

# Toxic Contaminants Workgroup

Office Hours

December 11, 2024

## EXERPT FROM THE DRAFT EC CHARGE:

Therefore, let it be resolved that we, the Chesapeake Executive Council, in recognition of the consensus-based work of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee, guided by the findings of their “A Critical Path Forward for the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership Beyond 2025” report and our continued commitment to meet the goals of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, hereby direct the Principals’ Staff Committee to complete the following by **December 31, 2025**:

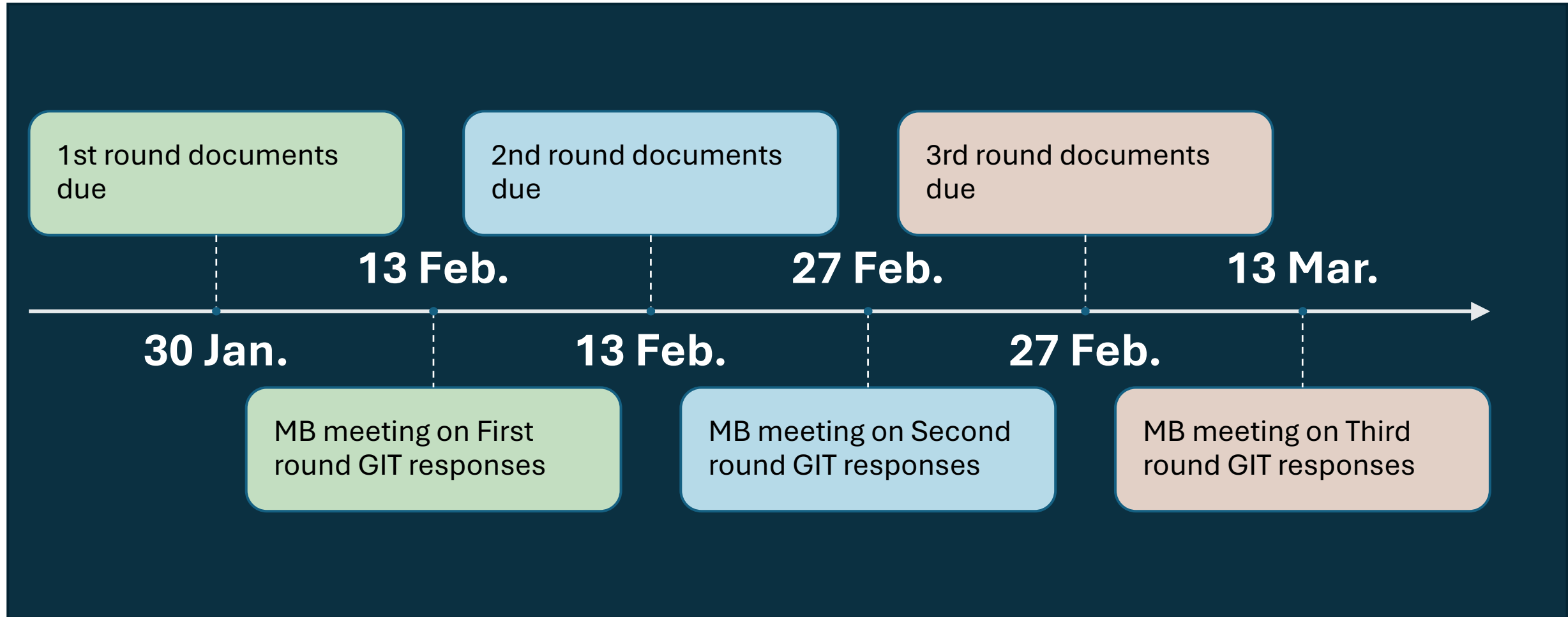
1. Revisions to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, not a new Agreement. **Revisions to outcomes** should be executed pursuant to the Governance and Management Framework for the Chesapeake Bay Program. While not all outcomes will need revision, some **reviews will likely result in consolidating, reducing, updating, removing, replacing, or adding new outcomes.**

Proposed revisions should be considered as they are being reviewed, with every effort to complete most reviews and revisions by the end of calendar year 2025. Furthermore, it is the intent of the Chesapeake Executive Council, **that these changes reflect:**

- A renewed and greater emphasis on **engaging all communities** of the watershed as active stewards of a healthy and resilient Chesapeake Bay and its watershed;
- Our mandate to address water quality **and living resources** throughout the Bay and watershed;
- **Elevating conservation** as a key pillar of the Chesapeake Bay Program, alongside science, restoration, and partnership;
- A grounding in the most recent scientific understandings and issues that have emerged since the current Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement was signed in 2014;
- Goals and outcomes that are **measurable and time bound**. Time frames should be sufficient to accomplish the outcomes as quickly as possible. In particular, our regulated nutrient and sediment load reductions, especially those within non-point sources;
- Acknowledgement that our scientific understanding is continuously evolving and that our efforts need to constantly adapt accordingly; and
- The fact that while each partner shares a common goal, we are all approaching this goal from different perspectives, challenges, and opportunities.

# Why an Outcome Assessment?

# TIMELINE



# Continued Management Board Process and Timeline

<b>April 10, 2025</b>	Continued discussion to consolidate, reduce, update, remove, replace or add new outcomes.  Outcomes identified as being kept or combined are assigned to workgroups for rewriting
<b>May 7-8, 2025</b>	Finalize outcome assessment/evaluation
<b>May 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSC Check in on Draft List of Outcomes. Share approach for structure development and governance review</li> <li>• Advisory Committee Presentation – all together</li> </ul>
<b>June 12, 2025</b>	Work through any PSC feedback on outcomes. Prepare final outcome list for public sharing
<b>July 1, 2025</b>	Discussion of overall Partnership Structure. Includes all partnership Goal Teams/workgroups/action teams
<b>August 14, 2025</b>	Continue Grouping /Structure Development/ Governance
<b>August 2025</b>	PSC Check-in Grouping /Structure Development/ Governance
<b>September 11, 2025</b>	Continue work on Structure/ Governance and draft list of outcomes
<b>October 9, 2025</b>	Finalize outcomes and Complete Draft of New Structure
<b>October 2025</b>	Presentation of Final Draft to PSC
<b>November 2025</b>	Preparation of Final Package Based on PSC feedback

# Big Question: What advice do you have for the Management Board on how to consolidate, reduce, update, remove, replace or add new outcomes within your GIT?

**Guidelines: You do not have to answer all these questions, but the first two are necessary.**

1. In reviewing your outcome, provide advice to the Management Board on whether "to consolidate, reduce, update, remove, replace or add new outcomes".
  - a. Don't need to provide updated Outcome language at this point in the process.
  - b. If consolidation is recommended, which outcome(s) do you advise combining with?
  - c. Should the outcome be moved or restructured?
2. Consider if the Outcome is SMART, and specifically, whether the current outcome meets the definition of an outcome, as described in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement ("Agreement"), or if that outcome is an output or indicator.
  - a. Review ERG's Beyond 2025 Report for existing assessment of **S**pecific, **M**easurement, and **T**imebound.
  - b. Consider the Secret Sauce
3. Consider the challenges to and opportunities for achieving the outcome. You are encouraged to leverage past documentation and learnings from the Strategy Review System process, as well as Charting a Course to 2025 report and Beyond 2025 Small Group recommendations as they pertain to the outcome.
4. Consider how the outcome relates or could relate to the Bay Agreement mission, vision, and themes/pillars

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5. Consider the timescale for completing the outcome (5, 10, 15 years). Determine if achieving the outcome is an incremental step or is it a final outcome.
6. Consider resource needs and availability (high, medium, low).
7. Consider the risk or unintended consequences of removing the Outcome.
8. What value is added by having the Chesapeake Bay Program work on the outcome?
9. Consider how the Outcome, as written, benefits the public. Does the outcome reflect public input already received and have the potential to galvanize public support/engagement?
10. We will provide links to the supplemental information, including:
  - a. 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
  - b. Secret Sauce
  - c. Beyond 2025 Recommendations
  - d. Charting a Course to 2025 report

# Goal

Ensure that the Bay and its rivers are free of effects of toxic contaminants on living resources and human health.

# Outcomes

## Toxic Contaminants Research

Continually increase our understanding of the impacts and mitigation options for toxic contaminants. Develop a research agenda and further characterize the occurrence, concentrations, sources and effects of mercury, PCBs and other contaminants of emerging and widespread concern. In addition, identify which best management practices might provide multiple benefits of reducing nutrient and sediment pollution as well as toxic contaminants in waterways.



# Outcomes (cont.)

## Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention

Continually improve practices and controls that reduce and prevent the effects of toxic contaminants below levels that harm aquatic systems and humans. Build on existing programs to reduce the amount and effects of PCBs in the Bay and watershed. Use research findings to evaluate the implementation of additional policies, programs and practices for other contaminants that need to be further reduced or eliminated.

# Challenges

# Time Element

Value Added