



# The road ahead

January 2026 edition

# RENPS timeline

Through 2030 continue to accelerate completion of all interim water quality planning targets (Target #1)

Demonstrate net reductions with multiple lines of evidence (Target #3)

Now - 2026

“Ramp up”

2027

STAC and  
management  
reviews of  
model suite

2028

*Set new  
planning  
targets based  
on finalized  
suite of  
models*

2029

*Finish targets  
and begin  
planning?*

2030

*Finish new or  
amended  
WIPs?*

We have the PSC-approved schedule for Phase 7 Model so we'll stay focused on this for now

This is the outline post-2027, but we need direction before we formulate the detailed recommended schedule

# Near term: nutrients & sediment

RENPS Target #2

Model  
Development

Setting Targets

- Phase 7 decision tracker; finalizing inputs and methods

- Building our foundations and shared understanding

→ We'll continue resolving Phase 7 needs and building our foundations for what comes next

UPCOMING  
EXITS

MILE

1

# Beyond nutrients & sediment

UPCOMING  
EXITS

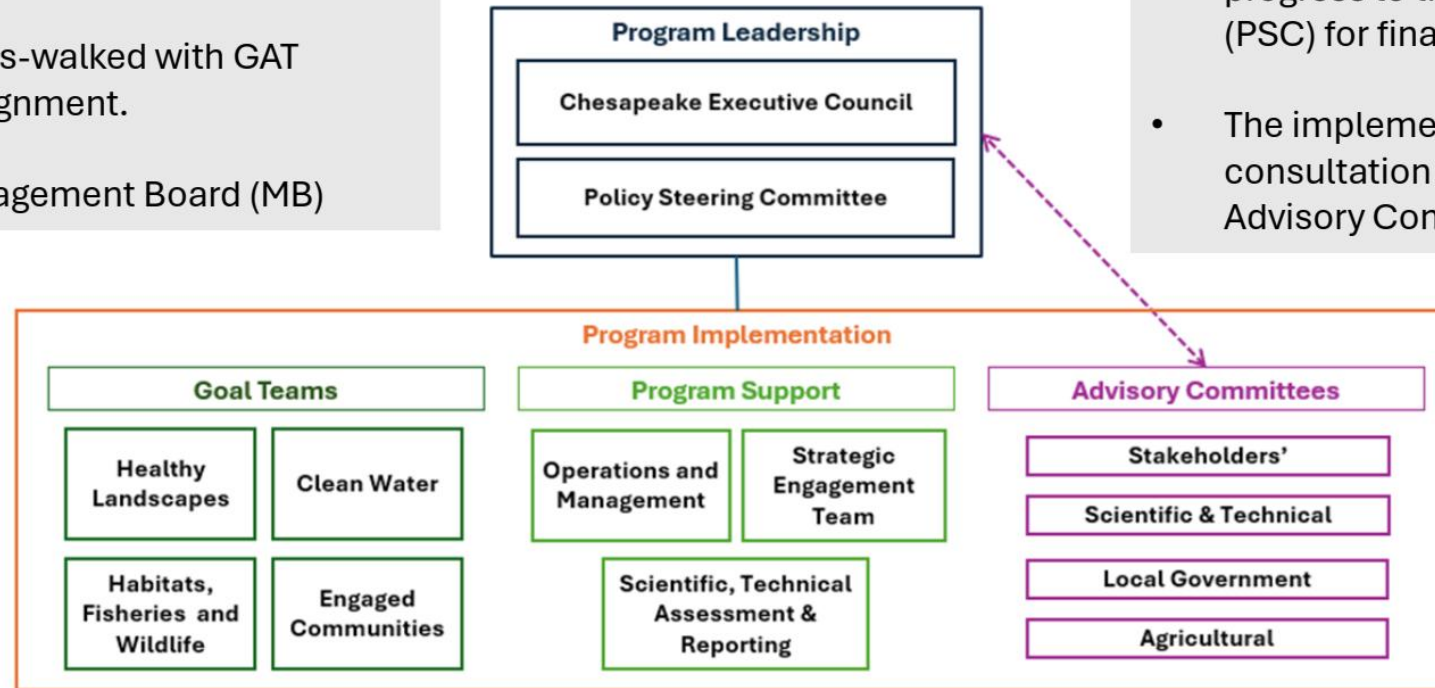
- New Goal Team Co-Chairs
- Management Board and PSC
  - Governance and Structure (Governance and Management Framework)
  - Management Strategies

*(Most) of the following slides are borrowed/adapted from Jan 15 MB & Jan 22 PSC presentations – kudos to Doug Bell & Sarah Brzezinski (EPA) and others who contributed to the original presentations*



# Key Concepts and Actions from Structure Recommendation to Executive Council

- Identified two primary structural elements:
  - Leadership:** Set strategic direction & priorities
  - Implementation:** Inform, coordinate, & drive
- Structure one-pager cross-walked with GAT recommendations for alignment.
- Framework sunsets Management Board (MB)



- A 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.
- The implementation process requires consultation with the existing PSC, Goal Team, Advisory Committees, and Program Support.

- Transition to a new four-Goal Team structure to ensure timely delivery of Management Strategies.
- Goal Team and Program Support elements are subject to revision – not predetermined.

# Governance & Management Framework

## Outline

- 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)

There is a full Writing Plan,  
timeline and other files  
posted on the January 2026  
MB & PSC calendar entries  
[\[MB Jan 15 Link\]](#)  
[\[PSC Jan 22 Link\]](#)

# Management Strategies

- “...[CBP] will update or develop Management Strategies for the Outcomes and their Targets that support the Goals of this Watershed Agreement. These strategies shall outline the means for accomplishing each Outcome and its Targets as well as monitoring, assessing and reporting progress and coordinating actions among partners and stakeholders as necessary.”
  - Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (CBWA) (CBP, 2025)

### **DECISION – Number of Management Strategies**

The MB agreed to develop a strategic plan consisting of a collaborative introduction and executive summary, followed by four goal management strategies that will serve as chapters. The MB will hold future discussions regarding a public-facing version of the plan and how work plans will be incorporated.

### **DECISION – Management Strategy Template Development Timeline**

The MB agreed that a draft management strategy template will be developed by March, with final approval no later than June. Approval will occur at the MB level.

### **DECISION – When to Start MS Drafting**

The MB agreed that the current GIT Chairs will begin preliminary work to compile background materials and research for the incoming GIT Chairs. Once the new Chairs are selected and the template is finalized, the new GIT Chairs will assume responsibility for drafting the management strategies.

### **DECISION – MS Authorship Officials**

The MB agreed the Executive Summary, Introduction and Accountability sections will be developed by EPA in consultation with GIT Chairs, MB Chair and PSC Chair's representative. GIT Chairs will develop specific goal management strategy chapters.

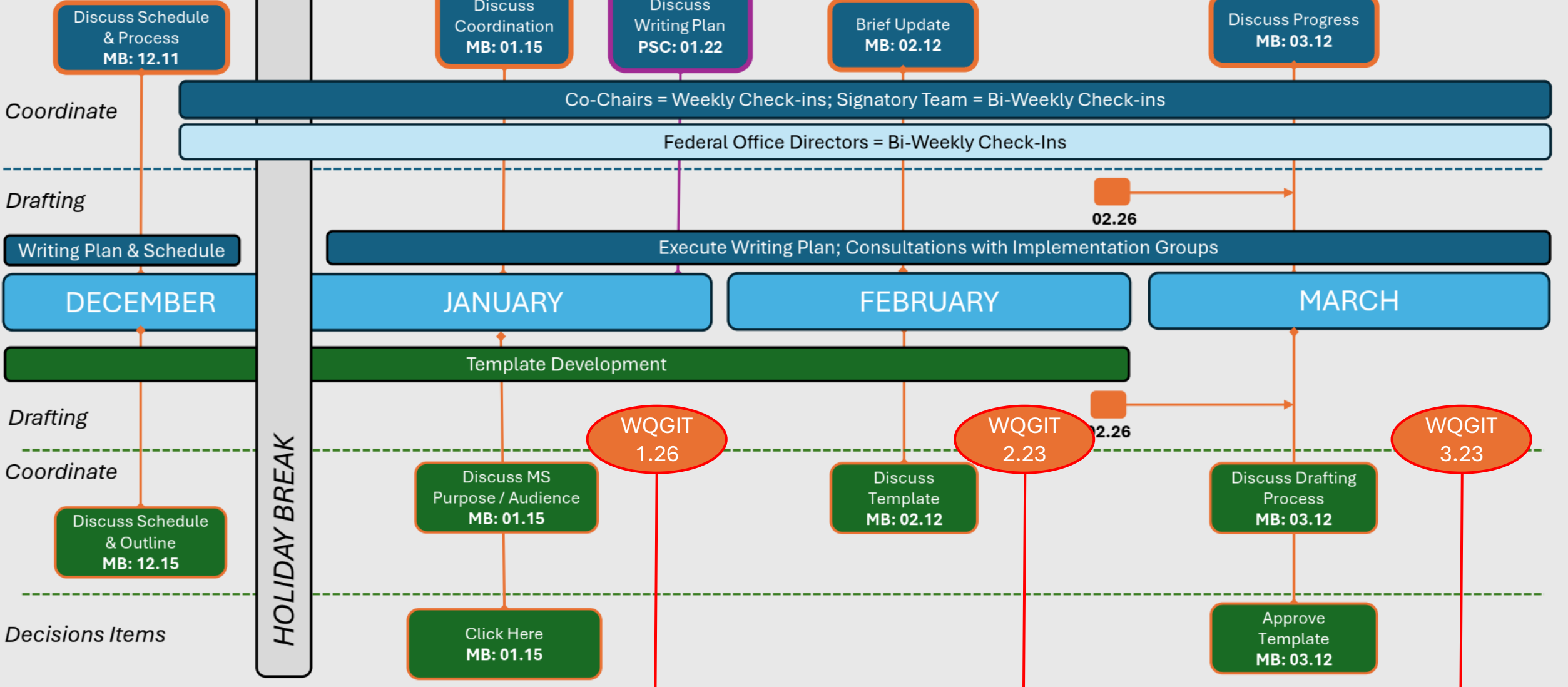


# Governance and Structure

Boxes = Pre-Meeting  
Dissemination Dates

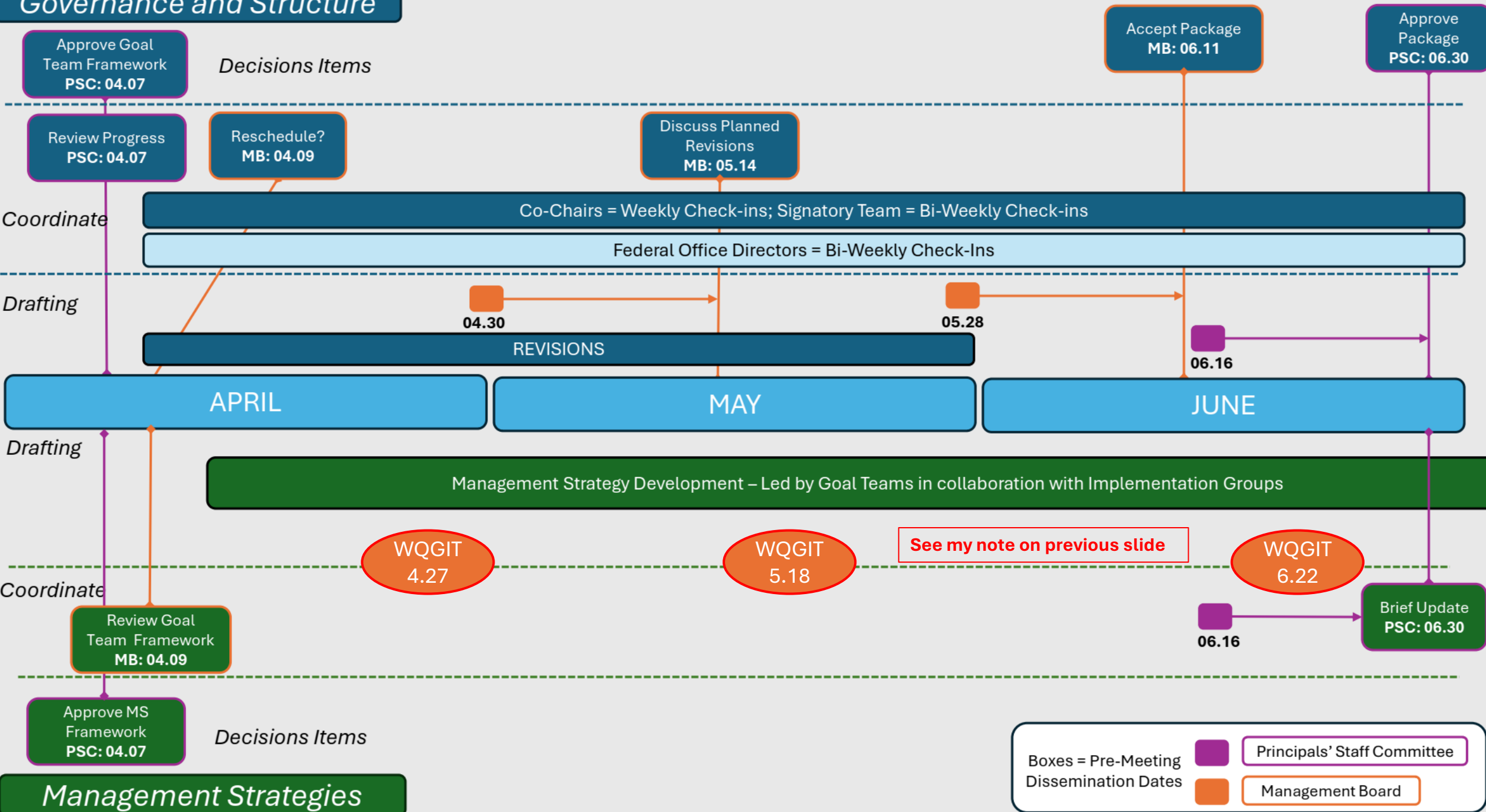
Principals' Staff Committee  
Management Board

Decisions Items



I've added our WQGIT meeting schedule to help illustrate what we can expect to have seen, or know, by each meeting. The bubbles fit better on the bottom half of the graphic, but I'm not suggesting our meetings are part of the MS workflow.

# Governance and Structure



# Putting it together, next 6 months for WQGIT/CWGT

- We will continue to update the Goal Team on developments and on any instructions or guidance received
- We are still looking at April for a hybrid meeting in Annapolis
  - Volunteer(s) can expect to hear more from us once we have co-chairs in place
- By our April meeting we will...
  - See a draft of the Management Strategy template (March)
  - Draft revisions to the Governance and Management Framework (April 7 PSC)
- By our June meeting we will have a clear sense of what's changing for July transition