



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Agreement Vision, Principles, Preamble and Time Horizon

September 30, 2025



Time Horizons

Vision Feedback

- “The statement, as it is, appears to include all the appropriate elements. However, as just an individual who enjoys the resources the Bay offers, I did not feel engaged enough by to necessarily pursue action in support of the Vision. A personalized approach to the Vision may garner more traction to the public at large.”

Proposed Revised Vision Statement

We envision a region where clean water flows freely, wildlife thrives and farms, forests and fisheries stay healthy and productive. It is a place where people from all walks of life feel connected to the land, to the Bay and local waterways, to their communities and to the rich cultural heritage that makes this watershed unique. Together, we are building a future that is environmentally and economically sustainable, resilient and full of possibility — where everyone can conserve and enjoy the natural beauty of the Bay and the lands and waters that surround it, today and for generations to come.

Preamble Feedback

- Adding “United States” in front of America.
- Including “learn” with “...more than 18 million people who live, work, learn and play in the region.”
- Reference to “farmers” along with “local governments, tribes, communities, farmers, businesses, watershed groups and other nongovernmental organizations as key partners in our work.”

Preamble Feedback

- Included reference to the Bay TMDL in the preamble.

For Management Board discussion

- Should we include a date in the Preamble for when progress toward this Agreement should be formally assessed?
 - “In 20XX, the partnership will come together to formally assess our progress and amend this agreement to ensure work reflects our shared vision.”

Principles Feedback

- Several comments called for the principles to be organized.
 - The Review Team decided to group the Principles into the themes of our tag line, “Science, Restoration, Conservation, Partnership.”

Principles Feedback--Science

- Added “modeling” to “Maintain and enhance a coordinated watershed-wide monitoring, **modeling** and research program to support decision-making, track progress and assess the effectiveness of management actions.”
- Edited the social science bullet to read, “Integrate social science holistically throughout the partnership **to support adaptive management, more effectively engage with communities and incentivize individual and collective behaviors that support partnership goals.**”

Principles Feedback—Restoration and Conservation

- Added reference to the economy in “Achieve Goals and Outcomes in a measurable and timely way **with the most economic benefit** and at the least possible cost to the public.”
- Replaced “embrace” with “engage” to read, “Acknowledge, support and **engage** local governments and other local entities in watershed restoration, conservation and protection activities.”

Principles -- Partnership

- Included “and as original stewards of the land” to “Integrate tribal nations into the partnership in a manner that appropriately considers their unique status as independent sovereign nations and as original stewards of the land.”

Goals, Outcomes and Targets Feedback

- Added reference to “Targets” in the title and throughout the section.
- Defined Goals, Outcomes and Targets.
- Removed reference to “Signatories will participate in achieving the Outcomes of this Watershed Agreement in the manner described in the “Management Strategies Development and Implementation” section.”
- Defined “living resources” as “habitats, wildlife and fisheries.”
- Provided specificity in making progress to meeting Outcomes and Targets publicly available.

Goal Statements

- Consistent feedback that Fisheries needed to be better represented within the title of the “Thriving Habitat and Wildlife Goal.”
- Strong feedback on the need to include reference to changing environmental conditions throughout the Agreement.
- Added the term, “or prevent” to the Healthy Landscapes Goal statement, which now reads, “Sound land use management and conservation of areas with ecological, historic and cultural value can reduce or **prevent pollution**, maintain healthy ecosystems and ensure the health of forests, farms and open spaces, all while supporting growing economies.
- Added, “protect” and “improve” to the Healthy Landscapes Goal, which now reads, “Conserve, **protect**, restore and enhance landscapes of ecological, economic, recreational and cultural value to **improve** water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and increase resilience.”
- Added “conservation” to the Engaged Communities Goal statement, as well as the term, “facilitating meaningful”, so the sentence now starts, “Stewardship begins with facilitating **meaningful engagement...**”

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&

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Thank you!

Any questions?

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