

**2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement Revisions**  
**PSC Suggestions: Version 1**  
Management Strategies Development and Implementation

The Chesapeake Executive Council's [Charge to the Principals' Staff Committee: Charting a Course Beyond 2025](#) tasks the PSC with making revisions to the [2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement](#) by the end of 2025. The PSC will evaluate the *Agreement's* explanatory statement about Management Strategies and determine what changes may be necessary to update the section according to the direction of the Executive Council, which has indicated that any changes should reflect:

- A renewed and greater emphasis on engaging all communities of the watershed as active stewards of a healthy and resilient Chesapeake Bay and its watershed;
- Our mandate to address water quality and living resources throughout the Bay and watershed;
- Elevating conservation as a key pillar of the Chesapeake Bay Program, alongside science, restoration, and partnership;
- A grounding in the most recent scientific understandings and issues that have emerged since the current Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement was signed in 2014;
- Goals and outcomes that are measurable and time bound. Time frames should be sufficient to accomplish the outcomes as quickly as possible. In particular, our regulated nutrient and sediment load reductions, especially those within non-point sources;
- Acknowledgement that our scientific understanding is continuously evolving and that our efforts need to constantly adapt accordingly; and
- The fact that while each partner shares a common goal, we are all approaching this goal from different perspectives, challenges, and opportunities.

On the following page is the *2014 Agreement's* explanatory section on Management Strategies Development and Implementation - original text is shown in black with suggested revisions noted in green. **The Management Board has considered these proposed changes for alignment with the revised Outcomes and has highlighted for PSC consideration and discussion the timelines associated with Management Strategy development, review, and reporting.**

#### **MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION:**

Within **one year** of the **signing revision** of the *Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement*, the Chesapeake Bay Program's Goal Implementation Teams will **update or** develop Management Strategies for the Outcomes that support this Agreement's goals. These strategies **will** outline the means for accomplishing each Outcome as well as monitoring, assessing and reporting progress and coordinating actions among partners and stakeholders as necessary. **Where appropriate**, Management Strategies **should** describe how local governments, **indigenous representatives**, nonprofit and private partners **will be** engaged; where actions, tools or technical support are needed to empower local governments and others to do their part; and what steps **will be taken are necessary** to facilitate greater local participation in achieving the Outcome.

Participation in Management Strategies or participating in the achievement of Outcomes **is expected to vary** by signatory based on differing priorities across the watershed. This participation may include **commitments, such as**: sharing knowledge, data or information, educating the public, working on future legislation and developing or implementing programs or practices. Management Strategies, which are aimed at implementing Outcomes, **will** identify participating signatories and other stakeholders, including local governments and nonprofit organizations, and will be implemented in **two-year** periods.

The signatories and other partners shall thereafter update and/or modify such commitments **every two years**. Specific Management Strategies will be **developed updated** in consultation with stakeholders, organizations and other agencies and will include a period for public input and review prior to final adoption. [The Principals' Staff Committee will report on adoption of Management Strategies at the next Executive Council meeting and report on implementation of Management Strategies **every two years**.]

**Commented [LD1]:** Does the PSC wish to retain these reporting requirements?

Management Strategies may address multiple Outcomes if deemed appropriate. Goal Implementation Teams will re-evaluate **biennially** and update strategies as necessary, with attention to changing environmental and economic conditions. Partners may identify policy changes to address these conditions and minimize obstacles to achieve the Outcomes.

Stakeholder input will be incorporated into the development and reevaluation of each of the strategies. The Chesapeake Bay Program will **continue to** make these strategies and reports on progress available to the public in a transparent manner on its websites and through public meetings of the appropriate Goal Implementation Teams and Management Board.

The Goal Implementation Teams will submit the Management Strategies to the Partnership's Management Board for review. If the Management Board determines that any strategy or plan developed prior to the **signing revision** of this agreement meets the requirements of a Management Strategy as defined above, no new strategy needs to be developed. This includes, but is not limited to, the strategies and plans for implementing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL.