

Chesapeake Bay Program
Process for Implementing the Dec 10, 2024 *Charting a Course Beyond 2025* Charge
APPROVED at January 29, 2025 PSC Meeting

Objective: Affirm the partnership's continuing commitment to meet the goals of the [2014 Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Agreement](#) by directing the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) to propose revisions to the existing agreement and a more streamlined and effective process for implementing the agreement.

Proposed Process: The December 10, 2025 [Charting a Course Beyond 2025 Charge](#) directs PSC to complete “revisions to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, not a new Agreement.” These revisions should be developed through a “transparent and inclusive process” that actively engages “Advisory Committees, academic and non-profit partners, and the general public.” The PSC Chair will lead the effort to minimally amend the agreement reflecting the Charge’s seven requirements. The PSC will take the lead on amending language to the “Vision”, “Preamble”, “Principles”, “Goals”, and “Management Strategies,” and will direct the Management Board (MB) to review and recommend consolidations, reductions, updates, removals, replacements, and additions to the “Outcomes” to the PSC. The Executive Council (EC) Charge also directs PSC to propose “a simplified and streamlined structure and process” for the partnership’s structure and governance. PSC will direct the MB to provide recommendations for such governance and structure changes.

Although the PSC and MB are embarking on parallel reviews for their respective assignments, every effort will be made to connect and integrate the work so the resulting deliverables all work together to support holistic, meaningful, and consistent recommendations to the EC. The PSC is solely responsible for making all final decisions on what revisions to the *2014 Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Agreement* are recommended to the EC.

The following is a proposed high-level process for the major activities that the PSC and MB will undertake in 2025 to implement the EC Charge.

[Blue text](#) identifies scheduled PSC meetings and major agenda items. [Red text](#) identifies scheduled Management Board meetings and major agenda items.

Date	Group	Activity
January 16	MB/PSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PSC considers initial evaluation process proposal, approves initial strategy to create structure, governance and operational management framework revisions.• MB approves milestone recommendations and Outcome review process; discusses priority projects.
January 29	PSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-depth discussion of possible revisions to Vision, Preamble, and Principles; approve proposed Agreement revision process and MB’s milestone recommendations; provide feedback on MB’s Outcome review process and priority projects.• Meeting follow-up: Chair’s team will draft possible changes to Vision, Preamble and Principles, circulate, and manage additional feedback.
February 13	MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pulse Check: First round of Outcome Assessments.
February 27	MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pulse Check: Second round of Outcome Assessments.
March 13	MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pulse Check: Third round of Outcome Assessments.
March 27	PSC/MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DECISION: MB completes disposition of existing outcomes Assessment, flagging gaps and possible novel outcomes; discuss possible changes to Goals based on Outcome status; discusses structure and governance strategy and progress.

March 28	PSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECISION: Approve proposed changes to Vision, Preamble, and Principles; review MB Outcomes update and provide feedback; discuss process for addressing public feedback; discuss possible changes to goals.
April 3	ACs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Advisory Committee briefing on current status of Outcomes.
April 10	MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECISION: Approve final Outcome disposition list and novel Outcomes; begin updates to revise Outcome language.
May 7-8 Retreat (In person strongly encouraged)	MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECISION: Finalize recommended Outcome language revisions; discuss any changes necessary for Goals and Management Strategies based on Outcomes status; discuss any changes necessary for structure and governance work.
May 23 (In person strongly encouraged)	PSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review MB's recommended Outcome revisions; discuss possible changes to Goals and Management Strategies; discuss any changes necessary for MB structure and governance work. Meeting follow-up: Chair's team will manage and circulate feedback. DECISION: Approve revised Watershed Agreement content, including Vision, Preamble, and Principles language. If needed, identify unresolved remaining needs for June approval.
June 12	MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECISION: Review PSC direction and approve final recommendations for public feedback. Structure and governance if have time.
Week of June 23	PSC/MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECISION: Short meeting for PSC to approve all <i>Watershed Agreement</i> changes for public release.
July 1	Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60-day public feedback period begins.
July 10	MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure and governance work.
August 14	MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial recommendations for structure and governance work; initial feedback review from partner engagement period.
August 20	PSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review MB's structure and governance recommendations, provide feedback; initial review of feedback from partner engagement period.
September 1	Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conclusion of public feedback period.
September 11	MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin to review, organize and address public feedback.
October 9	MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose changes to <i>Watershed Agreement</i> revisions based on public feedback; final structure and governance recommendations.
November 6	MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECISION: Approve final <i>Watershed Agreement</i> revisions and final structure and governance recommendations in preparation for EC meeting.
November 18 (In person strongly encouraged)	PSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECISION: Approve final <i>Watershed Agreement</i> revisions and final structure and governance recommendations in preparation for EC meeting.
December 11	MB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final preparation for EC meeting

Dec TBD	EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DECISION: Approve <i>Watershed Agreement</i> revisions; consider structure and governance recommendations and direct PSC on implementation of actions moving forward.
January - June 2026		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporation of structure and governance changes into Governance and Management Framework.