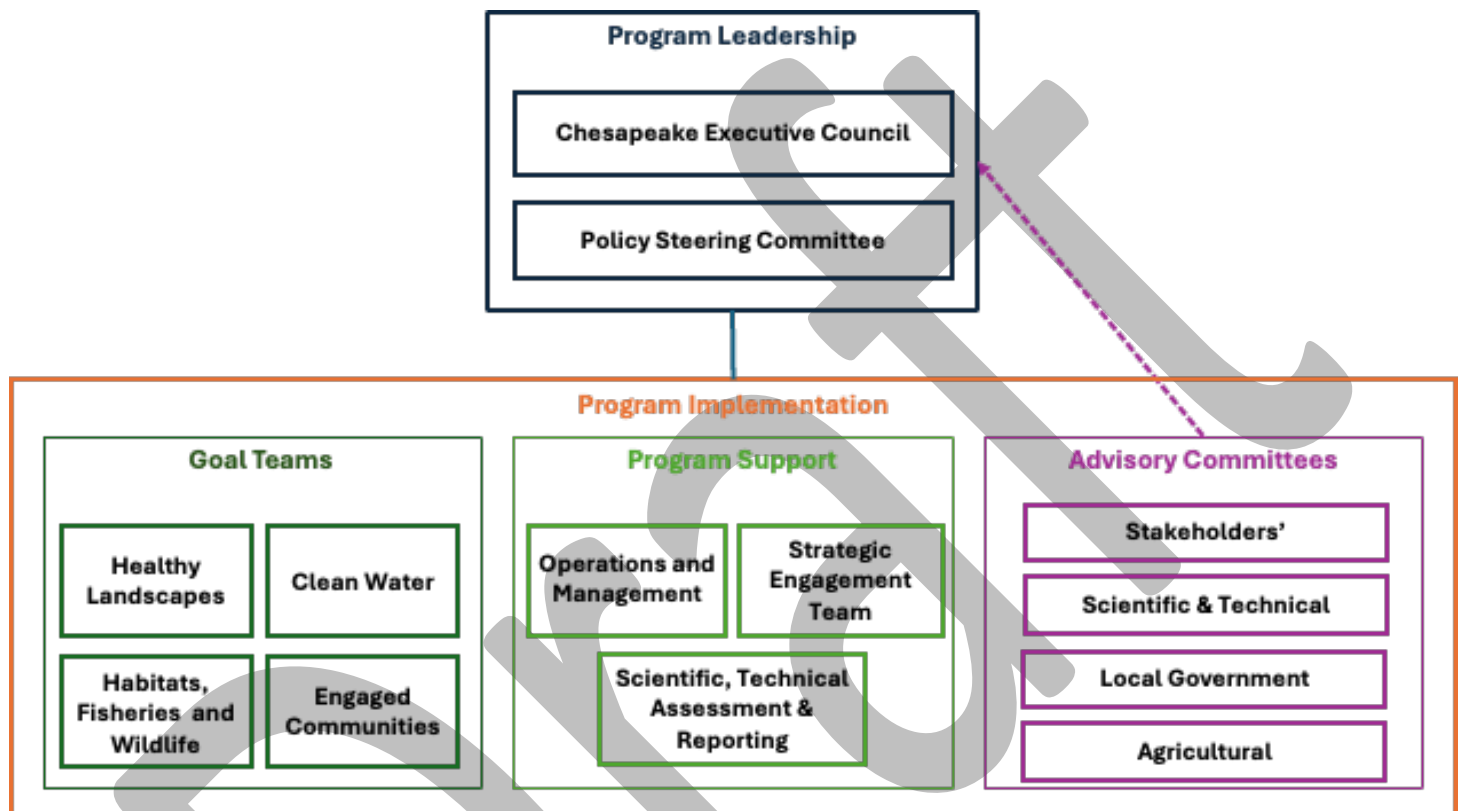


## Draft Proposal for a Streamlined Chesapeake Bay Program Structure

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.



### Program Leadership

#### **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 of the EC:
  - Commits to support the vision and goals of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and work cooperatively in its implementation.
  - Provides leadership and public accountability on progress toward goal achievement under the Agreement
  - Provides strategic direction to the Policy Steering Committee and the program.
  - Pursues strategic opportunities to align resources and secure new resource opportunities.
  - Approves significant changes to the Watershed Agreement including its 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. PSC members represent and speak for their Signatory principal in Program discussions and decisions.*
- Primary responsibilities of the PSC:
  - Sets agendas for EC meetings, prepares EC principals for discussions on key issues, reviews and recommends actions to the EC, and reports to the EC annually on implementation.
  - Approves changes to the Watershed Agreement including its outcomes and targets; elevates significant changes to the Executive Council.
  - Provides strategic policy and program direction and sets priorities for the program annually.
  - Pursues strategic opportunities to align resources or seek new resource opportunities.
  - Receives updates on program operations and implementation from goal teams and program support teams.
  - Reviews management strategies and program's adaptive management process.
  - Ensures progress toward program goals and outcomes is regularly and publicly reported.
  - Receives and responds to counsel from Advisory Committees.
- Voting Members: 1 per Signatory. Participating but Non-Voting: Additional federal and state delegation members. Advisory Members: Advisory Committee Chairs
- Leadership: PSC Chair is a representative of the EC Chair. PSC should also identify a Vice Chair to promote continuity of leadership. PSC is co-coordinated by PSC Chair's staff as well the CBPO Director and staff

## Program Implementation

- ❖ The chairs of the goal teams, program support teams, and advisory committees should gather periodically to ensure cross-program discussion, collaboration, and coordination of topics and recommendations prepared for the Policy Steering Committee.
- ❖ As the **Chesapeake Bay Program Office and its staff** play a key role in coordinating, supporting, and, when appropriate, chairing many of the teams within Program Implementation, **the CBP Office, led by the Office Director**, will continue to be responsible for moving materials between Program Implementation and Program Leadership and ensuring decisional items are prepared and disseminated for the Policy Steering Committee's consideration.

**Goal Teams:** Healthy Landscapes; Clean Water; Thriving Habitat, Fisheries and Wildlife; and Engaged Communities

- Primary responsibilities:

- Prepares and updates management strategies and workplans to realize outcomes and targets within their goal and workgroup area.
- Fosters collaboration across goals and outcomes.
- Reports on state of the science and progress, provides policy options and issues analysis, frames strategic decision-points for PSC.
- Assesses science and implementation needs as well as resource availability to inform the PSC's prioritization and resource decisions.
- Conducts adaptive management process to review progress, identify approaches and actions that are or are not working, update management strategies to improve effectiveness, and elevate issues in need of PSC action.
- Creates, concludes, or consolidates workgroups and action teams.
- Voting Members: 1 per Signatory as well as up to 6 non-Signatory at-large members.  
Participating but Non-Voting: At the discretion of the team. Advisory: Advisory Committee members.

### Program Support

- Science, Technical Analysis and Reporting
  - Coordinates the monitoring, modeling and analysis needed to update, explain, and communicate ecosystem conditions and changes to support decision-making to achieve the Agreement Goals and Outcomes
- Strategic Engagement Team
  - Provides guidance and assistance in utilizing communications, outreach, stewardship, local engagement, and social science to advance Agreement Goals and Outcomes.
- Operations and Management
  - Improves operational governance and management of the Chesapeake Bay Program, including the successful application of its adaptive management process.

### Advisory Committees: Local Government; Stakeholders; Scientific and Technical; Agricultural

- Provide independent perspectives from critical stakeholder groups and strengthen the natural and social science basis for Bay protection and restoration activities. These appointed and/or elected volunteers serve as independent thinkers and advisors to the EC, PSC and Program Implementation teams.