

Management Board September 2025 Retreat

Chesapeake Bay Program



Decision-Making Process

September 30, 2025



Consensus Continuum



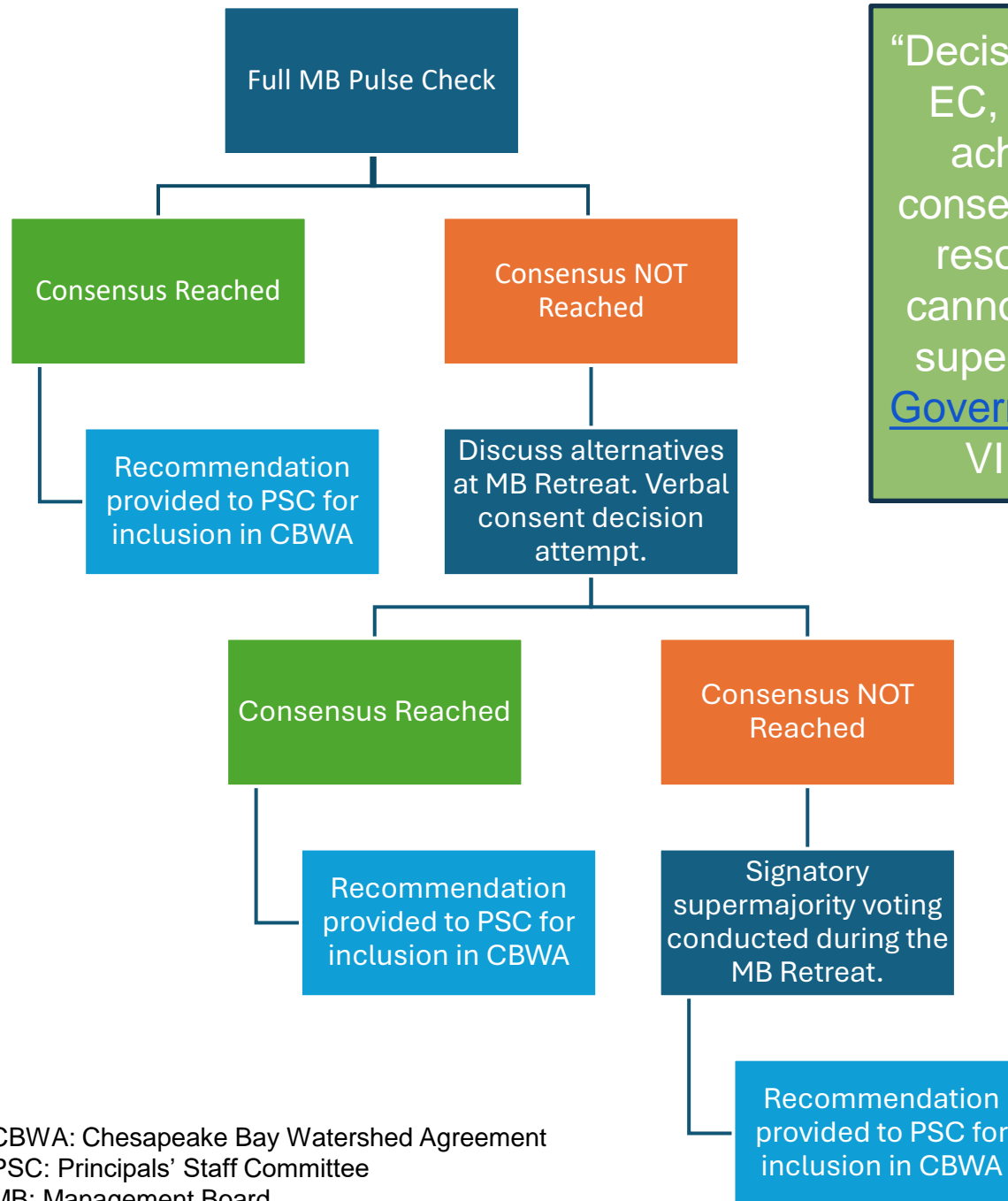


Consensus Continuum Notes

- “3 - Stand Aside” votes are counted in favor of the motion because the respondent chooses “not to block this decision.” This is applied across all decision types, including Signatory Supermajority Voting.
- “3 - Stand Aside” votes do not necessarily imply disagreement with the decision; such votes may indicate that the respondent does not actively participate in achieving the outcome.

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Decision- Making Process



“Decision-making at the EC, PSC and MB is achieved through consensus or, as a last resort if consensus cannot be achieved, a supermajority vote...”
[Governance Document](#), VI.A. (page 22).

CBWA: Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
PSC: Principals’ Staff Committee
MB: Management Board



Step 1: Pulse Check

- **Decision:** Do you recommend the Review Team's amended [section name] language to the PSC for inclusion in the revised CBWA?
 - **Response Options:** Stop, Hold, Stand Aside, Agreement with Reservations, or Endorsement
 - If **consensus is not reached**, each dissenter will present their concerns and supply an alternative proposal.



2nd Step: Full MB Consent Decision Attempt

- After discussion, a **consent-based decision** will be verbally attempted with all voting and non-voting MB member.
- **Proposal:** The MB accepts the alternative proposal for revisions to the [section name] and recommends the amended language to the PSC for inclusion in the revised CBWA.
- **Consent Question:** Do any MB members agree with the proposal?
 - **Response Options:** Yea, Nay or Stand Aside
 - If **consent is not given**, Signatory Supermajority voting will be utilized.



Step 3: Signatory Supermajority Voting

- **Signatory Supermajority Voting Question:** Do you recommend the [to be specified] amended [section name] language to the PSC for inclusion in the revised CBWA?
 - [to be specified]: Discussion will determine if Review Team language, a dissenting member's alternative proposal, or a novel amendment is voted on.
 - **Response Options:** Yea, Nay or Stand Aside
 - Seven out of nine “yea” votes required.



Recommendations to the PSC

- Anytime **consensus is reached**, the recommendation will be provided to the PSC for inclusion in CBWA.
- The Management Board Chair will provide the PSC with:
 - A “redline” version of the CBWA
 - A “clean” version of the CBWA, with approved changes accepted
 - A record of Signatory Supermajority vote responses, if voting is used

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THANK
YOU