



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

Management Board Meeting
October 9, 2025
Actions & Decisions

Watershed Agreement Outcomes:

Decision: The MB voted to approve the VA proposal with edits for RENPS Target #1: Through 2030, signatories will continue to accelerate completion of all interim water quality planning targets through implementation of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plans, two-year milestone commitments and other innovative strategies to achieve and maintain reduced levels of nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment.

The signatory vote in support of Maryland's proposed Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Sediment (RENPS) did not pass, with eight Nay votes and one Yea vote. The following signatory vote in support of Virginia's RENPS proposal reached supermajority, with eight Yea votes and one Nay vote. The following record of voting results will be provided to the PSC.

Do you support the inclusion of _____ in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement?	Maryland's proposed RENPS Target 1 language	Virginia's proposed RENPS Target 1 language
Chesapeake Bay Commission	Nay	Yea
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Nay	Yea
Commonwealth of Virginia	Nay	Yea
District of Columbia	Nay	Yea
State of Delaware	Nay	Yea
State of Maryland	Yea	Nay
State of New York	Nay	Yea
State of West Virginia	Nay	Yea
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Nay	Yea

Decision: The MB agreed via consensus the DC proposal with edits for Target #2: By December 31, 2030, revise the planning targets approved by the Principals' Staff Committee for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment incorporating the latest watershed modeling, monitoring data and research findings; and develop new or amended Watershed Implementation Plans to meet the updated targets by 2040.

Decision: The language on waterbirds under the Wetlands Outcome will be advanced to the PSC for a final decision. The MB conducted a supermajority vote, which did not reach supermajority to remove the waterbirds from the Agreement targets. The MB is recommending to the PSC that

waterbirds remain in the Agreement under the Tidal Wetlands Target and the Nontidal Wetlands Target, per Maryland’s proposal.

During the meeting, signatory Management Board representatives were relatively evenly split, with five Yea votes and four Nay votes) in response to the question, “Should waterbirds be included in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement?” Signatory votes are provided in the table below. The following voting results will be provided to the PSC.

Should waterbirds be included in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement?	Waterbirds
Chesapeake Bay Commission	Yea
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Yea
Commonwealth of Virginia	Nay
District of Columbia	Yea
State of Delaware	Nay*
State of Maryland	Yea
State of New York	Yea
State of West Virginia	Nay
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Nay

*DE changed their vote to a “Yea” after conclusion of the meeting, resulting in six Yea votes and three Nay votes. Supermajority, which requires seven out of nine “Yea” votes, was still not reached based on this vote change.

Tidal: Restore or create at least 3,000 acres and enhance 15,000 acres of tidal wetlands by 2035, focusing on habitats that support populations of waterbirds and represent healthy wetlands across the watershed.

Nontidal: Restore or create at least 3,000 acres and enhance 15,000 acres of nontidal wetlands by 2035, focusing on habitats that support populations of waterbirds and represent healthy wetlands across the watershed.

Agreement Timeline and Management Strategies:

Decision: The MB agreed via consensus to include the following edit to the Management Strategies text. “The signatories and other partners shall thereafter update and/or modify such commitments every 6 years. **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.** 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.”

Decision: The MB voted to adopt a 2040-time horizon for the Watershed Agreement with a 2033 check point.

Signatory votes for the 2035- and 2040-time horizon are included below and will be provided to the PSC.

Do you support a ___ time horizon?	2035	2040
Chesapeake Bay Commission	Nay	Yea
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania	Nay	Yea
Commonwealth of Virginia	Yea	Nay
District of Columbia	Nay	Yea
State of Delaware	Nay	Yea
State of Maryland	Yea	Nay
State of New York	Nay	Yea
State of West Virginia	Nay	Yea
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Stand Aside	Stand Aside

Decision: The MB agreed via consensus to adopt a six-year cycle for Management Strategy implementation, commitment updates, and evaluation and strategy updates.

Decision: The MB agreed via consensus to recommend the current version of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, with decisions incorporated from the October 9 MB meeting to the Principals' Staff Committee for consideration and submission to the Chesapeake Executive Council.

Structure:

Action: The MB will begin considering next steps for characterizing the work below the Goal Teams, including work groups, action teams, etc.

Action: Anna Killius will update the interim structure strawman from the feedback received from the MB and will share by October 22. This version will be shared with the PSC for discussion and consideration at their Oct 28th meeting and for decision at the Nov 6 joint MB/PSC meeting.

Governance:

Action: GAT will be making edits on the one pager based on the discussion and will return to the MB/PSC on November 6th.

Milestone Schedule:

Decision: The MB agreed via consensus to the Near-Term Milestone schedule and will forward to the PSC for their consideration and approval.