Planning for the Future

October 2024 AgWG
Jeremy Hanson, CRC, WQGIT Coordinator

Overview

- The Why, Who, What, and How we operate

    - 40,000 ft view → 10,000 ft view

    - Where WQGIT & AgWG fit

- Objectives:

    - Understand and appreciate the unique role and contributions of the AgWG to the WQGIT & the partnership

    - Set the stage for your own AgWG planning and conversations

"The Chesapeake Bay Program partners envision an environmentally and economically sustainable Chesapeake Bay watershed with clean water, abundant life, conserved lands, and access to the water, a vibrant cultural heritage and a diversity of engaged stakeholders."
2014 Watershed Agreement Vision

Who: A partnership of all the major players in the Chesapeake region, working collaboratively on science, policy and restoration efforts.

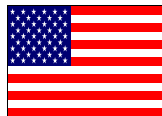NY   DC   VA   MD   PA   DE   WV

Bay Commission

Chesapeake Bay Program

Federal Partners

+ Academic Institutions   + NGOs   + Others

Ten Goals from the 2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*

1. Sustainable Fisheries

2. Vital Habitats

3. Water Quality

4. Toxic Contaminants

5. Healthy Watersheds

6. Stewardship

7. Land Conservation

8. Public Access

9. Environmental Literacy

10. Climate Resiliency

Chesapeake Progress Outcome Summary

WATER QUALITY

Outcome	Recent Progress	Outlook	
2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) Outcome	✓ RECENT PROGRESS **COMPLETED** *Updated November 2021*	✓ OUTLOOK **COMPLETED** *Updated November 2021*	→
2025 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) Outcome	📈 RECENT PROGRESS **INCREASE** *Updated April 2024*	🚴 OUTLOOK **OFF COURSE** *Updated April 2024*	→
Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome	📈 RECENT PROGRESS **INCREASE** *Updated September 2023*	🚴 OUTLOOK **ON COURSE** *Updated September 2023*	→

TOXIC CONTAMINANTS

Outcome	Recent Progress	Outlook	
Toxic Contaminants Research Outcome	📈 RECENT PROGRESS **INCREASE** *Updated October 2023*	🚴 OUTLOOK **ON COURSE** *Updated October 2023*	→
Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention Outcome	➡️ RECENT PROGRESS **NO CHANGE** *Updated September 2024*	🚴 OUTLOOK **OFF COURSE** *Updated September 2024*	→

https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/outcome-status
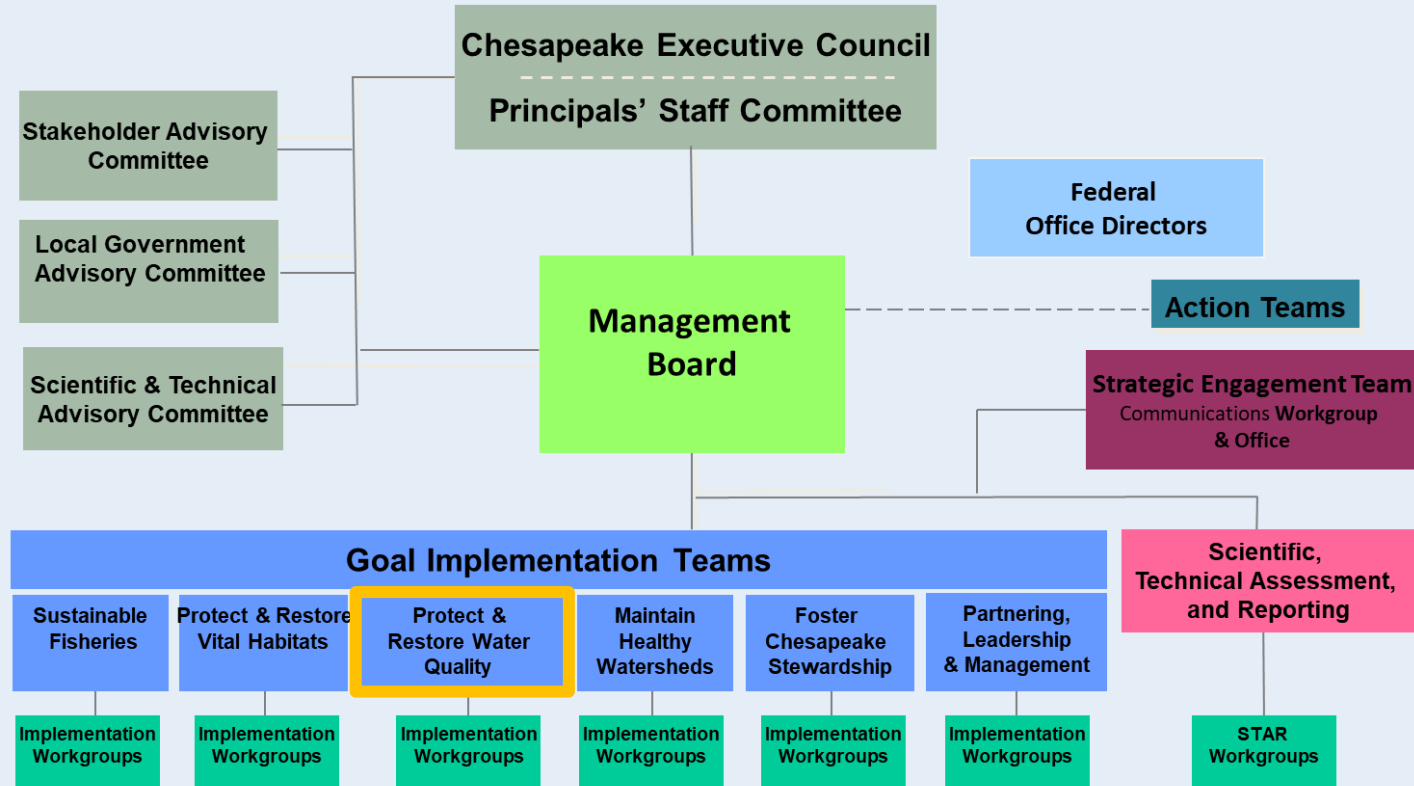
The "How"

Principles, Structure, Governance

"These principles encompass the partners' collective, core values and are intended to help guide us in our work as the partnership develops policy and takes actions to achieve the Agreement's Goals and Outcomes."

Collaborate to achieve Goals & Outcomes	Achieve Goals & Outcomes in a timely way at least possible cost to public	Represent the interests of people throughout the watershed fairly and effectively, including a broad diversity of cultures, demographics and ages.	Operate with transparency in program decisions, policies, actions and reporting on progress to strengthen public confidence in our efforts.	Use science-based decision-making and seek out innovative technologies and approaches to support sound management decisions in a changing system.	Maintain a coordinated watershed-wide monitoring and research program to support decision-making and track progress and the effectiveness of management actions.	Acknowledge, support and embrace local governments and other local entities in watershed restoration and protection activities.
Anticipate changing conditions, including long-term trends in sea level, temperature, precipitation, land use and other variables.	Adaptively manage at all levels of the partnership to foster continuous improvement.	Seek consensus when making decisions.	Use place-based approaches, where appropriate, that produce recognizable benefits to local communities while contributing to larger ecosystem goals.	Engage the public to increase the number and diversity of people who support and carry out the conservation and restoration activities necessary to achieve the Goals and Outcomes of the Agreement.	Explore using social science to better understand and measure how human behavior can drive natural resource use, management and decision-making.	Promote environmental justice through the meaningful involvement and fair treatment of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin or income, in the implementation of the Agreement

Goal Implementation Teams

Sustainable Fisheries	Protect & Restore Vital Habitats	Protect & Restore Water Quality	Maintain Healthy Watersheds	Foster Chesapeake Stewardship
Implementation Workgroups	Implementation Workgroups	Implementation Workgroups	Implementation Workgroups	Implementation Workgroups

▼ Workgroups and Action Teams

Agriculture Workgroup

BMP Expert Panels

~~BMP Verification Ad-hoc Action Team~~

~~Best Management Practices (BMP) Verification Committee~~

Federal Facilities Workgroup

Forestry Workgroup

Land Use Workgroup

~~Local Planning Goals Task Force~~

Milestones Workgroup

~~Reevaluation Technical Workgroup~~

~~Sediment Workgroup~~

Toxic Contaminants Workgroup

~~Trading and Offsets Workgroup~~

Urban Stormwater Workgroup

Wastewater Treatment Workgroup

Watershed Technical Workgroup

Not all these groups are active; their information remains online for documentation or reference

WQGIT and Workgroups allow us to ___

Convene
Connect. Network.

Share
Latest science or experiences

Exchange Ideas
Lessons learned

Learn
How things relate, compare, contrast

Evaluate
Data, findings, methods

Recommend / Decide
Changes, improvements, deliverables

Dual purpose

Community of Practice

Learn & Grow Together

Conversations
Networking
Sharing & Exchange

Harder to track or quantify

Learning

Documenting

Communicating

Adaptively Managing

Partnership Workgroup

Goal- and Output-Oriented

Investigate
Evaluate, Assess
Prioritize
Deliver

Can track or measure
Decisions
Deliverables
Partnership Deadlines

Looking ahead: WQGIT

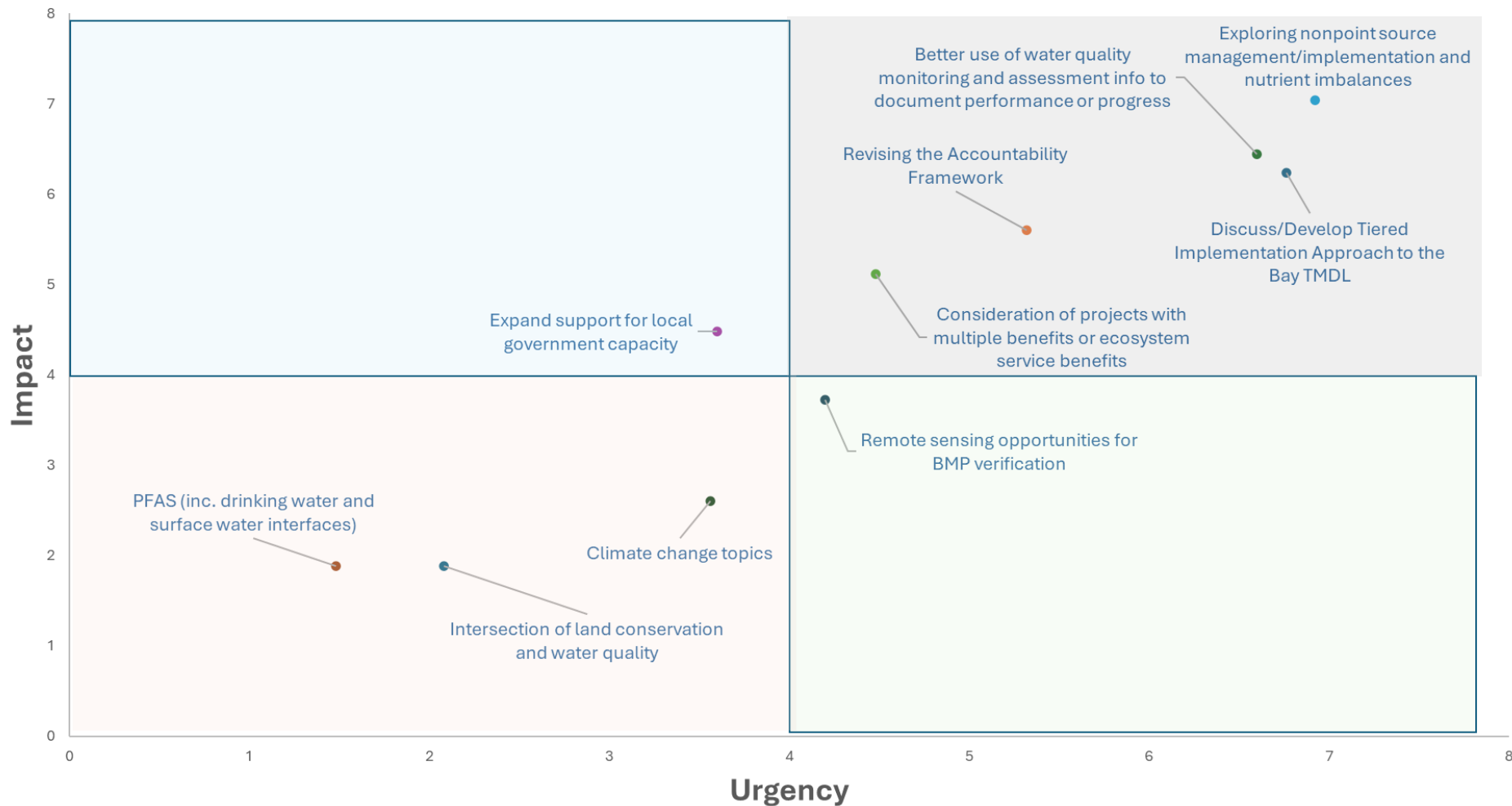- WQGIT is undergoing our own strategic planning for next 1-2 years

  - Priority topics (see next slide) include those from Beyond 2025 and the Steering Committee's Clean Water small group

- WQGIT is currently focused on milestones for "near term" post-2025 (until Phase 7 modeling tools are in use)

  - Sector specific input is always welcome

- Revisiting our Science Needs for the WIP outcome in the coming weeks-months

Urgency vs Impact for Priorities

Exploring nonpoint source management/implementation and nutrient imbalances

Better use of water quality monitoring and assessment info to document performance or progress

Revising the Accountability Framework

Discuss/Develop Tiered Implementation Approach to the Bay TMDL

Expand support for local government capacity

Consideration of projects with multiple benefits or ecosystem service benefits

Remote sensing opportunities for BMP verification

PFAS (inc. drinking water and surface water interfaces)

Climate change topics

Intersection of land conservation and water quality

Impact

Urgency

Looking ahead: AgWG (my thoughts)

- Continued work towards our shared toolbox (implementation, verification, communication, etc.) and Phase 7 model development

- AgWG has critical, unique perspectives and expertise

  - Intra-WQGIT and cross-partnership collaboration that includes agricultural expertise will remain essential (e.g., WQGIT priorities on previous slide)

- Advisory Committees do not make partnership decisions

- Sector requests related to our Science Needs

- Dual purpose of building knowledge/connections while we do the work

THANK YOU

Jeremy Hanson, CRC | CBP
WQGIT Coordinator
hansonj@chesapeake.org