



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

Management Board Meeting  
May 14, 2026

# **Governance and Structure**

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## **Today's Objectives**

1. Obtain support on areas identified for MB consideration.
2. Solicit and clarify any stop or holds on near final draft.
3. Maintain transparency of progress.

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# Since April MB...

- **Revision Window (04/16 - 04/28)**

- IT addressed items [discussed at last MB](#). Minimum feedback submitted following MB.

- **April 29<sup>th</sup> AC-IT Connection**

- IT convened with AC chairs and coordinators to outline responses to committee recommendations and address any clarifying questions.
- Focused on five topics: AC section of GMF, references to ACs throughout the GMF, accountability and adaptive management, public meeting procedures, and the CBP structural diagram.

- **May 4<sup>th</sup> IT Meeting**

- Walked through entire document, recapping and discussing outstanding issues. Large majority resolved; handful of items left for review today.

# MB Roadmap

PSC
Management Board
[Sig] Implementation Team
Federal Office Directors
Federal Holiday

April '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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- ✓ **May 14<sup>th</sup> MB Meeting:** Red flag Review...*to ensure a productive discussion...*
- ✓ A draft will be shared on May 7 to the Management Board....*to do that....*
  - ✓ Implementation Team will meet on May 4 to affirm revisions and identify outstanding issues...*to do that...*
  - ✓ Implementation Team will receive a draft on April 28...*to ensure this version is reflective of feedback...*
  - ✓ The Implementation Team will accept written feedback by April 21<sup>st</sup>.

**June 11<sup>th</sup> MB Meeting:** Consensus review and decisions...*to ensure final revisions are delivered on 6/16 for the 6/30 PSC meeting.*

- A final draft will be shared on May 28 to the Management Board (two weeks in advance)....*to do that....*
- Implementation Team will review final revisions on May 26...*to do that...*
- A final draft will be prepared on May 19, addressing red flag issues from the May MB meeting.
  - *This draft will also include a handful of revisions for consistency and formatting changes.*

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# Today's Approach

- 1. Recap GMF Status** – Review the status of each section [~10min]
- 2. Review Areas for MB Support** – Walk through the four areas identified for MB review. [~50 min]
- 3. Remaining Stops / Holds** – Ensure red flags, if any, have been clearly communicated [~20 min]
- 4. Next Steps** – Review key dates and final drafting actions [~10 min]

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**These sections have been reviewed, discussed and supported by the MB and IT.**

These sections have outstanding areas to review for MB support.

- I. Introduction**
- II. Vision and Principles**
- III. Ethics**
- IV. DEIJ**
- V(A). EC**
- V(B). PSC
- V(C). Goal Teams
- V(D). Workgroups
- V(E). Action Teams**
- V(F). Program Support
- V(G). Advisory Committees**
- V(H). Federal Managers Council**
- VI(A). Public Meeting Participation**
- VI(B). Decision-Making
- VII(A). Accountability
- VII(B). Adaptive Management

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# Areas for Review...

1. **“Signing up for an Outcome”.** Language was added for Signatory members to identify which Outcomes they are participating in through membership designations. Similar language is placed within the PSC (p.14), GT (p.17), and Workgroup (p.19) and are called out with a comment.
2. **Program Support teams.** This subsection (Section V(G)(3)) received limited discussion at the previous MB meeting. The Implementation Team thought it was appropriate to pause for review with the MB to support the drafted framework.
3. **Consent-based decision-making.** CBP decision-making continuum has been slightly adjusted due to the issue of “consensus” (5) being used to distinguish a single position, as well as a group position. The decision-making continuum figure has been revised, as well as relevant language in other sections (e.g., see Decision Rules section).
4. **Accountability and Adaptive Management.** Met with Advisory Committees and incorporated their feedback on language framing accountability, emphasis on language to prevent backsliding, and maintaining a reference to DOI's definition of Adaptive Management. Pausing for review with the MB to support the proposed language.



# **TRANSITION TO GMF DOCUMENT**



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## Chesapeake Bay Program Structure Recommendations

By **July 1, 2026**, the Principals' Staff Committee will finalize the membership, leadership, responsibilities and decision-making protocols associated with these two structural components. However, to align with the revised *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* and ensure timely delivery of Management Strategies, the partnership will begin preparing for—and transitioning to--the new Goal Team structure following the December 2, 2025 Executive Council meeting.

**The following information has been requested from Goal Teams by Friday, May 22, to accompany the Governance package for June 11<sup>th</sup> approval.** The IT will also prepare leadership and membership details, to the degree possible, on Program Support groups and Advisory Committees.

- **Goal Team Co-Chairs** (to address leadership – already complete, but part of package)
- **Signatory Voting Members** (to address membership)
  - At-Large Members and Non-Voting Members are not required per the draft GMF.

While not a direct component of the charge, **Goal Team substructure (Workgroups and Action Teams)** being maintained or established to implement the revised *Watershed Agreement*, will also be communicated to the degree possible and will be shared for awareness at the June 11<sup>th</sup> MB meeting.