

Management Board Meeting Materials
Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Proposal
August 10, 2023

The proposal below is for awareness in advance of the August 10 Management Board meeting. The Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Co-Chairs do not expect to ask for decision on this at the August 10 meeting but if the Management Board members choose to make a decision, the Co-Chairs would be supportive. The Co-Chairs will share this proposal at the Management Board meeting and will ask for discussion and comments from Management Board members, as well as Steering Committee members, and other participants who may have comments.

Proposal

The Co-Chairs of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee recommend the following path forward for expanded stakeholder membership:

- Add 2 non-voting, At-Large advisory member positions to the Steering Committee, prioritizing expertise within and/or across the categories of restoration and partnership.
- Direct the Co-Chairs to issue an invitation for interested stakeholders with expertise within and/or across these categories to volunteer for these positions.
- Delegate to the Steering Committee Co-Chairs responsibility for selecting 2 members from among the volunteers based on expertise.

Background

According to the Bay Program's governance and management framework, Action Team membership is determined by the Team's leadership in consultation with the group that created the Action Team, guided by the skill sets required to address the issue the Action Team is to address. Members are drawn from volunteers and targeted invitations at the discretion of the leader.

The Beyond 2025 Steering Committee was formed by the Management Board and is led by two co-chairs. Its current membership consists of representatives from each member (voting and non-voting) of the Management Board. This includes the signatories, core federal agencies, advisory committee chairs, and GIT representatives. The Steering Committee will report to the Management Board and the Principals' Staff Committee with consensus recommendations "that continue to address new advances in science and restoration, along with a focus on our partnership for going beyond 2025," as specified in the Executive Council's Charge to the Principals' Staff Committee: Charting a Course to 2025 and Beyond.

The EC Charge identifies considerations across three categories: science, restoration, and partnership. During the Steering Committee's initial meeting and in subsequent one-on-one meetings between the co-chairs and the individual members, the Steering Committee recognized that there are stakeholders outside of the Management Board with helpful skill sets within these categories. Multiple committee members referenced a particular need for additional expertise in

meaningful public engagement, social science and behavior change, and DEIJ principles – topics consistent with the categories of restoration and partnership.

In considering an expansion of the Steering Committee membership to include additional stakeholders, the process should be transparent, equitable, and conducive to completing the task before the Committee. Recruiting additional stakeholders with highly valued skill sets could bring new perspectives and ideas into the conversation early in the recommendation process. However, Steering Committee members have also cautioned that arbitrary selection of a single stakeholder or NGO to represent the perspective of all non-MB stakeholders, absent an open process or identifiable criteria, would be inappropriate.

It is also important that the Steering Committee be positioned to produce consensus-based recommendations that meet the EC Charge and take into consideration the values, concerns, and capacities of the Executive Council. Ultimately, it will be the Executive Council's duty to adopt a critical path forward for the partnership. Steering Committee members representing the signatories bear a unique responsibility to help the Committee produce recommendations poised for action by the signatories. Any expanded membership structure should reflect that responsibility and accountability.

Balancing the intersecting values and needs of the Steering Committee, the co-chairs recommend the following path forward for expanded membership:

- Add 2 non-voting, At-Large advisory member positions to the Steering Committee, prioritizing expertise within and/or across the categories of restoration, and partnership.
- Direct the Co-Chairs to issue an invitation for interested stakeholders with expertise within and/or across these categories to volunteer for these positions.
- Delegate to the Steering Committee Co-Chairs responsibility for selecting 2 members from among the volunteers based on expertise.

In addition, the co-chairs will take the following steps to encourage robust stakeholder participation throughout the Steering Committee's work:

- Circulate meeting dates and materials to interested stakeholders once they are available to Steering Committee members.
- Include multiple opportunities throughout Steering Committee meeting agendas for public comment and questions with time for response by speakers and committee members. Actively encourage use of these opportunities.
- Collect and disseminate public feedback received between meetings.
- Coordinate with network organizations to disseminate periodic information about the Steering Committee's progress and organize opportunities for public stakeholder engagement.
- Schedule and hold public dialogue meetings and/or send steering committee members, At-Large members or other representatives of the Steering Committee to scheduled and announced meetings by community members, non-governmental organizations, or other stakeholder groups.