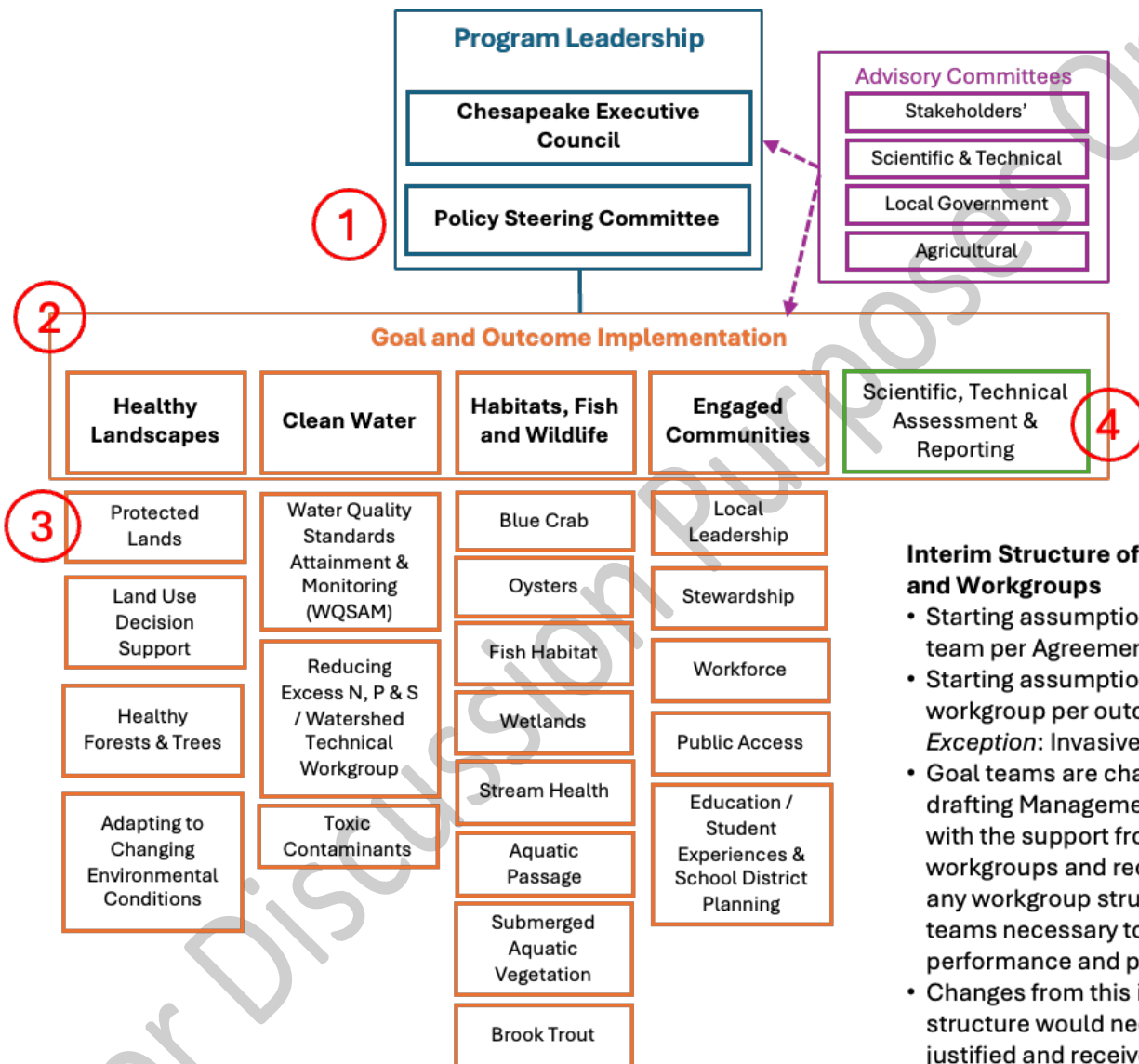


Strawman Chesapeake Bay Program Structure

The Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) has been charged by the Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) with recommending a simplified and streamlined partnership structure and processes to the EC in as much detail as possible by December 1, 2025. Subsequent changes to the Governance and Management Framework incorporating this revised structure and processes do not need to occur until June 2026.

The purpose of this structure strawman is to provide a tool for soliciting ideas and feedback from the MB for consideration by the PSC. It does not attempt to reflect the PSC's position in any way on what the future structure of the Bay Program could or should be. It is not an attempt to posit what the ideal structure would be. It presents a structure purposefully different but not completely removed from the one currently in place to encourage creative and critical thinking. Major decision points for discussion are identified with red numbers.



Roles and Responsibilities

Executive Council

- *Signatories to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement – Governors of DE, MD, NY, PA, VA, WV; Mayor of DC; Chair of CBC; Administrator of EPA*
- Primary responsibilities:
 - Commits to support the vision and goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and work cooperatively in its implementation
 - Provides strategic direction to the Principals' Staff Committee and the Program through agreements, directives, resolutions, charges, and other letters or communications.
 - Approves significant changes to the Watershed Agreements, including changes to goals.
 - Receives counsel from Advisory Committees

Policy Steering Committee

- *High-level state and federal leaders (cabinet, secretary, director or commission level) or their designee empowered to act as proxy.*
- Primary responsibilities:
 - Approves changes to the Watershed Agreement, including outcomes and targets; elevates significant changes to the Executive Council.
 - Provides strategic policy direction and sets priorities for Program annually
 - Pursues the alignment of resources around Program priorities
 - Oversees governance framework, including creation of goal teams, workgroups, and action teams.
 - Publicly reports on progress toward Program goals and outcomes.
 - Receives updates on operations and implementation from goal teams and oversees operation and implementation-related decision making.
 - Reviews management strategies and workplans (logic & action plans) and Program's adaptive management process.
 - Coordinates Chesapeake Bay Program communications and strategic engagement, as well as science-based decision-making.
 - Receives counsel from Advisory Committees.
- Voting Members: 1 per Signatory; Participating: additional federal and state delegation members; Advisory: ACs
- Leadership: PSC Chair is representative of the EC Chair; *Vice Chair?; CBP Director as coordinator?*

Implementation : Goal teams, Workgroups

- Primary responsibilities:
 - Reports on state of the science and progress, provides policy options and issues analysis, frames strategic decision-points for Program Leadership
 - Prepares and updates management strategies and workplans to realize outcomes and targets within their goal and workgroup area
 - Assesses data availability and alignment and analyzes implementation challenges and resource availability to inform Program prioritization.
 - Provides analyses for the adaptive management process to review progress, identify approaches and actions that are or are not working, draft new workplans, and update management strategies as appropriate to improve effectiveness.
 - Fosters collaboration across goals and outcomes.
 - Identifies need for adding or consolidating workgroups and action teams.
- Voting Members: 1 per signatory + predetermined allocation of non-signatory at-large members; Advisory ACs

Major Decision Points for Discussion:

1. **Combining the PSC and MB:**
 - Would this reduce duplicative rounds of decision-making?
 - If all program management and policy direction fall to one decision-making body, are we overburdening high-level policy-makers with more and longer meetings?
 - Would this result in more direction from the high-level policy-makers of the Program, or encourage more delegation of PSC oversight to designees?
 - Who will prepare materials for decisions by the PSC?
 - *Alternative:* More clarity about division of decision-making and oversight between PSC and MB.
2. **Alternatives proposed to “1 Team per Agreement Goal:”**
 - 2 Goal Teams: [Clean Water + Habitats, Fish and Wildlife] and [Healthy Landscapes + Engaged Communities]
 - 5 Goal Teams: Split [Fish & Wildlife] and [Habitat]
3. **Alternative proposed to starting with “1 Workgroup per Outcome:”** Assume no workgroups.
4. **What to do with non-goal team groups like STAR, SET, or SRS?** Who will be responsible for ensuring these critical activities continue within a streamlined structure.
5. **Who is responsible for the operational management of the Bay Program, including consolidating information from the goal teams and preparing it for decision by the PSC?**
 - Is this the role of the CBPO, under CBP Director leadership?