

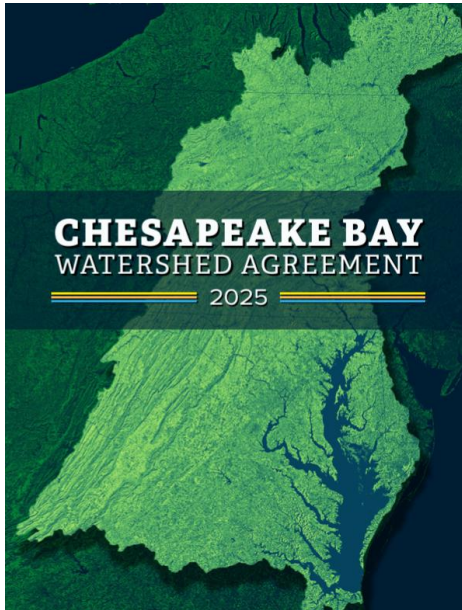


Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

May 26, 2026

Demystifying Chesapeake Bay Program Management Strategies

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (CBWA)



- “The Goals and Outcomes contained in [the CBWA] are collective commitments made by the signatories to advance the restoration, conservation and protection of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and its watershed.”
- “[Management] strategies shall outline the means for accomplishing each Outcome and its Targets...”

[Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#)

CBWA States That the MS Will Describe:

- How partners will address changing environmental conditions
- How signatories, other state and federal agencies, local governments, Indigenous representatives, **nonprofit and private partners are engaged**
- Where actions, tools, financial support and technical assistance are needed to **empower local governments and others**
- **What steps are necessary to facilitate greater participation in achieving the Outcome**

Balancing Long and Shorter-term Planning

- Management Strategies for each Goal (included within a single Strategic Plan) describe challenges to outcome attainment and the management approaches that should be pursued to address those challenges over a six-year period.
- Workplans state the actions that partners will undertake to implement management approaches over a one- to three-year period.

Sufficient implementation time
to glean impacts of strategies

Nimble response to emerging
challenges and opportunities



Strategic Plan Chapters & Sub-sections



Introduction and Accountability Chapters

- **Introduction** – state the Strategic Plan’s purpose, describe how it was developed, and provide any context needed to understand the document
 - **Accountability** – describe program-wide structures processes, and tools for accountability and adaptive management (see slides 14 & 15) as well as monitoring, assessing, and reporting progress.
-

Goal Management Strategies Chapters

- Goal Language
 - Goal Situation Analysis
 - Shared challenges for partnership to address, including Changing Environmental Conditions
 - Optional: Management Approaches for the Goal
 - Strategies that partners should collaboratively undertake to address challenges that impact multiple Outcomes within the Goal
-



Outcome Sub-Sections


- Outcome language (including targets)
- Baseline and Current Condition
- Monitoring Progress and Indicators
- Outcome Situation Analysis
- Snapshot of Signatory Programs
- Management Approaches for the Outcome
- Participating Partners

NOTE: Signatory Statutory Authorities, organized by goal and outcome, will be included, likely as an Appendix






Authorship and Approval: Strategic Plan

- Goal Team leadership will draft their Goal chapter and may delegate the drafting of Outcome sub-sections
 - Goal Teams align PSC priorities and workgroup expertise
 - Goal Team co-chairs, with support from EPA staff, will develop the Introduction and Accountability chapters, as well as the Executive Summary and any appendices.
 - The Policy Steering Committee will approve the Strategic Plan
- 




Workplans

- A separate Workplan will be produced, including:
 - Narrative summary
 - Descriptions of the major actions to be undertaken
 - Project lead and participating partners
 - Human and financial resources needed and committed, as well as potential sources to fill gaps
 - Timeline for completion
 - Performance targets and deliverables
- 



Authorship and Approval: Workplans

- A separate Workplan will be produced for each Outcome to describe the actions that will be collaboratively implemented over the upcoming three-year period
 - Outcome Authors are being identified by Goal Team co-chairs to develop each Workplan
 - Outcome Authors, designated by Goal Team chairs, will develop Workplans for Goal Team approval
 - Goal Teams will approve the Workplans for their respective Outcomes
- 

Timeline



MAY – DECEMBER 2026
Drafting

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2027
Incorporate feedback



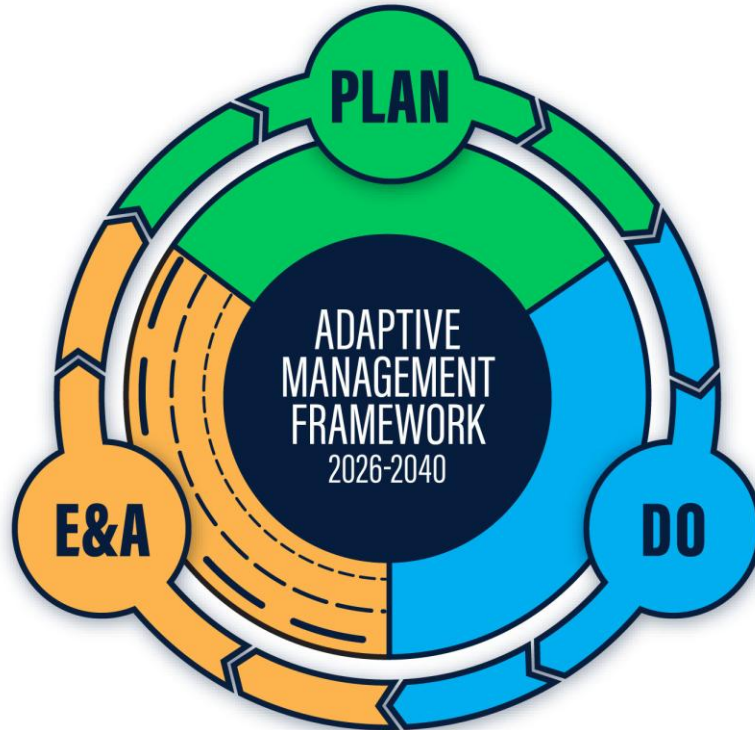
JANUARY 5 – 31, 2027
Strategic Plan
Public Feedback Period

MAY – JUNE 2027
Strategic Plan and Workplan
finalization and approval

Timeline



Accountability and Adaptive Management



PLAN

Define goals, priorities, and strategies that guide the work.

DO

Coordinate and implement initiatives, and monitor progress toward goals.

EVALUATE & ADJUST

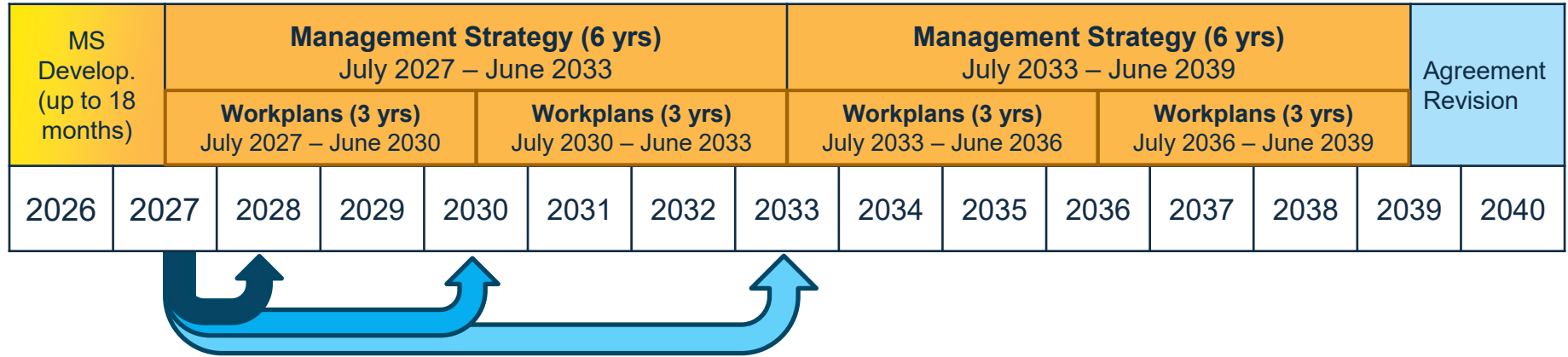
Review outcomes, apply lessons learned, and adapt accordingly.

----- Annual Check-ins

——— Triennial Review (2030 & 2036)

———— Strategy & Program Evaluation (2033 & 2040)

Accountability and Adaptive Management



- Annual Check-Ins** – extended PSC meetings that communicate progress, and address and prioritize implementation needs
- Triennial Reviews** – cross-program review & symposium to document successes and challenges and initiate new Workplans
- Strategy and Program Evaluation** – assess the current progress towards achieving the Goals and Outcomes of the Agreement, evaluate the efficacy of existing Management Strategies and identifies opportunities for improvement
- In 2040, the Strategy and Program Review will prompt revision to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement



Stakeholder Engagement



MS Development & Implementation

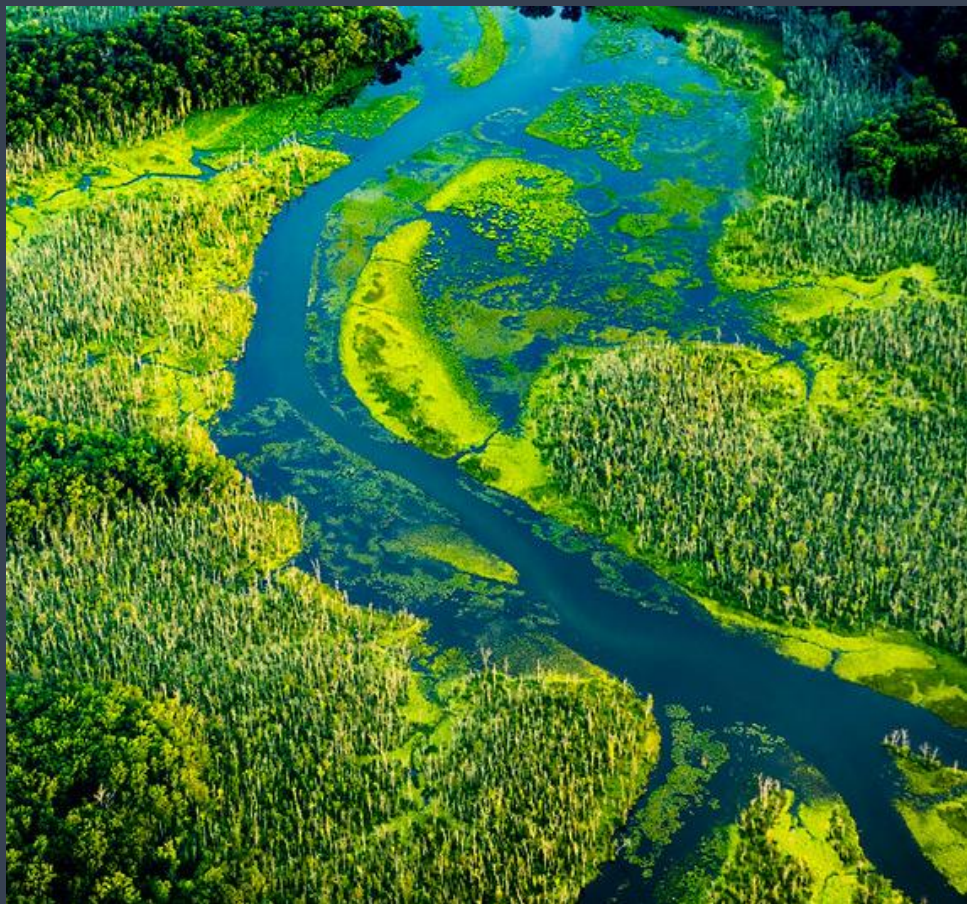
- Stakeholder groups are welcome and encouraged, as they are able, to **contribute to the development and implementation** of the Management Strategies through workgroup discussions and time allotted by Goal Teams.
 - Proposing inclusion of related language in the Introduction
 - Entities that engage in this way would be listed as “Participating Partners” in the relevant Outcome subsection(s).

Strategic Plan Public Feedback Period

- “Specific Management Strategies will be updated in consultation with stakeholders, organizations and other agencies, and will include **a period for public input and review** prior to final adoption.”
- The Public Feedback Period: **January 5 – 31, 2027**
 - Please help us spread the word in December!
- Stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback!

Guidance in the Workplan Template

- Authors should include management approaches/projects and related action(s) that seek to address where tools, financial support and technical assistance are needed to empower local governments and others and what steps are necessary to facilitate greater participation in achieving the Outcome.
 - Ex: Provide X technical assistance to Y organizations by Z
 - Ex: Collaborate with X NGOs to develop and spotlight 5 county or municipality-scale case studies highlighting Y
- In instances where specific projects aren't planned, include a narrative description of how partnership will incorporate these consideration.



Thank you!

Photos courtesy of Will Parson, CBP