



BEYOND 2025 AND PLASTIC POLLUTION

KRISTIN SAUNDERS, UMCES 10-29-24

The background of the slide is a photograph of rolling green hills under a vibrant sunset sky. The sky transitions from a deep orange near the horizon to a lighter yellow at the top. The hills are lush green and have a soft, painterly quality. A white rectangular box is superimposed on the left side of the image, containing the word "AGENDA" in white capital letters.

AGENDA

Beyond 2025 overview

Where to find materials

Opportunities to plug in

Suggestions on strategy

A landscape photograph showing a wide, flat field with a path or road leading towards the horizon. The sky is overcast with grey clouds, and there are some trees and bushes in the distance. The overall tone is somewhat somber and atmospheric.

BEYOND 2025 OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL CHARGE
OCTOBER 2022

“recommend a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the Watershed Agreement beyond 2025”

Phase 1 **Scope and breadth** of what should be undertaken (We are at the end of this phase now)

Phase 2 **Execute the plan**



A CRITICAL PATH FORWARD FOR THE CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM BEYOND 2025



(Photo by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program)

CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM BEYOND 2025 STEERING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS:

1. AFFIRM THE PARTNERSHIP'S COMMITMENT TO WORK TOGETHER IN PARTNERSHIP TO MEET THE GOALS OF THE WATERSHED AGREEMENT. DIRECT PARTNERSHIP TO **CONTINUE IMPLEMENTATION OF EXISTING GOALS**. DIRECT PSC TO **MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROPOSE SPECIFIC AMENDMENTS** TO THE AGREEMENT, INCLUDING OUTCOMES, **BY END OF CALENDAR YEAR 2025**
2. KEEP THE PARTNERSHIP STRONG. **SIMPLIFY AND STREAMLINE STRUCTURE AND PROCESSES.**

HIGH LEVEL RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONSIDER IN PHASE 2 (CALENDAR YEAR 2025)

- **SCIENCE**

- ● Monitoring, Modeling, Analysis
- ● Decision-making, resource allocation, communication
- ● Knowledge gaps: Climate, land use, social science, toxics and emerging issues

- **RESTORATION AND CONSERVATION**

- ● Elevate conservation and nearshore habitats
- ● Review all goals, outcomes and strategies
- ● Holistic approach to maximize benefits

- **PARTNERSHIP**

- ● Streamline
- ● Build capacity through local networks
- ● Strengthen relevance to all communities
- ● Communication and transparency



WHERE TO FIND BEYOND 2025 MATERIALS

FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE.....

A Critical Path Forward for the Chesapeake Bay Program Beyond 2025 report can be found at:

https://d18lev1ok5leia.cloudfront.net/chesapeakebay/documents/FINAL-Beyond-2025-Steering-Committee-Report_2024-10-24-201112_ntml.pdf

Source materials and Beyond 2025 Steering Committee information and work products can be found at:

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/beyond-2025-steering-committee>



OPPORTUNITIES TO PLUG IN DURING PHASE 2

CONNECTING PLASTIC POLLUTION TO ONGOING WORK

- November 7 Clean Water Cohort presents to Management Board on Water Quality WIP progress, Toxics and Water Quality Standards for their quarterly review
- Management Board retreat during mid-November will include priority setting and plans to achieve phase 2 (a review of the outcomes with an impact assessment, assigning high level recommendations, looking at structure and governance)
- Principal Staff Committee will be leading the effort on amending the agreement and setting priorities for Management Board
- Phase 2 meetings of Principal Staff Committee, Management Board, goal teams or small groups as assigned during 2025



SUGGESTIONS ON STRATEGY

MY OBSERVATIONS:

DECREASING OUTCOMES HAS TRACTION

DECREASING COMPLEXITY HAS TRACTION

PUTTING LIVING RESOURCES AND PEOPLE AT THE
CENTER OF THE WORK HAS TRACTION

TIES TO MULTIPLE BENEFITS ARE HELPFUL

GET A CHAMPION AT EACH LEVEL TO GIVE VOICE

MONITORING AND MULTIPLE LINES OF EVIDENCE

BEHAVIOR CHANGE

TOXICS

EXPLORE HABITAT, FISHERIES AND STEWARDSHIP
NEXUS

PAY ATTENTION TO WHERE HIGH LEVEL
RECOMMENDATIONS GET ASSIGNED FOR PHASE 2
AND CONNECT TO THOSE GROUPS

FINAL INSIGHTS & TAKEAWAYS



- Plastic Pollution Action Team could sunset or continue
- There are clear opportunities to embed the results of the action team work in various parts of phase 2
- Explore opportunities to connect with the living resources and people experts with this knowledge
- Progress can be made on plastics without it being a prescribed goal or outcome in the revised agreement
- Connect to the things people care about
- Aim for multiple benefits and plant seeds

THANK YOU

Kristin Saunders
ksaunders@umces.edu

