



Beyond 2025: Phase II

Lucinda Power, Branch Chief, EPA CPBO

February 20, 2025, Stakeholders' Committee Meeting

2024 Executive Council Charge

- ◆ The Executive Council directs the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) to complete the following by December 31, 2025:
 - Revisions to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, not a new Agreement. Revisions to outcomes should be executed pursuant to the Governance and Management Framework for the Chesapeake Bay Program. While not all outcomes will need revision, some reviews will likely result in consolidating, reducing, updating, removing, replacing, or adding new outcomes.
 - A simplified and streamlined structure and process for the partnership that supports all partners as they work toward achieving their commitments in an effective, efficient, and inclusive manner. It is the expectation of the Chesapeake Executive Council that the revised partnership structure and processes will be more inclusive of all communities and more manageable for partnership staff.

2024 Executive Council Charge, cont'd

- ◆ The PSC is directed to complete “revisions to the 2014 *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, not a new Agreement.”
- ◆ The Charge provided 7 guidelines to be reflected in the revision/update process:
 - Greater emphasis on engaging all communities
 - Address water quality AND living resources
 - Elevate conservation
 - Grounded in science
 - Goals and outcomes need to be measurable and time bound
 - Acknowledge that scientific understanding is constantly evolving, so the Agreement must be adaptable; and
 - We share a common goal, but are all coming at that goal from different perspectives.

2024 Executive Council Charge: Roles & Responsibilities

- ◆ PSC will take the lead on reviewing and updating the Agreement's Vision, Preamble, Principles, Goals, and Management Strategies
 - Each signatory delegation will submit one set of comments to Maryland (Chair of PSC) throughout the review and revision process.
- ◆ PSC has directed the Management Board, in coordination with the GITs and Workgroups, to review and Agreement Outcomes and provide recommendations to the PSC for approval
- ◆ PSC has directed the Management Board to propose a streamlined and simplified structure and governance for the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership
 - Through direction of the PSC and Management Board, GIT 6 is taking the lead on developing recommendations for structure and governance
- ◆ **Close collaboration between partnership groups is critical!!**

Key Terms

- ◆ The “**Big Question**”: “What advice do you have for the Management Board on how to consolidate, update, remove, replace or reclassify outcomes within your Cohort/GIT?”
- ◆ **Disposition Terms** for Outcome Reviews and Decisions
 - ▢ Update: Outcome intent is largely intact.
 - ▢ Consolidate: i.e., Combine with another outcome or outcomes.
 - ▢ Remove: Outcome is no longer in the Agreement.
 - ▢ Replace: A novel outcome replaces a current one, related to the subject area.
 - ▢ Stand Aside: Neither agreement nor disagreement; no influence to the decision.
 - ▢ Reclassify: Outcome is changed to an output or a different structure is adopted.
- ◆ **SMART**: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, and Time-bound
- ◆ **Pulse Checks**: Non-decisional, “temperature” check to determine where consensus is reached and where further discussion is needed to address discrepancies / points of disagreement

2025 Timeline to Meet the Executive Council Charge

- ◆ **January 29:** PSC approved the timeline and process for Agreement revisions; kicked off the review period for the Vision, Preamble, and Principles
- ◆ **February 13:** MB Meeting: First cohort of Outcome dispositions; pulse checks and office hours
- ◆ **February 27:** MB Meeting: Second cohort of Outcome dispositions; pulse checks and office hours
- ◆ **March 13:** MB Meeting: Third (and final) cohort of Outcome Dispositions; pulse checks and office hours
- ◆ **March 27:** Joint PSC/MB Meeting: Final plenary discussion of outcome disposition. Gaps/Novel outcomes discussion. Discussions on governance and structure strategy and progress
- ◆ **March 28:** PSC Meeting: Approval of any updates to the Agreement's Vision, Preamble

2025 Timeline to Meet the Executive Council Charge

- ◆ **April 3:** Briefing and discussions with Advisory Committees on Outcome dispositions
- ◆ **April 10:** MB Meeting: Approve final disposition of Outcomes (and novel Outcomes); Begin SMART updates to revise Outcome language
- ◆ **May 7-8:** MB Retreat: Finalize recommended Outcome revisions; discuss governance and structure work
- ◆ **May 23:** PSC Meeting: Review of MB Outcome recommendations and discussion of Goal and Management Strategy revisions; discuss governance and structure work.
- ◆ **June 12:** MB Meeting: Incorporate PSC feedback and approve final recommendations for public feedback
- ◆ **June 23:** PSC approval of updated Agreement
- ◆ **July – Aug:** Public feedback period

2025 Timeline to Meet the Executive Council Charge

- ◆ **July 10:** MB Meeting: Discussion of structure and governance
- ◆ **August 14:** MB Meeting: Initial recommendations for structure and governance work; initial review of feedback from public review period
- ◆ **August 20:** PSC Meeting: Feedback on structure and governance recommendations; initial review of feedback from public review period
- ◆ **September 11:** MB Meeting: Review, organize, and address public feedback; continue structure and governance discussions

2025 Timeline to Meet the Executive Council Charge

- ◆ **October 9:** MB Meeting: Propose changes to Agreement revisions based on public feedback; Final structure and governance recommendations
- ◆ **November 6:** MB Meeting: Approve final Agreement revisions; Approve structure and governance recommendations
- ◆ **November 18:** PSC Meeting: Approve final Agreement revisions; Approve MB structure and governance recommendations; Prep for 2025 EC meeting
- ◆ **December 11:** MB Meeting: Prep for EC meeting
- ◆ **January – June 2026:** Incorporation of structure and governance recommendations and changes into Governance and Management Framework

Structure and Governance: Current & Next Steps

- ◆ February 3: Kick off meeting of GIT 6 structure and governance discussions.
- ◆ GIT 6 will divide into three teams: Structure, Governance, and Process.
 - Each team meets twice monthly, and all teams convene with full GIT 6 every ~6 weeks
 - Each team is responsible for developing recommendations (short- and long-term) for fulfilling the EC charge. Specific scope details will be worked out by each team.
 - ◆ E.g., Short term: standardize operational practices, action and decision documentation

Priority Projects

- ◆ Urgent and additional (not part of GIT/workgroup workplans)
- ◆ Critical actions needed to advance the EC Charge in the long-term
- ◆ Cross outcome (e.g., climate, people, shallow water)
- ◆ Supporting materials: Phase 1: B25 Steering Committee Report, Small Groups, Charting a Course to 2025, ERG
- ◆ Initial GIT submission deadline of Jan.3, but iterative and dynamic process; renewed focus in April/May
- ◆ Identified during review of outcomes and addressing “Big Question”
- ◆ Goal Teams (and partnership bodies)—continue to identify important projects and strategic needs, working together.

Thank you!

