifically exploring credits for behavior changes and small scale BMPs." The Chesapeake Bay Trust has led efforts to explore this topic. The Trust's February 2022 event, "Behavior Change in Stewardship Practices: A Virtual Forum on the State of the Science and Water Quality Implications," will begin a conversation about how close we are (or not) to a modeled credit and what information is needed to address identified gaps in social science research. This exchange will benefit the science need identified above, and will potentially set in motion future policy (and associated funding) decisions.
- 3. Based on the red/yellow/green analysis of the actions described in your logic and action plan, summarize what you have learned over the past two years of implementation.

What worked:

- As a professional community, many have increasingly discontinued using the word 'citizen' as an effort to be more inclusive of everyone who lives, works and plays in the watershed. While we were able to include this note on the Outcome's web page, we would like to officially remove it from the title and language of the Outcome and the Workgroup, through official approval channels, and replace it with a term such as 'resident' or 'community.' This will aid development of a shared vernacular that can help to build inclusion more prominently.
- Sharing stewardship data as an indicator for Chesapeake Bay health (as part of the Chesapeake Bay Report Card) helps to bring attention to the importance of and progress toward stewardship within the watershed, and where we might focus attention to improve actions.
- Significant progress was made in elevating the importance of social science within the Bay Program. CBP
 has demonstrated its support through creation of a dedicated staff position to continue developing and
 managing/implementing social science approaches, such as:

- Assisting the Chesapeake Bay Trust with planning a full day Chesapeake Behavior Change
 Forum for February 2022. The Trust has been a key member of the Stewardship Workgroup and
 the work of the group and its members has been one of the many drivers for the Forum.
- The CBP Partnership Social Science Assessment, a project awarded GIT funding in 2021, has begun and the recommendations that result from it (to be completed summer 2022) will inform and guide how behavior change and other social science approaches can be used in developing and implementing strategies that advance the Stewardship Outcome.
- In October 2021, the Workgroup began reconvening as a community of practice, with great participation and excitement among members. The group will continue to convene regularly and will be fully engaged in developing and implementing the 2022-23 action plan.

What didn't work well:

- The creation of the Stewardship Indicator and <u>chesapeakebehaviorchange.org</u> required much more time and resources than expected and resulted in diminished capacity to address other parts of the logic and action plan. Many of the actions included in the 2020-2021 plan were contingent on the completion of the Chesapeake Behavior Change website, and therefore delayed.
- More attention and resources are now needed to focus on programmatic efforts and to get back on track with building desired behavior as guided by the ladder of engagement. Although implementation of stewardship efforts and programs is happening across the watershed through multiple partners, it is the more collective impact actions that should be occurring through this Workgroup and throughout the Bay Program that will help to significantly advance progress toward the Outcome.
- There has not been nearly enough coordination with the Diversity Workgroup, even though much of the work outlined in the Logic & Action Plan crosses with their work or could benefit from collaboration, coordination and/or advice (management approaches and several actions address *expanding the number and diversity of community volunteers, community leaders and local champions*). We will make it a priority to coordinate going forward.
- Other challenges experienced during the past cycle centered on capacity limitations for the workgroup:
 - Staffing changes during the 2020-2021 cycle left the Workgroup with limited support the GIT 5 coordinator position was vacant for over a year, filled during 2021, but with duties spread more thinly among several groups than anticipated. The hiring process for a second coordinator position was delayed by more than a year, with anticipated hiring to occur in 2022.
 - O Recruiting and selecting new co-chairs took several months and they are in place as of January 2022. Consideration was given to the challenge posed by the demands of the position, and effort was made to establish a team approach for leading the Workgroup between co-chairs and staff (coordinator and staffer), to right-size the task for the co-chairs, and to assure that at least some of the time dedicated to the position could be done as part of (*as opposed to* above and beyond) the co-chairs' work day. We are still mindful of the need to engage more partners in this professional community from agencies who are better positioned to offer staff time toward the Workgroup, and to nurture interest in future leadership positions.

4. Based on what you have learned through this process and any new developments or considerations described in response to question #2, how will your work change over the next two years? If we need to accelerate progress towards achieving our outcome, what steps are needed and, in particular, what specific actions or needs are beyond the ability of your group to meet and, therefore, you need the assistance of the Management Board to achieve?

How our work will change over the next two years:

Capacity and resources are needed to focus on programmatic efforts, building desired behaviors among individuals, as well as increasing community involvement, particularly through building leaders or champions. This work will be addressed through the newly engaged, reactivated workgroup membership, who can lend their energy and expertise to the actions needed. Preliminary organizing with the members is shaping up to be in three main categories of activity:

- Building Stewards (including continuing the work toward behavior change)
- Gaining Champions (community leaders/ others to help move us up the ladder of engagement)
- Network Development (building the professional community and its capacity)

Actions will be nested among these categories as appropriate, yet there is a lot of crossover and need for iterative exchange and coordination among them. Emerging priorities include the following:

- Build the professional community among stewardship practitioners, to facilitate sharing best practices, developing impactful collective action and guidance, training, and other resources to support increased, effective, and more inclusive stewardship efforts on larger scales (above and beyond individual behaviors).
 - Network development among stewardship practitioners (including connecting practitioners more regularly, building partnerships and awareness of the network or networks, sharing best practices, shared messaging, etc.).
 - o Facilitating intentional **coordination among other Outcomes**. Identify opportunities to engage people in stewardship actions through the various CBP workgroups, contributing to efforts toward reaching forest, riparian buffer, tree canopy, wetlands and land conservation Outcomes (and possibly others). These can be connected to stewardship strategies through multiple CBP workgroups and networks. We will need to determine capacity and best approaches for working effectively across Outcomes for mutual benefits, and incorporate appropriate actions into our next two year plan (and ongoing in the future).
 - Sharing best practices and successful examples of engagement programs with behavioral outcomes – both among the practitioners as well as more broadly, and identifying ways and means to replicate/scale up successful models.
 - Adding emphasis on **workforce development** associated with stewardship-type work (such as planting and maintenance of trees and other green infrastructure, leading groups in projects, etc.).
 - Defining, identifying, and successfully engaging with "champions" or community leaders and working strategically to build more community mobilizers. This might include providing training and/or connecting them with accessible resources to support community efforts.
 - o **Incentivizing local governments to invest** in behavior change as a driver for more public engagement. Coordination with other CBP groups who work with local governments will explore the potential for additional support through elected officials and local government programs.
 - For the Workgroup itself, the intention is to develop an active community of practice with the
 agency, energy, and capability among its members to effect a realistic, achievable work plan that
 is mobilized by the members, with less emphasis on the need for constant support of staff or
 heavy lifting by co-chairs.

• Join forces to utilize resources:

- O There is a need for attention now to **utilizing tools** such as the <u>chesapeakebehaviorchange.org</u> website and the variety of existing (and in-development) mapping resources that can all help to focus where to work and who the audiences are that need to be engaged, to be most strategic as well as inclusive in approach to building stewards and champions.
- Tap into efforts among various CBP partners and workgroups to identify how the new or increased **funding** through Federal and other sources can be brought to bear to help advance stewardship opportunities.
- Engage the community of practice in collective action: On the ground, programmatic implementation of a wide variety of stewardship activity has taken place continually among the multiple partners agencies, organizations, communities throughout the watershed. Part of moving forward on guiding stewardship on a regional level will include taking stock of these efforts and sharing best practices among partners, encouraging and facilitating the collective scaling up of the successful, effective strategies that can have significant impact.
- Continue with next steps for the Stewardship Index/indicator and behavior change website. The foundational pieces have been developed, yet still require additional steps for their use, including:
 - Implementing the next round of the Indicator survey (pending federal Information Collection Request approval).
 - Integrating the next round of Indicator data to inform the next Stewardship Index as displayed on the Bay Report Card and integrating that data in a comparative way on chesapeakebehaviorchange.org.
 - Training and technical assistance for practitioners building behavior change campaigns, utilizing the website.
 - Promoting the tools through outreach and presentations, with assistance of the CBP Communications team.
 - Encourage and prepare other CBP groups to utilize the stewardship data and social science frameworks to better design public engagement, education and behavior change programs.
 - Share examples of effective behavior change and public engagement in a systematic way on the website.
 - Enlist support from local governments to use the website and perhaps invest in costs associated with collecting more targeted data for their communities.
- Apply increased awareness of and emphasis on diversity, equity, inclusion and justice (DEIJ) as an overarching lens to all of our work. This will require intentional, regular coordination with the Diversity Workgroup, which we will integrate into our plans. Specific approaches are noted under question 5, below. In general, making participation in stewardship more equitable, accessible and beneficial to different audiences.

Management Board guidance / assistance needed – items beyond the ability of the Workgroup:

- (A) **Recommendations produced** through the FFY20 GIT-funded project entitled "CBP Social Science Assessment and Integration Road Map" will inform and guide how behavior change and other social science approaches can be used in developing and implementing strategies that advance the Stewardship Outcome as well as other Outcomes in the Watershed Agreement. These recommendations regarding opportunities to integrate social science into implementation for various Outcomes and the structure and function of CBP will be communicated when appropriate (~summer 2022). **MB assistance will be needed regarding future decisions to aid implementation of the recommendations**.
- (B) In the meantime, there are some steps that can help to continue advancing progress toward utilizing social science throughout CBP work and that of our partners to implement more effective stewardship efforts.

The following actions will help to further integrate social science throughout the CBP. Leadership support is important to fostering the idea that developing stewardship is the work of everyone within the CBP, and we all have a role to play.

1. Help promote use of the behavior change website as a science-based tool to identify appropriate audiences and impactful stewardship actions. The site is key to helping make the important switch from information based outreach to social science led engagement, to radically shift the effectiveness of stewardship programs. Management Board's leadership is valuable to this process and to further investment in the tool.

Steps to help promote the site and its use:

- Allot time during a Management Board meeting in early 2022 for a demonstration and update regarding rollout of the site. This can include discussion of plans for overall communication efforts and strategies to partner with local governments, and how MB members can encourage the CBP partnership's support in promoting the site.
- Encourage your agency staff to attend training and use the site/ data. Training opportunities
 planned will be shared when ready.
- Advise a mechanism to enable localized sampling (counties, municipalities) for the 2022 survey in priority areas so that motivated jurisdictions can have more significant, locally relevant data to inform engagement and behavior change programmatic design. This might include establishing a means for organizing partners, contributing funds, possibly securing seed funding or other support for local partners. This is an <u>urgent</u> need in order to participate in the 2022 data collection as the next opportunity is not for another 5 years.
- 2. Promote and/or direct cross-Outcome opportunities to engage people in stewardship as appropriate and helpful to reaching forest, riparian buffer, tree canopy, wetlands and other Outcomes. Encourage coordination to determine capacity and best approaches for working effectively across Outcomes for mutual benefits, and to identify appropriate actions for workgroups to implement. Example: Encourage incorporating stewardship considerations into upcoming "outcome attainability" workshops for wetlands and riparian forest buffers as part of potential solutions to reaching targets, building support and engagement.
- 3. MB advice needed on changing the terminology used in the Stewardship goal and Outcome statement. The Workgroup recommends promoting a partnership-wide shift away from using the term "citizen" to modify stewards or stewardship, and instead using something more inclusive such as "resident stewards" or "community stewardship." This shift is becoming more a part of regular, widespread practice, and embracing it is in keeping with the CBP commitment to diversity and inclusion. The question is whether it is an effective use of resources to pursue changing the language and titles "officially" through the established CBP procedure, three years from the target end date for the existing Watershed Agreement. Will doing so have a significant enough effect on audiences, or will the change be more effective in future vehicles? Note: The Citizens' Advisory Committee is considering a similar change to replace the term "citizen" with one that is more inclusive, and will soon be talking about it in a structured way, with strong support from the CAC leadership. GIT 6 is also working on replacing the word "citizen" throughout the CBP Governance Document.
- 5. What steps are you taking, or do you recommend, to ensure your actions and work will be equitably distributed and focused in geographic areas and communities that have been underserved in the past?
 - In 2021, where possible, the Stewardship Workgroup replaced the use of *citizen stewardship* with the more inclusive *stewardship*, reinforcing that all residents [regardless of citizenship status] who live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed can be good stewards. The workgroup is considering requesting a change to

the Outcome language and title (and the Stewardship goal itself) following the process described in the Watershed Agreement, to use a more appropriate, more inclusive term.

- Best practices regarding **diversity**, **equity**, **inclusion and justice** (**DEIJ**) demand improved approaches to stewardship that are more effective at engaging watershed residents in appropriate, meaningful ways. Making strides with a more significant portion of the watershed's population will necessitate the following (some examples):
 - Rethinking the reliance on volunteers and volunteerism, which can be exclusive to those who have the time and the means.
 - O Determining successful ways to enlist local leaders and champions at the community level as well as working with local governments.
 - Developing programs with input from and involvement of various audiences to account for their needs and preferences, to amplify and elevate their voices in decision-making, and to assure effective strategies, especially in previously marginalized communities and/or communities of environmental justice concern.
 - Dedicating attention to connections with workforce development.
 - Increasing, regular coordination with the Diversity and Local Leadership Workgroups.
- Attention will be given to assuring that the Workgroup has representation from all of the watershed's
 jurisdictions, and that partners who work within diverse communities are well represented, so they can
 bring experience and perspective from their work, and help to identify needs, preferences, and ideas from
 those we are trying to serve.
- Encourage the use of existing tools that can identify communities of environmental justice concern (e.g., CBP Diversity Dashboard, EJ Screen, and similar mapping resources) to equitably distribute stewardship programming, for additional decision-making about where to focus efforts.

** <u>Defining social science</u>: Environmental issues are, at their core, people issues. Until recently, restoration strategies were informed primarily by natural science. Social science – a field encompassing elements of psychology, sociology, linguistics, economics and more – enables us to better understand human behavior and ultimately make our conservation and restoration efforts both effective and long lasting. Utilizing both social and natural science is necessary if we are to reach Bay restoration goals. An important paradigm shift is underway. In the past, public engagement in Bay restoration has focused on raising awareness and giving people information. Social science tells us clearly that information-based campaigns are insufficient to bring about change in stewardship behaviors in most of the population. Using the tenets and tools of social science will inform our best practices toward more successfully engaging watershed residents in environmentally beneficial behaviors. The goal of these efforts is collectively referred to in this setting as "behavior change," meaning a data driven approach to assisting Bay residents to adopt behaviors that increase the health of the Bay and the watershed.

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