



**Chesapeake Bay Program**  
*Science. Restoration. Partnership.*

# **Management Strategy Development Overview**

Clean Water Goal Team | September 28 – 29, 2026

# Strategic Plan Chapters & Sub-sections



# Timeline

**MAY – DECEMBER 2026**  
**Drafting**

**FEBRUARY - APRIL 2027**  
**Incorporate feedback**

**MAY 2026** **JUN 2026** **JUL 2026** **AUG 2026** **SEP 2026** **OCT 2026** **NOV 2026** **DEC 2026** **JAN 2027** **FEB 2027** **MAR 2027** **APR 2027** **MAY 2027** **JUN 2027**

**JANUARY 5 – 31, 2027**  
**Strategic Plan**  
**Public Feedback Period**

**MAY – JUNE 2027**  
**Strategic Plan and Workplan**  
**finalization and approval**

# Timeline

**OCTOBER 22, 2026**

Send Strategic Plan draft to Policy Steering Committee (PSC).  
(Chapters due Oct. 19)

**DECEMBER 3-18, 2026**

PSC approves draft Strategic Plan for Public Feedback Period release via email.

**APRIL 2027**

Present revised Strategic Plan to PSC.  
  
Receive and incorporate input

**MAY 2027**

Goal Teams approve Strategic Plan

**MAY  
2026**

**JUN  
2026**

**JUL  
2026**

**AUG  
2026**

**SEP  
2026**

**OCT  
2026**

**NOV  
2026**

**DEC  
2026**

**JAN  
2027**

**FEB  
2027**

**MAR  
2027**

**APR  
2027**

**MAY  
2027**

**JUN  
2027**

**NOVEMBER 5, 2026**

Present draft Strategic Plan chapters to PSC.  
Receive and incorporate PSC input.  
(Revisions due Nov. 20)

**JANUARY 5 – 31, 2027**

Strategic Plan Public Feedback Period

**JUNE 2027**

**PSC approves Strategic Plan**  
  
**Goal Teams approve Workplans**

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## **Clean Water Goal section – At a glance**

- 40+ years of partnership, 15+ years since TMDL:  
Much accomplished, much remains
- Three complementary outcomes to achieve Clean Water and support aquatic life, wildlife and human health

# Clean Water Goal section – At a glance

## General or cross-cutting

### Management Approach 2.0.1 (keep improving/adapting)

- Lead: CWGT
- Support: All CW WGs

### Management Approach 2.0.2 (local capacity + TA + cross-outcome)

- Lead: Source sector WGs
- Support: collaborate w/ relevant Advisory Committees and Workgroups

### Management Approach 2.0.3 (assess and integrate data sources)

- Lead: Modeling WG; Monitoring WG; Source Sector WGs
- Support: DAR, WTWG

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# **Clean Water Goal section – changes**

- Large number of clarifying edits
- Moved one Management Approach to RENPS

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# Clean Water Goal section – lingering items

- Notation/numbering Management Approaches
  - Not incorporated in this draft, open to that change if CWGT/PSC finds it helpful; would also apply to outcome sub-chapters if we do this
- Targets, targets, and planning targets.
  - We'll continue trying to reduce or avoid confusion, but we have to work in the framework and template we have.
- Participating partners (each outcome)
- Formatting, etc.



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# **Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus & Sediment (RENPS)**

# RENPS – At a glance

- Since 2009, watershed-wide: reduced nitrogen loads by 15%, phosphorus by 21% and sediment by 7% (interim targets: 57% of N, 90% of P and 100% sediment)
- Wastewater was the bulk of our nutrient reductions from 2009-2017; nonpoint sources accounted for half of the nitrogen reductions from 2017-2025
- “Keep our foot on the gas” through 2030 (target 1)
- New models → planning targets → plans by Dec. 2030 → 2040 horizon (target 2)
- More holistic picture w/ monitoring + modeling (target 3)

# RENPS – At a glance

## Target 1

### MA 2.1.4 (Phase 3 WIPs)

- Lead: CWGT
- Support: All CW WGs

## Target 2

### MA 2.1.1 (complete P7)

- Lead: Modeling WG & CWGT
- Support: Sector WGs, WTWG

### MA 2.1.2 (Revised planning targets)

- Lead: CWGT
- Support: Modeling; WTWG, Sector WGs

### MA 2.1.3 (WIPs)

- Lead: CWGT
- Support: Sector WGs

## Target 2

### MA 2.1.5 (Tiered imp.)

- Lead: CWGT
- Support: Modeling, Monitoring, CAP AT

### MA 2.1.6 (Nutrient imbalances + innovations)

- Lead: Sector WGs
- Support: Monitoring, DAR, Modeling, WTWG

## Target 3

### MA 2.1.7 (add'l lines of evidence)

- Lead: CWGT
- Support: Modeling, Monitoring, DAR

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# **RENPS – Changes for this decision draft**

- Large number of clarifying edits (thank you, commenters!)
  - Absorbed one Management Approach from the Goal section
  - Removed section about our ranking exercise
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# **RENPS – Lingering items for workplans**

- Materials and guidance for MA 2.1.1-2.1.3 in particular
- More details and specific objectives/deliverables
  - From STAC rep: consider collaborating to set interim, medium-term, and long-term nutrient use efficiency (NUE) and nutrient surplus goals at either the state or county level (under MA 2.1.6)



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# **Toxic & Emerging Contaminants (TEC)**

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# TEC – At a glance

- PPOW and TCW report to CWGT
- TCW: Workgroup focused on convening and information sharing, highlighting research and policy lessons, communicating status of toxics
- PPOW: Focused on plastics monitoring, research, management solutions
- Key takeaways:
  - EC prescribed a limited role for CBP regarding toxics mitigation because other existing state and federal toxics programs and partnerships already meet many of signatories' needs
  - TCW: Transition towards a value-added and strategic approach to disseminate information and connect researchers and practitioners
  - PPOW: Created under MB, pivoted to WG to finish scope, accomplish future work

# TEC – At a glance

## Target 1

### Management Approach 2.2.1

- Lead: TCW
- Support:

### Management Approach 2.2.2

- Lead: TCW
- Support:

### Management Approach 2.2.3

- Lead: TCW
- Support:

### Management Approach 2.2.4

- Lead: PPOW
- Support:

### Management Approach 2.2.5

- Lead: PPOW
- Support:

### Management Approach 2.2.6

- Lead: PPOW
- Support:

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# **TEC – Changes for this decision draft**

- Fewer management approaches 9->6 (3/WG)
- Intro framing around why TEC mission is limited
- Indicator more precisely defined, timing TBD
- TCW-endorsed draft had very few comments from GT (and from TCW membership)

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# TEC – Lingering items for workplans

- Member-driven workplan drafting process needed
- TCW leadership communicating that members will need to think about their organization's time, resources when drafting, committing organization to complete workplan actions
- 5 w's of indicator pivot
- How to generate member-driven info sharing
- How to best add value to CWGT on promoting toxics co-benefits of nutrients and sediment BMPs
- PPOW alignment with Goal Team to resource actions



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# **Water Quality, Standards Attainment & Monitoring (WQ,SAM)**

# WQ,SAM – At a glance

- Summary and Overview
  - Core monitoring networks remain strong and modernized with advanced sensors, 4D tools, and satellite data.
  - New resources helped sustain long-term networks during ongoing capacity reviews.
  - DO assessment methods advancing toward 2028 approval and 2030 implementation.
- Key Takeaways
  - 29% of tidal waters met WQ standards in 2022–2024; long-term recovery trend has slowed but is still positive.
  - Full operation of nontidal, tidal, SAV, benthic, and community science networks remains essential.
  - Priorities include closing monitoring gaps, improving coordination/QA, clarifying attainment drivers.

# WQ,SAM – At A glance

## Target 1

### Management Approach 2.3.1

- Lead: Monitoring WG
- Support: CWGT

## Target 2

### Management Approach 2.3.2

- Lead: CAP AT
- Support: BORG AT

## Target 3

### Management Approach 2.3.2

- Lead: CAP AT
- Support: BORG AT

### Management Approach 2.3.3

- Lead: Monitoring WG
- Support: DAR WG

## Target 4

### Management Approach 2.3.4

- Lead: DAR WG
- Support: Monitoring WG; Modeling WG

### Management Approach 2.3.5

- Lead: DAR WG
- Support: Monitoring WG; Modeling WG; WTWG

### Management Approach 2.3.6

- Lead: DAR WG
- Support: Monitoring WG; WTWG

# WQ,SAM – Changes for this decision draft

- Feedback on the “Baseline and Current Condition”
  - Edits for clarity
  - More information needed to indicate what we do now, what we plan to keep, and what may change
- Re-ordered WQ,SAM MA to better align with WQ,SAM Targets in the Watershed Agreement
- More detail is needed in MA 2.3.2 (Develop and Implement Decision Rules for Assessing Water Quality Criteria for All Designated Uses)
  - Will work with the CAP AT on this text

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# WQ,SAM – Lingering Items for Workplans

- Confirm which Workgroups and Action Teams will be responsible for each MA in lead and support roles
- Review possible actions/how the MA will be accomplished
  - Workgroup and Action Team leads
- Figure out the timeline pieces (e.g., 1-3 years vs. 3-6 years vs. longer-term)
  - Workgroup and Action Team leads

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# Discussion & Decision

- What's missing or needed in the Management Strategy? (...Now? Or, following public feedback?)
- **Consent requested to send the draft Management Strategy to the Policy Steering Committee**
  - Pending any edits, must be sent by October 19<sup>th</sup> to give PSC two weeks to review for Nov. 5