

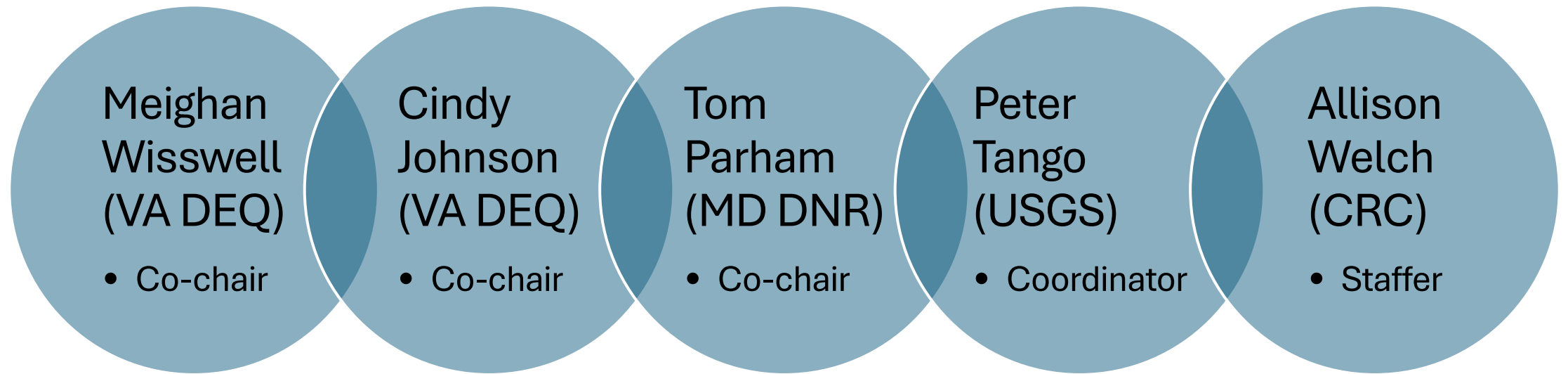
Monitoring Workgroup Meeting

September 21, 2026

2pm-3:30pm

Welcome

Introducing the Monitoring WG Leadership Team



Monitoring WG Membership

Co-Chairs

- Meighan Wisswell
- Cindy Johnson
- Tom Parham

Coordinator

- Peter Tango

Staffer

- Allison Welch

Members (15)

- Signatory (8)
- At-Large (7)

Current Membership

- Signatory Members

Signatory Members

<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>
DE	Bhanu Paudel, DNREC	Sakinat Ahmah, DNREC
DC	Lucretia Brown, DOEE	
MD	Tom Parham, DNR	Mark Trice, DNR
NY	VACANT	
PA	Josh Lookenbill, PA DEP	Molly Pulket, PA DEP
VA	Cindy Johnson, VA DEQ	Meighan Wisswell, VA DEQ
WV	Nick Murray, WV DEP	
CBC	Anna Killius, CBC	
EPA	Kaylyn Gootman, EPA	Jay Lazar, NOAA

- Signatory Members are currently voting for At-Large Members

Goal Teams: (pp. 15-19)



- **Leadership:** 2 co-chairs
 - nominated by the Goal Teams
 - approved by the PSC
- **Voting Members:** Up to 15
 - 9 appointed by PSC signatories
 - Up to 6 at-large confirmed by Goal Teams
- **Non-voting Members:**
 - 4 Advisory Committee reps
 - Workgroup chairs

Clean Water Goal Team: Structure

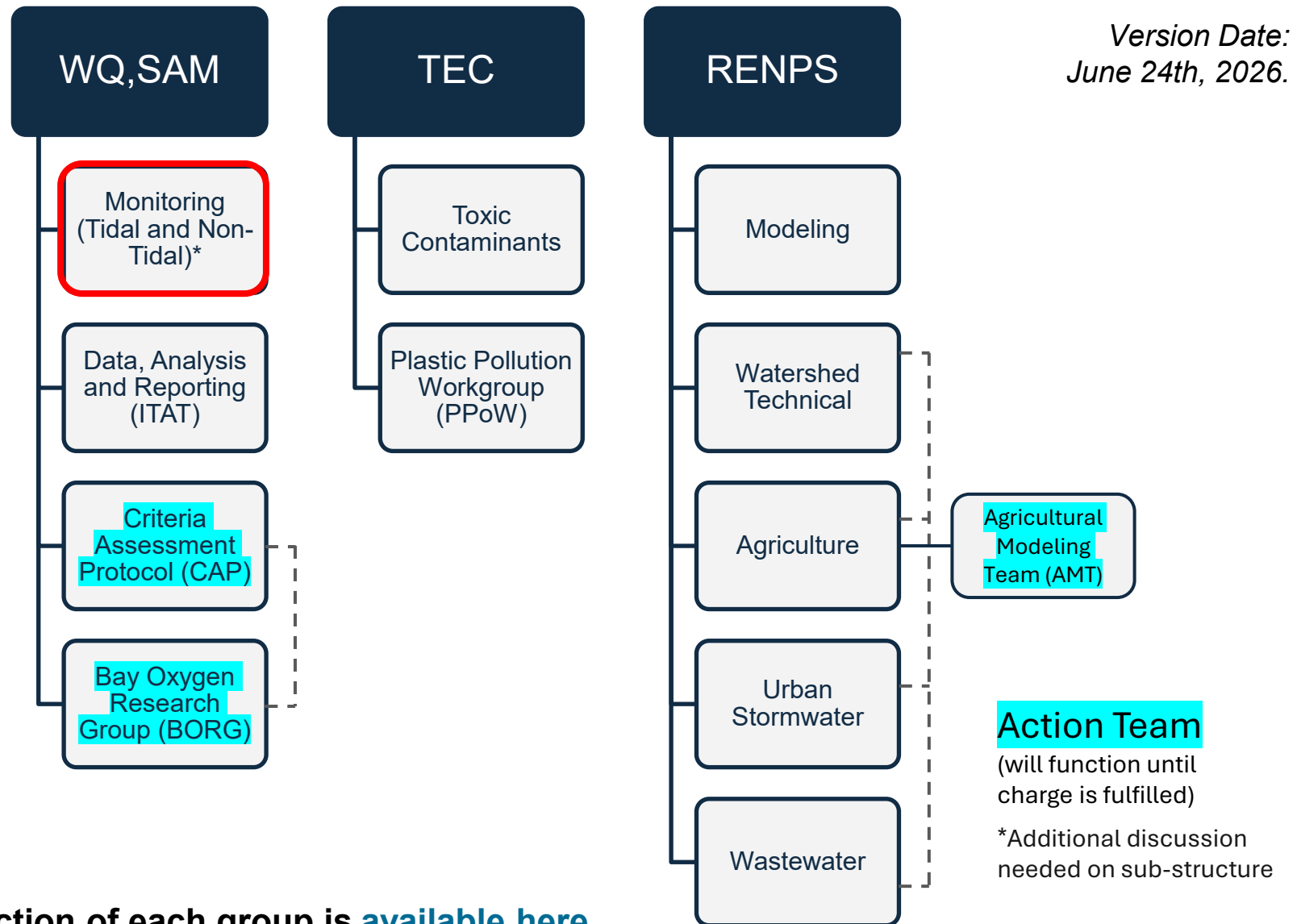
Sunsetting Workgroups

- Hypoxia Collaborative Team (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)
- Non-Tidal Workgroup (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)
- Data Integrity Workgroup (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)
- Milestones Workgroup
- Federal Facilities Workgroup (functions integrated into Watershed Technical Workgroup)

Workgroups Moving to Healthy Landscapes GT

- Forestry Workgroup
- Land Use Workgroup

More information on the proposed function of each group is [available here](#).



Main POCs

[HOW WE'RE ORGANIZED](#) > [CLEAN WATER GOAL TEAM](#) >

Monitoring Workgroup

The Monitoring Workgroup manages the Chesapeake Bay Program's monitoring networks and coordinates with additional networks across the region.

Each group's Co-Chairs, Coordinator, Staffer and Members can be found on the right panel on their webpage on chesapeakebay.net

Every group is supported by a Staffer. They keep distribution lists, create and coordinate meeting materials and are the primary point of contact for questions.

Contact

Peter Tango (Coordinator)

pjtango@usgs.gov

Allison Welch (Staffer)

awelch@chesapeakebay.net

Workgroups: (pp. 19-20)



- **Leadership:** at least 1 chair, approved by Goal Teams
- **Members:** recruited, self-nominated, or recommended; approved by WG chairs in consultation with Goal Team co-chairs
 - **Voting Members:** Up to 15
 - Up to 9 PSC signatory appointees
 - Remainder: at-large members
 - Confirmed by Goal Team

Current Work and Connections to the Revised Watershed Agreement

*Guides our immediate work that has been ongoing and will continue through July 2027
as we get setup and started.*

Happening in parallel to meeting our charge and objectives.

**Note, there are some natural overlaps between RENPS and WQSAM targets*

Overarching Framework (GOT)

Goal: Clean Water

Outcome: Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorous & Sediment (RENPS)

Outcome:
Toxic &
Emerging
Contaminants

Outcome: Water Quality, Standards Attainment & Monitoring (WQSAM)

Target 1

Target 2

Target 3

Target 1

Target 1

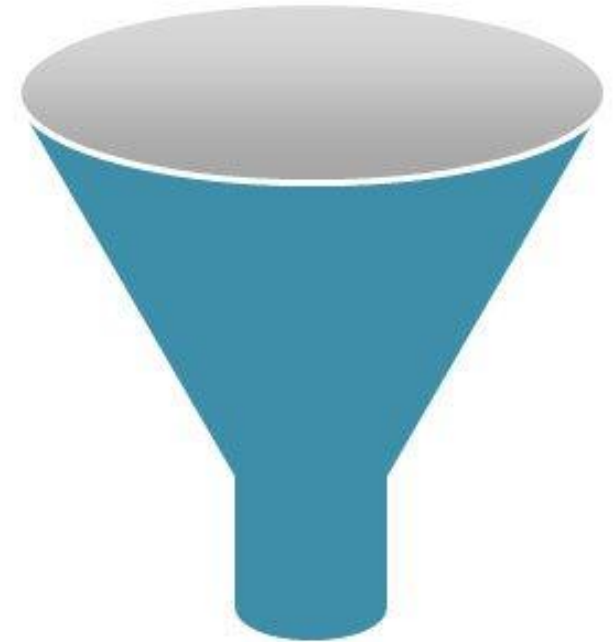
Target 2

Target 3

Target 4

Translation from Watershed Agreement to Strategic Plan

- Watershed Agreement → “What We Do”
- Strategic Plan → “How We Do It”
- Goal = Strategic Plan
- Outcome = Management Strategy
 - Targets still will be included
- Target = Workplan



Unpacking the Multiple Layers

Strategic Plan (CBP-wide)

Management Strategy (1 Goal = 1 Chapter)

1. THFW

2. Clean Water

3. Healthy Landscapes

4. Engaged Communities

Workplan (1 per Outcome*)

2.1 RENPS

2.2 T&EC

2.3 WQ, SAM

* Workplans are not included in the CBP-wide Strategic Plan. 1 workplan per outcome is prescribed in GMF; CWGT workgroups will also have workgroup-level plans. The sum of workplans will be the same, but unbundled.

Multiple Layers: Completing the Template

Clean Water goal chapter

**Situation
analysis (inc.
challenges)**

**Goal-level
Management
approaches**

Outcome level (x3)

**Baseline &
current
condition**

**Monitoring
progress &
indicators**

**Situation
Analysis inc.
challenges**

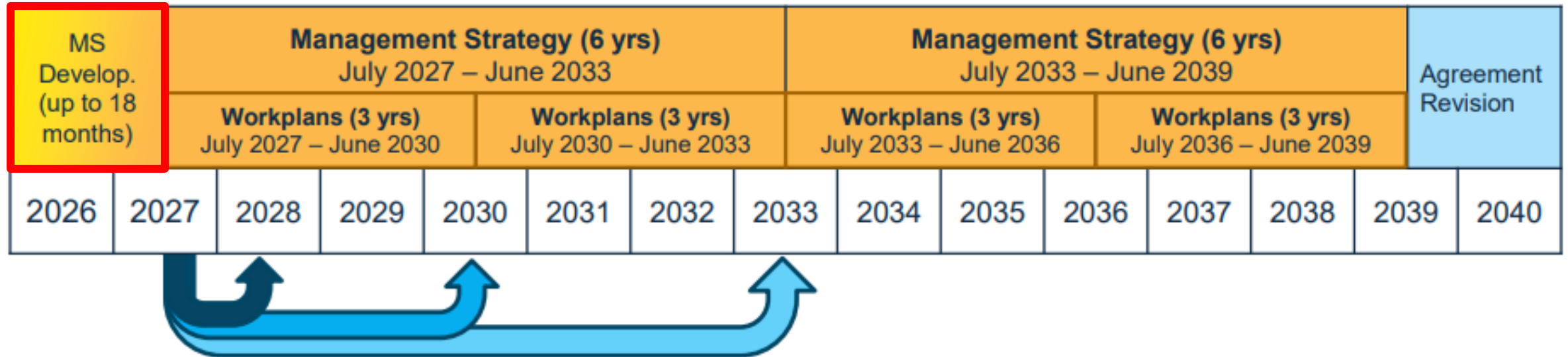
**Snapshot of
signatory
programs*

**Management
Approaches**

**Participating
partners*

Accountability and Adaptive Management

Workplans too!



- Annual Check-Ins** – extended PSC meetings that communicate progress, and address and prioritize implementation needs
- Triennial Reviews** – cross-program review & symposium to document successes and challenges and initiate new Workplans
- Strategy and Program Evaluation** – assess the current progress towards achieving the Goals and Outcomes of the Agreement, evaluate the efficacy of existing Management Strategies and identifies opportunities for improvement
- In 2040, the Strategy and Program Review will prompt revision to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

Development Timeline



Source: [Demystifying Management Strategies](#)

Management Approaches
Connect to Outcome Targets



Outcome:

Water Quality, Standards Attainment & Monitoring

Measure changing water quality conditions by maintaining monitoring networks and tracking our collective progress toward achieving clean water throughout the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

Targets and Draft Management Approaches

Maintain full core monitoring network operations (i.e., nontidal water quality, SAV, tidal water quality, benthic and community science) annually to support analysis and communication of water quality loads, trends and criteria attainment.

- Management Approach 2.3.1: Sustain and Strengthen Core Partnership Monitoring Networks

Develop and expand partnership-approved approaches for assessing whether water quality criteria are being met for all designated uses. For dissolved oxygen criteria, establish an approved method by 2028 and apply the method for data analysis and reporting by the end of 2030.

- Management Approach 2.3.2: Develop and Implement Decision Rules for Assessing Water Quality Criteria for All Designated Uses

Targets and Draft Management Approaches

Maintain or exceed the rate of improvement in the water quality standards attainment indicator relative to the 1985-2022 baseline.

- Management Approach 2.3.2: Develop and Implement Decision Rules for Assessing Water Quality Criteria for All Designated Uses
- Management Approach 2.3.6: Maintain or Exceed the Rate of Improvement in the Water Quality Standards Attainment Indicator

Analyze and report status/loads, trends and factors affecting those trends for nontidal and tidal water quality

- Management Approach 2.3.3: Maintain and Advance Water Quality Data Analysis to Address Information Gaps and Inform Science-Based Management Decisions
- Management Approach 2.3.4: Improve Monitoring to Model Integration and Transparency
- Management Approach 2.3.5: Develop Unified Progress Narratives and Communication Products Across Audiences and Scales



Monitoring Workgroup Meetings

Structure & Frequency

How to coalesce
many monitoring
groups into one?

Leadership ideas
for meeting
structure &
frequency

Discussion

Rotating through monitoring focuses each month. Cycle to begin again in May.

IMN to offer space for participatory science, tidal (benthics & water), SAVs as needed. Flexibility to hold standalone data integrity meeting, or to omit as needed

Jan	Feb	March	April
NTN monitoring	Hypoxia	IMN	Data integrity standalone/other topics as needed

Group tidal monitoring topics together. Flexibility to hold standalone data integrity meeting, or to omit as needed

Jan	Feb	March	April
NTN monitoring	Tidal monitoring (water, benthics, & hypoxia)	IMN	Data integrity standalone/other topics as needed

Split each meeting between focused mon network topics and pertinent data integrity topics. Flexibility to hold standalone data integrity meeting, or to omit as needed

Jan	Feb	March	April
NTN monitoring & data integrity (as needed)	Tidal monitoring (water, benthics, & hypoxia) & data integrity	IMN & data integrity (as needed)	Data integrity standalone/other topics as needed

Option #2

- **Quarterly meeting** – Longer meeting focusing on a rotating review of one of the core monitoring programs (Tidal, non-tidal, benthic, SAV and participatory science).
 - This operational review would assess operational ability of specific monitoring program to supports program goals from collection to reporting. Including identifying gaps between each program and modeling, WQ criteria, reporting needs, data deliverables, funding threats, data integrity. After reviewing all networks, produce a "State of monitoring network" report by end of year 2.
- **In-between monthly meetings** – Shorter meeting focusing on hot topics from any monitoring program.
 - Including emerging monitoring technologies, Bay program updates, elevate any major issues to CWGT, developing monitoring stories, etc.

Open Discussion:

Monitoring WG Vision



What do you want to get out of the Monitoring Workgroup?



What was missing from previous workgroup/team that you would like to see incorporated into the MWG?

Topics?
Collaboration?



How would you like to interact with Data, Analysis, and Reporting WG, Modeling WG, other RENPS WG's?



Other ideas?

THANK YOU