Chesapeake Bay Program Reaching 2025

A Progress Report

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Principals' Staff Committee 7/21/2023

Executive Council Charge

Charting a Course to 2025 and Beyond

- October 11, 2022, directed to the Principals' Staff Committee
- Part 1: This report, Reaching 2025
  - Progress toward achieving the 2014 Outcomes by 2025
  - Additional focus on water quality/TMDL; emerging science, monitoring, and analysis; climate and DEIJ; wetlands and forest buffers
  - Considerations for actions beyond 2025
- Part 2: Beyond 2025
  - Process began in June

Outcome Attainment by 2025

17 Outcomes Are on Track*

Water Quality	Watersheds	Stewardship	Partnerships	CRWG
WIP 2017 WQ SAM	Land Use M&M Land Use Opt.	ELIT Public Access Sustainable Schools Protected Lands	Local Leadership	Climate Monitoring
Habitat	**Fisheries**			
Fish Passage Stream Health	Blue Crab Abun. Blue Crab Man. Fish Habitat Forage Fish Oysters			

*Two Uncertain: Healthy Watersheds and Stewardship

Outcome Attainment by 2025

12 Outcomes Are off Track

Water Quality	Watersheds	Stewardship	Partnerships	CRWG
WIP 2025 Forest Buffer Toxic P&P Toxic Research Tree Canopy		Diversity Student		Climate Adaptation
Habitat	**Fisheries**			
Brook Trout Black Duck Wetlands SAV				

Important Successes

Roughly 2/3 of the outcomes are on track

Stream Health

- Clean streams with healthy invertebrate communities
- Key support for freshwater species
- Accounting, tracking, monitoring in place

Fish Passage

- Opened 619 stream miles/2 years, far above target of 132
- Shad, herring, striped bass, eel
- Key to the economy and ecology of the region
- Key targeting and accounting systems in place

Oysters

- 7/10 tributaries complete + bonus tributary
- York River on deck this summer
- Internationally recognized success
- Generate more oysters, fish habitat, and clean and clear water

Public Access

- 231/300 access sites complete
- 21 new sites per year
- Key for equity and inclusion
- Important for public support and well being

Common Challenges

A little more than 1/3 of the outcomes are off track.
Some common (although not universal) challenges have emerged.

- Quantitative and qualitative outcomes
- Geographic and numerical targets, standardized accounting, and monitoring
- Roles, responsibilities, coordination
- Matching scope, responsibilities, and cost
- Community engagement networks
- Tragedy of the commons

TMDL and Phase III WIP

Some Clear Bright Spots Coupled with Challenges

- Targeting, tracking, roles and responsibilities, cost estimates, implementation plans in place.
- 49%N, 64%P, 100%S: not where we want them to be, but real progress nonetheless.
- Climate change, population growth, Conowingo, fertilizer
- Nonpoint, high impact targeting, deep-water emphasis

Emerging Science, Monitoring, and Analysis

Recent advances in geospatial analysis and high-resolution monitoring and modeling provide tools needed to address STAC analytical findings.

- Implementation and response gaps
- Challenges exacerbated by climate change and population growth
- TMDL is not going away
- Paradigm shift is called for employing geographic targeting to link people, living resources, and water quality

Climate and Diversity

Outcomes and Directives Common Challenges

- While good work is happening, tragedy of the commons is a concern; CBP doesn't have a good structure to work towards cross-cutting outcomes.
- The Diversity and Climate Resiliency working groups are making progress on the outcomes with some intersection with the Directives.
- The Directives are ambitious, far reaching, and appropriate but not sufficiently or consistently supported.
- The Distributed CBP network is making some additional progress on the Directives, but in an uncoordinated and unaccountable manner.
- Specific objectives/actions, cost estimates, commitments (roles/responsibilities), and accounting are needed.

Wetlands and Forest Buffers

- 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.

Conclusions

- Roughly ⅔ of our outcomes are on track and represent significant accomplishments.
- In spite of those successes, we have work to do on the remaining ⅓ of the outcomes:
  - Targeting, developing cost estimates, tracking, monitoring, and reporting are critical components of quantifiable outcomes.
  - Champions who take responsibility for leading/coordinating outcomes are critical. Often they include a federal representative along with a jurisdictional one, or in some cases an NGO. Champions often contribute and advocate for catalyzing funding, staff, and resources.
  - Developing networking systems to engage and incentivize private landowners and communities to address challenges such as nonpoint source pollution, living shorelines, forest buffers, and freshwater wetlands.

Schedule

Draft made available for public review planned for 7/19

Summary presentation for PSC 7/21

Management Board comments due 8/11

Public review closes 8/18

Final Management Board review 8/25

PSC review 8/28-9/11

Steering Committee discussion of PSC comments 9/12-9/15

Final Report to PSC 9/26