

Chesapeake Bay Program Goal Implementation Team Charge
Ongoing Independent Evaluation Function

Lead Goal Implementation Team (GIT): Enhance Partnering, Leadership, and Management (GIT 6)

Proposed Charge

- *Develop a set of options for Principals' Staff Committee consideration and approval for establishing a process for independent evaluation of the Chesapeake Bay Program activities with input from CAC, STAC, and LGAC (including consideration of an option for no action)*
- *Provide a draft work plan/outline that provides the steps and analytical work to establish the process*
 - *Review evaluation activities already occurring in the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership*
 - *Analyze approaches that other geographic programs are using*
 - *Include an iterative process between the Management Board and GIT 6 for each major step in the workplan*

Background

At the November 2008, Executive Council (EC) meeting, the EC requested “that the Chesapeake Bay Partnership be evaluated by a nationally recognized independent science organization.” The Partnership, under the leadership of the PSC, convened an Independent Evaluator Action Team. The team constructed study questions and utilized an EPA contract with the National Academy of Sciences’ (NAS) National Research Council (NRC) to conduct a third party independent science review. The May 12, 2009, Executive Order 13508 identified the need for ongoing independent reporting and evaluation “Sec. 206. Strengthen Accountability. The Committee [Federal Leadership Committee], in collaboration with State agencies, shall ensure that an independent evaluator periodically reports to the Committee on progress toward meeting the goals of this order.” On May 10, 2011, the PSC asked the Independent Evaluator Action Team “to recommend the next steps to the PSC on the ongoing function of the Independent Evaluator and do so in the context of their written and formal response to the NAS report.” The Action Team’s recommendation, with modifications from the Management Board, was to charge the program’s Enhanced Partnering, Leadership, and Management Goal Implementation Team to develop options for an evaluation process and to bring it back to the PSC after review and concurrence by the Management Board (MB). The PSC requested that prior to this work being initiated, PSC members need to agree to a specific charge for this work, and that the charge includes a “no-action” option.

Guiding Principles

- Analyze the options and recommendations included in the Key Challenges paper (Independent Evaluator Key Challenges) as well as other options, including an option of no independent evaluations

- Analyze types of evaluations that are currently ongoing in the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership and identify gaps that would need to be filled by this function
- The process should serve the needs of both internal clients (e.g., EC, Federal Leadership Committee, PSC, Federal Office Directors, MB, GITs) and external clients (e.g., Government Accountability Office, Office of Management and Budget, Council on Environmental Quality) to the greatest extent possible
- The process should carefully consider any process elements that require new or additional resources and provide strong justification for any such requirements

Cross-Cutting Issues with Other GIT's

- The GITs have ongoing needs related to evaluating the effectiveness of the capacity of stakeholders to implement strategies as well as evaluating the technical efficacy of the tools and practices that are integral to their strategies.

Timeline and Deliverables

- By end of December 2012, convene a workgroup under GIT 6 of individuals with experience and expertise in federal or state performance assessment, process improvement, quality systems, and Bay Program governance to develop the process options
- Develop draft process options and present to the MB for input by end of March 2013
- Present final options including implementation next steps to the PSC by May 2013

Lead Points of Contact : GIT 6