Monitoring Meeting

March 19, 2025

Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring

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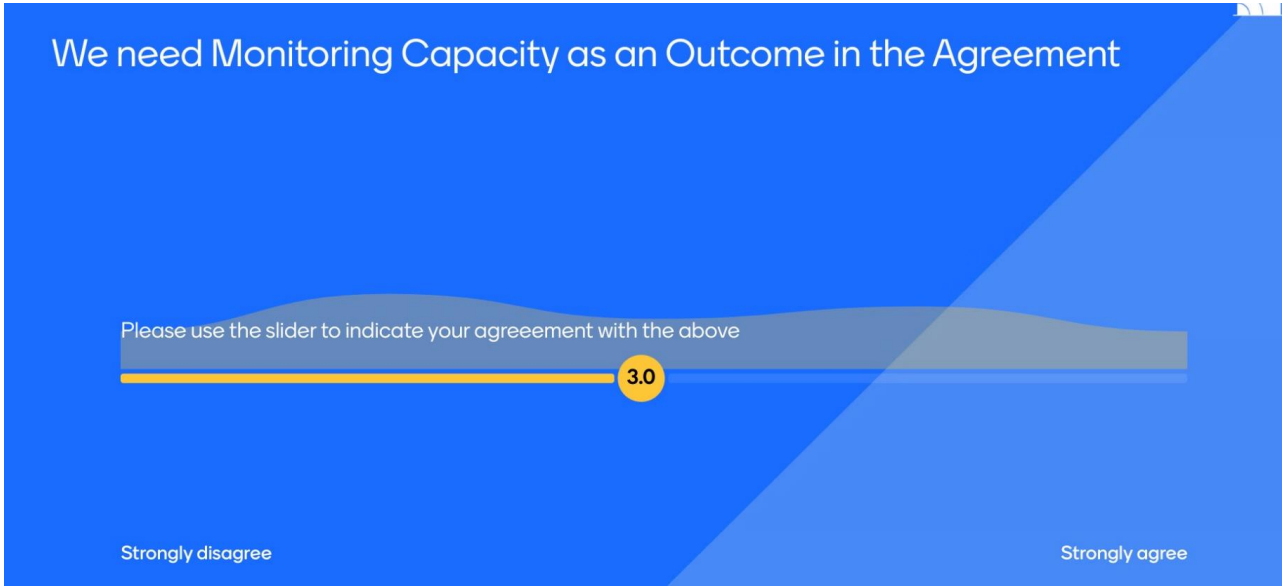
Current Outcome

Continually improve our capacity to monitor and assess the effects of the management actions being taken to implement the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (Bay TMDL) and improve water quality. Use monitoring results to report annual progress being made in attaining water quality standards and trends in reducing nutrients and sediment in the watershed.

What is your advice on the WQSAM Outcome? - Monitoring



What is your advice on the WQSAM Outcome? - Monitoring

Need monitoring in outcome

- Need to assess all tidal criteria, need to attain criteria
- Need outcome because monitoring helps with delisting segments
- Need more monitoring in the watershed

Do not need monitoring in outcome

- Current language is not an outcome – monitoring is activity
- Activities are important but not needed as outcome
- Not an outcome on ecosystem response
- Consolidate with similar outcomes

What is your advice on the WQSAM Outcome? - Results & Trends

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- Assessing the improvements made in WQ as a result of implementation is completely different from assessing WQS which is an inherent state function. Partnership should focus on data collect and trends
- We have multiple publications quantifying the pace of change now. Translate the CBP request to “accelerate recovery” based on published baselines making the outcome quantitative
- Reporting progress should not be annual – maybe every 2 years
- Incorporate monitoring results/trends into evaluation of progress/success; Broaden scope of monitoring beyond N/P/S
- Show ecosystem ends in conjunction with loads/trends, and changes in practice implementation and changes in load sources

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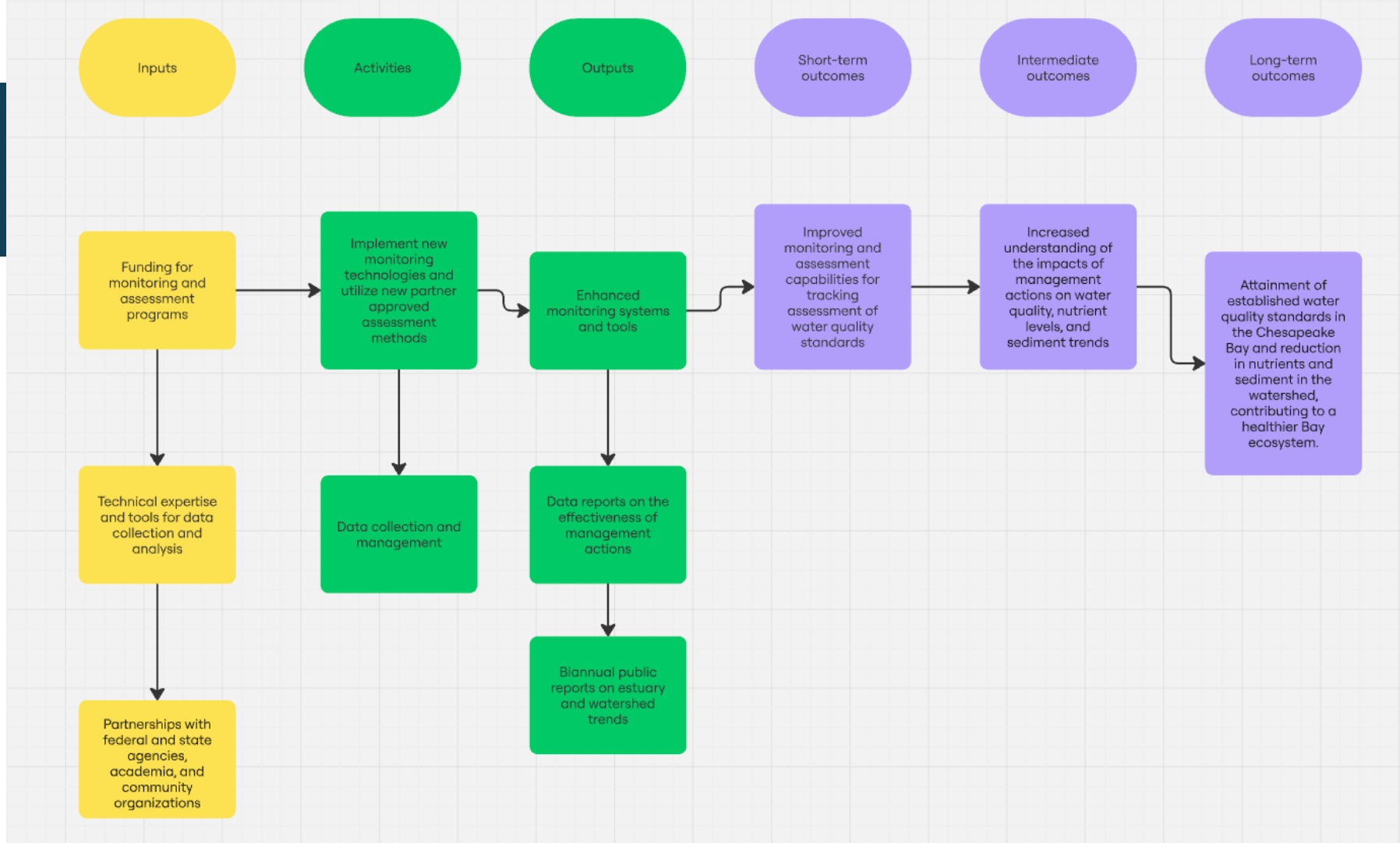
- Need to weave in attainment – assessing all established Bay criteria
- Rate progress based on tidal and nontidal
- SMART elements can be the outputs – like monitoring and trends
- Build out logic model for this outcome

Example Logic Model

- **Outcome**: Evaluate the ability of current water quality monitoring networks to characterize living resource habitats within the Bay and its tidal tributaries. Support jurisdictional partners who report on the attainment of applicable Bay DO criteria, by collaborating on development of consistent assessment methodologies that use all available data by 2030 and in every even numbered year after.
- **Outputs**: Establish a partnership-agreed-upon approach to assessing all Bay DO criteria by 2028 for reporting by 2030. Evaluate and make recommendations to ensure current water quality monitoring networks are fully able to characterize all living resource habitats of the Bay and tributaries by 2028.
- **Activities**: Re-evaluate temporal, spatial, and parametric coverage of monitoring networks every 5 years to determine if needs are met for assessment of applicable Bay criteria. Report trends in water quality every 3 years.


Inputs
Activities
Outputs
Short-term outcomes
Intermediate outcomes
Long-term outcomes
Funding for monitoring and assessment programs
Implement new monitoring technologies and utilize new partner approved assessment methods
Enhanced monitoring systems and tools
Improved monitoring and assessment capabilities for tracking assessment of water quality standards
Increased understanding of the impacts of management actions on water quality, nutrient levels, and sediment trends
Attainment of established water quality standards in the Chesapeake Bay and reduction in nutrients and sediment in the watershed, contributing to a healthier Bay ecosystem.
Technical expertise and tools for data collection and analysis
Data collection and management
Data reports on the effectiveness of management actions
Biannual public reports on estuary and watershed trends
Partnerships with federal and state agencies, academia, and community organizations