



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

May 23, 2024

A Path for the Partnership Beyond 2025

Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders' Committee

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Chesapeake Bay Commission

What is the Executive Council Charge?

Adopted by the Executive Council in October 2022, the charge directs the Principals' Staff Committee to recommend a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the *Watershed Agreement* beyond 2025.



Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership
Executive Council Charge to the Principals' Staff Committee: Charting a Course to 2025 and Beyond
Adopted October 11, 2022

As the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) partnership nears the 2025 date that the partnership set for several of the goals and outcomes under the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement* (*Watershed Agreement*), there are many successes to celebrate. At the same time, emerging issues and changing conditions (e.g., climate change, growth, new scientific data) have impacted the levels of effort needed to meet our collective restoration priorities. We, as a partnership, remain committed to using the best available science in restoring the Chesapeake Bay as we accelerate toward the deadline and anticipate continued progress post-2025.

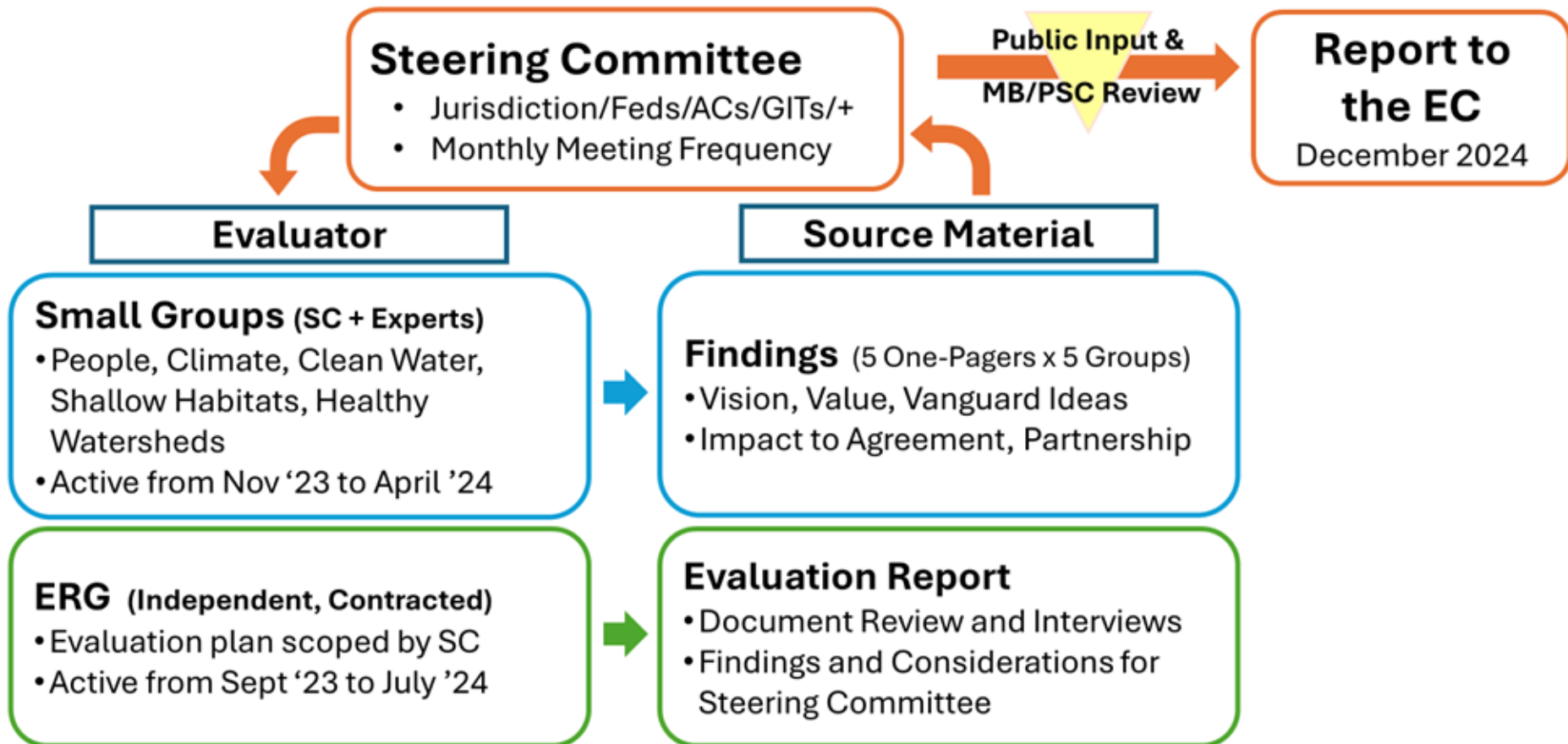
Thus, this Executive Council charges the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) in recommending a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the *Watershed Agreement* leading up to and beyond 2025. The PSC is to report back to the Executive Council 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.

What has happened so far?

- The Steering Committee is determining the scope and breadth of what should be undertaken to meet the Executive Council charge and developed a plan to complete the work.
- Five small groups of subject matter experts were formed to develop findings to support the recommendation the steering committee will make to the Principals' Staff Committee.
- A contractor was retained to complete an independent evaluation of the partnership.

Phase 1: Process

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Phase 1: Outline

1

Path Forward

Where we
want to be

Page 1 – 2: Critical Path Forward

- Our Recommendation (*Agreement/Partnership*)
- Our Vision for the Partnership (*People, Challenges, Conservation*)

Page 3 – 7: Synthesized, Analyzed Summary

What we do
How we work

- High-level considerations related to Science
- High-level considerations related to Restoration and Conservation
- High-level considerations related to Partnership

Additional pages: Source Material

Where we are

- One-page Summaries from Small Groups, ERG Report
- CESR, Charting a Course to 2025, Chesapeake Progress: Outcome Attainability, and more

What is the steering committee potentially recommending moving forward?



The Steering Committee recommends the *2014 Watershed Agreement* should be amended.

Why should the Watershed Agreement be amended?

- We're making progress!
- We're not pressing 'pause'.
- Amendments can help close the gap.
- The *Watershed Agreement* was built for change.



Proposed Agreement Recommendation and Timeframe

By 2025 Executive Council Meeting:

- Focus on high-level updates to the Watershed Agreement: Vision, Preamble, Principles, Goals and Management Strategies.
- Maintain focus on core: clean water, vibrant living resources & habitats, healthy landscapes and engaged people.
- Recommend adding “Conservation” to our mission statement.
 - Science. Restoration. Conservation. Partnership.
- Reaffirm commitment to partnership and continued collaboration.

Proposed Agreement Recommendation and Timeframe

Starting at the 2026 Executive Council meeting:

- Review, refine and refresh outcomes.
 - Remove outdated dates and metrics.
 - Review completed outcomes, set plan for maintenance.
 - Add language to reflect emerging challenges (i.e., climate change).
 - Ensure outcomes have time-bound measurable targets.
- Commit to a renewed partnership.

Outcome Attainability (as of 2023)

- 18 outcomes considered on-course.
- Two uncertain pending data updates in 2024.
- 11 outcomes will not be met by 2025.

 OUTLOOK ON COURSE	 OUTLOOK OFF COURSE
Blue Crab Abundance Outcome	Wetlands Outcome
<i>Blue Crab Management Outcome (Completed)</i>	Black Duck Outcome
Oysters Outcome	Brook Trout Outcome
Forage Fish Outcome	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Outcome
Fish Habitat Outcome	Forest Buffers Outcome
Stream Health Outcome	Tree Canopy Outcome
<i>2017 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) Outcome (Complete)</i>	2025 Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) Outcome
Fish Passage Outcome	Diversity Outcome
Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome	Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention Outcome
Local Leadership Outcome	Toxic Contaminants Research Outcome
Protected Lands Outcome	Students Outcome
Land Use Methods and Metrics Development Outcome	Climate Adaptation Outcome
Land Use Options and Evaluations Outcome	 OUTLOOK UNCERTAIN
Public Access Outcome	Healthy Watershed Outcome
Sustainable Schools Outcome	Stewardship Outcome
Environmental Literacy Planning Outcome	
Climate Monitoring and Assessment Outcome	

2024 Timeline

July 1 - August 31	September	October	December
<div>Public feedback</div> <div>A draft of the report will be published for public comment.</div>	<div>Revisions</div> <div>Revisions based on public feedback will be incorporated into the report.</div>	<div>Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee Review</div> <div>The Management Board and Principal's Staff Committee will receive and review the final report.</div>	<div>Executive Council Review</div> <div>The Executive Council will be presented with the findings of the report and have the opportunity to take action in response to its recommendations as a path forward for the Chesapeake Bay Program.</div>

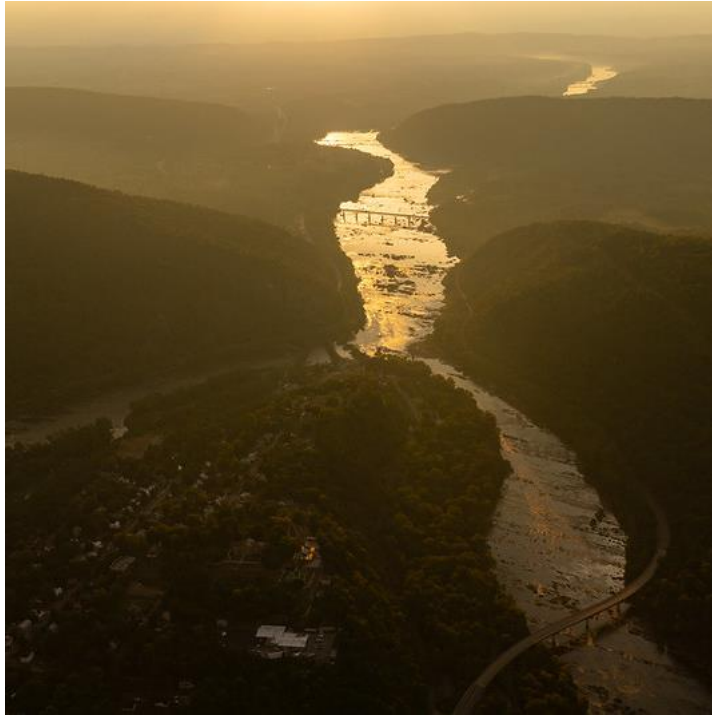
Public comment period

- Anyone can submit comments.
- Comments will not be addressed individually. All comments received will be posted online at chesapeakebay.net.
- Comments will be collected and reviewed by subject matter experts. A red-lined version of the document will be posted online after the public feedback period.
- After the public feedback period, the document will be reviewed by the Management Board and approved by the Principals' Staff Committee before delivery to the Executive Council.



**Submit comments and questions
to
comments@chesapeakebay.net**





Thanks!

Anna Killius
Chesapeake Bay Commission

