Charting a Course to 2025

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee

September 13, 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.”**
- Science
  - Identify new and emerging scientific data and studies which could modify our progress reporting and adaptative management approach, as well as the goals and outcomes under the Watershed Agreement.
  - Define the existing and emerging challenges (e.g., climate change conditions, increasing growth, DEIJ) to accomplishing the partnership’s work under the Watershed Agreement. And how addressing these 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.
- Restoration
  - Develop and begin to implement a communications strategy that identifies key partnership successes, associated ecosystem improvements and areas where more effort is needed.
  - Provide snapshots of outcome attainability under the Watershed Agreement 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.

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

Sean Corson, former director of NOAA, 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

1

Executive Summary

- Findings
- Recommendations

2

Detailed Sections

- Phase III WIPs/Bay TMDL
- Forest Buffers/Wetlands
- Climate Change/DEIJ
- Emerging Science, Monitoring and Analysis

3

Outcome Attainability Templates

Outcome Attainability Status

OUTLOOK ON COURSE	OUTLOOK OFF COURSE
2017 WIPs *(Completed)*	2025 WIPs
Blue Crab Abundance	Black Duck
Blue Crab Management *(Completed)*	Brook Trout
Climate Monitoring & Assessment	Climate Adaptation
Environmental Literacy Planning	Diversity
Fish Habitat	Forest Buffers
Fish Passage	Student
Forage Fish	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
Land Use Metrics and Methods	Toxic Contaminants Policy and Preventio
Land Use Options and Evaluation	Tree Canopy
Local Leadership	Wetlands
Oysters	
Protected Lands	OUTLOOK UNCERTAIN
Public Access	Healthy Watersheds
Stream Health	Stewardship
Sustainable Schools	
Toxic Contaminants Research	
Water Quality Standards Attainment & Monitoring	

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 of 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.

Bay TMDL and Phase III WIPs

Targeting, tracking, roles, responsibilities, cost estimates and implementation plans are in place.

Currently have practices in place to meet 51% of nitrogen, 60% of phosphorus and 100% of sediment pollutant reductions. Not where we want to be, but this is real progress!

Threats from climate change, Conowingo Dam and increasing human and animal populations.

Non-point sources, high-impact targeting and deep-water emphasis.

Emerging Science, Monitoring & Analysis

- Implementation and response gaps.
- Challenges exacerbated by climate change and human and animal population growth.
- The Bay TMDL is here to stay.
- Need for geographic targeting to link people, living resources and water quality.

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.

Forest Buffers and Wetlands

- Develop and implement sufficient targeting, tracking and reporting systems.
- Establish criteria-driven geographic targeting coupled with restoration and maintenance cost estimates.
- Incorporate climate and DEIJ considerations into geographic criteria.
- Identify federal and state representatives to lead restoration and conservation efforts in high-priority areas.
- Build on networks to reach local communities on a regional scale and shift financial burden from private landowners.
- Split freshwater and tidal wetland outcomes in the future given the differences related to their conservation and restoration requirements.

High-Level Findings

Status of outcomes	• 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 but emphasizing nonpoint source pollution.

Conservation

Proactive protection and protecting restoration investments.

Funding

New opportunities with BIL and IRA, Climate and EJ, capacity needs.

Critical Path Forward

Non-point source focus

Stormwater and agricultural runoff.

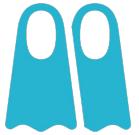
Forest buffers and wetlands.

Capacity building

Local government and private landowner engagement.

Information and technical assistance.

Decision-making, land use planning, use of science, wetlands, forests, climate and EJ.



Science

Social science strategy.

Shallow waters.

Conservation

Accelerate Protection.

Healthy Watersheds.

Protect restored areas.

Long term stewardship.

Critical Path Forward

Bay TMDL

- Phase III WIPs + climate + Conowingo
- Water quality improvements and BMP verification

Climate change

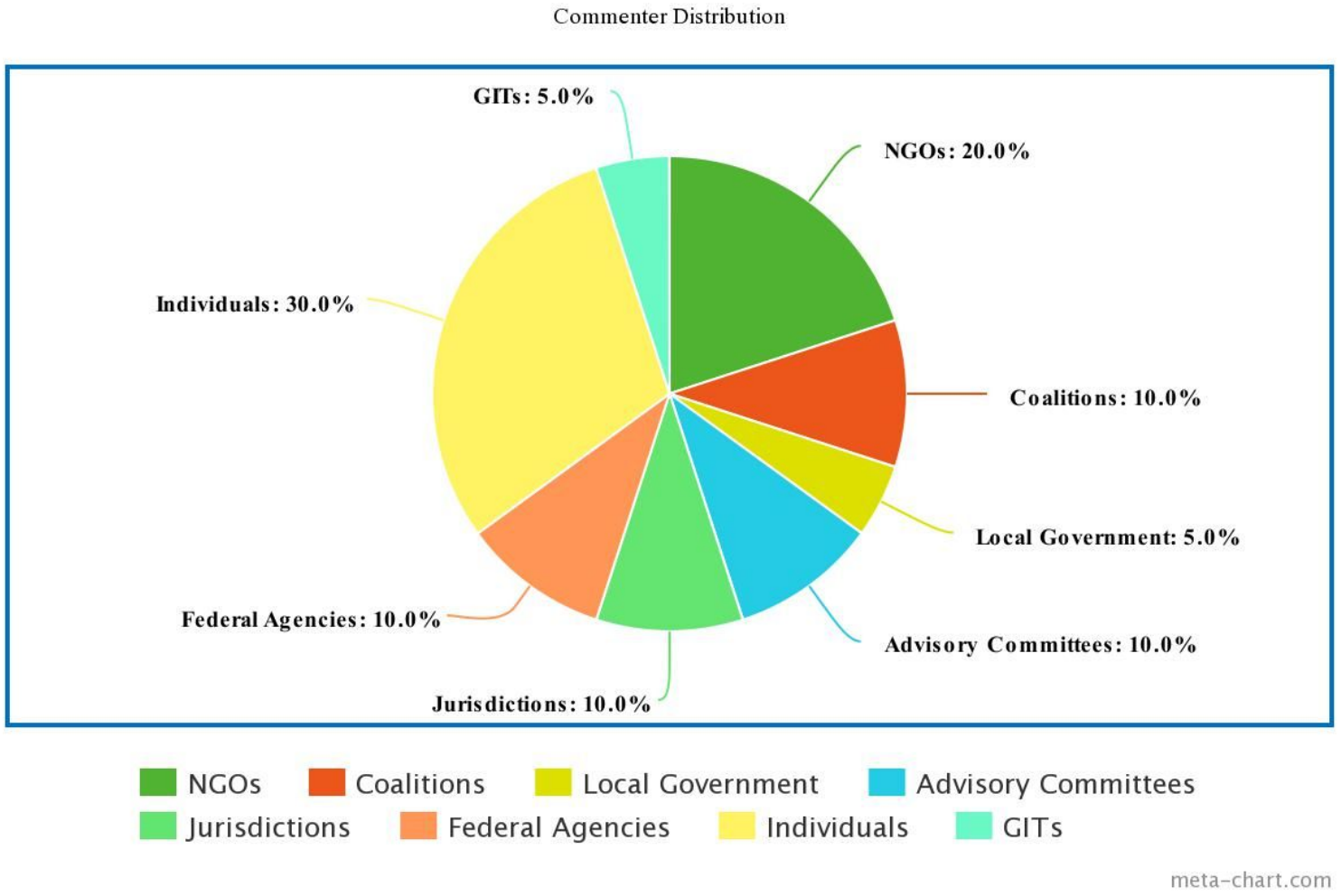
- Cross-GIT Coordination.
- iting and design of restoration and protection projects.
- Advisory Committees, Grant Opportunities, Partner funding

Diversity, equity and inclusion

- Cross-GIT coordination.
- DEIJ Strategy and Implementation, EJ Strategy –BIL and IRA

Comments

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.

What's Next?

- Will present a streamlined list of findings and 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!

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