



Clean Water Goal Team Governance, Structure & Management Strategy

CWGT Co-Chairs
Lee McDonnell, EPA CBPO
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April 27, 2026



Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program


Governance & Structure for our Goal Team

Next step: Workgroup Assessment and
initial brainstorming

Lead: Lee McDonnell, EPA CBPO



Workgroup Assessment

- By May 28, Goal Team Co-Chairs are working with Coordinators and Staffers to--
 - Confirm current and proposed Goal Team and Workgroup leadership information is accurate; note any gaps in Chair, Co-Chair, Coordinator or Staffer roles
 - Include any new workgroups or action teams deemed necessary, accounting for limited staff capacity
 - Add existing/known indicators where relevant
 - Provide table of current Goal Team membership, using table and categories from draft GMF (page 21, April 7 version)
 - CBPO will finalize information by end of June
 - The PSC will consider and amend/adopt proposed governance and structure in July
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Clean Water

- Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment
- Toxic and Emerging Contaminants
- Water Quality, Standards Attainment and Monitoring

Moving from WQGIT to Clean Water GT

- WQGIT & 9 existing active or recently active workgroups
- 1.5x 2014 Goals, 5 outcomes
- STAR & 7 (11?) existing or recently active workgroups or teams
- 1.5x 2014 Goals, 3 outcomes & cross-program support



Clean Water Goal & 3 outcomes

Current WQGIT Workgroups

Workgroups

- “Source Sector Workgroups”
 - Agriculture WG
 - Urban Stormwater
 - Wastewater Treatment
 - Forestry Workgroup
- Land Use Workgroup
- Milestones Workgroup
- Watershed Technical Workgroup
- Federal Facilities Workgroup
- Ag Modeling Team
- Toxic Contaminants Workgroup

Side note: Plastic Pollution Action Team, which reports to the MB



Proposed Change

Keep as is - Move to CW Goal Team

Move to Goal other than CW

Combine/Change

Eliminate

Current WQGIT Workgroups

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- “Source Sector Workgroups”
 - Agriculture WG
 - Urban Stormwater
 - Wastewater Treatment
 - Forestry Workgroup*
- Land Use Workgroup
- Milestones Workgroup
- Federal Facilities Workgroup
- Watershed Technical Workgroup
- Ag Modeling Team
- Toxic Contaminants Workgroup



Proposed Change

Keep as is, stays in CWGT

Move to Healthy Landscapes*

Combine/Change

Eliminate

*still collaborates as needed for sector related insights

Side note: Plastic Pollution Action Team, which reports to the MB

Current STAR Workgroups



Workgroups

- Climate Resiliency
- Criteria Assessment Protocol
- Data Integrity
- Integrated Monitoring Networks
- Integrated Trends and Analysis Team
- Modeling workgroup
- Status and trends

Proposed Change

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Current STAR Workgroups



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Proposed Change

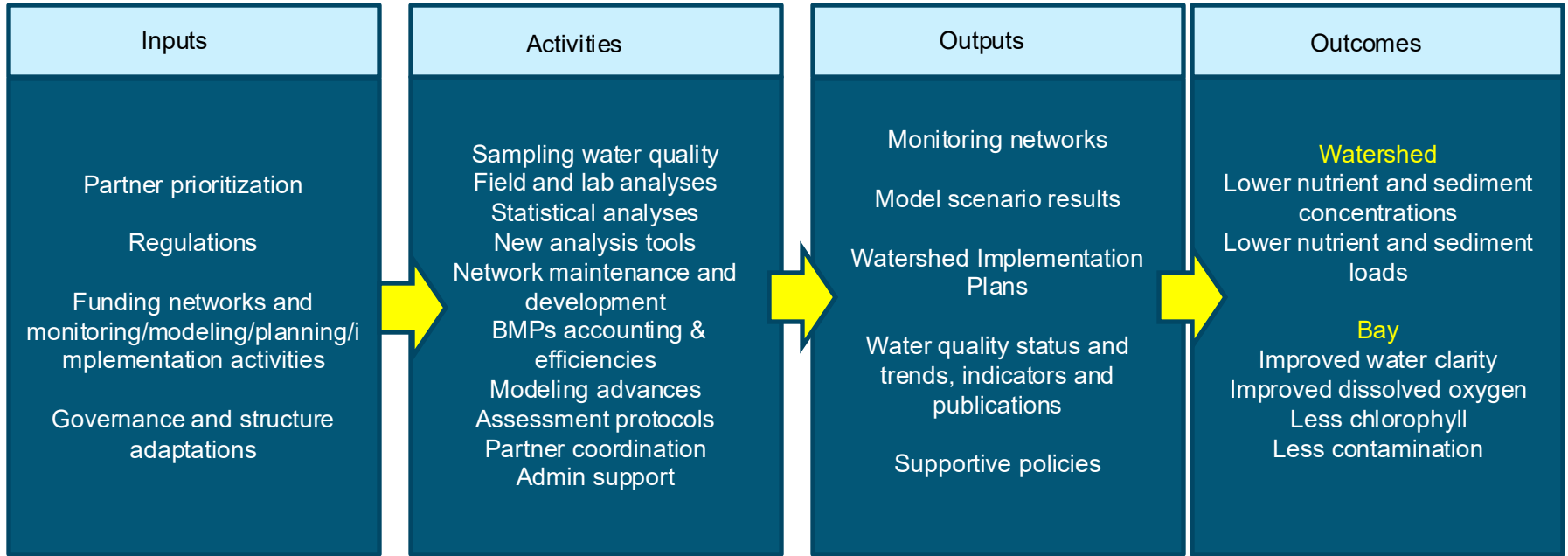
- Keep as is - Move to CW Goal Team
- Move to Healthy Landscapes
- Combine/Change
- Eliminate



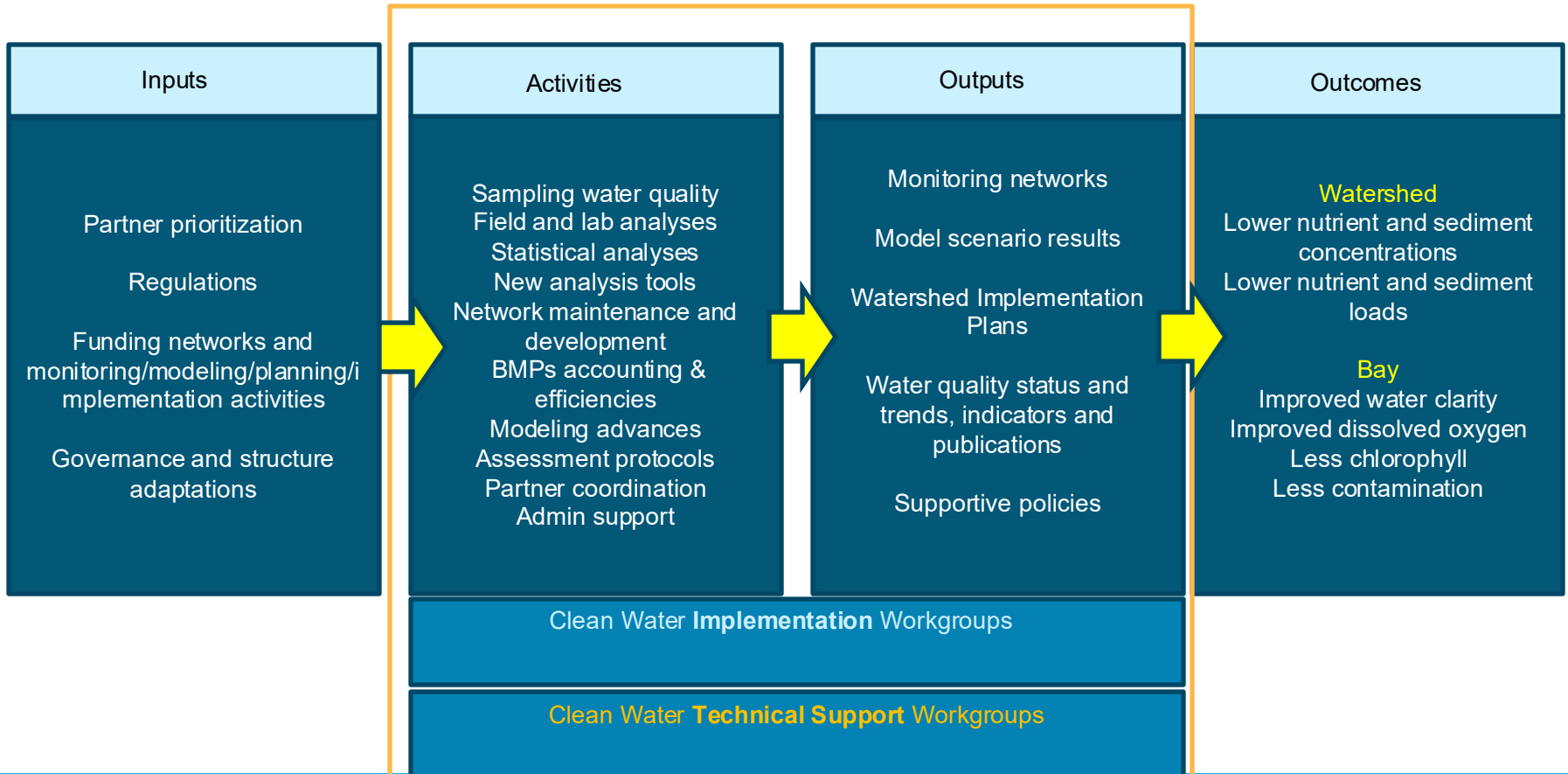
Putting it all together

- We are working on our alignment and structure
 - Need to have a structure recommendation completed at our May 18, 2026 meeting
 - Will provide current status on membership of all workgroups listed in the proposed structure for consideration at the May meeting
 - This is the workgroup assessment
 - Do we have chair/vice-chair or co-chairs in place?
 - Who are the signatory representatives and "at-large" members?
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CWGT: A Logic Model of our general work



CWGT: A Logic Model of our general work



Clean Water Goal Team: Proposed Strawman

Outcomes:

- Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorous & Sediment
- Toxic & Emerging Contaminants
- Water Quality, Standards Attainment & Monitoring

Implementation Workgroups are policy focused

Technical Support is the science that supports policy

** Indicates Technical Support Workgroup

Implementation Workgroups

- Agriculture
- Milestones
- Federal Facilities
- Urban Stormwater
- Wastewater Treatment
- Watershed Technical
- Ag Modeling Team
- Toxic Contaminants
- PPAT

Monitoring

- Tidal Workgroup (CAP/ITAT)
- Non-tidal Workgroup (NTN/ITAT)

Technical Support Workgroups

**Modeling workgroup

- **Integrated Monitoring Networks
 - Tidal – (Hypoxia/BORG)
 - NTN
 - SAV
 - Benthics
 - Community Science
- **Data Integrity

The 3 outcome of the Clean Water Goal Team are Shown above

- RENPS outcome has 5 Implementation Workgroups, 1 Technical Support Workgroup, and 1 Action Team
 - The implementation workgroups are well established – RENPS target 1, 2, 3
 - **Modeling workgroup is well established – supports overall RENPS efforts
 - Ag Modeling team will function until P7 is completed for use and sunset until there is a need for it again - supports overall RENPS efforts
 - Federal Facilities workgroup would be folded into the Watershed Technical workgroup – Many of the same people and focus on the same issues
- Toxics has 1 workgroup
 - Well established with a new charge and focus
 - Plastics Pollution Action Team is an Action Team of the MB and this could be a likely place for it
- WQSAM has 2 implementation workgroups, and 1 consolidated Integrated Networks Technical Support workgroup with a component for each Core Network
 - Tidal assessment is a combination of existing CAP, BORG, Hypoxia workgroups – WQSAM target 2
 - Non-tidal Monitoring WG – focus on utilizing Monitoring data as part of annual progress toward meeting TMDL and deeper dives into what drives trends
 - Tidal Monitoring WG/Non-tidal Monitoring WG – WQSAM target 4
 - Non-tidal and tidal WGs can have joint meetings and support the function of the Integrated Trends and Analysis Team (ITAT)
 - **Integrated Monitoring Networks – WQSAM target 1
 - WQSAM target 3 is reporting on the state of Bay WQ
 - **Data Integrity- keeping the data collection and reporting as a technical support function



Management Strategy Development

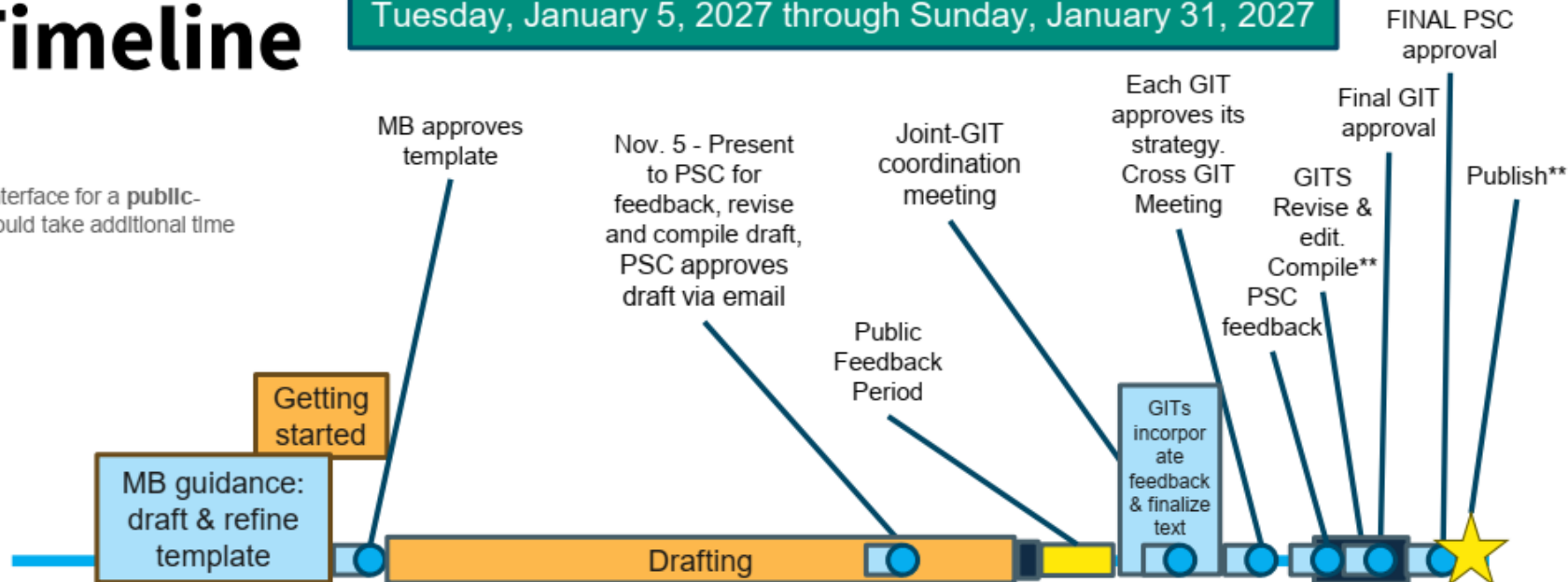
Looking ahead

Lead: Greg Sandi, MDE

MS Timeline

Public Feedback Period for Management Strategies:
Tuesday, January 5, 2027 through Sunday, January 31, 2027


**Dynamic web Interface for a public-facing content would take additional time



18-month countdown	Dec 00	Jan 01	Feb 02	Mar 03	Apr 04	May 05	Jun 06	Jul 07	Aug 08	Sep 09	Oct 10	Nov 11	Dec 12	Jan 13	Feb 14	Mar 15	Apr 16	May 17	Jun 18
Month	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Year	25	2026												2027					



Management Strategy Considerations

- 3 outcomes
 - MS is scheduled for a 6 year horizon, revisit/update for another 6, and phase in with the evaluation/update of the watershed agreement in 2040.
 - Do we span MS cycles between now and 2040 or stay within this cycle?
 - MS need to be completed in draft this year for public feedback the November/December timeframe.
 - For this MS...thinking in terms of short/mid/long-range objectives
 - Short = 1-2 years (our first round of workplan/priorities)
 - Mid = 2-4 years
 - Long = 3-6 years
 - Management Strategies go through public feedback period and are approved by GTs and PSC; Workplans are approved by GTs
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RENPS outcome

Initial concepts for Goal Team level
& Workgroup level tasks



RENPS – Goal Team level objectives

- **Short term** – Phase 7, when to update models,
 - **Mid** – planning targets, WIP update guidance/needs, adding BMPs to the model
 - **Long** - WIPs, Implementation, BMP verification via remote sensing/AI
- 

RENPS – Workgroup level focus areas or tasks

AgWG

Short

- Scenario Development – E3/no action/others identified by the CWGT members w/ input from the WTWG
 - Review at CWGT in July/August timeframe
 - Approval in September 2026
- Review of the P7 Model as it becomes available

Mid

- BMPs from space – initial focus on cover crops and tillage – EPA special funding for this activity

Long

- Soil Health – planning and designing what the future looks like in this arena



RENPS – Workgroup level focus areas or tasks

Urban Stormwater

Short

- Scenario Development – E3/no action/others identified by the CWGT members w/ input from the WTWG
 - Review at CWGT in July/August timeframe
 - Approval in September 2026
- Review of the P7 Model as it becomes available

Mid

- BMPs from space – need a plan for application – EPA special funding for this activity

Long

- Soil Health – planning and designing what the future looks like in this arena
- 



RENPS – Workgroup level focus areas or tasks

Wastewater Treatment

Short

- Scenario Development – E3/no action/others identified by the CWGT members w/ input from the WTWG
 - Review at CWGT in July/August timeframe
 - Approval in September 2026
- Review of the P7 Model as it becomes available

Mid

- ?

Long

- ?
- 



RENPS – Workgroup level focus areas or tasks

Watershed Technical

Short –

- Scenario Development – Assist other workgroups with E3/no action/others identified by the CWGT members
 - Review at CWGT in July/August timeframe
 - Approval in September 2026
- Review of the P7 Model as it becomes available
- Explore and develop option for including “new” BMPs in the model
 - Evaluate the current process, look for improvement
 - Consider how to more efficiently incorporate new BMPs without historical record.

Mid – ?

Long – ?





RENPS – Workgroup level focus areas or tasks

Forestry Workgroup (Workgroup moving to HLGT, these are listed strictly with respect to sector insights needed for RENPS work)

Short –

- Scenario Development – E3/no action/others identified by the CWGT members w/ input from the WTWG
 - Review at CWGT in July/August timeframe
 - Approval in September 2026
- Review of the P7 Model as it becomes available

Mid – ?

Long – ?





RENPS – Workgroup level focus areas or tasks

Ag Modeling Team

Short –

- Review of the P7 Model as it becomes available

Mid – ?

Long – ?



WQSAM outcome

Initial concepts for Goal Team level
& Workgroup level tasks



WQSAM – Goal Team level objectives

Short –

- Bring monitoring data more prominently to be used in annual progress toward meeting TMDL

Mid –

- Assess all D.O. criteria in all 92 segments of the Bay

Long –

- Bring all data into our tools and decision making constructs

Rolling/continual

- Certain reporting activities that are already known and have a cadence established
 - Annual updates of RIM station loads/trends
 - Bi- annual update Non-tidal network loads/trends

WQSAM – Workgroup level focus areas or tasks

- Discussion of how the workgroups are going to be streamlined (see strawman, slide 14)
 - What is the optimal number of workgroups?
- Discussion on Implementation Workgroups vs. Technical workgroups
 - Implementation = policy discussions
 - Tidal Monitoring
 - Defining what future assessment findings look like and how that is accomplished
 - This is former CAP workgroup/plus
 - Non-tidal Monitoring
 - How to make monitoring information more prominent in our reporting of annual progress
 - How to better use our monitoring data, increase understanding of what the data tell us and how it can be used
 - Joint meetings of these two groups can serve the purpose of ITAT
 - Technical = science support/no policy
 - Functions should align around the Core Networks
 - Should each Core network have a separate group?



Toxic & Emerging Contaminants outcome

Initial concepts for Goal Team level
& Workgroup level tasks



Toxic Contaminants – Goal Team level objectives

Short –

- ?

Mid –

- ?

Long –

- ?
- 



Toxic Contaminants – Workgroup level focus areas or tasks

TCW

Short –

- Work on Toxics outcome section of MS

Mid –

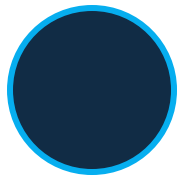
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Long –

- ?
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Next steps

- Workgroup Assessments
- Management Strategy Development
- Workplans to execute the management strategies
 - Workgroup workplans – expectation is that each workgroup will develop a workplan that will guide their work similar to the CWGT
 - Short, mid, long term objectives
 - Workplans will not be sent out for public feedback
 - Comments on MS and management approaches should be considered in development of the workplans



Questions?