



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

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Strategic Plan and Management Strategies

Sarah Brzezinski
EPA Region 3
Chesapeake Bay Program Office



Overview

- Review background information on the Strategic Plan and Management Strategies
- Describe the DRAFT components being considered for inclusion in the Strategic Plan
- Highlight Local Government connections in the Strategic Plan
- State the next steps for Strategic Plan development

Acronyms: CBP: Chesapeake Bay Program
 CBWA: Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
 MS: Management Strategies

GIT: Goal Implementation Team
MB: Management Board
PSC: Policy Steering Committee





The Need for a Comprehensive Plan

“...in 2005 [the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)] reported that **the Bay Program did not have a comprehensive, coordinated implementation strategy that would allow it to strategically target limited resources** to the most effective restoration activities”
(GAO, 2008a).



Management Strategies in the CBWA

“...[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.”

CBWA States That the MS Will Describe:

- How partners will address changing environmental conditions
- How signatories, other state and federal agencies, [local governments](#), Indigenous representatives, nonprofit and private partners are engaged
- Where actions, tools, financial support and technical assistance are needed to empower [local governments](#) and others
- What steps are necessary to facilitate greater participation in achieving the Outcome

Accountability: CBWA Time Horizon

The MB agreed via consensus to adopt a six-year cycle for Management Strategy implementation.

MS Develop. (up to 18 months)	Management Strategy (6 yrs)						Management Strategy (6 yrs)						Agreement Revision	
	Program Evaluation & Strategy Updates													
2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040

The Program will report progress to the public and update work plans on a shorter-term basis for each Outcome in accordance with adaptive management.

Priorities for MS Revisions

Successful revisions should:

- **Streamline** paperwork and processes
- **Encourage broader collaboration** across Outcomes, as appropriate
- **Apply lessons learned** from our program's past and incorporate elements of the strategies from similar ecosystem restoration program
 - Consider recommendations from Government Accountability Office reviews of the Chesapeake Bay, as well as programmatic strategy documents (ex: Great Lakes, Long Island Sound and Puget Sound Restoration)
- **Leverage expertise & decision-making authority** at appropriate partnership levels
- Develop a final product that will **be used by the partnership** to make progress towards achieving CBWA Outcomes

Priorities for MS Revisions

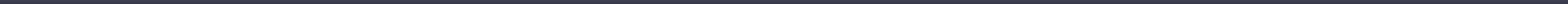
Framework being considered:

- Produce a **single Strategic Plan with a Management Strategies chapter for each Goal** and a sub-section for each Outcome
 - GIT leadership drafts their Goal chapter and delegates Outcome sub-sections
 - GITs aligns PSC priorities and workgroup expertise
- Restructure and optimize elements of the old MS template:
 - Develop streamlined overarching chapter(s) to address cross-program topics
 - Include a situation analysis at both the Goal and Outcome-levels
- PSC approves the whole Strategic Plan
- Produce a **separate workplan** describing actions that will be implemented over the upcoming three-year period



DRAFT

Components Being Considered



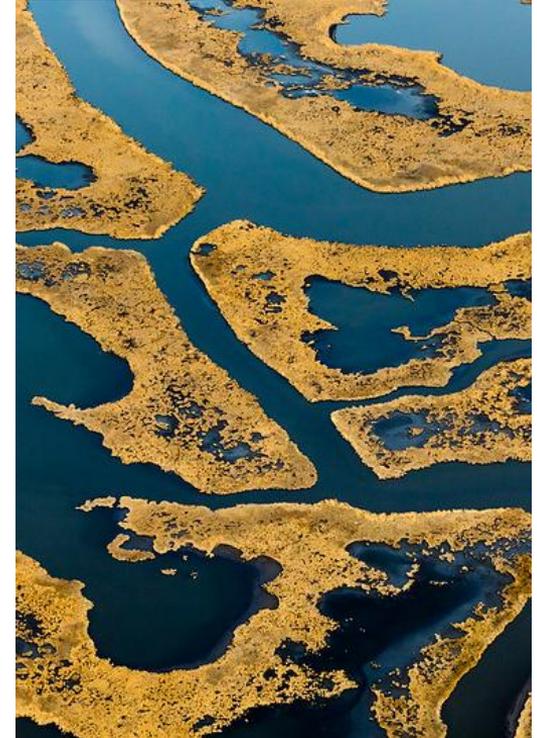
Outline: Overarching Chapters

- Drafted by EPA staff, GIT Chairs, and designees of the MB and PSC Chairs
- Executive Summary
- Introduction
 - Define the purpose of the Strategic Plan and Management Strategies (MS)
 - Provide information needed to understand the Strategic Plan
- Accountability
 - Highlight programmatic accountability through governance, Section 117 of the Clean Water Act and how CBP addresses the CBWA Principles
 - Describe program-wide efforts to monitor, assess and report progress
 - Describe program-wide efforts to adaptively manage, with lessons learned being incorporated across multiple timeframes

Outline: MS Chapter for Each Goal

As presented at
the March 12th
MB Meeting

- Goal Language and Importance
- Goal Situation Analysis
 - Shared challenges for partnership to address, including Changing Environmental Conditions
- Sub-Chapter for each Outcome
 - Outcome language (including targets)
 - Baseline and Current Condition
 - Measuring Progress and Indicators
 - Outcome Situation Analysis
 - Snapshot of Signatory Resources
 - Workplan Summary
 - Participating Partners



Outline: Appendix & Workplan

- Appendix A. Signatory Statutory Authorities
- A separate Workplan will be produced, including:
 - Narrative summary
 - Descriptions of the major actions to be undertaken
 - Project lead and participating partners
 - Human and financial resources
 - Timeline for completion
 - Performance targets and deliverables



Local Governments and the Strategic Plan



MS Development & Implementation

- Local governments are welcome and encouraged, as they are able, to **contribute to the development and implementation** of the Management Strategies through workgroup discussions and time allotted by Goal Teams.
 - Proposing inclusion of related language in the Introduction
 - Entities that engage in this way would be listed as “Participating Partners” in the relevant Outcome subsection(s).

Public Feedback Period

- “Specific Management Strategies will be updated in consultation with stakeholders, organizations and other agencies, and will include **a period for public input and review** prior to final adoption.”
 - Local governments are encouraged to review and provide feedback on draft Management Strategies.
 - Timing and duration of feedback period is TBD.
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Workplans (to be proposed)

- **Add guidance to the Workplan template:** include management approaches/projects and related action(s) that seek to address where tools, financial support and technical assistance are needed to empower local governments and others and what steps are necessary to facilitate greater participation in achieving the Outcome.
 - Ex: Provide X technical assistance to Y local governments by Z
 - Ex: Collaborate with local governments to develop and spotlight 5 county or municipality-scale case studies highlighting X
- In instances where specific projects aren't planned, include a narrative description of how partnership will incorporate these consideration.



Next Steps for the Strategic Plan and Management Strategies



DRAFT Development Process

1. April MB meeting - Agree on and approve templates
2. Draft the Strategic Plan and Management Strategies
3. December 2026? - Seek public feedback
4. Incorporate revisions and develop public-facing content
5. June 2027 - Secure document approval and publish

Timeline for Workplan development is TBD

Ongoing and **Upcoming** Actions

- Goal Team Chairs:
 - Identify and designate outcome authors, as appropriate
- With Workgroup support, outcome authors:
 - Gather background information (existing MS, WP, where they exist)
 - Brainstorm and draft outcome-level situation analysis
 - Determine each outcome's current condition and/or baseline
- **March 19th**: Deadline for Strategic Plan feedback
- **March 26th**: GIT Chair and Signatory meeting to address feedback
- **April 16th MB Meeting**: approve template



Thank you!

Questions?

Sarah Brzezinski

brzezinski.sarah@epa.gov

EPA Region 3

Chesapeake Bay Program Office

References

- [Chesapeake Bay Program: Improved Strategies Are Needed to Better Assess, Report, and Manage Restoration Progress](#) (GAO, 2005)
- [Chesapeake Bay Program: Recent Actions Are Positive Steps Toward More Effectively Guiding the Restoration Effort](#) (GAO, 2008a)
- [Recent Actions by the Chesapeake Bay Program Are Positive Steps Toward More Effectively Guiding the Restoration Effort, but Additional Steps Are Needed](#) (GAO, 2008b)
- [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#) (CBP, 2025)