Summary of major revisions to Attainment and Monitoring Outcome Management Strategic; and Logic and Action Plan

Peter Tango, Breck Sullivan, and Scott Phillips, Update to STAR on Oct 22.

Based on discussions between STAR and the Water-Quality Goal Team leadership, here is a summary of updating the management strategy and logic/action plan for the WIP2025 and the Attainment and Monitoring Outcomes.

1. **There will be a joint management strategy for WIP 2025 and the Attainment and Monitoring Outcomes.** The management strategy will include strategic directions and interconnections for both outcomes:

    - ***2025 WIP Outcome***
      By 2025, have all practices and controls installed to achieve the Bay's dissolved oxygen, water clarity/submerged aquatic vegetation and chlorophyll-*a* standards as articulated in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL document.

    - ***Water Quality Standards Attainment & Monitoring Outcome***
      Continually improve the capacity to monitor and assess the effects of management actions being undertaken to implement the Bay TMDL and improve water quality. Use the monitoring results to report annually to the public on progress made in attaining established Bay water quality standards and trends in reducing nutrients and sediment in the watershed; as well as explanations for where progress is lagging or new science is changing our understanding of water quality responses.

2. **The factors for each outcome are being updated.** Factors being considered for the Attainment and Monitoring outcome include:
    - NEW: Conduct and enhance the monitoring needed for assessment of trends in tidal waters and watershed and ensure quality of the data.
    - EXISTING/Modify: Develop a business strategy to sustain and grow monitoring programming that supports information needs
    - EXISTING/Modify: Supporting the use of new monitoring data sources having classified their integrity
    - NEW: Analyze and report trends from monitoring and progress towards attainment
    - NEW: Improving methods to assess incremental progress towards attaining water-quality standards.
    - EXISTING/modify: Understanding the factors affecting the water-quality and ecosystem response to pollutant load reductions to focus management efforts and strategies
    - EXISTING/modify: Support the ongoing need for synthesis and communications of science findings and needs

3. **The major approaches are being updated for each outcome.** Primary approaches are being updated for the Attainment and Monitoring to address the factors.

Updated language: The Attainment and Monitoring Outcome is engaged in monitoring and evaluating

water-quality changes to assess progress toward meeting water quality standards, and explain water-quality response to implementation of nutrient and sediment reduction efforts. The major approaches to address the factors for this outcome include:

- Conduct monitoring of tidal and non-tidal water quality, and produce quality data. This would address the factors for (1) conduct and enhance monitoring, and ensure quality data; (2) developing a business plan to sustain monitoring, and (3) supporting the use of new monitoring data sources having classified their integrity
- Assess and report changes in nutrients and sediment in the Bay watershed, water-quality trends in tidal waters, and attainment of water-quality standards. This would address factors to (1) analyze and report trends from monitoring and progress towards attainment, and (2) improving methods to assess incremental progress towards attaining water-quality standards.
- Analyze and explain the factors affecting water-quality response, including relation to nutrient and reduction efforts. This approach would address factors for (1) understanding the factors affecting the ecosystem response to pollutant load reductions to focus management efforts and strategies; and (2) support the ongoing need for synthesis and communications of science findings and needs

4. **A separate logic and action plan will be developed for each outcome.** This will improve listing of actions for each major approach and tracking their progress.