



Chesapeake Bay Program Update

Lucinda Power

EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Chief, Partnerships and Accountability Branch

March 21, 2024



Overview

- EPA CBPO office updates
- Strategy Review System (SRS) summary
- Outcome Attainability status
- Beyond 2025 update



EPA CBPO Office Updates

- Martha Shimkin selected as Director, EPA CBPO
- Khesha Reed selected as Acting Deputy Director, EPA CBPO (starts 3/10/24)
- Lucinda Power selected as Chief, EPA CBPO Partnerships and Accountability Branch
- EPA CBPO switching LGAC and Stakeholders' Committee liaison roles (Deputy Director to LGAC, Lucinda as PAB Chief to Stakeholders' Committee)

The Strategy Review System (SRS)

- CBP's adaptive management system
- 2-year cycles
 - 7 QPMs with presentations, then conversation between Outcomes and MB
 - Biennial Meeting
- 3 documents: L&AP, Outcome Summary Review, QPM ppt
- Outcome leads are encouraged to consider science needs



VISUAL OF 4TH CYCLE SRS PROCESS

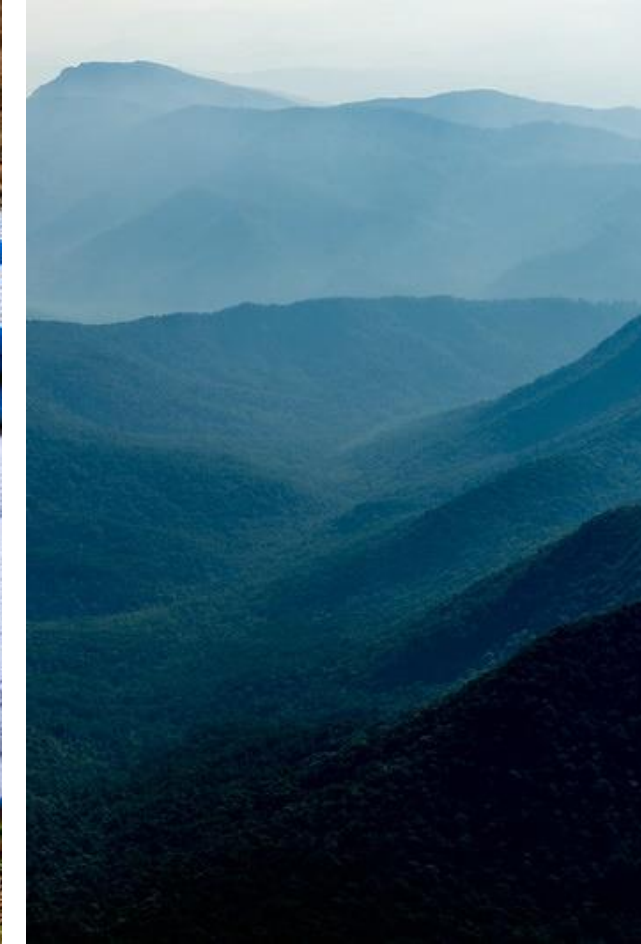
Revised 9/18/23



Status of the CBP Partnership's Work

- **Where are we now?**
 - Outcome attainability:
 - 18 on track
 - 2 uncertain
 - 11 off track
 - [Chesapeake Progress.com](https://www.chesapeakeprogress.com/) – current status
 - [Bay Barometer](#) – summary of status
- **How do we know?**
 - Models, monitoring, indicators
 - Updated frequently as data is available
 - Several outcomes releasing new indicators before 2025
 - Ex. TMDL and Wetlands





Update: Beyond 2025 to Date

Beyond 2025 Slides Credit:

Doug Bell, CBPO (B25 Staff Coordinator) and others



Chesapeake Bay Program

40 years of science, restoration and partnership

Executive Council Charge

“

Thus, this Executive Council charges the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) in recommending a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the Watershed Agreement leading up to and beyond 2025. The PSC is to report back to the Executive Council at our 2023 annual meeting with recommendations on how to best address and integrate new science and restoration strategies leading up to 2025. **At our 2024 annual meeting, the PSC is to prepare recommendations that continue to address new advances in science and restoration, along with a focus on our partnership for going beyond 2025.**

”

TWO-STEP Approach to Meeting and Fulfilling EC Charge

- **Step 1** – By EC 2024, through efforts of a Steering Committee appointed by the Management Board, determine the scope and breadth of what will be undertaken to meet the EC Charge and develop a plan to complete that work.
- **Step 2** – Execute the plan after EC 2024 acceptance and subsequent directives.

Goal

We will provide a path for the Chesapeake Bay Program that assesses where we are and identifies potential changes to what we do and how we work that will get us closer to where we want to be in reaching our shared vision for the Bay and its watershed.

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

RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Steering Committee

- Jurisdiction/Feds/ACs/GITs/+
- Monthly Meeting Frequency

ERG (Independent Evaluator via Contract)

- Evaluation plan (EP) scoped by SC
- EP implemented: Sept '23 to July '24

Small Groups

- People, Climate, Clean Water, Shallow Habitats, Healthy Watersheds
- SC + Invitees
- Active from Nov '23 to Mar '24

STEP 1 PROCESS

Source Material

Supplemental to SC Product

Evaluation Report

(April - Interim / July - Final)

- Content Analysis + Discussions
- Themes → Statement of Findings
- Considerations for SC

Recommendations (5 x 5 Group) (March)

- Vanguard, Value, Vision
- People, Climate, Living Resources
- Rationale and Phase 2 Next Steps
- Impact Agreement / Partnership

FINAL PRODUCT

Report to the EC

(December)

- (1) REC DRAFTING
- (2) SC REVIEW
- (3) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
- (4) REVISIONS
- (5) REVIEW



Proposed Schedule

- **November – January 2024:** Topical groups convene, discuss, and develop recommendations to be considered by the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee.
- **February 2024:** 2-day symposium to discuss and potentially refine topical group recommendations.
- **March 2024:** Adoption of topical group recommendations by the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee and review of the first draft of recommendations from the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee.
- **April – May 2024:** Adoption of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee recommendations.
- **June - July 2024:** Solicit public feedback on the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee recommendations.
- **August 2024:** Revise and affirm the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee recommendations based on public input.
- **September - October 2024:** Seek approval of Beyond 2025 Steering Committee recommendations from the Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee.
- **December 2024:** Present and request approval of Beyond 2025 Steering Committee recommendations from the Executive Council.

Another Way to Visualize ...

	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																		
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				

Schedule Requirements

- Work backwards from December EC and November PSC.
- Review and communicate with our MB members and PSC members (June - October)
- A quality product we can put out for public comment by June, which integrates Small Group and ERG content.
- Integrated periods between SC drafting, review, and revisions

Discussion

