



Shaping Evaluation Questions

Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Meeting
July 27, 2023



Overview

- Process
 - Small groups to refine/develop questions
- Form the groups
- Defining Steering Committee work vs. ERG work



Objectives

- ▶ Allow for detailed discussion within a manageable group setting
- ▶ Draw on Steering Committee expertise
- ▶ Take ownership of the process
- ▶ Target: 6-8 people per group in approximately 4 groups
- ▶ Caveat: These groups are not eternal groups and are meant only for developing/refining evaluation questions



Once groups are formed

- Each group has a 60-minute discussion guided by ERG in August
 - May or may not result in specific questions
- ERG takes the outcomes from the discussions and develops draft questions
- Draft questions to the respective groups for feedback
 - Each group provides feedback on its own questions
- Progress report in August SC meeting
- Discussion/review during September SC meeting



Groups

- Read-ahead materials listed three based on the EC Charges
- Science
- External
- Internal
- Fourth group??



Science Foundations

- Aspects of the EC Charge that are focused on the underlying scientific issues.
- *S1. Identify new and emerging scientific data and studies which could modify our progress reporting and adaptive management approach, as well as the goals and outcomes under the Watershed Agreement.*
- *S2. Enhance our monitoring and reporting capabilities to improve our understanding of existing conditions and trends.*
- *S3. Define the existing and emerging challenges (e.g., climate change conditions, increasing growth, diversity, equity, inclusion and justice considerations) to accomplishing the partnership's work under the Watershed Agreement, and how addressing those challenges might alter our collective restoration priorities, including the possibility of extending the target date for completing restoration of water quality beyond 2025.*



External

- Aspects of the EC Charge that focus on how the Partnership interacts with entities outside the Partnership.
- *R1. Develop and begin to implement a communication strategy that identifies key partnership successes, associated ecosystem improvements and areas where more effort is needed.*
- *P1. Focus on moving beyond 2025 by seeking ways in which restoration can be relevant to all communities within the watershed.*



Internal

- Aspects of the EC Charge that focus on how the Partnership itself operates.
- *S4. Identify opportunities to leverage action across multiple goals and outcomes of the Watershed Agreement.*
- *P2a. Assess the overall partnership to determine whether we are effectively hearing from and listening to all stakeholders.*
- *P2b. Assess the overall partnership to determine whether we have systems of evaluation and decision-making to enable meaningful action and allocation of partnership resources.*



Fourth group?

- High level?
- Another topic?
- Intersection of topics?



Group Assignments

- Self-select into groups
- Check on balance

FOCUS GROUP 1: SCIENCE

Aspects of the EC Charge that are focused on the underlying scientific issues.

FOCUS GROUP 2: EXTERNAL

Aspects of the EC Charge that focus on how the Partnership interacts with entities outside the Partnership.

FOCUS GROUP 3: INTERNAL

Aspects of the EC Charge that focus on how the Partnership itself operates.

FOCUS GROUP 4:

Kathy Boomer (STAC)

Heidi Bonnafon (GIT6)

Katie Brownson (USFS)

Sean Corson (NOAA)

Kevin DuBois (DOD)

Terry Deputy (DE)

Kristen Fidler (MD)

KC Filippino (GIT3)

Ken Hyer (USGS)

Bill Jenkins (GIT2)

Anna Killius (CBC)

Genevieve LaRouche (USFWS)

Julia Lawson (CAC)

Jeff Lerner (GIT4)

Dave Montali (WV)

Wendy O'Sullivan (NPS)

Don Phillips (LGAC)

Martha Shimkin (EPA)

Shannon Sprague (GIT5)

Peter Tango (STAR)

Leon Tillman (NRCS)

Lauren Townley (NY)

Bruce Vogt (GIT1)

Travis Voyles (VA)

Julia Wakeling (DC)

Jill Whitcomb (PA)



Dividing up work

- Logical flow diagram
- ERG would perform the flow diagram assessment
 - Open to input/discussion
- Questions

