

Working DRAFT (7-9-13)
Draft Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
(Abridged Version for Early Stakeholder Input)

NOTE: This preliminary draft is an outline of the envisioned Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement with some preliminary goals and outcomes. This draft represents the Chesapeake Bay Program's early thinking and is intended to stimulate thoughts and ideas from stakeholders. Stakeholder input will be solicited again when a complete draft has been developed.

Section 1: Preamble - An introductory or preliminary statement that sets out in detail the underlying facts and assumptions, and explains the document's purpose, intent and objectives.

Section 2: Vision - A concise statement that defines the long-term goals of the Chesapeake Bay Program. It is intended to serve as a clear guide for choosing current and future courses of action.

Section 3: Mission - A brief statement, typically one or two sentences, that defines why the organization exists. It identifies its core purpose and focus that normally remains unchanged over time. A mission is something to be accomplished whereas a vision is something to be pursued for that accomplishment.

Section 4: Goals and Outcomes – The Goals in this agreement are the high-level, intended results towards which the Partnership's efforts are directed. The Outcomes related to each goal are the specific, time-bound and measurable targets which directly contribute to the achievement of the goal(s). (See attached for a list of proposed Goals and Outcomes).

Section 5: Management Strategy Elements: Outlines key elements of strategies to be developed by Goal Implementation Teams, with stakeholder input, for each of the outcomes in the Agreement. Calls for strategies to identify jurisdictions, federal agencies and stakeholders committed to providing leadership toward the achievement of each outcome as well as related actions and resources. Strategies to address factors influencing outcomes including adaptation to changing environmental conditions, land use change and regulatory barriers where appropriate. Reevaluate biennially.

Section 6: Principles - The principles (*values*, often called core values) prescribe the attitude, behavior, and character of the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership.

Section 7. Operational Commitments - Describes the overarching framework by which the Chesapeake Bay Program and its partners and stakeholders agree to operate. Principles and operational commitments are related and aligned with each other.

Section 8: Effective Date – Effective immediately upon signature (with Management Strategies to be developed within one year).

Section 9: Affirmation and Signatures – Affirms the Executive Council's commitment to work collectively to achieve the goals and outcomes of the agreement. Signed by the Governors of two Commonwealths and four States, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, and the EPA Administrator on behalf of the Federal government and the Federal Leadership Committee for the Chesapeake Bay (FLC).

Supplemental Materials:

- **CBP Governance Document** – Describes the organizational functions and governance for the Chesapeake Bay Program; would be an update to the 2009 CBP Governance document. Key revisions would include EPA's oversight role for the Bay TMDL and EPA's representation of the FLC in the Partnership.

Preliminary Draft Goals and Outcomes

The commitments contained herein represent the set of goals and outcomes we the signatories collectively will work on to advance restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem and its watershed. Each signatory, at its discretion, will indicate its level of participation in the Management Strategies developed to implement the outcomes depending upon relevance, resources, priorities, or other factors enhancing or limiting participation. Partnerships with other agencies, organizations, and stakeholders will be identified as appropriate. Signatories may decide to adjust their level of participation in the implementation of Management Strategies as circumstances warrant.

Sustainable Fisheries Goal: Restore, enhance, and protect the finfish, shellfish and other living resources, their habitats and ecological relationships to sustain all fisheries and provide for a balanced ecosystem in the watershed and bay.

- **Blue Crab Outcome:** Maintain sustainable blue crab population based on the current 2012 target of 215 million adult females (1+ years old) and continue to refine population targets between 2013 through 2025 based on best available science.
- **Oyster Outcome:** Restore native oyster habitat and populations in ___ tributaries by 2025.

Vital Habitats Goal: Restore, enhance, and protect a network of land and water habitats to support priority species and to afford other public benefits, including water quality, recreational uses and scenic value across the watershed.

- **Wetlands Outcome:** Restore a total of 75,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands, primarily on resource and agricultural lands, and enhance function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands.
 - **Black Duck:** Restore wetland habitats to support a wintering black duck population in the watershed of 100,000 birds by 2025.
- **Stream Health Outcome:** Restore stream health and function by 10% above the 2008 level* throughout the watershed by 2025.
 - *Note: baseline will be re-assessed.
 - **Brook Trout:** Restore naturally reproducing brook trout populations with an 8% increase in total cumulative brook trout patch area by 2025 in Chesapeake headwater streams.
- **Fish Passage Outcome:** During the period 2011-2025, restore historical fish migratory routes by opening 1,000 additional stream miles, with restoration success indicated by the presence of Alewife, Blueback herring, American shad, Hickory shad, American eel and/or Brook Trout.
- **Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Outcome:** Achieve and sustain the ultimate outcome of 185,000 acres of SAV Bay-wide. This will be demonstrated by having ___% of Bay segments achieving and sustaining their segment acreage targets for SAV by 2025
- **Forestry Outcome:** 1) Restore 900 miles per year of riparian forest buffer and conserve buffers until at least 70% of riparian areas are forested, and 2) Expand urban tree canopy by 1,000

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acres per year in a total of 120 communities by 2025.
<p><u>Water Quality Goal:</u> Reduce pollutants to achieve the water quality necessary to support the aquatic living resources of the bay and its tributaries and protect human health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIP) Outcome: Have practices and controls in place by 2017 that are expected to achieve 60% of the load reductions necessary to achieve applicable water quality standards compared to 2009 levels.• 2025 WIP Outcome: Have all practices and controls installed by 2025 to achieve the Bay's DO, water clarity/SAV, and chlorophyll a standards.
<p><u>Healthy Watersheds Goal:</u> Protect state-identified healthy waters and watersheds, recognized for their exceptional quality and high ecological value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Healthy Waters Outcome: By 2025 100% of state-identified currently healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy.
<p><u>Land Conservation Goal:</u> Conserve landscapes treasured by citizens to maintain water quality and habitat; sustain working forests, farms and maritime communities; and conserve lands of cultural, indigenous and community value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protected Lands Outcome: Protect an additional two million acres of lands throughout the watershed currently identified as high conservation priorities at the federal, state or local level by 2025, including 225,000 acres of wetlands and 695,000 acres of forest land of highest value for maintaining water quality (tracking from 2010 baseline year).
<p><u>Public Access Goal:</u> Expand public access to the Bay and its tributaries through existing and new local, state and federal parks, refuges, reserves, trails and partner sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Access Site Development Outcome: Increase public access by adding 300 new public access sites by 2025 (from the 2010 baseline).

Additional Issues for Consideration

This list represents issues on which the partnership has not reached consensus for including in the Agreement as a goal or outcome. Pending further consideration by the partnership (including the Issues Resolution Committee), these issues may be included in the final Agreement in some fashion (i.e. as a goal, outcome, operational commitment or an element in the management strategies).

- Toxic contaminants
- Agricultural conservation
- Climate change
- Environmental literacy
- Forage fish
- Crab catch share
- Sound land use planning

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- Removing barriers to implementation
- Stewardship
- Empowering, engaging and facilitating local leadership
- Social/Economic indicators
- Cost-minimization/effectiveness consideration
- Data collection, verification and transparency