



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

June 23, 2026

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Strategic Plan

Sarah Brzezinski, EPA CBPO

Key Documents

- “The Goals and Outcomes contained in [the **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (CBWA)**] are collective commitments made by the signatories to advance the restoration, conservation and protection...”
- Management strategies for each Goal will be contained within a single **6-Year Strategic Plan** and “shall outline the means for accomplishing each Outcome and its Targets...”
- A separate **Workplan** for each Outcome will state the specific activities that partners will collaboratively undertake to implement management strategies over a **one- to three-year** period.

CBWA States That the MS Will Describe:

- How partners will address changing environmental conditions
 - How actions are coordinated among partners and stakeholders
 - How signatories, other state and federal agencies, local governments, Indigenous representatives, nonprofit and private partners are engaged
 - Where actions, tools, financial support and technical assistance are needed to empower local governments and others
 - What steps are necessary to facilitate greater participation in achieving the Outcome
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Strategic Plan Chapters & Sub-sections



Clean Water Goal Management Strategies

- **Goal Language**
- **Goal Situation Analysis** – Shared challenges for partnership to address, including Changing Environmental Conditions
- **Optional: Management Approaches for the Goal** – Strategies that partners should collaboratively undertake to address challenges that impact multiple Outcomes within the Goal

RENPS, Toxics, & WQSAM Sub-Sections

- Outcome language (including targets)
- Baseline and Current Condition
- Monitoring Progress and Indicators
- Outcome Situation Analysis
- Snapshot of Signatory Programs
- Management Approaches for the Outcome
- Participating Partners

NOTE: Signatory Statutory Authorities, organized by goal and outcome, will be included, likely as an Appendix

RENPS, Toxics, & WQSAM Workplans

- Separate 3-year Workplans will include:
 - Narrative summary
 - Descriptions of the major actions to be undertaken
 - Project lead and participating partners
 - Human and financial resources needed and committed, as well as potential sources to fill gaps
 - Timeline for completion
 - Performance targets and deliverables

Timeline

MAY – DECEMBER 2026
Drafting

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2027
Incorporate feedback

MAY 2026 **JUN 2026** **JUL 2026** **AUG 2026** **SEP 2026** **OCT 2026** **NOV 2026** **DEC 2026** **JAN 2027** **FEB 2027** **MAR 2027** **APR 2027** **MAY 2027** **JUN 2027**

JANUARY 5 – 31, 2027
Strategic Plan
Public Feedback Period

MAY – JUNE 2027
Strategic Plan and Workplan
finalization and approval

Timeline



Estimated Total = 162–198 Pages

Section/Sub-Section	# of Sections	Recommended Pages per Section	Recommended Page Total
Introduction	1	2-3 pages	2-3 pages
Accountability	1	2-4 pages	2-4 pages
Goal	4	2-4 pages	8-16 pages
Outcome	21	7-8 pages	147-168 pages
Appendix	1	3-7 pages	3-7 pages

Other Program Plans	Years	Total Pgs	Links
PSP Action Agenda	2026-2030	154	https://pspwa.app.box.com/s/cpor6rbxl1fgmily9h9rwp81am2fqxcq
LIS CCMP	2025-2035	140	https://lispartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/CCMP_Final_Accessible_10-07-2025.pdf
GLRI Action Plan	2025-2029	43	https://www.glri.us/sites/default/files/2025-12/glri-action-plan-4-202511-43_0.pdf

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Considerations for Today's Meeting

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Guiding Questions: Situation Analysis

What are the greatest challenges impacting progress towards Outcome attainment?

- What scientific, environmental, fiscal or policy-related developments have already or may influence partnership work?
- Which challenges are shared among Outcomes?

Guiding Questions: Critical Challenges

Which challenges to Outcome attainment will be the most critical for partners to address over the next six years?

Recommended criteria:

1. PSC priorities
2. Workgroup expertise and background materials provided
3. Whether or not the challenge is within CBP's ability to influence
4. Where a partnership approach to addressing the challenge adds value
5. The relative importance and expected impact of addressing each challenge with respect to Outcome attainment
6. The partnership's capacity to pursue initiatives related to challenges within the next six years

Guiding Questions: Snapshot of Signatory Programs

What programs are currently being implemented by jurisdictions, agencies and organizations?

- Are there efforts that CBP should avoid duplicating?
- Are there any gaps in existing efforts?

Snapshot of Signatory Programs

Signatory representatives on Chesapeake Bay Program Goal Teams are asked to provide the following information for each Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Outcome, as applicable:

- A snapshot of one to three featured programs, including Fiscal Year 2025 appropriations, a hyperlink to the program webpage, and a one sentence description of how the program relates to Outcome attainment.
- The most pertinent statutory authorities, hyperlinked if appropriate

The following information is submitted by: (please your name here)

Signatory Partner: (please type signatory jurisdiction or organization name here)

Snapshot of Signatory Programs

Managing a large and difficult restoration and conservation program with “no assurance about the level of funds that may be available beyond the short term” (GAO, 2028) is a challenging undertaking that requires individual and collaborative action from signatory partners, as well as the many communities and individuals who live, work, play and learn in our region. This “Snapshot of Signatory Resources” seeks to better recognize the significant contribution that individual signatory partners and federal agencies make towards outcome attainment. The existing programs and funding spotlighted below are not intended to represent the full range of resources available or required to support progress towards outcome attainment; only the “biggest ticket” programs are included for each outcome and signatory partner. It is important to note that funding is reported from a single point in time (fiscal year 2025) and is not representative of future investments. Identifying the most critical programs and resources that exist at a particular moment in time can help the partnership focus its collaborative efforts on activities that have the greatest impact, and which don’t duplicate the work of existing programs.

IMAGINARY State of Narnia - Backyard Bird Outcome Examples

- [Keeping Cats Indoor Program](#) (\$180K in FY 25) helps families shift to indoor-only cats, protecting pets and local birds alike through how-to workshops, enrichment starter kits and DIY [catio](#) plans.
- [Songbird Sanctuaries Program](#) (\$300K in FY 25) protects and restores shrubland, forests, and meadows across public and residential lands, creating connected corridors and engaging communities in stewardship and songbird monitoring.
- [Building for Birds](#) (\$190K in FY 25) offers a tax credit to small businesses and community organizations for the installation of treated windows or the retrofit of permanent decals on existing windows to reduce bird collisions.

[Signatory Name] – [Outcome name] Outcome

- [\[Featured Program with hyperlink\] \(\[Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025\]\) \[one sentence max description of how program relates to Outcome attainment\]](#)
- [\[Featured Program with hyperlink\] \(\[Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025\]\) \[one sentence max description of how program relates to Outcome attainment\]](#)
- [\[Featured Program with hyperlink\] \(\[Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025\]\) \[one sentence max description of how program relates to Outcome attainment\]](#)

Please provide a snapshot of one to three programs related to each outcome, as indicated below:

Thriving Habitat, Fisheries & Wildlife Goal

[Signatory Name] - Blue Crabs Outcome

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[Signatory Name] - Brook Trout Outcome

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[Signatory Name] - Fish Habitat Outcome

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[Signatory Name] - Fish Passage Outcome

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[Signatory Name] - Oysters Outcome

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[Signatory Name] - Stream Health Outcome

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Signatory Statutory Authorities

Appendix 1. Signatory Statutory Authorities Driving Outcome Attainment

The law and regulation of signatory partners may support, justify or motivate their participation in the collaborative work of the Chesapeake Bay Program related to the attainment of specific Outcomes and Targets of the Watershed Agreement.

The following documentation identifies core statutory authorities that provide part of the impetus for the attainment of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Outcomes and their related Targets. While Chesapeake Bay Program partners acknowledge that the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement is voluntary, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, and does not preempt, supersede or override any other law or regulation applicable to each signatory, they also acknowledge that the law or regulation of individual signatories can support each partner's participation in outcome attainment. The table below is not an exhaustive list of all relevant laws and regulations. Rather, this appendix identifies the driving motivators that can bring about signatory partner engagement in efforts described in this Strategic Plan, associated Management Strategies, and Workplans.

IMAGINARY Backyard Bird Outcome Examples

State of Narnia	Code of Narnia Regulation (CONAR) 05.02.20.05 Residential Bird-Safe Construction
	CONAR 08.03.20.01 Backyard Birds
	CONAR 08.03.21.15 Songbird Sanctuaries

Outcome: [Outcome name]	
Signatory	Statutory Authority
[Signatory Name]	[Statutory authority – include hyperlink if available]
	[Statutory authority – include hyperlink if available]
	[Statutory authority – include hyperlink if available]

Please provide one to three core statutory authorities related to each outcome, as indicated below:

Goal 1: Thriving Habitat, Fisheries & Wildlife

Outcome: Blue Crabs	
Signatory	Statutory Authority
[Signatory Name]	

Outcome: Brook Trout	
Signatory	Statutory Authority
[Signatory Name]	
Outcome: Fish Habitat	
Signatory	Statutory Authority
[Signatory Name]	
Outcome: Fish Passage	
Signatory	Statutory Authority
[Signatory Name]	
Outcome: Oysters	
Signatory	Statutory Authority
[Signatory Name]	
Outcome: Stream Health	
Signatory	Statutory Authority
[Signatory Name]	
Outcome: Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	
Signatory	Statutory Authority
[Signatory Name]	
Outcome: Wetlands	
Signatory	Statutory Authority
[Signatory Name]	

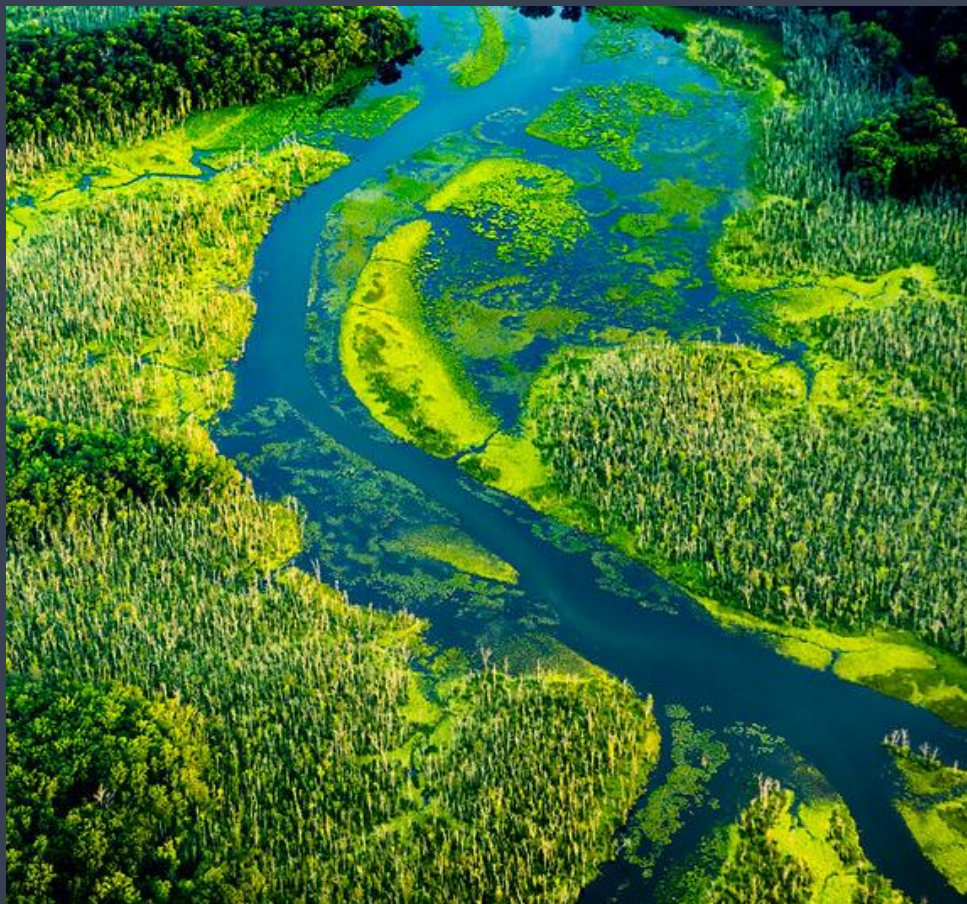
Goal 2: Clean Water

Outcome: Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorous & Sediment	
Signatory	Statutory Authority
[Signatory Name]	

Guiding Questions: Management Approaches

What general approaches or actions should CBP undertake to fill gaps and/or address the challenges to goal and outcome attainment?

- Which approaches should be coordinated across Goal Teams and/or Workgroups?



Thank you!

Questions?

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EPA Region 3

Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Photo courtesy of Will Parson, CBP

Guiding Questions

- What are the greatest challenges impacting progress towards Outcome attainment?
 - What scientific, environmental, fiscal or policy-related factors impact our work?
 - Which challenges are shared among Outcomes?
- Which challenges to Outcome attainment will be the most critical for partners to address over the next six years?
- What programs are currently being implemented by jurisdictions/agencies?
 - Are there efforts that CBP should avoid duplicating?
 - Are there any gaps in existing efforts?
- What general approaches or actions should CBP undertake to fill gaps and/or address the challenges to goal and outcome attainment?
 - Which approaches should be coordinated across Goal Teams and Workgroups?