



Chesapeake Bay Program Update

October 2026



Chesapeake Bay Program



Agenda

- Engagement Opportunities
 - Strategic Plan
 - Priority Setting Framework
- Executive Order

Strategic Plan Chapters

- Introduction
- Accountability and Adaptive Management
- Management Strategies for:
 - Thriving Habitat, Fisheries & Wildlife
 - Clean Water
 - Healthy Landscapes
 - Engaged Communities
- Appendices



Strategic Plan Current Status



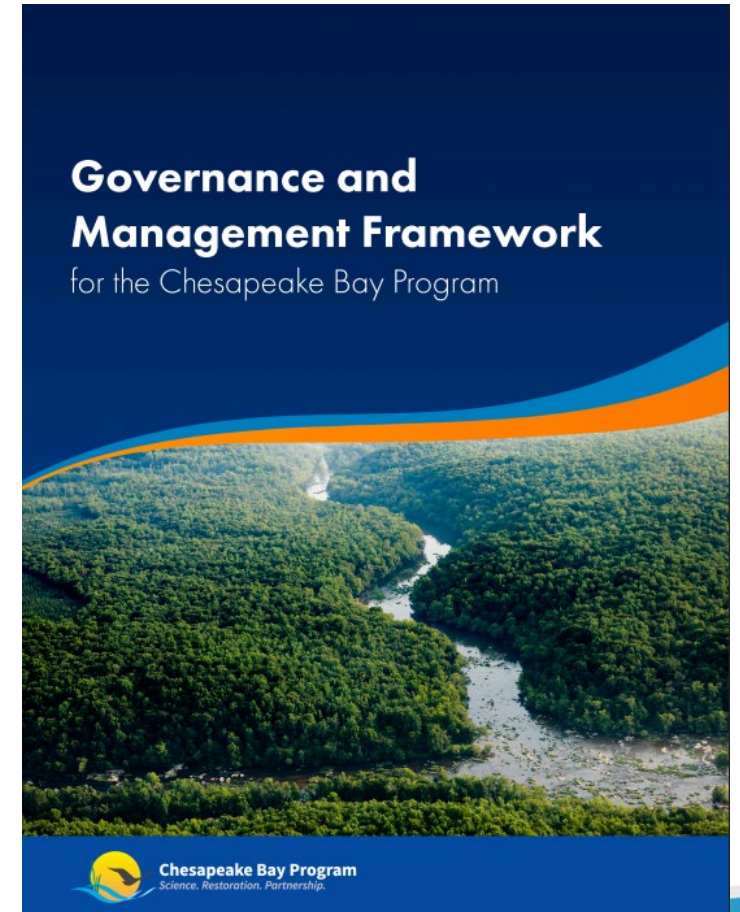
- Jurisdictions and federal agencies are contributing information for the “Snapshot of Programs” and the “Statutory Authorities” sections
- Outcome authors, Workgroups and Goal Teams are reviewing content
 - Beginning to move through the approval process for PSC review

Strategic Plan Timeline



Priority Setting Framework (PSF) established by the Governance and Management Framework (GMF)

- PSC will establish priorities based on:
 - EC charge/direction
 - Input from Advisory Committees
 - Suggestions from the Goal Teams
- Workload shared across signatory members
- Short term action teams may be established
- PSF will elevate priorities within the Watershed Agreement as well as emerging issues
- Process maintained and guided by the Governance and Operations Workgroup (GO Team)



Priority Setting Framework Current Draft

- Introduction
 - Aligning Partners
 - Focusing Resources
 - Supporting Adaptive Management
 - Clarifying Expectations
 - Signaling Leadership Intent
- Priority Criteria
- Priority Setting Process
- Tracking Priorities

2026 – 2027 Chesapeake Bay Program¹ Priority Setting Framework The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) broadly identifies partnership goals, outcomes, and targets within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (Agreement). This Priority Setting Framework builds on the Agreement's foundation by outlining a process by which the CBP's Policy Steering Committee (PSC), goal teams, and workgroups can accelerate Agreement implementation by identifying and elevating specific priorities for focused partnership attention. These priorities, informed by Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) direction as well as advisory committee, goal team, and workgroup recommendations, will strengthen the partnership by: • Aligning partners around shared strategic direction and initiatives: Biennial priority setting ensures federal agencies, states, and other partners are accelerating outcome achievement by working on the highest-impact or most urgent activities while operating within their respective authorities and missions. • Focusing resources: A curated list of top priorities may help direct funding, staff time, and policy attention toward actions likely to advance restoration goals while avoiding potentially redundant activity. • Supporting adaptive management: Biennial priorities allow the partnership to respond to new science, emerging risks, and implementation challenges. • Clarifying expectations and accountability: Clear and immediate priorities provide a reference point for workgroups, goal teams, and leadership to measure progress and report results. • Signaling leadership intent internally and externally: A unified list of leadership priorities communicates to implementing partners, funders, Congress, and the public where their support may matter most. <i>Priority criteria</i> – Priority initiatives must have an anticipated and articulable impact on accelerating Agreement implementation and should generally be scoped with the following in mind: 1. Time-sensitive: The priority initiative requires focused collaborative effort to accomplish because of near-term factors. 2. Major shared barriers: The priority initiative represents a significant obstacle to outcome attainment for multiple jurisdictions and requires enhanced coordination. ¹ As CBP has not previously implemented and managed this prioritization process, the partnership will conduct a biennial review of the process and will adapt it based on feedback from those involved in identifying, promoting, managing or tracking priorities.		
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Priority Setting Framework

Priority Criteria

Priorities must have an impact on accelerating Agreement implementation. The following should be considered:

1. Time Sensitive
2. Major Shared Barriers
3. Emergent in Nature
4. Enhanced Collaboration
5. Beyond Annual Deliverables
6. Short Term Implementation

Priority Setting Process

Biennial Bilateral Steps

1. Identification
2. Introduction
3. Development
4. Approval
5. Presentation
6. Implementation

Tracking Priorities

- GO Team will coordinate with Goal Team Chairs to track progress and report to the PSC.
- GO Team will ensure progress is transparent to the partnership.

Priority Setting Framework Next Steps

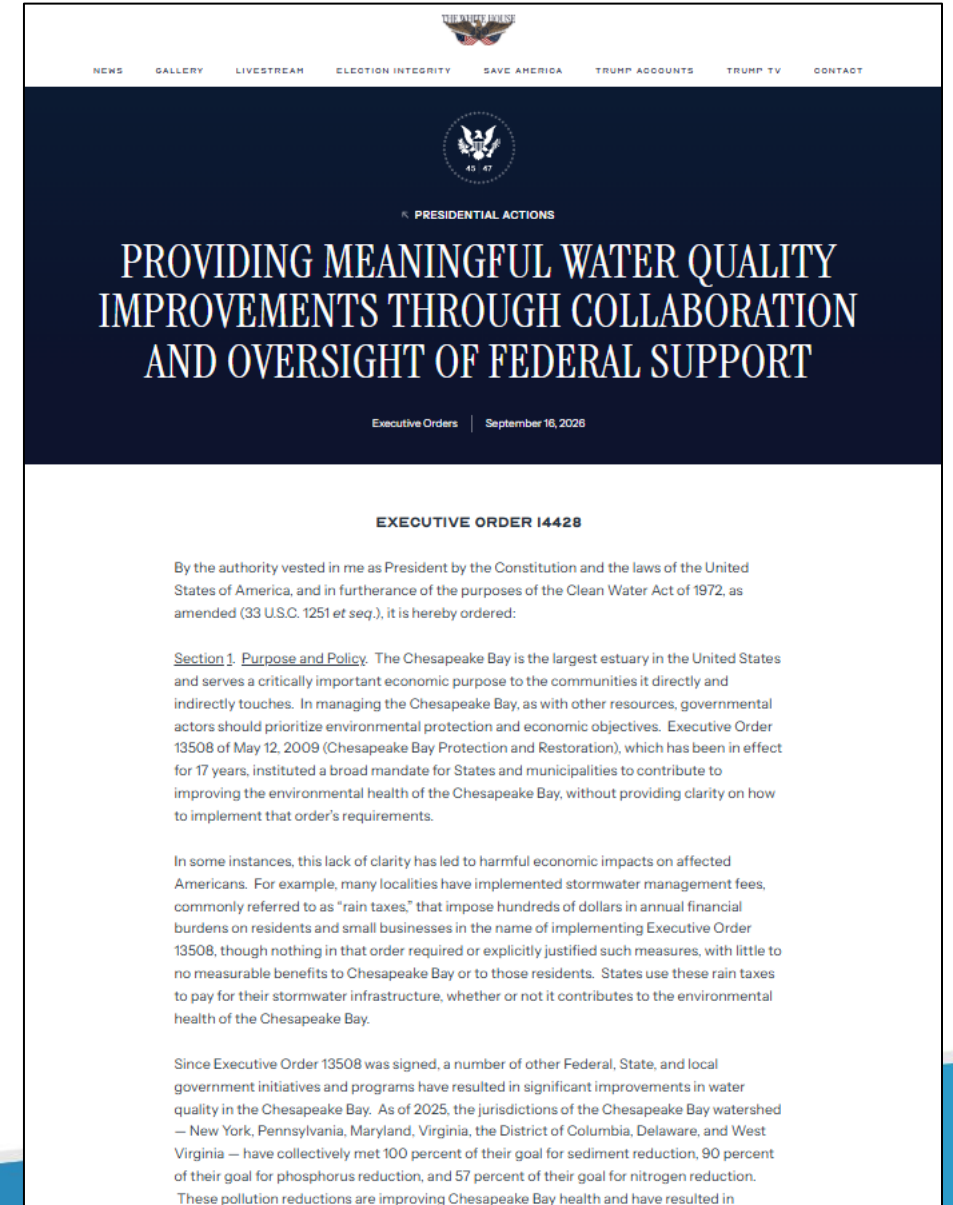
- Accepting comments from on PSF through 10/9

GO Team Email: governanceandoperations@chesapeakebay.net

- Will discuss changes to the PSF at 10/13 GO Team meeting
- Draft final document available on 10/22
- Will request approval at 11/5 PSC Meeting

Executive Order 14428

- Providing Meaningful Water Quality Improvements Through Collaboration and Oversight of Federal Support
- Issued September 16, 2026



The screenshot shows the White House website with a dark blue header. The navigation bar includes links for NEWS, GALLERY, LIVESTREAM, ELECTION INTEGRITY, SAVE AMERICA, TRUMP ACCOUNTS, TRUMP TV, and CONTACT. The main content area features the Presidential Seal and the text "PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS". The title of the executive order is "PROVIDING MEANINGFUL WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS THROUGH COLLABORATION AND OVERSIGHT OF FEDERAL SUPPORT", dated September 16, 2026. The body of the order is titled "EXECUTIVE ORDER 14428" and discusses the Chesapeake Bay's economic importance and the need for improved environmental protection.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 14428

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in furtherance of the purposes of the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*), it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Purpose and Policy. The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and serves a critically important economic purpose to the communities it directly and indirectly touches. In managing the Chesapeake Bay, as with other resources, governmental actors should prioritize environmental protection and economic objectives. Executive Order 13508 of May 12, 2009 (Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration), which has been in effect for 17 years, instituted a broad mandate for States and municipalities to contribute to improving the environmental health of the Chesapeake Bay, without providing clarity on how to implement that order's requirements.

In some instances, this lack of clarity has led to harmful economic impacts on affected Americans. For example, many localities have implemented stormwater management fees, commonly referred to as "rain taxes," that impose hundreds of dollars in annual financial burdens on residents and small businesses in the name of implementing Executive Order 13508, though nothing in that order required or explicitly justified such measures, with little to no measurable benefits to Chesapeake Bay or to those residents. States use these rain taxes to pay for their stormwater infrastructure, whether or not it contributes to the environmental health of the Chesapeake Bay.

Since Executive Order 13508 was signed, a number of other Federal, State, and local government initiatives and programs have resulted in significant improvements in water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. As of 2025, the jurisdictions of the Chesapeake Bay watershed — New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Delaware, and West Virginia — have collectively met 100 percent of their goal for sediment reduction, 90 percent of their goal for phosphorus reduction, and 57 percent of their goal for nitrogen reduction. These pollution reductions are improving Chesapeake Bay health and have resulted in



Questions

Contact Info:

Khesha Reed

reed.Khesha@epa.gov

Autumn Rose

Rose.autumn@epa.gov

Photos from Chesapeake Bay Program

<https://www.flickr.com/people/chesbayprogram/>