



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

Management Board Meeting  
February 12, 2026

# **Governance and Structure**

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## Summary from January 15<sup>th</sup> MB [[See Slides](#)]

1. Writing plan [[see document](#)] and detailed drafting timeline was reviewed [[see Document III.d – Schedule](#)].
2. Mechanisms of engagement and timing were discussed.
  - 1v1s or small group discussions with partnership colleagues most involved / impacted.
  - Return to colleagues most involved / impacted in group setting. Expand audience, as necessary.
  - Advisory Committee engagement.



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## Introduction [CBPO]

- *Section I – Introduction:* The Chesapeake Bay Program is generally defined and provides more detail than what's held in 33 U.S. Code § 1267(a)(4). Seeking to ensure a consistent definition that is appropriately inclusive yet doesn't lead to confusion between program / stakeholder / public delineations.
- *Section II – Principles:* There is interest in an accountability mechanism for the Principles. A periodic operational and management review or incorporated into the mid-term assessment are initial ideas.
- *Section III – DEIJ:* Proposal on DEIJ Commitment considering revocation of E.O. 13985 – halting DEIJ-related activities. "The EC acknowledges that this statement is voluntary and not a contract or assistance agreement. It does not pre-empt, supersede or override any law or regulation applicable to each signatory."

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## Ethics [CBPO]

- Proposed that ethics rules should be expressed annually. Sensitivity on ethical issues responsibility of chairs or co-chairs.
- Added footnotes to relevant federal regulations (impartiality rules at *5 C.F.R. Part 2635, Subpart E*); language on the “actual and appearance/perception of conflicts”.
- CBPO Grants Team interested in provided a one-pager reference document for Goal Team and Workgroup leadership.



## Leadership - Partnership [PA]

- Generally, identified areas that should be addressed due to inconsistencies, recommendations (Governance and Accountability Team, ERG Report, Beyond 2025 Report, etc.), potential new signatories (e.g. Tribal Partnership), and clarifying language.

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## Leadership - Federal [CBPO]

- Focus is on meaningful federal engagement and ensuring efficient coordination of resources and technical assistance.
- Establishes EPA Administrator as signatory rep at EC and EPA Regional Administrator (mid-Atlantic region) as signatory rep at PSC.
- Establishes Federal Policy Council for policy and prioritization issues with executive representation from agencies, and Federal Management Council for implementation and coordination with senior managers and experts.
- Will require formal designation of roles with periodic recertification. FPC and FMC have defined meeting frequency, structure, decision rules, and chair structure.

# Implementation - Management Board - [CBC]



- **Program Implementation Team Leads** – Regular meetings of the Co-chairs and coordinators of each of the Goal Teams, Support Teams, and Advisory Committees to allow for cross-program coordination and to help identify items in need of elevation to the PSC.
- **PSC Co-Coordiators** – The EPA CBPO Director, a representative of the PSC Chair, and a representative of the Program Implementation Team Leads would support information transfer between bodies (e.g. prepare draft agendas, identify presenters, and brief PSC members’ staff ahead of PSC meetings)
- **Regularized Calendar of Agenda Items for PSC** – To help with planning and bringing the right expertise to the table.

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## Implementation – Goal Teams [Federal]

- Engagement and feedback sought from GIT chairs and Fed agencies. Discussions ongoing, edits/comments under consideration
- GITs differ widely in how they are structured, and current guidance for GIT membership is only recommended:
  - "GITs and their respective workgroups *strive* to maintain a diverse membership...", and "Membership should be based on the following construct *to the maximum extent possible*."
- With the dissolving of the MB, it's important to formally define what a GIT is (smaller leadership team vs all workgroup members) and set minimum standards for GIT membership while allowing some flexibility at the GIT level

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## Implementation – Support Teams [CBPO]

- Engagement w/ 12 individuals from STAR leadership, Workgroup, CBPO Support teams. On-going discussions between CBPO and USGS leadership.
- Significant consideration on intra-program relationships - how best to convene technical support groups with broader element of Program Implementation – and differentiate, where appropriate, CBP technical support workgroups and CBPO support teams.
- Expressed need for coordination to not be inundated with technical support requests. For example...
  - Geospatial needs and alignment within Management Strategies.
  - Engagement needs and alignment in Workplans.



## Advisory [PA]

- Generally, identified areas that should be addressed due to inconsistencies, recommendations (Governance and Accountability Team, ERG Report, Beyond 2025 Report, etc.), updated Advisory Committee names (e.g. Stakeholders) and new Advisory Committee (e.g. Agriculture), and clarifying language.

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# Public Meeting Procedures – Decision Making [CBPO]

- A new iteration of Parliamentary Procedures have been considered – [Rosenberg's Rules of Order](#). Broad adoption doesn't seem appropriate, but several pieces appear useful for CBP Public Meetings, particularly guidance on handling “Motions”, and a framework for participation roles (e.g., Chair, Members, Invited Guests, Public).
- Emphasis on motions and membership has also highlighted the importance for appropriate documentation and tracking tools (membership rosters, decisions/motions).
- Discussions are necessary with PSC / Goal Team drafting leads on decision-making. Interested in establishing a default mode of decision-making for respective CBP bodies, and then guidance materials for when to consider other decision-making modes (consent, super/simple majority...).

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# Public Meeting Procedures – Participation [MD]

- Given that formal meetings of members are open to the public, we need to clarify our expectations with regards to public participation vs. observation:
  - Depending on procedure decisions, is there a formalized time for non-members to provide feedback for group consideration (i.e. when does this apply, how is this announced, is it subject to change once scheduled)?
  - How do we deal with the “chat” function of the virtual meeting platform?

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# Operations and Accountability – Priority Setting [PA]

- Generally, identified areas that should be addressed due to inconsistencies, recommendations (Governance and Accountability Team, ERG Report, Beyond 2025 Report, etc.), and clarifying language.
- Need to develop a new process for priority setting when Management Board is dissolved.

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# Operations and Accountability – Mgmt Strategies [CBPO]

- How best to align three planning and accountability mechanisms: MS, Workplans, and Priorities. Generally considering:
  - MS: High-level repositories of jurisdictional and collaborative mechanisms for driving implementation. Interested in independent evaluation in 2033 on Outcome Progress. Known need to align with MS decisions being made.
  - WP: Sourced from MS. On-going consideration for 1-3 years in duration and approval process. Early considerations for some type(s) of independent assessment, possibly focused on operations and management (1-3 yr basis), compared to MS  $\leftrightarrow$  Outcome progress.
  - Priorities: Initiatives directed from EC/PSC. Known need to align with PA.
- Operational piece becomes very important – what does an annual schedule look like in balancing the preparation and communication needs.

End of Presentation Slides

Following Slides are Supplemental for  
additional details....

# 2026 Year-at-a-glance

## Meetings

PSC
Management Board
[Sig] Implementation Team
Federal Office Directors
Federal Holiday

Showing these meetings to conceptualize periods for partner coordination

April MB will be moved to the 16<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the revision process following April 7<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting.

January '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				