



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

August 27, 2026

Management Strategy Final Draft

Jackie Pickford, USGS-CBPO
Land Use Workgroup

What is the Land Use Decision Support (LUDS) Outcome?

Developing and delivering relevant land use information to support local planning and decision-making.



Develop the data

Actionable land use information



Deliver the data

Support planning & decision-making



Document the impact

Collect and communicate use cases

Management Strategy Sections

Baseline & Current Condition

Monitoring Progress & Indicators

Situation Analysis

Management Approaches

Snapshot of Signatory Programs

Participating Partners

Statutory Authority of Signatories

Sarah Bzrezinski, EPA, is sending out a call for this information **at the goal team level** by end of August. Please coordinate internally if you have not yet submitted this information.

Major changes since July

- **State of Chesapeake Land Use Report:**

- LUWG will not lead the State of Chesapeake Land Use Report based on feedback from the WG, but may support the Healthy Landscapes Goal Team (HLGT) if they pursue a similar report highlighting watershed land use trends.

- **Management Approach 3.3.1: Use Case Repository**

- Was revised and shortened for consistency with HLGT outcomes, and now explicitly includes coordination with states and localities to ensure the web viewer meets their needs.

- **Management Approach 3.3.2: Local Engagement**

- Was fully rewritten to emphasize collaboration with the Local Government Leadership Workgroup, engaging trusted sources and regional partners to deliver relevant land use information.
- Encourages the adaptation, replication or promotion of existing use cases to help jurisdictions or trusted sources apply proven approaches

Overview

Local governments are essential to the success of Chesapeake Bay restoration efforts. To ensure local government decision-makers have the resources, tools, and data needed to make informed decisions, the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) Partnership is dedicated to fostering meaningful engagement at the local level.

While every community is unique, this infographic maps out the networks, key groups, and strategies that empower effective engagement with local governments

This framework also champions the vital need for two-way communication, ensuring that resources, tools, and data are directly aligned with the needs and priorities of local governments.

Communication Network & Roles



Other comments/feedback

- Request to engage with universities & colleges that provide technical assistance to many local governments

Universities using our LULC & hydrography data (as of 08/2026 use-case survey)

- American University
- Anne Arundel Community College Environmental Center
- Bucknell University
- China Agricultural University
- Clark University
- Commonwealth University
- Cornell University
- George Mason University
- George Washington University
- James Madison University
- Juniata College
- Kent State University
- Morgan State University
- Nansemond-Suffolk Academy
- NASA/UMD
- Oberlin College
- Old Dominion University
- Oregon State University
- Penn State University - Altoona College
- Pennsylvania State University
- PSCMR College of Engineering & Technology
- South Dakota State University
- University of Delaware
- University of Georgia
- University of Maryland - College Park
- University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)
- University of North Carolina Asheville
- University of Rhode Island
- University of Richmond
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Tech
- Virginia Tech Washington-Alexandria Architecture Center
- Washington College
- William and Mary
- Wuhan University
- Yale University

Management Approach 3.3.1: Expand and Improve the Land Use Decision Support Use-Case Repository

The LUWG will enhance its use case repository by transforming it into a more accessible system that supports local planning and Chesapeake Bay restoration goals. The LUWG will refine the current use case survey, or create a follow-up survey, to collect essential details, such as problem framing, decision context, data sources, partners, methods, outcomes, and opportunities for replication. The LUWG will also develop a public-facing online viewer or story-map platform that allows users to search case studies by topic, jurisdiction, or watershed and explore examples through visual formats and links to relevant datasets. The viewer will be developed with extensive feedback from state and local partners to ensure it is useful and aligned with their needs.

To highlight progress, LUWG will publish an annual “Impact Memo” featuring at least five influential use cases and two broadly applicable examples. Jurisdictions will be encouraged to contribute and champion use cases for inclusion each year. The memo could also summarize metrics demonstrating how examples influence decisions, policies, and environmental outcomes across the watershed.

Management Approach 3.3.2: Strengthen Local Land Use Decisions Through Trusted Networks

The LUWG will work to strengthen land use decisions through trusted networks by utilizing concepts from the Communication Network & Roles Framework, developed in coordination with the Local Government Leadership Workgroup (LGLW). The LUWG will leverage the Local Government Leadership Workgroup (LGLW) and the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) to identify local priorities, gather structured feedback on data products, and understand which information formats are most useful to local governments. This partnership will also help reveal the trusted communication channels that already exist with local governments. In addition to trusted sources represented on LGLW and LGAC, the LUWG will identify and engage influential networks such as watershed organizations, agricultural partners, non-profits, or regional planning organizations that often serve as key conduits for land use information. Using insights from these networks, LUWG will update existing products or develop new communication materials to meet locally defined needs. Some examples of this may include creating impervious surface change summaries, updating tree canopy analyses, integrating parcel-level data with Chesapeake Bay Program land use datasets, identifying flood-prone areas, or mapping future development probability using land use forecasting tools.

Whenever possible, the LUWG will adapt, replicate, or promote existing use cases to help jurisdictions or trusted sources apply proven approaches without starting from scratch. Throughout this process, the LUWG will maintain consistent two-way communication with LGLW, LGAC and other trusted sources, creating regular opportunities for feedback and collaborative refinement of land use-related data and tools.

Any comments or questions on the final Management Strategy draft?

Decision Requested: LUWG approval of the *near-final Land Use Planning and Decision Support Outcome Management Strategy.

*“*Snapshot of Signatory Programs*” and “*Statutory Authority of Signatories*” sections will be added at a later date, once that information is obtained from the goal team.

Figure 2. Chesapeake Bay Program's Decision-Making Continuum. Based on the University of Maryland's Center for Leadership and Organizational Change Consensus Continuum.

