



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

FFWG: Clean Water Goal Team Structure

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Goal: Determine whether the WTWG and FFWG should remain separate or have its functions integrated into the WTWG



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Overview of the Clean Water Goal Team and Clean Water Goal Team's Proposed Structure

Clean Water Goal Team

- Clean Water as one of four goals established under the revised [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#)
- Clean Water Goal: Reduce pollutants entering the Bay and its rivers to achieve the water quality necessary to support aquatic life, wildlife and protect human health.
- Outcomes: Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus & Sediment, Toxic & Emerging Contaminants, Water Quality, Standards Attainment & Monitoring
- Water Quality Goal Implementation Team now Clean Water Goal Team
- Chairs: Lee McDonnell, EPA and Greg Sandi, MDE

The Four Interconnected Goals of Watershed Restoration



Clean Water Goal Team Structure

- Clean Water Goal Team was asked to provide a streamlined workgroup structure to the Management Board by May 28th. The PSC will consider and amend/adopt the proposed governance and structure in July.
- Discussions took place at the April and May Water Quality Goal Implementation Team/Clean Water Goal Team, and at an additional CWGT Office Hours, regarding this structure. Versions of the proposed structure are posted to today's calendar page.
- It was originally proposed that the Federal Facilities Workgroup's responsibilities be integrated into those of the Watershed Technical Workgroup.
- At the May Clean Water Goal Team meeting, some FFWG members shared concerns, and the FFWG box was ultimately added back on to the structure strawman, with a **request for additional discussion to take place amongst FFWG members at this June 9th meeting.**

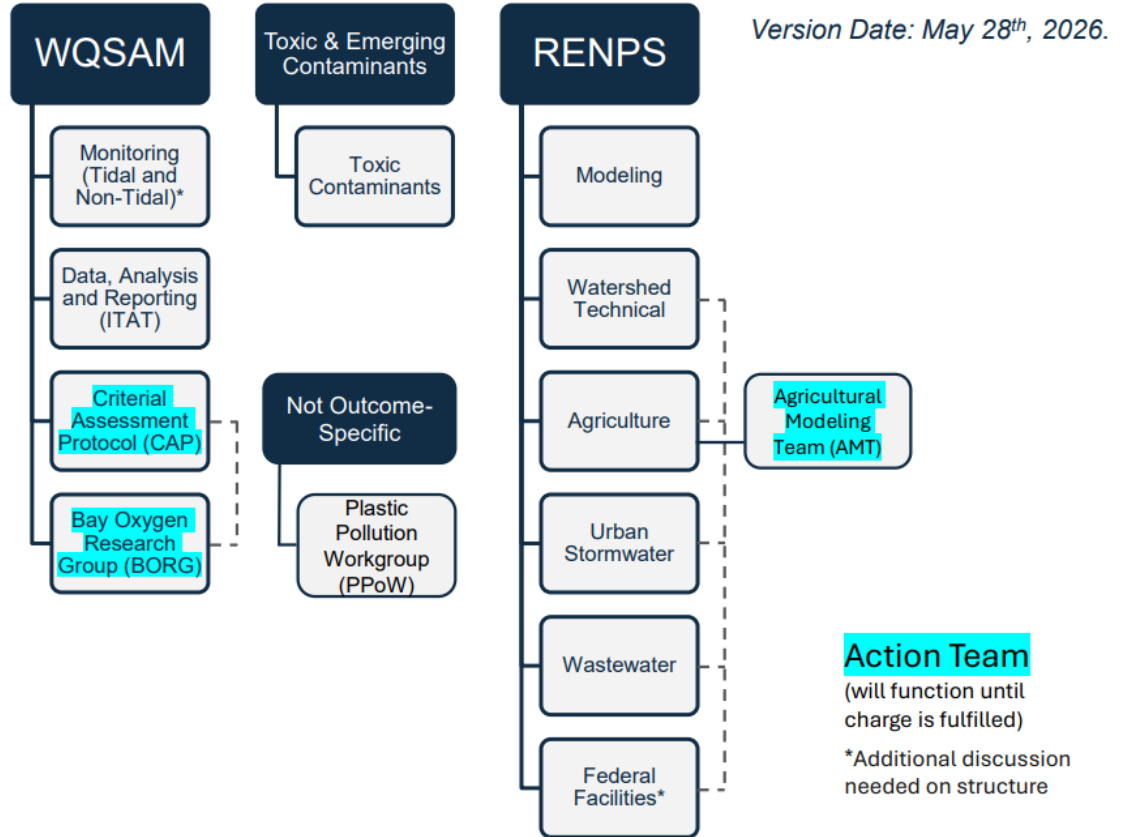
Clean Water Goal Team: Proposed Structure

Sunsetting Workgroups

- Milestones Workgroup
- Hypoxia Collaborative Team (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)
- Non-Tidal Workgroup (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)
- Data Integrity Workgroup (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)

Workgroups Moving to Healthy Landscapes GT

- Forestry Workgroup
- Land Use Workgroup



Exploring Potential Integration of the FFWG's Functions into the Watershed Technical Workgroup

What are the Functions of the FFWG?

- **Functions:** The current Federal Facility Workgroup (FFWG) consists of federal and state representatives and provides a forum for the federal and state representatives within the watershed to work directly. Federal facilities are responsible for annual BMP implementation progress reporting to respective jurisdictional partners. Topics center around items related to the annual progress submission and analysis process and the related tracking and reporting of BMPs on federal facilities.

What are the Functions of the Watershed Technical Workgroup?

The charge of the cross-sector Watershed Technical Workgroup is to provide a forum for communication and discussion between and among the jurisdictions and other CBP participants on technical issues related to Best Management Practices (BMPs), Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model processes, and management strategy development and implementation reporting. Functions include:

- Support the Water Quality Goal Implementation Team (WQGIT) and the greater Bay Program partners in implementing management strategies to achieve the nutrient and sediment reductions necessary to restore the Bay.
- Support development of BMP Expert Panel technical appendices.
- Review and approve the recommended BMP definitions and efficiencies from source workgroups and local jurisdictions, in collaboration with the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) and WQGIT workgroups. Ensure that BMPs are consistent across sectors and communicated clearly.
- Review and approve how BMPs are simulated in the Watershed Model to ensure that the assumptions accurately reflect real world conditions and are consistent and equitable between the different sectors.
- Review and approve how BMPs are tracked and reported by CBP partner jurisdictions and agencies for use in the Watershed Model to ensure that the assumptions accurately reflect real world conditions and are consistent and equitable between the different sectors and are communicated clearly.
- Provide technical review & recommendations to the CBP Modeling team and WQGIT on updates to Watershed Model Processes, input data, and assessment of annual progress.


Common Points of Discussion between the FFWG and WTWG

- Data Tracking and Reporting
- Model Update Discussions
- Annual Progress and Implementation Trends
 - Routine Progress updates

Potential Concerns from FFWG Members



Concerns Shared from FFWG Members

- Continuity of workgroup's historical knowledge from FFWG Members might be lost if functions are moved under the WTWG
 - There is a rural implementation focus for Federal Facilities
 - If the FFWG functions move to WTWG, there wouldn't be a reserved space for Federal Facility only discussions. Discussions might focus solely on state-level reporting concerns.
 - Others?
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Other Considerations

- The partnership, under the direction of the Executive Council, is trying to simplify and streamline. This includes the number of workgroups/meetings.
- There is much overlap between the WTWG and FFWG Jurisdictional representation. We have heard that incorporating FFWG into WTWG would reduce meeting load for jurisdictional representatives and cut duplicative efforts.
- Time is commonly available on the WTWG agendas and could be made specifically for Federal Facility concerns

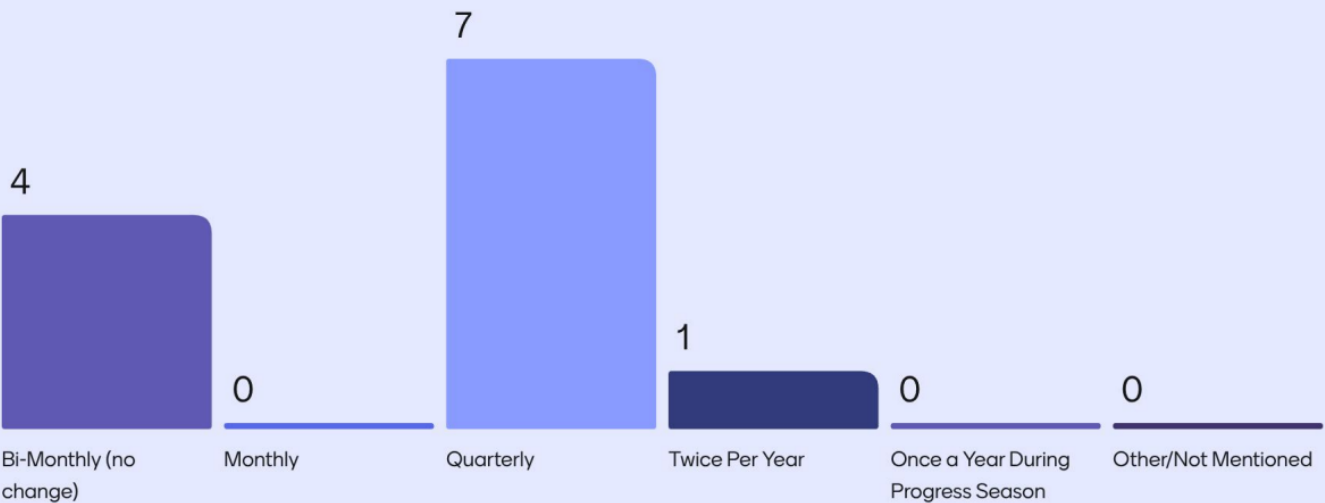


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Desired Monthly Meeting Frequency

Meeting Frequency


At what frequency do you think the FFWG needs to meet in 2026?



Discussion on Federal Facilities Workgroup Leadership



A Note on FFWG Leadership

- The FFWG has not had a chair for multiple years, with multiple calls for chair nominations.
 - Should the group proceed as its own workgroup, we would need to have a nomination for chair and co-chair step forward.
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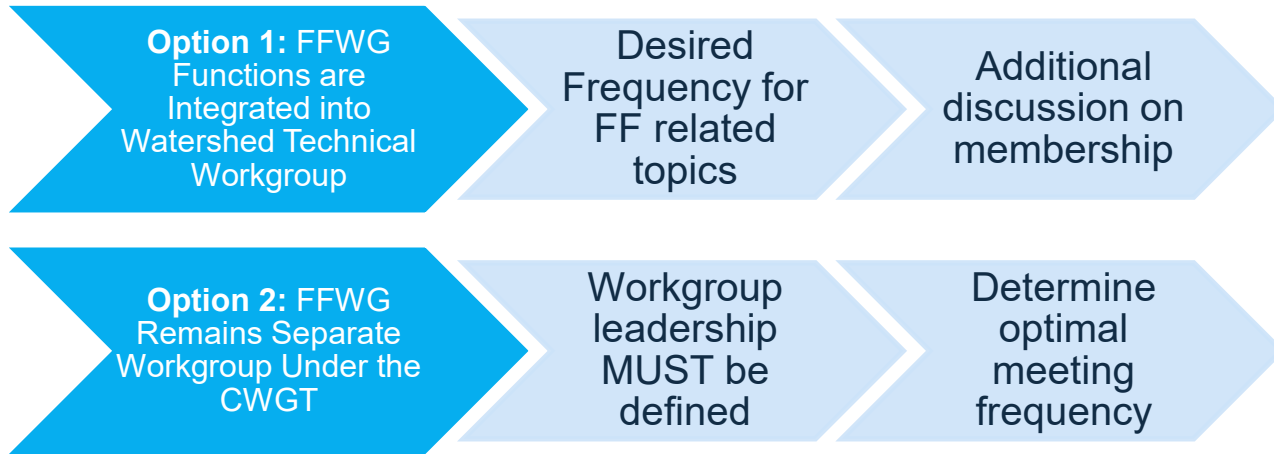


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Next Steps for the Workgroup

Options Moving Forward

- Today, the FFWG will need to decide on how the functions of the FFWG should proceed under the Clean Water Goal Team structure.



Possible Restructuring:

Key Concepts:

- Feds have quarterly meetings as requested but venue will now be at the WTWG.
 - Keep the two previous workgroup memberships distinct for messaging/emails specific to each groups.
- Feds only need participate in these quarterly meetings – tailored to feds with supporting presentations as desired.
- WTWG meets as usual, including these quarterly meetings.
- If topics for one group or another come up that are urgent, these items will be flagged on agenda to the relevant workgroup membership.
- Elevate disagreements to CWGT or FMC depending on topic of disagreement.
 - Voting structure of workgroup maybe changes if it is a topic specific to feds.



Possible Restructuring:

FFWG Quarterly Meeting Topics:

- August* – start of progress reporting checkin and community of practice building
- November* – deadline for fed data to jurisdictions (Nov 1)
- February* – confirmation of data inputs from feds and jurisdictional partners and community of practice building
- May* – progress overview for all partners (feds and jurisdictions)

*Fed items take priority on agenda, WTWG items follow as needed, Feds can stay at remainder of the meeting as useful.

