



# Chesapeake Bay Program Beyond 2025

Katie Brownson, USFS

# Beyond 2025 Steering Committee Planned Product For EC2024

## Where we are

### Summary of where we are with the 2014 Watershed Agreement

- Charting a Course to 2025, Chesapeake Progress: Outcome Attainability
- CESR, Rising Temperatures, Forest Buffers & Wetlands Conference Reports, meeting reports, Advisory Committee recommendations, and more.

## Where do we want to be

### Vision

- Current Partnership Vision – Reaffirm? Refine?

## What we do

### Impact assessment

- What is the ability of our Partnership to positively impact each goal and outcome?
- Do we have the right outcomes for our goals and the right goals for our vision?

## How we work

### Assessment of our overall partnership

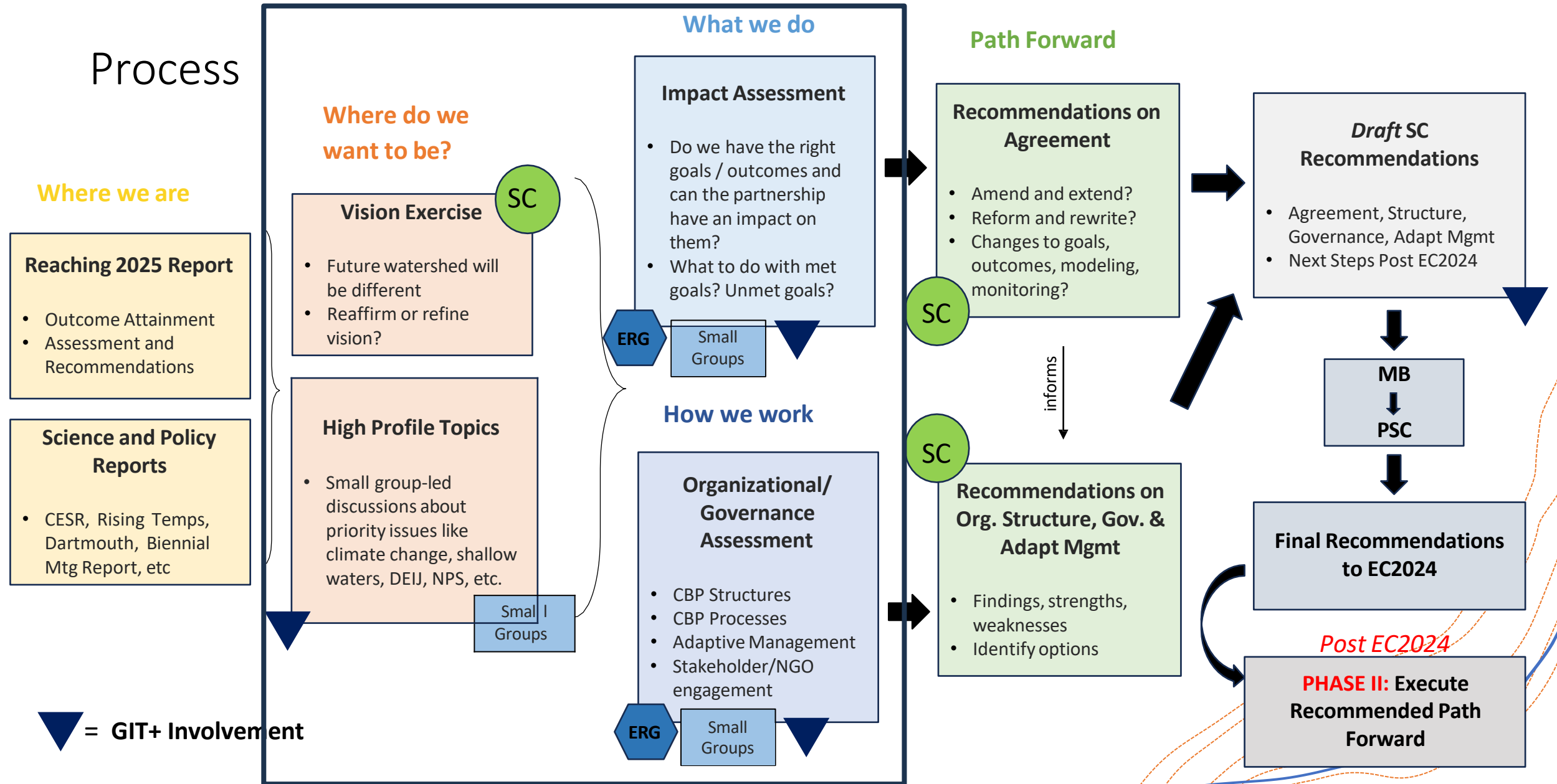
- Partnership Structure
- Governance and Adaptive Management

## Path Forward

### Recommendation on what to do with the Watershed Agreement post-2025

### Recommendations on the Partnership

# Process



# Small Groups

- **Purpose:** Guide the B25 Steering Committee in forming recommendations around cross-cutting, high-level topics that have arisen in the EC Charge and partnership reports
- **Topics:**
  - Climate
  - Healthy Watersheds
  - Clean Water
  - People
  - Shallow Water Habitats



# CLIMATE SMALL GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

# CLIMATE SMALL GROUP MEMBERS

- Breck Sullivan (Co-Chair), USGS
- Bo Williams (Co-Chair), EPA
- Lewis Linker, EPA
- Julie Reichert-Nguyen, NOAA
- Chris Guy, FWS
- Ashley Kelly, DOD
- Katie Brownson, USFS
- Jackie Specht, MD DNR
- Kathy Boomer, Foundation for Food & Agriculture
- Ruth Cassilly, UMD
- Rosa Hance, Choose Clean Water Coalition
- Sharon Baxter, VA DEQ
- Ben McFarlane, Hampton Roads Planning District
- Joseph Galarraga, TNC
- Jay Ford, CBF



# Climate Small Group: SCOPE AND PURPOSE

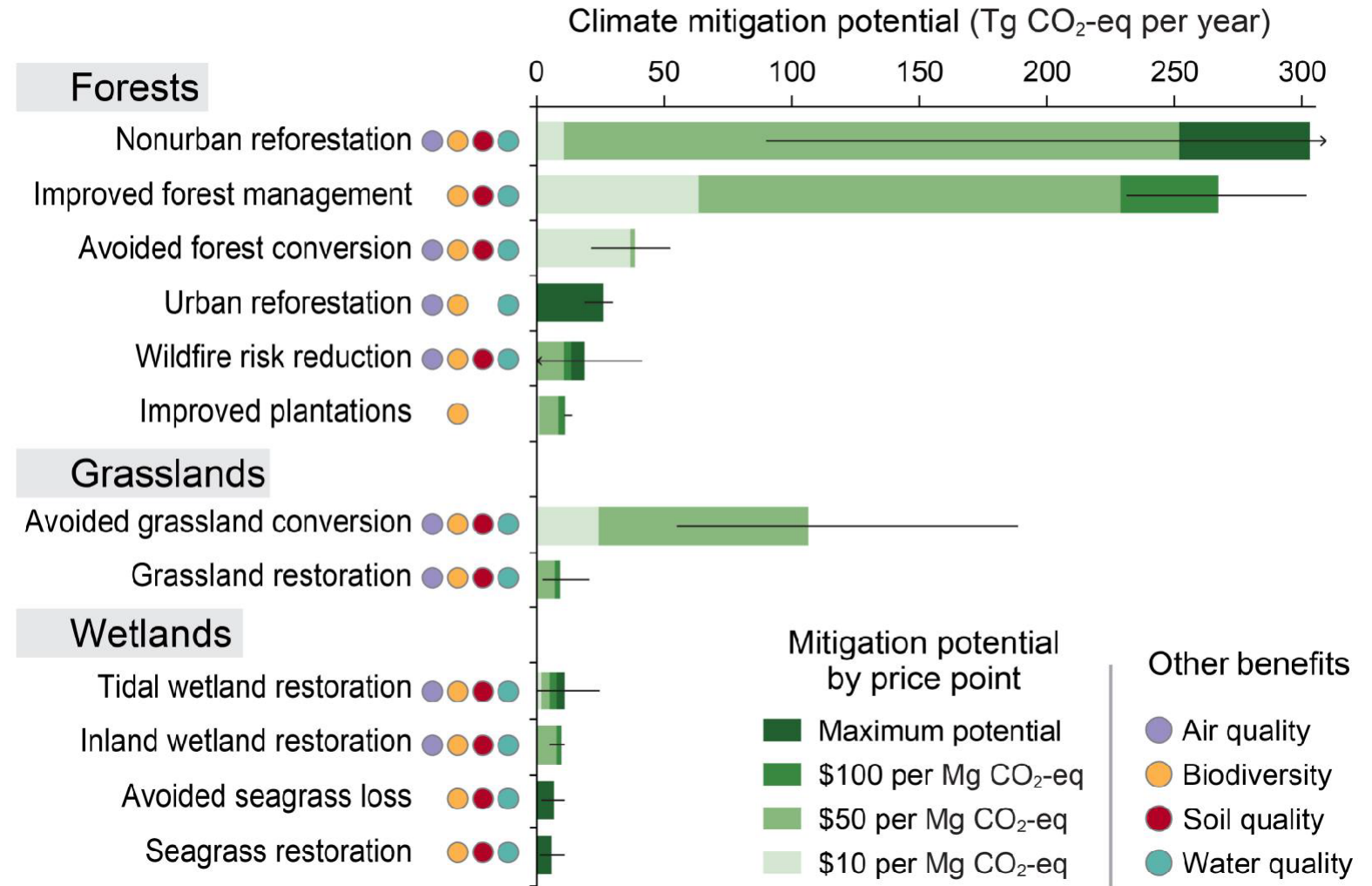
Providing recommendations to transform Chesapeake Bay Program **partnership policies, programs, and projects** to address the significant ongoing and future impacts climate change will impose on the **Bay and its watershed and people across generations**. These recommendations should include strategies to better incorporate **climate adaptation, resiliency, and mitigation** across the watershed and tidal Bay.

1. Develop and Implement a Framework for a Climate Adaptive Bay of the Future
2. Improve Resilience of Communities to Key Regional Climate Vulnerabilities
3. Promote Carbon Stewardship as a Holistic Approach to Climate Mitigation
4. Promote Strategies for Healthy and Productive Ecosystems Under Changing Climate Conditions
5. Promote Regenerative Agricultural Production and Regionally Based Food Systems in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed



# Promote Carbon Stewardship as a Holistic Approach to Climate Mitigation

## Climate Mitigation Potential of Nature-Based Solutions in 2025



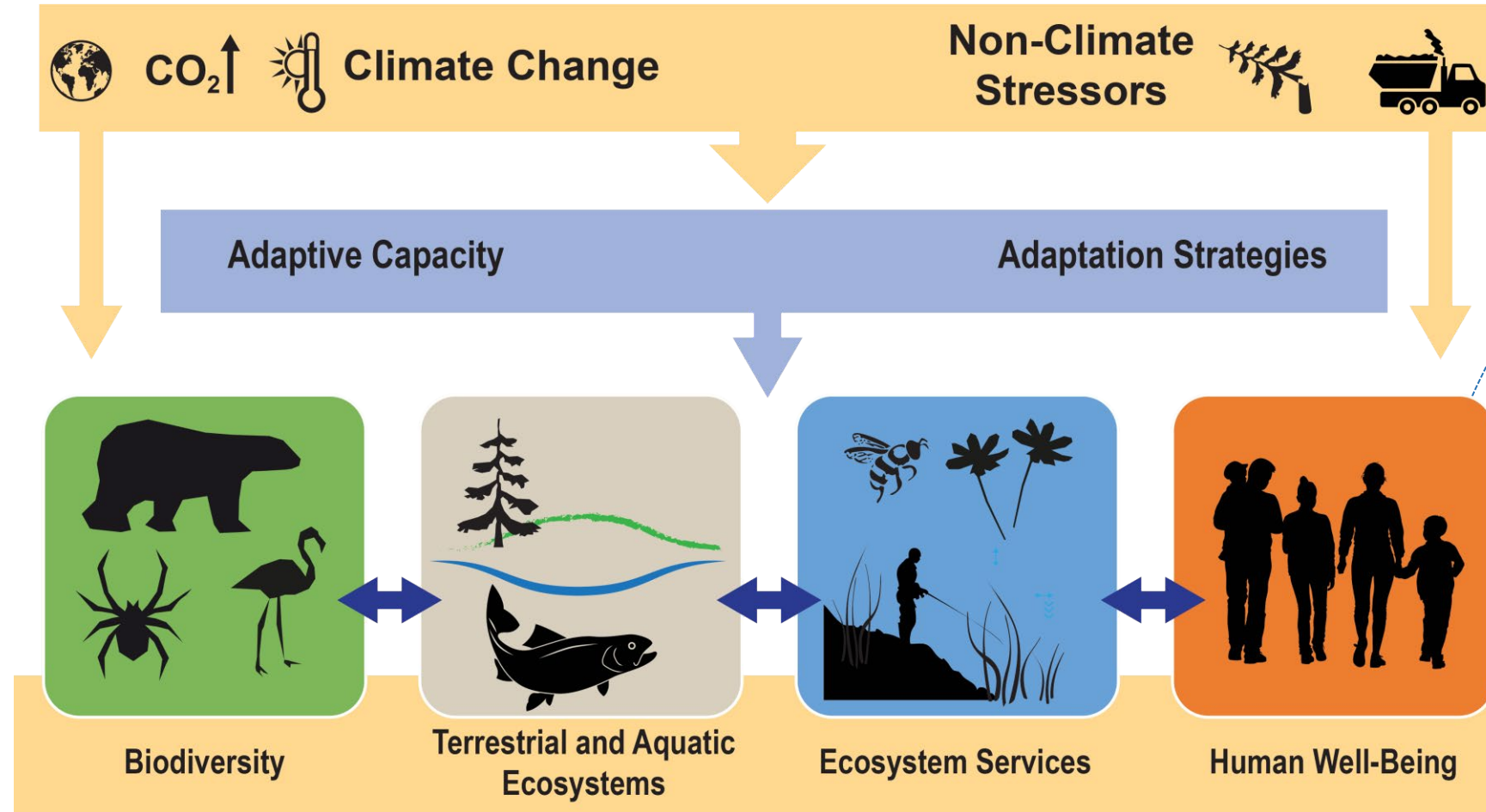
# Promote Carbon Stewardship as Holistic Approach to Climate Mitigation

- Advance understanding of carbon stewardship science
- Improve consideration of carbon in land use planning and decision-making
- Improve regional coordination around carbon stewardship using natural climate solutions



# Promote Strategies for Healthy and Productive Ecosystems Under Changing Climate Conditions

- Additional research to estimate future conditions under different scenarios of management and compounding stressors.
- Development and application of indicators for better understanding and tracking of ecosystem health status and change.
- Enhance the confidence and use of nature-based solutions





# Promote Regenerative Agricultural Production and Regionally Based Food Systems in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

- Transform agricultural production with a **shift to regenerative agriculture**.
  - CBP development of a soil health outcome
  - Soil Health = Continued and expanded capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sequesters and stores carbon and sustains plants, animals, and humans.
- Transform food systems to **regionally based food systems**



# Promote Regenerative Agricultural Production and Regionally Based Food Systems in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed

- Expand and increase collaboration with other entities that **share common goals** around regenerative and regional-based food systems
- Support scientific advances in **accounting for agricultural carbon/soil health** and the impacts of BMPs and other climate-smart agricultural practices on soil health
- Identify strategies within the CBP framework to further **incentivize policies and practices** that benefit soil health and promote regenerative regional food systems
- Evaluate how the current CBP structure could be modified to promote the long-term, **systemic change needed** to move towards regenerative regional food systems



# HEALTHY WATERSHEDS SMALL GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS



# Credits

---

---

---

A special thanks to:

- Katie Brownson
- Sherri Degraphenreed
- Kevin DuBois
- KC Filipino
- Ken Hyer
- Bill Jenkins
- Genevieve LaRouche
- Kevin Mclean
- Wendy O'Sullivan
- Matt Rowe
- Jenna Schueler
- Kevin Schabow
- Kristen Wolf
- Jill Whitcomb
- Jason Dubow
- Kristin Saunders
- Peter Claggett
- Sophie Waterman



---

---

---

# Vision

We envision a more comprehensive and holistic approach to a healthy Chesapeake Bay watershed where protection, improvement, restoration, and stewardship actions are deployed strategically, achieve ecological function, and align with state and/or local priorities to meet Bay program goals.



# Vanguard Idea

Integrate a more holistic and people-centric approach to improving and maintaining watershed health as a foundational goal of the partnership

---

---

# Recommendations

1. Use **monitoring data, assessment, and tools**, to characterize and track watershed health at various scales to inform and increase implementation
2. Support **strategic green infrastructure planning for watershed health** at multiple scales
3. Increase the reach and effectiveness of **local community and partner engagement** through capacity building
4. Integrate **land conservation and stewardship** more explicitly into the goals of the Bay Program
5. Revise the Bay Program's **accountability framework** to promote protecting, restoring, and maintaining watershed health

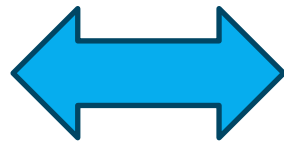
# Integrate land conservation and stewardship into the goals of the Bay Program

- **Conservation:** Prioritize conserving intact ecosystems, urban tree canopy and other green infrastructure
- **Stewardship:** Expand goals to include long-term maintenance and management of protected and restored areas to maintain ecosystem function and resiliency



# Revise the Bay Program's accountability framework to promote protecting, restoring, and maintaining watershed health

- Prevention of pollution
- Habitat for Living Resources
- Condition of Living Resources
- Thresholds for impervious surface or forest cover
- Stewardship of our investments



- Pollution reduction (N, P, S)
- Count Practices
- WIPs designed for TMDL

Shift toward counting outcomes rather than practices



# Beyond 2025 Timeline

	January				February				March				April				May					June				July					August				September				October					November				December																											
Week	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4																				
Small Groups Recommendations					Discuss & Draft				SC	1-pager				SC																																																													
ERG Report	Content Analysis and Interviews												Draft				SC	Draft										SC																																															
Steering Committee Draft									Draft												SC										Revise				SC																																								
Public Engagement																										Comment & Dialogues																																																	
Approval Process																																																	MB									MB									PSC ?					EC			

- March: Finalizing small group recommendations
- June: Full report drafted and public comment period begins
- October: Final report completed