



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Stakeholders' Advisory Committee
Quarterly Meeting
February 19, 2026

Governance and Structure

Structure: Key Concepts accepted by the Executive Council

- Identified two primary structural elements:
 - **Leadership:** Set strategic direction & priorities
 - **Implementation:** Inform, coordinate, & drive
- Framework **sunsets Management Board (MB)**
- Transition to a **new four-Goal Team structure** to ensure timely delivery of Management Strategies.
- Goal Team (e.g., workgroups) and Program Support elements are **not predetermined**.



Team of Signatory representatives (MB members or designees) will implement the structure and governance revisions and report progress to the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) for final approval by July 1, 2026.



Revisions to the Governance and Management Framework

Governance and Management Framework for the Chesapeake Bay Program

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| Element | Task-specific |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 - Introduction | |
| 2 - Ethics | |
| 3 - Leadership | Partnership (i) |
| | Federal (ii) |
| 4 - Implementation | MB Transfer (i) |
| | Goal Teams (ii) |
| | Support Teams (iii) |
| | Advisory (iv) |
| 5 - Public Meeting Procedures | Decision Making (i) |
| | Participation (ii) |
| 6 - Operations & Accountability | Priority Setting (i) |
| | Mgmt Strategies (ii) |

Introduction

- *Section I – Introduction:* Seeking a consistent reference for the “Chesapeake Bay Program”. Term only generally described in 33 U.S.C. § 1267.
- *Section II – Principles:* Interest in an accountability mechanism, such as, incorporating them into the mid-term assessment in 2033.
 - *“Operate with transparency and accountability in program decisions, policies, actions and reporting on progress to strengthen public trust and confidence in our efforts.”*
- *Section III – DEIJ:* Specifying this statement is voluntary and not a contract or assistance agreement – addresses revocation of E.O. 13985.

Ethics

- Added footnotes to relevant federal regulations (impartiality rules at 5 *C.F.R. Part 2635, Subpart E*) and language on the “actual and appearance/perception of conflicts”.

Partnership Leadership and Advisory

- Generally, identified areas that should be addressed due to inconsistencies, recommendations (Governance and Accountability Team, ERG Report, Beyond 2025 Report, etc.), future updates (e.g. Tribal Partnership), and clarifying language.
- Advisory Committees updated (i.e., Stakeholders) and added (i.e., Agriculture).
- Considering regularized calendar of agenda items for PSC.

Federal Leadership

- Focus is on meaningful federal engagement and ensuring efficient coordination of resources and technical assistance.
- Establish EPA Administrator as signatory rep at EC and EPA Regional Administrator (mid-Atlantic region) as signatory rep at PSC.
- Establish councils for policy and prioritization issues with executive representation, and for implementation and coordination with senior managers and experts.

Management Board (*dissolution*)

- Formal coordination roles should be identified to support information transfer between bodies.
- Regular meetings of the Co-chairs and coordinators of each of the Goal Teams, Support Teams, and Advisory Committees for cross-program coordination and issue elevation.



Goal Teams

- GITs differ widely in how they are structured, and current guidance for GIT membership is only recommended - discussions ongoing, edits/comments under consideration.
- Seeking to set minimum standards for GIT membership while allowing some flexibility.

Support Team

- Significant consideration on intra-program relationships - how best to convene technical support groups with broader element of Program Implementation.

Public Meeting Procedures

Decision Making

- Various Parliamentary Procedures were considered (e.g., [Rosenberg's Rules of Order](#)). Several pieces appear useful for CBP Public Meetings, particularly guidance on handling “Motions”, and a framework for participation roles (e.g., Chair, Members, Invited Guests, Public).
- Emphasis on motions and membership has also highlighted the importance for appropriate documentation and tracking tools (membership rosters, decisions/motions).
- Interested in establishing a default mode of decision-making for respective CBP bodies, and then guidance materials for when to consider other decision-making modes.

Participation

- Seeking to develop general guidance (e.g., how to utilize chat features) and establish a formalized time for non-members to provide feedback for group consideration - when does this apply, how is this communicated, etc.
- Section is specific to all program meetings. Participation will also be addressed in Goal Team and Workgroup framework.

Accountability

- How best to align three planning and accountability mechanisms. Generally considering:
 - *Management Strategies*: High-level repositories of jurisdictional and collaborative mechanisms for driving implementation. Interested in independent evaluation in 2033 on Outcome Progress. Known need to align with MS decisions being made.
 - *Workplans*: Sourced from MS. On-going consideration for 1-3 years in duration and approval process. Early considerations for some type(s) of independent assessment, possibly focused on operations and management (1-3 yr basis), compared to MS \leftrightarrow Outcome progress.
 - *Priorities*: Initiatives directed from EC/PSC.
- Operational piece becomes very important – what does an annual schedule look like in balancing the preparation and communication needs.

2026 Year-at-a-glance

Meetings

| |
|---------------------------|
| PSC |
| Management Board |
| [Sig] Implementation Team |
| Federal Office Directors |
| Federal Holiday |

Showing these meetings to conceptualize periods for partner coordination

April MB will be moved to the 16th to prepare for the revision process following April 7th PSC meeting.

| January '26 | | | | | | |
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| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| February '26 | | | | | | |
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| March '26 | | | | | | |
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| April '26 | | | | | | |
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| May '26 | | | | | | |
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| June '26 | | | | | | |
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