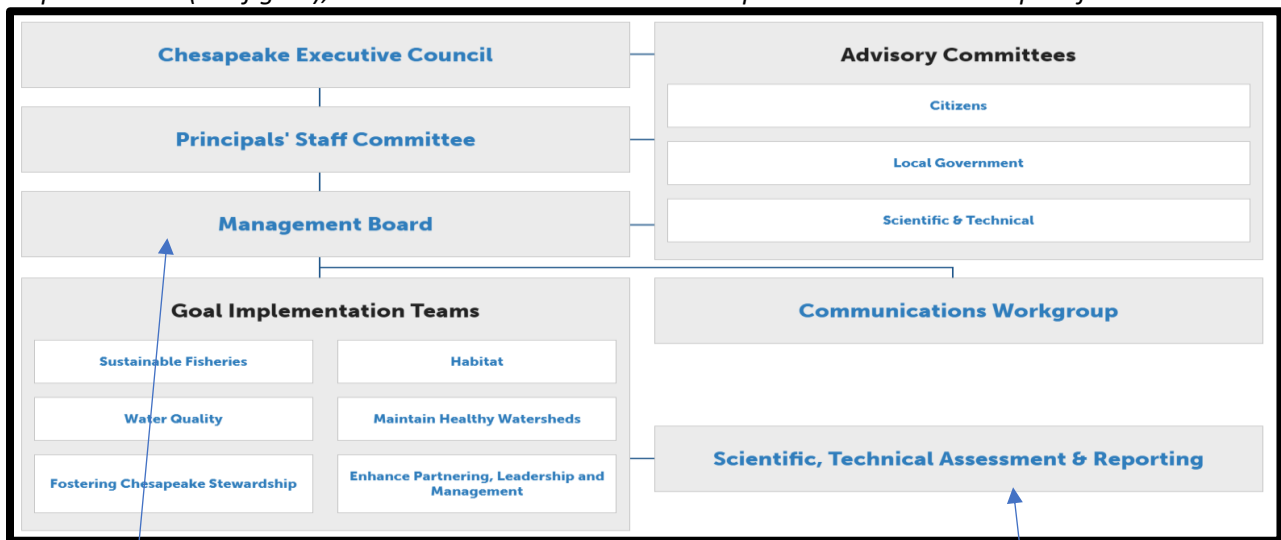


Options to Implement the EC Climate Directive Workplan.

Discussion paper November 23, 2022

Issue: The CBP needs to coordinate activities proposed in the workplan for Executive Council Directive 21.1: Collective Action for Climate Change. A planning team under the Management Board (MB) developed the EC Climate workplan to carry out the Directive, which approved by the PSC in Summer 2022. The EC Climate workplan has three major sections and associated actions that need to be coordinated: (A) proposed 2022-23 CBP partnership collective actions (listed on pages 3-6 of this document), (B) current and planned actions by jurisdictions, and (C) current and planned actions by federal agencies. The Climate Resiliency WG (CRWG) leads CBP partnership efforts to address the Climate Resiliency goal and two associated outcomes of the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement. However, *the proposed actions in the EC Climate workplan are much broader than the scope of CRWG responsibilities (see figure), so the MB needs to decide on an option to move the workplan forward.*



The EC Climate Directive involves the entire CBP. The workplan has commitments from a majority of the jurisdictions, federal agencies, and 9 collective commitments agreed to by the MB and PSC. The MB needs to decide on an option to coordinate and carryout these commitments and actions.

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup (CRWG) is under STAR and provides science support and coordinates with selected Goal Implementation Teams to address the Watershed Agreement Climate Resiliency Goal. The EC Climate workplan is beyond their current scope and capabilities.

Options

Three options for how to implement EC Climate workplan have been developed by CBP and CRWG leadership. Option 1 is the preferred option and all three will be discussed by the Management Board at their December 2022 meeting.

- Option 1: Have distributed responsibilities for the EC Climate Workplan within the CBP with an annual update hosted by the Management Board.
- Option 2: Have additional coordination support to carry out option 1.
- Option 3: Have the CRWG elevated to a Goal Implementation Team

For any option, additional resources will be required and include:

- Having jurisdictions, federal agencies, and other appropriate entities commit time to coordinating on and completing the actions in the EC Climate Workplan. The people responsible for leading the actions in the EC Climate workplan will need to be engaged in coordination.
- Increased staff for effective coordination of the actions. The CBP will need to identify leadership for managing the EC Climate workplan and associated staff support.
- Potential funding increases to carry out the actions. Some of the proposed CBP partnership actions will require additional resources to be initiated and completed. Jurisdictional and federal actions will require support from their respective sponsoring agencies.
- At this time, the CBP office does not have additional resources for increased staff or funding for activities in the Climate workplan.

Option 1: Have distributed responsibilities for the EC Climate Workplan within the CBP with an annual update hosted by the Management Board.

This option proposes distributed responsibilities in the CBP to support the actions, with an annual update hosted by the MB of the agencies and partners working on the EC Climate workplan. During the year, sections of the EC workplan could be addressed by different CBP groups. For example, the federal actions could be coordinated under Federal Office Directors (working with the Federal Facilities WG) and the jurisdictions would be responsible for their respective efforts. The nine CBP partnership actions have suggested leadership specified in the workplan (see highlighted sections in pages 3-6 of this document), that ranges from the MB, STAR, and different GITs. The coordination for the collective CBP actions could be under the (1) MB, (2) Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management Goal Implementation Team (GIT 6), or (3) another place in the CBP organization. Each responsible partner would make progress on their respective actions, but some actions will not be able to be completed with existing resources.

Staffing considerations: Coordinating the climate responsibilities of the MB will take additional time for MB leadership and supporting staff. Organizing an annual update by the MB with partners working the EC Climate workplan would require additional staff time for contacting invitees, developing an effective agenda, facilitating the update, and summarizing follow-up actions.

Option 2: Have additional coordination support to carry out option 1.

This option would provide additional coordination support to enhance collaboration and effectiveness of the multiple partners addressing the commitments of the EC Climate Workplan. The Cross-Program CBP climate coordination, which could range from ½ to full time, would provide support and identify collaborative opportunities among the jurisdictional and federal partners carrying out the EC Climate workplan. Staffing considerations: A Cross-Program climate coordinator would be established, with MB staff support in option 1 still needed.

Option 3: Have the CRWG elevated to a Goal Implementation Team

This option would have the CRWG elevated to a Goal Implementation Team (GIT), which increases the opportunities to interact with other GITs and establish climate-related workgroups. The expanded capacity for more attention toward achieving the two Climate outcomes and the proposed actions in the EC Climate workplan. Staffing considerations: Chairs would have to be found for any new workgroups under the CR GIT and CRS staff(ers) would also be needed for the new climate workgroups. The current Climate Resiliency WG Coordinator would focus on science activities with the new Cross-Program

Climate Coordinator working across the multiple jurisdictional and federal partners carrying out the EC Climate workplan.

Supporting information.

Climate Resiliency is one of the 10 goals of the Chesapeake Watershed Agreement:

Goal: “Increase the resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including its living resources, habitats, public infrastructure and communities, to withstand adverse impacts from changing environmental and climate conditions.” The two outcomes are:

- **Climate Monitoring and Assessment:** Continually monitor and assess the trends and likely impacts of changing climatic and sea level conditions on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including the effectiveness of restoration and protection policies, programs and projects.
- **Climate Adaptation:** Continually pursue, design, and construct restoration and protection projects to enhance the resiliency of Bay and aquatic ecosystems from the impacts of coastal erosion, coastal flooding, more intense and more frequent storms and sea-level rise.

The Climate Resiliency Workgroup coordinates activities to address the goal and outcomes, and their efforts can be found on: [Climate Resiliency Workgroup \(chesapeakebay.net\)](https://chesapeakebay.net).

Workplan for Executive Council Directive No 21-1 Collective Action for Climate Change

In October 2021, the Chesapeake Executive Council signed *Directive No. 21-1 Collective Action for Climate Change*. The Directive acknowledges the consequences of climate change on Chesapeake Bay ecosystems and communities and commits the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) and partners to take concerted steps to address the impacts of climate change in all aspects of the partnership’s work to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed. The Directive includes four primary objectives:

- Address the threats of climate change in all aspects of the partnership’s work to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed
- Prioritize communities and habitats most vulnerable to ever-increasing risks
- Apply the best scientific, modeling, monitoring, and planning capabilities of the Chesapeake Bay Program
- Connect Chesapeake Bay restoration goals with emerging opportunities in climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience.

Upon the direction of the Principals’ Staff Committee (PSC), in December 2021 the Management Board (MB) discussed a partnership response to the Directive and established a planning team composed of partner representatives to lead development of a workplan for implementing the Directive’s objectives.

This initial workplan represents the collective effort of the planning committee and the contributions of CBP staff and experts. It presents a set of partnership-level actions that, if pursued collaboratively with strong engagement from partners and CBP programs, would accelerate progress in meeting the Directive’s objectives, address critical areas of need, and help lay the necessary groundwork for future action and growth in climate readiness and resiliency in the Chesapeake Bay region. In drafting these

actions, the planning committee closely considered current partner and CBP efforts supporting progress on the Directive (Appendix A), federal agency commitments (Appendix B), expertise of CBP staff, and where CBP, as a collaborative body, could complement these efforts and address urgent needs that require cooperative attention. The planning committee recommends that these actions be completed or substantively initiated by the partnership by 2024, when it should reassess progress and establish new targets.

The entire workplan can be viewed here: [EC-Climate-Directive-Workplan-and-Federal-Commitments.pdf \(d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net\)](https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net). The nine collective CBP partnership actions are listed below with **responsible parties highlighted**. The actions are listed in priority order that was established by the MB.

2022-2024 Partnership Actions

1. **A Climate Directive Pilot Project:** **Each signatory jurisdiction commits** to launching an on-the-ground, nature-based implementation project that meets the intent of the Climate Directive and advances progress towards multiple Chesapeake Bay Agreement Outcomes, with an emphasis on projects that help achieve the forest buffer, tree canopy, or wetlands outcomes. Jurisdictions will prioritize projects located in underserved and/or climate vulnerable communities and seek input from CBP Goal Implementation Teams and workgroups in selecting pilot project types and site locations. Projects could be supported by additional Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding coming through CBP to the jurisdictions.
2. **Next steps for implementing the Principals Staff Committee (PSC) Monitoring Report.** Monitoring the trends and impacts of changing climate conditions on the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and communities is critical to assessing the effectiveness of restoration practices and tracking progress and challenges towards meeting the climate resiliency goal and other goals of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*. The [Summary of Monitoring Needs and Investment Report](#) to the PSC (PSC Monitoring Assessment Report) finds that current monitoring programs are insufficient for meeting long-term monitoring needs across outcomes, but that new funding programs and sources in addition to new or redirected investments from partners may provide opportunities to address these needs, including towards addressing gaps in monitoring the impacts of climate change. This action includes three subtasks:
 - Identify recommendations in the PSC Monitoring Assessment Report that support ongoing climate change monitoring programs.
 - **Create a forum for identifying action-oriented endpoints on investment and partnering to address climate monitoring needs.** Consider funding opportunities provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
 - **The Monitoring Review Team** will update the partnership annually on the monitoring investment and implementation progress along with insight on new networks designs, status of development, and gaps in addressing monitoring needs.
3. **Improve understanding of Best Management Practice (BMP) responses to climate change conditions.** Further data and research are needed to understand the risks that climate change poses to BMP performance and to support implementation of climate-resilient BMPs. **The Water Quality Goal Implementation Team, with support from the Climate Resiliency Workgroup and the Modeling**

Workgroup, will organize cross-workgroup meetings to discuss findings from recent assessments and research (e.g., Virginia Tech BMP Climate Resilience Assessment Report) to develop a research agenda framework for climate-adapted BMPs. The CBP will also support progress on priority initiatives identified in the Urban Stormwater Workgroup’s memo “Recommendations on Next Steps to Advance Efforts to Maintain Resilience of Stormwater BMPs.”

- 4. Create Bay-wide plan for tidal wetland restoration, marsh migration, and coastal resiliency:** There is a need to develop a comprehensive tidal wetland restoration plan that identifies 1) recommended siting criteria for tidal wetland restoration projects that incorporates various marsh habitat benefits (e.g., low marsh for fish, high marsh for birds) and marsh and community resilience considerations, 2) potential restoration areas based on criteria, and 3) partners that could implement projects. The **Management Board** will identify funding to create this Bay-wide comprehensive plan to guide coordinated implementation of tidal wetland restoration projects that consider marsh migration, improve marsh and coastal community resiliency, maximize habitat benefits, and enable access to national funding programs. The **Management Board will also identify a partnership lead** to coordinate development of the comprehensive plan across the various partners involved in tidal wetland restoration and/or marsh resilience planning and identify resources that can support this coordination. This project will build on the outcomes of the GIT-funded project, “Partnership-Building and Identification of Collaborative Tidal Marsh Adaptation Projects.”
- 5. Refine and prioritize climate science needs and develop a resource plan.** Climate science needs for each outcome of the *2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* have been identified through the Strategic Science and Research Framework (SSRF). Completing and addressing the climate science needs for all the outcomes will require stronger engagement and collaboration from our partners to evolve their work to match CBP needs. **The Management Board will host special sessions with support from STAR** to 1) improve understanding of each outcome’s climate science needs, 2) update the status of engaged resources addressing those needs, 3) identify priority climate science needs 4) quantify required additional resources for addressing remaining gaps, 5) and develop a plan for how partner programs, expertise and resources could be further leveraged to address priority climate science needs. The partnership will present their committed efforts to support implementation of the resource plan. The SSRF will be used to document and track future climate science needs identified for the outcomes and present, on an annual basis, to the **Management Board to follow through** with identifying opportunities to better engage science providers who can address these needs.
- 6. Improve coordination on national funding for climate:** **CBP will host focused meetings** with partners to improve coordination, collaborative planning, and priority-setting around funding for climate-related objectives to enable access to national funding programs. **The GIT-Chairs will convene an initial set of meetings with subject matter experts (i.e., from GITS, workgroups, STAR)** with the objective of identifying shared climate funding priorities and opportunities for aligning short and long-term funding proposals. **A second series of meetings hosted by the Budget and Finance Workgroup** will convene funders, grant-writing partners, and potential funding recipients to exchange lessons, improve understanding of national funding programs and the challenges and strategies for accessing these programs for climate change investments, and to identify potential funding routes for supporting priority climate needs. Meetings will also be used to identify opportunities for improving targeting and impact of funding on climate vulnerable communities in the Chesapeake Bay region and for improving awareness of the needs, threats, and challenges facing these communities.

7. **Complete climate change-related activities crosswalk and promote biennial reporting of climate efforts to the Climate Resiliency Workgroup:** The Management Board Climate Directive planning group will finalize the crosswalk of partner and partnership climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience activities and present it to the Executive Council as part of the Climate Directive strategic workplan. The Management Board will take steps to promote partner participation in the Climate Resiliency Workgroup's biennial request for information about climate adaptation, mitigation, and resilience efforts, completed as part of their Strategy Review System (SRS) process.
8. **Advance conservation finance priorities:** The Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management Goal Implementation Team (GIT6) and the Budget and Finance Workgroup will work with jurisdictions and GITs to showcase lessons learned from the Finance and Investment Forum held in March 2020 (including the expert consultations), spotlight new jurisdictional innovations in conservation financing and carbon markets, and develop additional recommendations to advance these priorities.
9. **Establish a learning and capacity building network:** Building on the efforts of the Climate Resiliency Workgroup and the Education Workgroup, CBP will take steps to support climate change education and learning and to improve awareness and institutional capacity to address climate change in all the partnership's work. The Management Board will identify partnership leads for the following actions:
 - o Identify and expand opportunities for partner staff to participate in comprehensive training, workshops, and in-depth topical discussions and symposia, such as through establishment of an exchange network or website.
 - o Convene leaders and stakeholders in climate and environmental education to develop a common understanding of climate change education in the region and determine how learning and action related to climate change can help advance the environmental literacy goal.