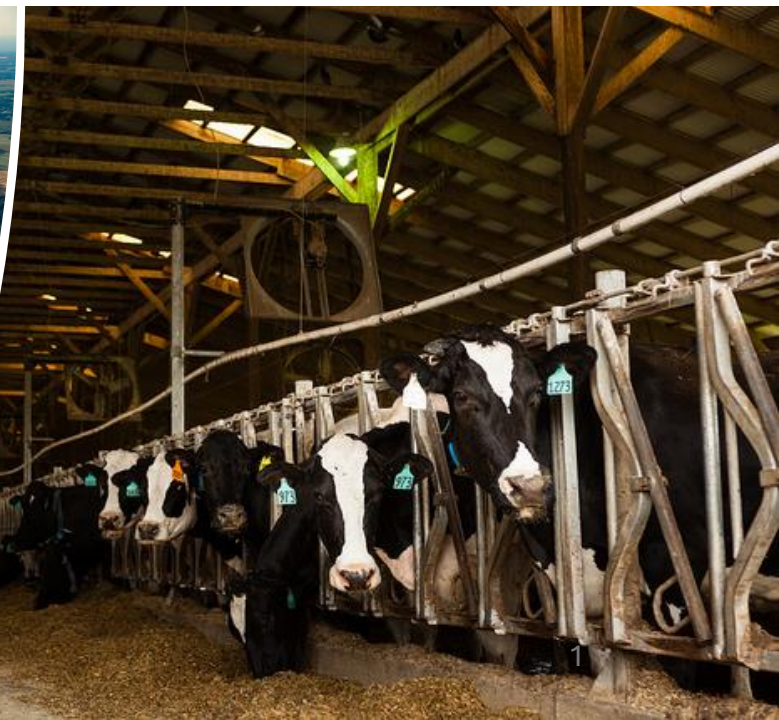
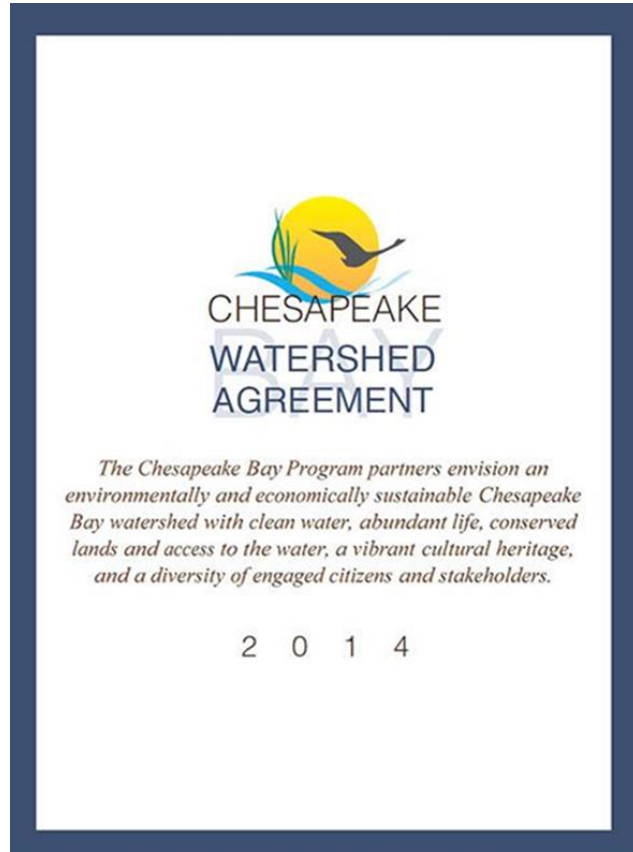


Water Quality Outcomes Updates

January 27, 2025

Thank you to our colleagues from
the Habitat GIT (GIT2) and
Stewardship GIT (GIT5) whose
slides we've adapted and built on





The **Chesapeake Executive Council** has reaffirmed their **continued commitment to meet the goals** of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and has charged the partnership with **revising the outcomes of the Agreement** by the end of 2025.

The Partnership is starting a process to revise the Agreement – not writing a new agreement.

2014 Agreement Language

WATER QUALITY

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

Intent of Agreement Revisions

It is the intent of the Chesapeake Executive Council, **that revisions to the existing Agreement reflect:**

- A renewed and greater emphasis on engaging all communities
- Addressing water quality and living resources throughout the Bay and watershed;
- Elevating conservation as a key pillar of the Chesapeake Bay Program, alongside science, restoration, and partnership
- Grounding in the most recent scientific understandings and issues
- Ensuring goals and outcomes are measurable and time bound (SMART)
- Acknowledging that our scientific understanding is continuously evolving and that adaptability is key
- Understanding that while we share a common goal, we approach this goal from different perspectives, challenges, and opportunities

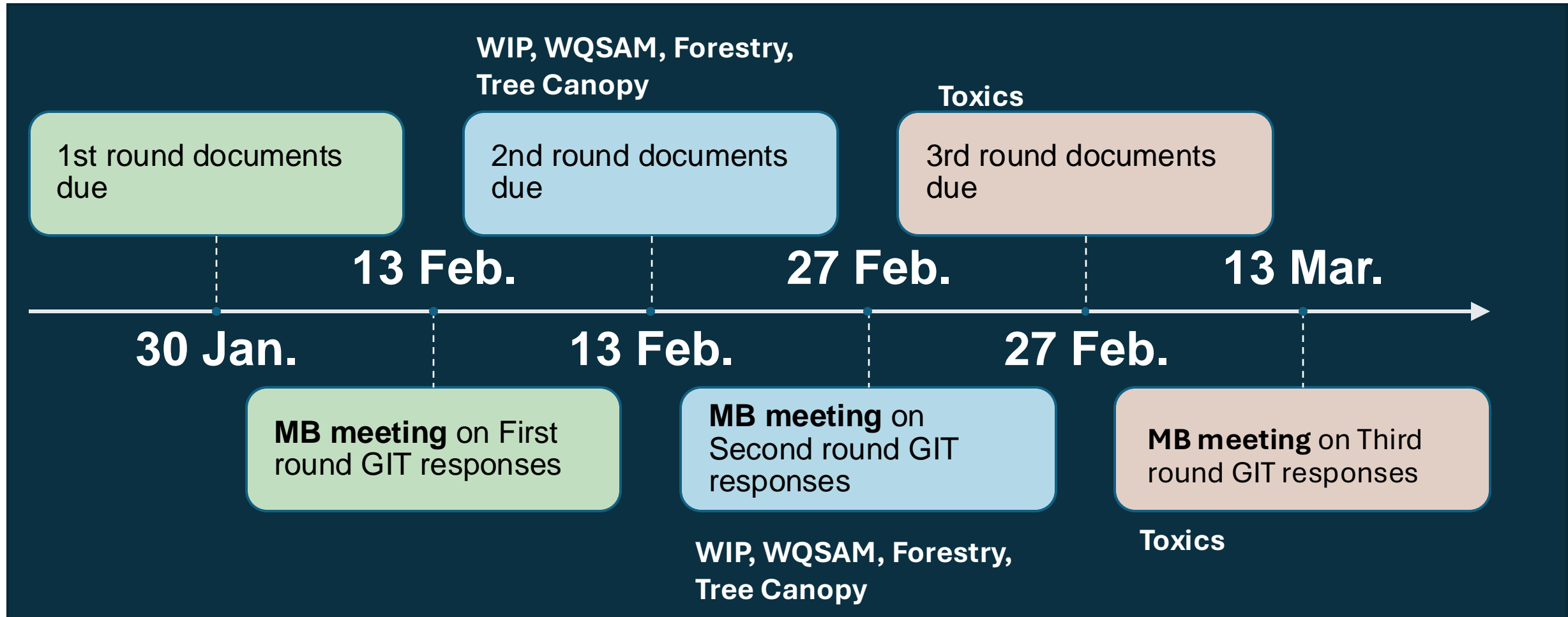
First Step

First Step: Outcome Assessment

While not all outcomes will need revision, the Partnership is starting with a rapid outcome assessment to answer whether the review of some outcomes will result in:

- **Consolidating**
- **Reducing**
- **Updating**
- **Removing**
- **Replacing**
- **Adding new outcomes.**

TIMELINE for Management Board Presentations



Today's Outcomes



Forest Buffer

Continually increase the capacity of forest buffers to provide water quality and habitat benefits throughout the watershed. Restore 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffer and conserve existing buffers until at least 70 percent of riparian areas throughout the watershed are forested.



Tree Canopy

Continually increase urban tree canopy capacity to provide air quality, water quality and habitat benefits the watershed. Expand urban tree canopy by 2,400 acres by 2025.

Today's 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

Continually improve the capacity to monitor and assess the effects of management actions being undertaken to implement the Bay TMDL and improve water quality. Use the monitoring results to report annually to the public on progress made in attaining established Bay water quality standards and trends in reducing nutrients and sediment in the watershed.

Feedback and Advice Requested Jan 14



Recommended **action**? Consolidate, Reduce, Update, Remove, Replace,



What is the **Value Added** by the Bay Program partnership in addition to the activities of our partners?



What **advice** do you have for the Management Board?



What **new** outcomes do you recommend?

2025 WIP Outcome

In my opinion, the Management Board should _____ the WIP Outcome



2025 Outcome Value Added

Allows for/Drives adaptive management

Clear goals for N, P, and sediment reductions across partners

Provides a common framework (i.e., implementation)

Provides a common timeframe/timeline

Common tool for planning and measuring progress

Assists in allocating and leveraging resources

Accountability

2025 WIP Outcome Advice

- Update date/timeline
- Use existing tools (Bay or state tools) to measure progress
- Ensure living resources are accounted for in measuring progress using tiered targets
- Balance modeling and monitoring data for progress
- Some supported a broader outcome and some supported remaining focused on N, P, Sediment
- Emphasize conservation and protection in addition to restoration

Proposed Advice on the 2025 WIP Outcome

Update Outcome

Remain specific to N, P, Sediment

Suggest ideas related to timebound (Will revisit this shortly)

Emphasis on living resources using tiered targets, conservation

Progress should be balanced using modeling and monitoring data

Explain the need for placeholder language

Ideas for new outcomes

Plastics

Bacteria

Acidification

Land Conservation

Soil Health

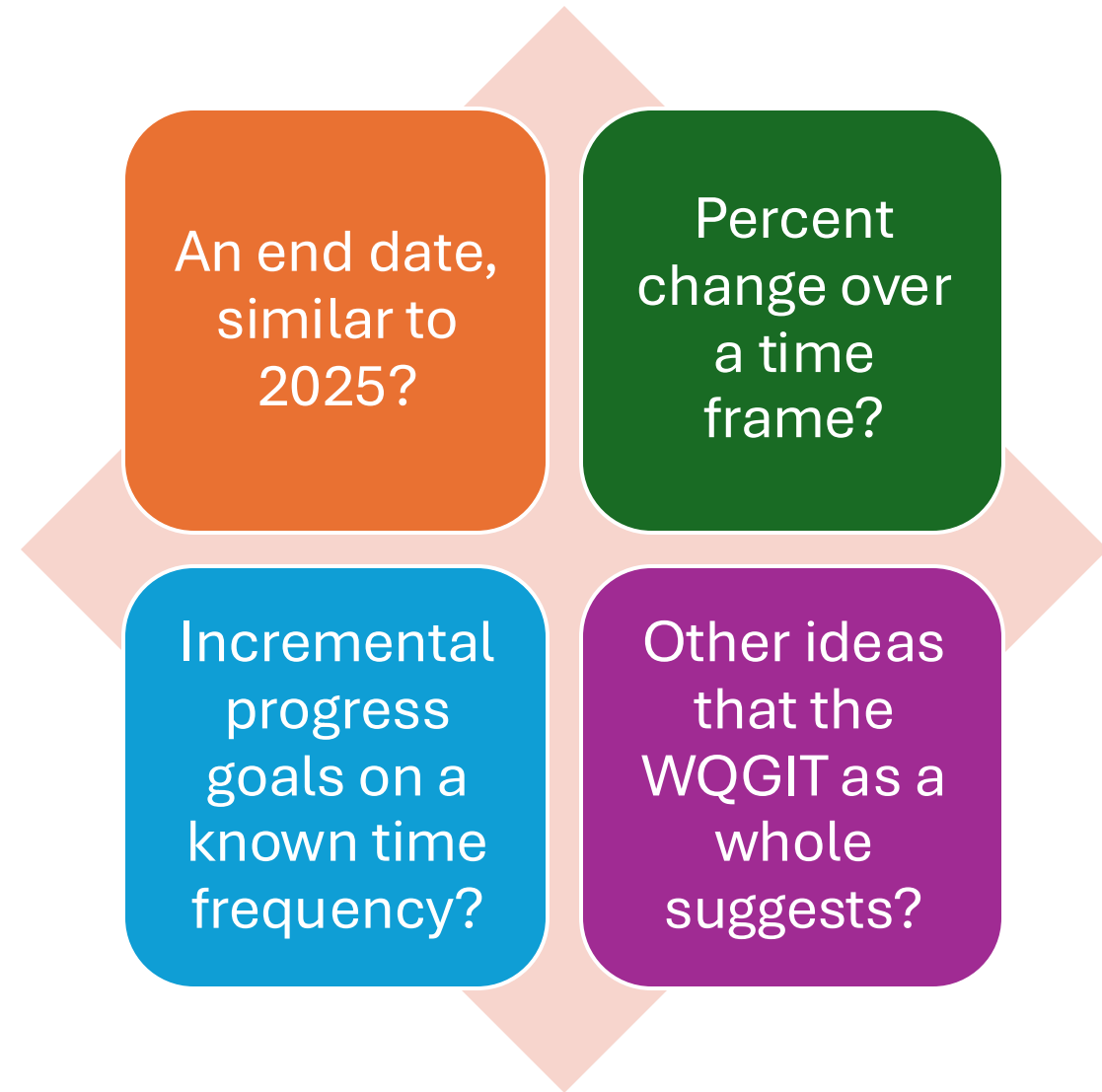
Proposed Advice on 2017 WIP Outcome

Proposal is to remove or recognize that outcome is completed

As of 2017 using the Phase 5.3.2 version of CAST the CBP partnership was on track for phosphorus and sediment and off track for nitrogen.

Looking ahead incremental check ins can be an output under the updated 2025 WIP outcome.

What does Timebound Mean to You?





Additional Feedback?

