

Data, Analysis & Reporting (DAR) Workgroup Meeting

August 26, 2026

10am – 12pm

Welcome

Introducing the DAR WG Leadership Team



Amanda Shaver (VA DEQ)

Co-Chair



Jimmy Webber (USGS)

Co-Chair



Kaylyn Gootman (EPA)

Coordinator



Gabriel Duran (CRC)

Staffer

DAR WG Charge



Support the Chesapeake Bay clean water goal by enhancing our understanding of monitored tidal and non-tidal water-quality conditions.



Specific objectives of the workgroup are to:

- (1) Maintain and advance the analysis, interpretation, and communication of changing water-quality conditions across the Bay and its watershed.
- (2) Integrate water-quality data and analytical insights to inform science-based management decisions.



Meet these objectives through collaborations with Chesapeake Bay Program analysts and investigators in governmental, academic, and non-profit organizations.



Work will strengthen our collective scientific insight and support transparent communication of progress towards meeting water-quality goals.

Cross-pollination of ideas.

Regular engagement with the broader research and management community.

*Aiming to meet monthly on the
4th Wednesday of every month
from 10am-12pm (former ITAT
meeting slot)*

DAR WG Membership

Co-Chairs

- Amanda Shaver
- Jimmy Webber

Coordinator

- Kaylyn Gootman

Staffer

- Gabriel Duran

Members (15)

- Signatory (9)
- At-Large (6)

Current Membership

- Signatory Members

State	Name	Affiliation	Alternate
MD	Renee Karrh	DNR	Andrew Keppel
VA	Amanda Shaver	DEQ	Joseph Morina
NY	Vacant	-	-
PA	Ashley Hullinger	PA DEP	-
DC			
WV	Nick Murray	WV DEP	
DE	Joe Schell	DNREC	Rachel Owirutsky
Federal	James Webber	USGS	Kaylyn Gootman
CBC	Vacant	-	-

- Call for At-Large Members remains open until COB, Tuesday, September 1st
 - Terms are 2-years, renewable at the discretion of the workgroup
- Please submit all nominations to Kaylyn Gootman (gootman.kaylyn@epa.gov) and Gabriel Duran (gduran@chesapeakebay.net) with the following information:
 - Contact information (name, affiliation, email)
 - Short bio (addressing the nominee's background)

Goal Teams: (pp. 15-19)



- **Leadership:** 2 co-chairs
 - nominated by the Goal Teams
 - approved by the PSC
- **Voting Members:** Up to 15
 - 9 appointed by PSC signatories
 - Up to 6 at-large confirmed by Goal Teams
- **Non-voting Members:**
 - 4 Advisory Committee reps
 - Workgroup chairs

Clean Water Goal Team: Structure

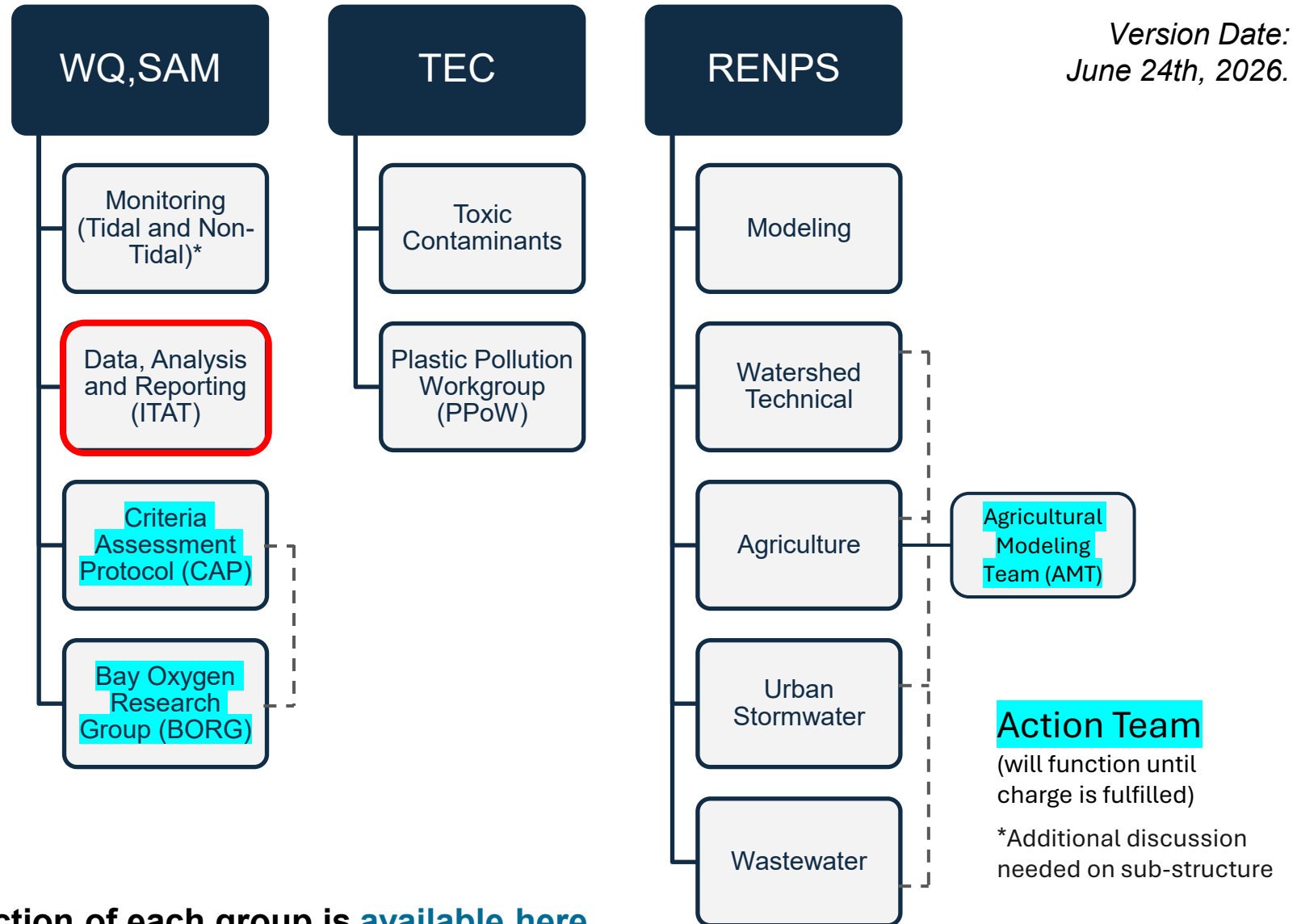
Sunsetting Workgroups

- Hypoxia Collaborative Team (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)
- Non-Tidal Workgroup (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)
- Data Integrity Workgroup (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)
- Milestones Workgroup
- Federal Facilities Workgroup (functions integrated into Watershed Technical Workgroup)

Workgroups Moving to Healthy Landscapes GT

- Forestry Workgroup
- Land Use Workgroup

More information on the proposed function of each group is [available here](#).



Main POCs

[HOW WE'RE ORGANIZED](#) > [CLEAN WATER GOAL TEAM](#) >

Data, Analysis & Reporting Workgroup

The Data, Analysis & Reporting Workgroup identifies opportunities for collaborative research that will enhance our understanding of spatial and temporal patterns in water quality.

On This Page

[Meetings](#) | [About](#) | [Projects](#) | [Publications](#)

Contact

Kaylyn Gootman (Coordinator)

Gootman.Kaylyn@epa.gov

Gabriel Duran (Staffer)

gduran@chesapeakebay.net

► [Our Members](#)

Each group's Co-Chairs, Coordinator, Staffer and Members can be found on the right panel on their webpage on chesapeakebay.net

Every group is supported by a Staffer. They keep distribution lists, create and coordinate meeting materials and are the primary point of contact for questions.

Workgroups: (pp. 19-20)



- **Leadership:** at least 1 chair, approved by Goal Teams
- **Members:** recruited, self-nominated, or recommended; approved by WG chairs in consultation with Goal Team co-chairs
 - **Voting Members:** Up to 15
 - Up to 9 PSC signatory appointees
 - Remainder: at-large members
 - Confirmed by Goal Team

What Makes an Effective Member?

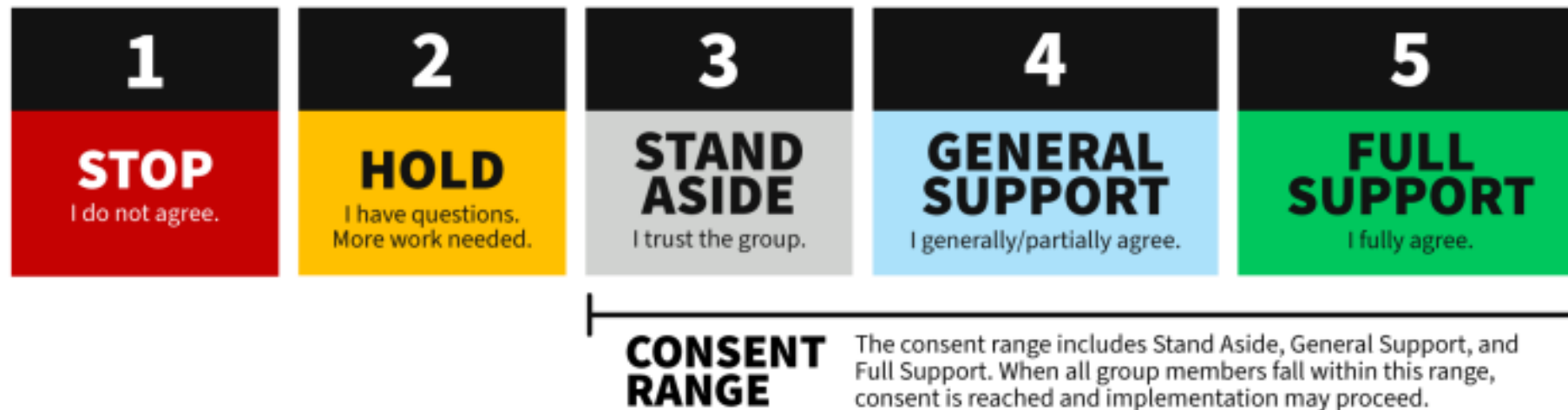
- **Attends meetings regularly**
 - If a member cannot attend, it is appreciated if they notify us ahead of time and have someone on the line to represent them (signatory members have alternates; alternates are optional for at-large members).
- **Actively participates in meetings**
 - Participates in discussions and provides feedback to the DAR WG leadership or presenters when requested.
- **Communicates with DAR WG leadership ahead of a meeting regarding concerns or objections over a certain decisional or agenda item.**
 - An open line of communication enables us to be proactive in addressing concerns or issues ahead of a meeting in order to bring forward the most appropriate and accurate information and/or proposals.
- **Conducts themselves in a professional, ethical, and respectful manner.**

Guidance from Governance and Management Framework

- Ethical Behavior Guidelines ([GMF](#), page 8)
- Additional expectations for signatory member engagement ([GMF](#), page 17 for Goal Teams and page 19 for workgroups)
- Some guidance is also outlined in this [Meeting Best Practices document](#), though this is being updated to align with the GMF.

Decision Making

Chesapeake Bay Program Decision-Making Continuum



While **consensus** (defined in the GMF as unanimous full support) is the partnership's goal, the partnership employs a **consent-based decision-making** approach. Should a decision-making body fall short of unanimous consent, the voting members may use a vote to proceed.

Consent-based Decision-Making Process

Before meeting:

1. Identify a decision is needed

- *Group leaders, with input of members, make the determination and include the topic on the meeting agenda.*
- *Agenda and supplemental materials are posted with adequate advanced notice, if required.*

At meeting:

2. Check for quorum of voting members

3. Discussion with all members

4. Form and present a decision proposal

5. Call for consent by all members*

- *If unanimous consent is reached (no member expresses dissenting views by taking a position of “1” or “2” on the decision-making continuum), the decision has been approved.*
- *If unanimous consent is not reached, dissenting members should articulate their concerns.*

6. Identify and address concerns

7. Modify proposal and call for consent by all members*

Source: [GMF 101 Webinar](#)

If Consent Cannot Be Reached...

8. Voting members will vote.

- *For a decision to be approved, a group must meet the **quorum requirements and decision threshold** for that group.*
- *Group chairs will call for each voting member to take a position: **support, oppose, or stand aside**.*
- *The decision threshold is based on the total number of designated voting members, not the number of voting members who are present.*

For goal teams and workgroups, the quorum requirement is two thirds and the decision threshold is two thirds. If there are 15 voting members, a decision is approved if at least 10 of voting members take a position of support or stand aside. If between 10 and 15 voting members are present, decision approval still requires 10 to register support or stand aside.

Current Work and Connections to the Revised Watershed Agreement

*Guides our immediate work that has been ongoing and will continue through July 2027
as we get setup and started.*

Happening in parallel to meeting our charge and objectives.

**Note, there are some natural overlaps between RENPS and WQSAM targets*

Overarching Framework (GOT)

Goal: Clean Water

Outcome: Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorous & Sediment (RENPS)

Outcome:
Toxic &
Emerging
Contaminants

Outcome: Water Quality, Standards Attainment & Monitoring (WQSAM)

Target 1

Target 2

Target 3

Target 1

Target 1

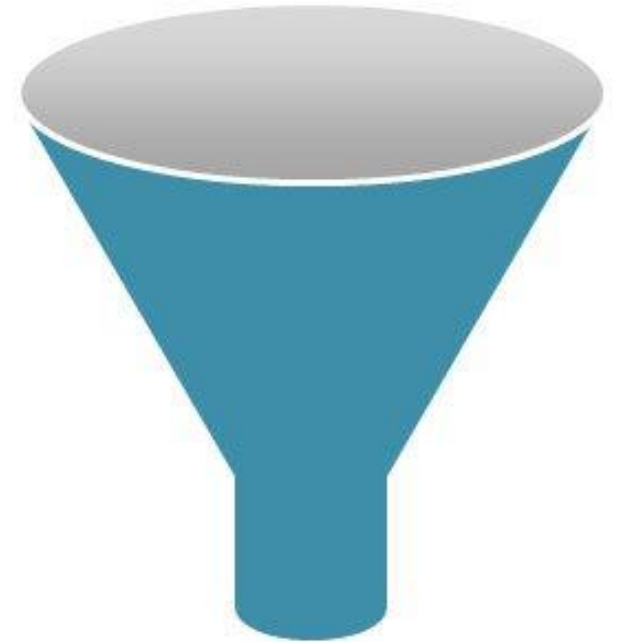
Target 2

Target 3

Target 4

Translation from Watershed Agreement to Strategic Plan

- Watershed Agreement → “What We Do”
- Strategic Plan → “How We Do It”
- Goal = Strategic Plan
- Outcome = Management Strategy
 - Targets still will be included
- Target = Workplan



Unpacking the Multiple Layers

Strategic Plan (CBP-wide)

Management Strategy (1 Goal = 1 Chapter)

1. THFW

2. Clean Water

3. Healthy Landscapes

4. Engaged Communities

Workplan (1 per Outcome*)

2.1 RENPS

2.2 T&EC

2.3 WQ, SAM

* Workplans are not included in the CBP-wide Strategic Plan. 1 workplan per outcome is prescribed in GMF; CWGT workgroups will also have workgroup-level plans. The sum of workplans will be the same, but unbundled.

Multiple Layers: Completing the Template

Clean Water goal chapter

**Situation
analysis (inc.
challenges)**

**Goal-level
Management
approaches**

Outcome level (x3)

**Baseline &
current
condition**

**Monitoring
progress &
indicators**

**Situation
Analysis inc.
challenges**

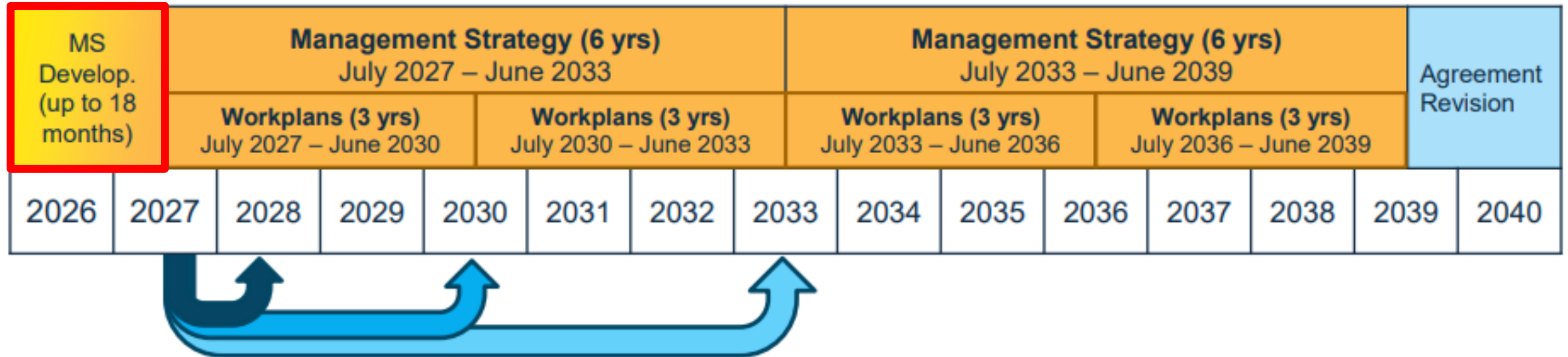
**Snapshot of
signatory
programs*

**Management
Approaches**

**Participating
partners*

Accountability and Adaptive Management

Workplans too!



- 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

Development Timeline



Source: [Demystifying Management Strategies](#)

What do you
want to get out
of the DAR WG?



Management Approaches Connect to Outcome Targets

*Foothold/linkage to the Watershed Agreement and Direct Our Work as DAR WG
Provides guardrails for our DAR WG Workplans*



Outcome: Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorous & Sediment

Implement and maintain practices and controls to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment. These reductions are necessary to achieve the applicable water quality standards, as described in the Bay TMDL. Those water quality standards support living resources and protect human health, as required by the Clean Water Act.

Targets and Draft Management Approaches

Demonstrate net reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment through multiple lines of evidence, including modeling and monitoring data.

- Management Approach 2.3.3: Maintain and Advance Water Quality Data Analysis to Address Information Gaps and Inform Science-Based Management Decisions
- Management Approach 2.3.4: Improve Monitoring to Model Integration and Transparency
- Management Approach 2.3.5: Develop Unified Progress Narratives and Communication Products Across Audiences and Scales



Outcome:

Water Quality, Standards Attainment & Monitoring

Measure changing water quality conditions by maintaining monitoring networks and tracking our collective progress toward achieving clean water throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

Targets and Draft Management Approaches

Maintain full core monitoring network operations (i.e., nontidal water quality, SAV, tidal water quality, benthic and community science) annually to support analysis and communication of water quality loads, trends and criteria attainment.

- Management Approach 2.3.1: Sustain and Strengthen Core Partnership Monitoring Networks

Develop and expand partnership-approved approaches for assessing whether water quality criteria are being met for all designated uses. For dissolved oxygen criteria, establish an approved method by 2028 and apply the method for data analysis and reporting by the end of 2030.

- Management Approach 2.3.2: Develop and Implement Decision Rules for Assessing Water Quality Criteria for All Designated Uses

Targets and Draft Management Approaches

Maintain or exceed the rate of improvement in the water quality standards attainment indicator relative to the 1985-2022 baseline.

- Management Approach 2.3.2: Develop and Implement Decision Rules for Assessing Water Quality Criteria for All Designated Uses
- Management Approach 2.3.6: Maintain or Exceed the Rate of Improvement in the Water Quality Standards Attainment Indicator

Analyze and report status/loads, trends and factors affecting those trends for nontidal and tidal water quality

- Management Approach 2.3.3: Maintain and Advance Water Quality Data Analysis to Address Information Gaps and Inform Science-Based Management Decisions
- Management Approach 2.3.4: Improve Monitoring to Model Integration and Transparency
- Management Approach 2.3.5: Develop Unified Progress Narratives and Communication Products Across Audiences and Scales

Open Discussion:

DAR WG Operations

How do we ensure we are meeting our Targets?

1. Invited Talks

- Ask that presenters start with why this topic matters/connects to CW Outcomes/DAR WG

2. Survey to Members (Semi-Annually or Annually?)

- What topics do you want to hear about at the DAR WG?
- Is there science that you want to hear more about at the DAR WG?

3. Others?

How would you like to interact with Monitoring WG, Modeling WG, other RENPS WG's?

Other ideas?

Plans for DAR WG September 23rd Meeting

- Membership
- Scope & Purpose
 - Workplan Timeline – Due Spring 2027 to CWGT?
- USGS Presentation

THANK YOU