Data, Analysis & Reporting (DAR) Workgroup Meeting

October 28, 2026

10am – 12pm

Agenda

- Welcome & Announcements
- Updates to DAR Membership
- Clean Water Goal Team Meeting Debrief (Sept/Oct)
- DAR Workplan Expectations and Timeline
- DAR Workplan Brainstorm & Discussion
- DAR Winter Meeting Plans
- Adjourn

Welcome

Update to DAR WG Membership

A Reminder of the 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.

DAR WG Membership

Leadership Team

Co-Chairs: Amanda Shaver (VA DEQ), Jimmy Webber (USGS)

Coordinator: Kaylyn Gootman (EPA)

Staffer: Gabriel Duran (CRC)

Signatory Members

PA – Ashley Hullinger (PA DEP)

MD – Renee Karrh (MD DNR)

DE – Joe Schell (DE DNREC)

DC - *TBD*

VA – Amanda Shaver (VA DEQ, co-chair)

WV – Nick Murray (WV DEP)

Fed – Jimmy Webber (USGS, co-chair)

At-Large Members

Qian Zhang (UMCES, CBPO)

Rebecca Murphy (UMCES, CBPO)

Jon Duncan (PSU)

David Parrish (VIMS)

Carly Maas (USGS)

Jamie Shallenberger (SRBC)

Becky Monahan (MDE)

Liz Chudoba (Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay / Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative)

Clean Water Goal Team Meeting Debrief

September Clean Water Goal Team Recap

- Clean Water Goal Team September meeting was hybrid with in-person participation at the CBP Office in Annapolis, MD.
- Day one: Phase 7 Decisions
  - *Approved* Changing the Scenario Base Year to 2022 and accounting for growth using method 2022A.
  - *Approved* changing the Hydrologic Period to 1998-2007 and Critical Period to 2004-2006 (link).
  - *Approved* moving forward with the wastewater E3 proposal as was presented on 9/28.

September Recap Cont'd...

- Day Two: Management Strategies and Workgroup Workplans
  - *Approved* the draft Management Strategies for the RENPS, TEC and WQ,SAM outcomes for recommendation to the Policy Steering Committee.
  - *Approved* moving forward with the REVISED Ag/Forestry compromise E3 proposal (link).
  - *Approved* the remaining E3 Scenarios.

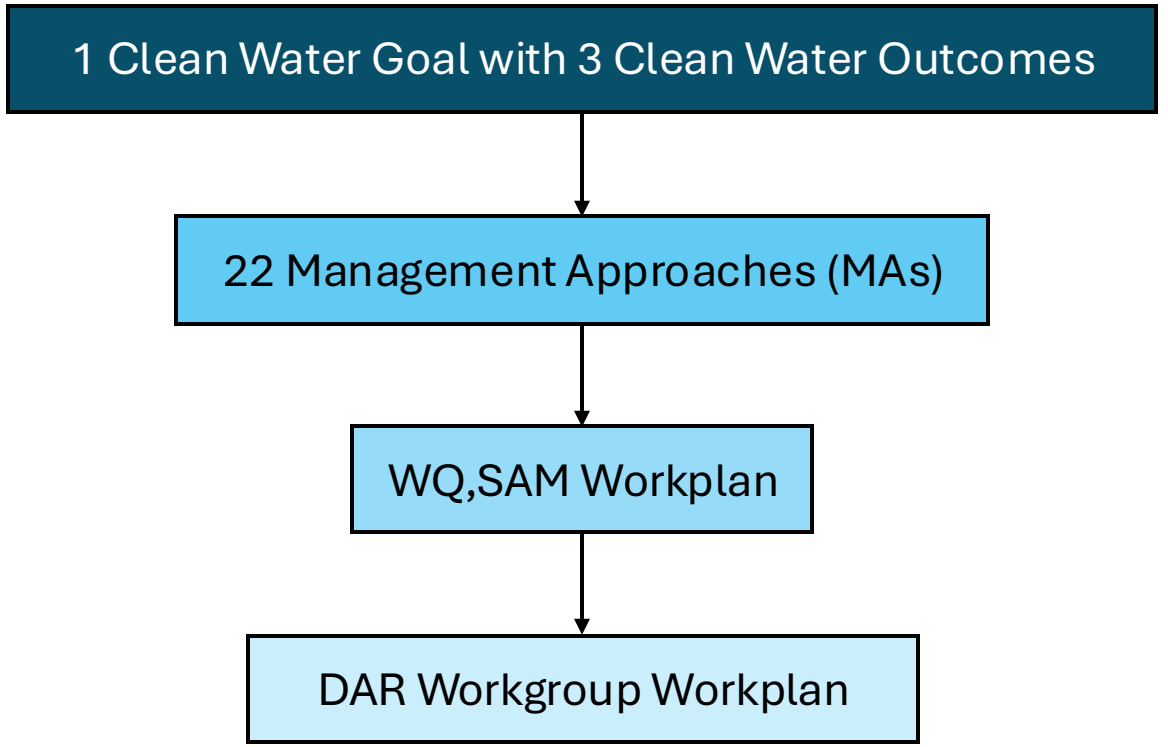
October Clean Water Goal Team Recap

- Discussion on Decision-Making Process through the Clean Water Goal Team.
- Final *approval* of the land use forecast in the Chesapeake Bay Land Change Model (CBLCM) for Phase 7.
- 4D Interpolator Primer from Peter Tango (USGS).
- Update to the Phase 7 suite of models timeline and Partnership and STAC year-of-review.

DAR Workplan Expectations and Timeline

Workplans

- Each Workgroup will have its own workplan.
- Workplans will describe collaborative actions and products by Chesapeake partners that address specific Management Approaches (MAs).
- Workplans will cover a 3-year period: July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2030.
- Workplans can be edited annually.
- Workplans should include all relevant activities that are planned or would be important to complete, but don't have available resources.
  - There is no planned Goal Team funding to support workplan activities.
- Workgroup workplans will be "rolled up" into Outcome workplans
  - Clean Water Workgroups: n= 12
  - Clean Water Outcomes: n = 3 (RENPS, WQ,SAM, and TEC)



Timeline

Developing the DAR Workplan will be our primary focus through February 2027.

- **November:** Workgroups submit **"High-level workplan ideas"** to the Clean Water Goal Team
- **December – January:** Workgroups develop workplans
- **February:** Workgroups complete workplans
- **March:** Workgroup workgroups are "rolled up" into Outcome workplans and presented to the Clean Water Goal Team
- **April – May:** Clean Water Goal Team reviews/approves Outcome workplans.
- **June:** PSC reviews/approves "Strategic Plan" (Goal-level workplans)

DAR Workgroup Meetings:

1. October 28th
2. November 18th ← **"High-level workplan ideas" due November 30**
3. January 27th
4. February 24th ← **DAR workplan due March 1**

What Does a Workplan Look Like?

Workplans will be written in an Excel table format.

- One row = one activity.
- Workplans should succinctly describe major actions that will be implemented over the next 3 years.

Activity Number	Lead Signatory and Participating Partners	Actions	Resource Needed, Committed, and Potential Sources to Fill Gaps	Target Date	Performance Targets and Deliverables	Status Activity Completion
Management Approach 2.3.4: Improve Monitoring to Modeling Integration and Transparency	**Lead: DAR WG** Signatories: [name signatory partners or partner agencies who will participate] Other Partners: [list non-signatory partners who will participate]	[describe the major actions]	Needed: [how much money or other support will be needed to complete this action] Committed: [how much money or other support is committed to complete this action] Filling Gaps: [how will the partnership fill gaps between resources needed and committed]	[timeline to complete]	[list performance targets and deliverables]	[not started/ ongoing / completed]

The Immediate Ask: “High-Level Ideas”

Workgroups are expected to develop “high-level bullet points” describing the major activities they plan to undertake during the 3-year workplan period to advance the applicable management approaches.

- This bulleted list is due to the Clean Water Goal Team by November 30th.
- The Goal Team will discuss Workgroup bullets at their December 14th meeting.
- Workgroups are encouraged to work with other workgroups to develop activity bullet points and subsequent workplan descriptions. Please indicate if a bullet is shared with another workgroup.
- Bullets should be a ~1-sentence description of the action and expected deliverable.

WQ,SAM

Water Quality, Standards Attainment and 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.

- **Target 1:** 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.
- **Target 2:** 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.
- **Target 3:** Maintain or exceed the rate of improvement in the water quality standards attainment indicator relative to the 1985-2022 baseline.
- **Target 4:** Analyze and report status/loads, trends and factors affecting those trends for nontidal and tidal water quality.

WQ,SAM is one of three outcomes that represent the “Clean Water” Goal:

Reduce pollutants entering the Bay and its rivers to achieve the water quality necessary to support aquatic life and wildlife, and support human health.

DAR Priorities

The DAR workplan will address Clean Water Management Approaches, as well as priorities requested by the Clean Water Goal Team

Management Approaches to be led by DAR:

- 2.3.4: Maintain and advance water-quality data analysis to address information gaps and inform science-based decision making.
- 2.3.5: Improve monitoring to model integration and transparency.
- 2.3.6: Develop unified progress narratives and communication products across audiences and scales.

Additional Management Approaches that DAR will support:

- 2.1.7 Incorporate additional lines of evidence into progress
- 2.3.3 Maintain or exceed improvements in WQSA indicator

DAR Priorities requested by the Clean Water Goal Team (received 10/16):

- "Strengthen integration between modeling and monitoring by improving alignment of modeled and observed nutrient and sediment loads." (MA 2.3.5)
- "Evaluate and refine Clean Water indicators to improve their effectiveness, clarity, and ability to communicate progress; consider how to elevate monitoring data in more holistic progress assessments." (MA 2.3.4)

Clean Water Goal Team Management Approaches

Outcome	MA	Summarized Description	Lead	Support
Clean Water Goal	2.0.1	Improve CWGT and WG effectiveness	CWGT	
	2.0.2	Expand local capacity and technical assistance	CWGT	
	2.0.3	Assess and integrate jurisdictional data to improve model	CWGT	
RENPS	2.1.1	Complete P7 model	CWGT	All CW WGs
	2.1.2	Revise planning targets	CWGT	Modeling WG, WTWG, Sector WGs
	2.1.3	Develop WIPs	CWGT	Sector WGs
	2.1.4	Implement P3 WIPs	CWGT	All CW WGs
	2.1.5	Explore tiered implementation	CWGT	Modeling WG, Mon. WG, CAP
	2.1.6	Strengthen adoption and performance of nonpoint source BMPs	Sector WGs	Modeling WG, WTWG
	2.1.7	Incorporate additional lines of evidence into assessments of progress	CW GT	Modeling WG, Mon. WG, **DAR**
TEC	2.2.1	Share information on contaminants	TCWG	
	2.2.2	Synthesize and share research about BMPs	TCWG	
	2.2.3	Strengthen collaborations	TCWG	
	2.2.4	Support development of plastics monitoring program	PPoW	
	2.2.5	Continue plastics research and share findings	PPoW	
	2.2.6	ID and implement plastics BMPs	PPoW	
WQ,SAM	2.3.1	Sustain monitoring	Mon. WG	CWGT
	2.3.2	Develop and implement water-quality criteria decision rules	CAP	BORG
	2.3.3	Maintain or exceed improvements in WQSA indicator	Mon. WG	**DAR**
	2.3.4	**Advance analysis to inform decision making**	**DAR**	Mon. WG, Modeling WG
	2.3.5	**Monitoring & modeling integration**	**DAR**	Mon. WG, Modeling WG, WTWG
	2.3.6	**Clear communication**	**DAR**	Mon. WG, WTWG

Full Description of MA's Led by DAR

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 2.3.4: MAINTAIN AND ADVANCE WATER QUALITY DATA ANALYSIS TO ADDRESS INFORMATION GAPS AND INFORM SCIENCE-BASED MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

Narrative Summary: Develop partnership-supported integrated analytical tools that deliver actionable insights about pollutant loads and water-quality concentrations in the watershed and the Bay, in particular, by evaluating the effects of environmental conditions, watershed properties, human activities, and management practices. These insights will enhance the partnership's ability to analyze, interpret, and communicate changing water-quality conditions and their drivers. These tools will strengthen consistent interpretation across the Bay and its watershed and translate monitoring insights into clear, science-based information that supports management decisions.

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 2.3.5: IMPROVE MONITORING TO MODEL INTEGRATION AND TRANSPARENCY.

Narrative Summary: Improve integration of partnership monitoring data into partnership-maintained modeling tools and provide clear documentation explaining how monitoring data inform load forecasts, watershed planning, and Outcome attainment. This integration will help the partnership evaluate the modeling accuracy, improve future modeling tools, and use monitoring data to more clearly evaluate progress towards attaining clean-water goals.

Full Description of MA's Led by DAR

MANAGEMENT APPROACH 2.3.6: DEVELOP UNIFIED PROGRESS NARRATIVES AND COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS ACROSS AUDIENCES AND SCALES.

Narrative Summary: Compute concentrations, loads, and trends of water-quality conditions in the watershed and the Bay and strengthen the partnership's communication of these monitoring-based results and trends, as well as translation of monitoring results into actionable insights. Develop and deliver clear, audience-specific communication tools that explain not only how conditions are changing, but – through enhanced water-quality analyses – why they are changing. Communicating water-quality patterns and drivers across jurisdictions promotes increased understanding of progress, supports adaptive management, and clarifies the roles of management actions and external environmental forces.

DAR Workplan Development and Brainstorm

High level Ideas – Brainstorming Session

- Join our Miro Board to add your ideas.

DAR Workplan "High-Level Ideas" Miro Board

DAR Winter Plans

DAR Winter Plans

- November Meeting: Moved to **November 18th**
  - Continue to generate/review high level actions to share with CWGT by November 30.

- December Meeting: Cancelled – Happy Holidays!

- Reconvene in January to continue drafting DAR workplan

Our next DAR WG Meeting will be held on November 18 , 2026, from 10am – 12pm