



October 1, 2026  
1:00 – 3:30pm

# The PPoW Leadership Team



Tish Robertson (VA DEQ)  
Chair



Kelly Somers (EPA-R3)  
Vice-Chair



Matt Robinson (EPA-R3)  
Coordinator



Erin Sonnenburg (CRC)  
Staffer

# PPoW's Proposed Objectives

Originally formed in 2021 as an action team, following a STAC workshop on microplastics in the Chesapeake Bay



Research and disseminate microplastic pollution findings to understand the threats of plastic pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and its resources.



Strengthen collaborative connections across the Chesapeake Bay Program and engage new partners and practitioners beyond CBWA signatories.



Support developing and instituting a plastics monitoring program for the Chesapeake Bay watershed



Identify and implement management solutions to reduce the occurrence of plastic pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

# PPoW Leadership

## Co-Chairs

- Tish Robertson
- Kelly Somers

## Coordinator

- Matt Robinson

## Staffer

- Erin Sonnenburg

## Members (15)

- Signatory (9)
- At-Large (6)

# Current Membership

- Signatory Members

| Name            | Email                                                                                    | Alternate       | Alt Email                                                                            | Affiliation               | Role      | Discipline            |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Marel King      | mking@chesbay.us                                                                         | Maggie Woodward | mwoodward@chesbay.us                                                                 | Chesapeake Bay Commission | Signatory | Interstate Commission |
|                 |                                                                                          |                 |                                                                                      | New York                  | Signatory | State Government      |
| Nathan Bailey   | <a href="mailto:nathan.bailey@delaware.gov">nathan.bailey@delaware.gov</a>               | Gina Marinacci  | <a href="mailto:gina.marinacci@delaware.gov">gina.marinacci@delaware.gov</a>         | Delaware                  | Signatory | State Government      |
| Will Isenberg   | <a href="mailto:William.Isenberg@deq.virginia.gov">William.Isenberg@deq.virginia.gov</a> | Tish Robertson  | <a href="mailto:Tish.Robertson@deq.virginia.gov">Tish.Robertson@deq.virginia.gov</a> | Virginia (Virginia DEQ)   | Signatory | State Government      |
| Julia Wakeling  | <a href="mailto:julia.wakeling@dc.gov">julia.wakeling@dc.gov</a>                         |                 |                                                                                      | DC                        | Signatory | State Government      |
| Mark Trice      | <a href="mailto:mtrice@dnr.state.md.us">mtrice@dnr.state.md.us</a>                       |                 |                                                                                      | Maryland (MD DNR)         | Signatory | State Government      |
| Kelly Somers    | <a href="mailto:somers.kelly@epa.gov">somers.kelly@epa.gov</a>                           |                 |                                                                                      | Fed (US EPA)              | Signatory | Federal Government    |
| Josh Lookenbill | <a href="mailto:mlookenbil@pa.gov">mlookenbil@pa.gov</a>                                 |                 |                                                                                      | Pennsylvania              | Signatory | State Government      |
|                 |                                                                                          |                 |                                                                                      |                           | At- Large |                       |
|                 |                                                                                          |                 |                                                                                      |                           | At- Large |                       |
|                 |                                                                                          |                 |                                                                                      |                           | At- Large |                       |
|                 |                                                                                          |                 |                                                                                      |                           | At- Large |                       |
|                 |                                                                                          |                 |                                                                                      |                           | At- Large |                       |
|                 |                                                                                          |                 |                                                                                      |                           | At- Large |                       |

- Call for At-Large Members! We want a final list by October 8.
  - Terms are 2-years, renewable at the discretion of the workgroup.
- Please submit all nominations to Erin Sonnenburg ([Sonnenburg.Erin@epa.gov](mailto:Sonnenburg.Erin@epa.gov)) with the following information:
  - Contact information (name, affiliation, email)
  - Short bio (addressing the nominee's background)

# Goal Teams: (pp. 15-19)



- **Leadership:** 2 co-chairs
  - nominated by the Goal Teams
  - approved by the PSC
- **Voting Members:** Up to 15
  - 9 appointed by PSC signatories
  - Up to 6 at-large confirmed by Goal Teams
- **Non-voting Members:**
  - 4 Advisory Committee reps
  - Workgroup chairs

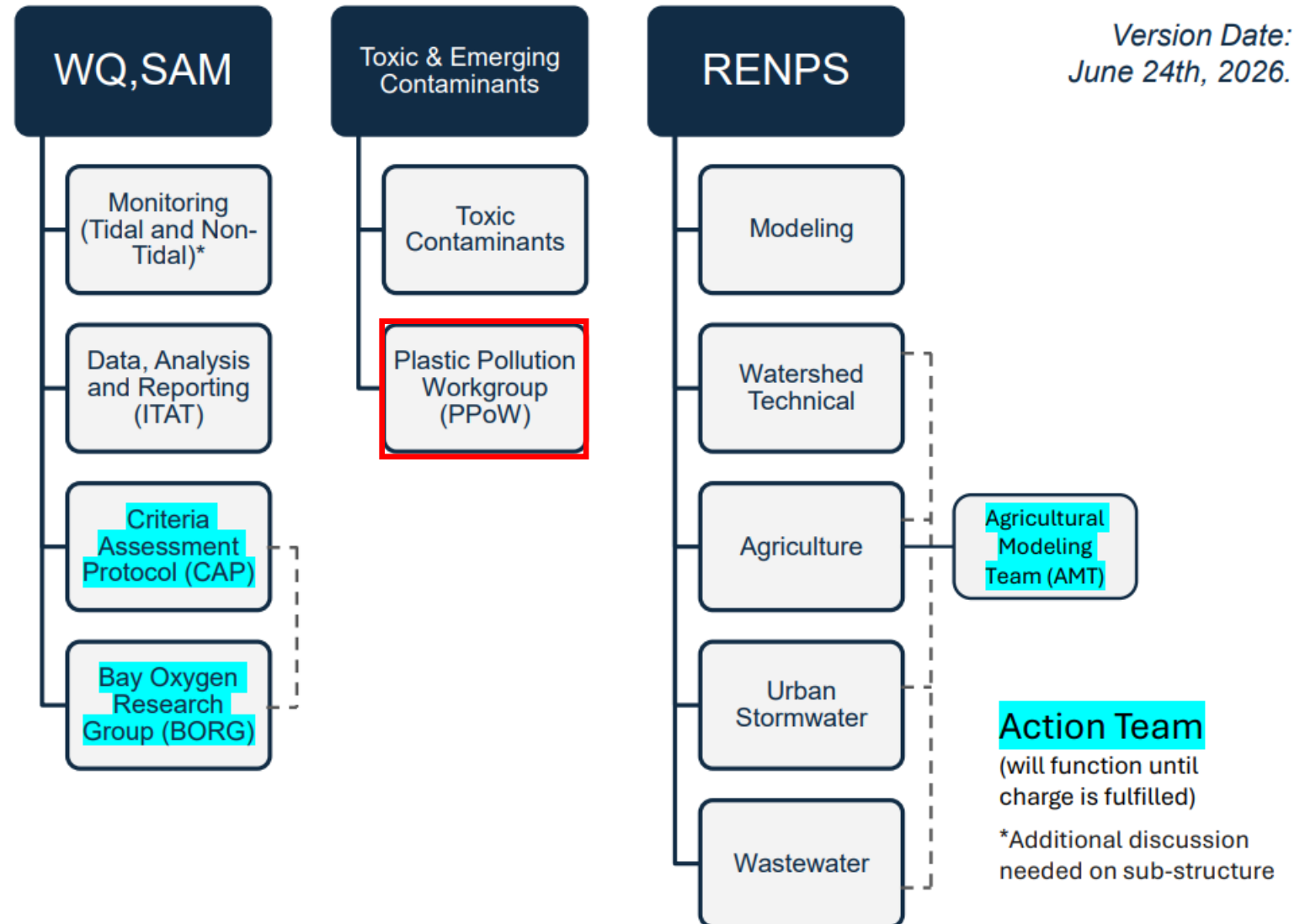
# Clean Water Goal Team: Proposed Structure

## Sunsetting Workgroups

- Hypoxia Collaborative Team (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)
- Non-Tidal Workgroup (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)
- Data Integrity Workgroup (integrated into Monitoring Workgroup)
- Milestones Workgroup
- Federal Facilities Workgroup (functions integrated into Watershed Technical Workgroup)

## Workgroups Moving to Healthy Landscapes GT

- Forestry Workgroup
- Land Use Workgroup



## Plastic Pollution Workgroup

The Plastic Pollution Workgroup seeks to reduce the environmental presence and impact of plastic pollution.

Each group's Co-Chairs, Coordinator, Staffer and Members can be found on the right panel on their webpage on [chesapeakebay.net](https://chesapeakebay.net)

Every group is supported by a Staffer. They keep distribution lists, create and coordinate meeting materials and are the primary point of contact for questions.

### Contact

**Matt Robinson**

[robinson.matthew@epa.gov](mailto:robinson.matthew@epa.gov)

**Erin Sonnenburg (Staffer)**

[Sonnenburg.Erin@epa.gov](mailto:Sonnenburg.Erin@epa.gov)

► **Our Members**

# Workgroups: (pp. 19-20)

- **Leadership:** at least 1 chair, approved by Goal Teams
- **Members:** recruited, self-nominated, or recommended; approved by WG chairs in consultation with Goal Team co-chairs
  - **Voting Members:** Up to 15
    - Up to 9 PSC signatory appointees
    - Remainder: at-large members
    - Confirmed by Goal Team



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# What Makes an Effective Member?

- **Attends meetings regularly**  
If a member cannot attend, it is appreciated if they notify us ahead of time and have someone on the line to represent them (signatory members have alternates; alternates are optional for at-large members).
- **Actively participates in meetings**  
Participates in discussions and provides feedback to the PPOW leadership or presenters when requested.
- **Communicates with PPOW leadership ahead of a meeting regarding concerns or objections over a certain decisional or agenda item.**  
An open line of communication enables us to be proactive in addressing concerns or issues ahead of a meeting in order to bring forward the most appropriate and accurate information and/or proposals.
- **Conducts themselves in a professional, ethical, and respectful manner.**

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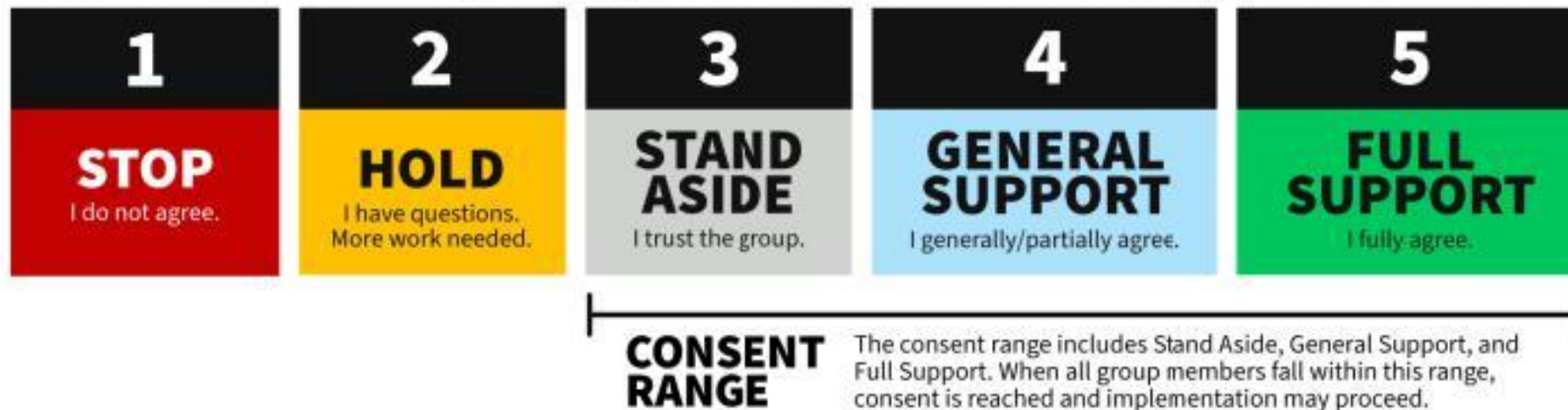
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# Guidance from Governance and Management Framework

- Ethical Behavior Guidelines ([GMF](#), page 8)
- Additional expectations for signatory member engagement ([GMF](#), page 17 for Goal Teams and page 19 for workgroups)
- Some guidance is also outlined in this [Meeting Best Practices document](#), though this is being updated to align with the GMF.

# Decision Making

## Chesapeake Bay Program Decision-Making Continuum



While **consensus** (defined in the GMF as unanimous full support) is the partnership's goal, the partnership employs a **consent-based decision-making** approach. Should a decision-making body fall short of unanimous consent, the voting members may use a vote to proceed.

# Consent-based Decision-Making Process

Before meeting:

## 1. Identify a decision is needed

- Group leaders, with input of members, make the determination and include the topic on the meeting agenda.
- Agenda and supplemental materials are posted with adequate advanced notice, if required.

At meeting:

## 2. Check for quorum of voting members

## 3. Discussion with all members

## 4. Form and present a decision proposal

## 5. Call for consent by all members\*

- If unanimous consent is reached (no member expresses dissenting views by taking a position of “1” or “2” on the decision-making continuum), the decision has been approved.
- If unanimous consent is not reached, dissenting members should articulate their concerns.

## 6. Identify and address concerns

## 7. Modify proposal and call for consent by all members\*

Source: [GMF 101 Webinar](#)

# If Consent Cannot Be Reached...

## 8. Voting members will vote.

- *For a decision to be approved, a group must meet the **quorum requirements and decision threshold** for that group.*
- *Group chairs will call for each voting member to take a position: **support, oppose, or stand aside**.*
- *The decision threshold is based on the total number of designated voting members, not the number of voting members who are present.*

**For goal teams and workgroups**, the quorum requirement is two thirds and the decision threshold is two thirds. If there are 15 voting members, a decision is approved if at least 10 of voting members take a position of support or stand aside. If between 10 and 15 voting members are present, decision approval still requires 10 to register support or stand aside.

# Current Work and Connections to the Revised Watershed Agreement

*•Guides our immediate work that has been ongoing and will continue through July 2027. Happening in parallel to meeting our charge and objectives.*

# Overarching Framework

## Goal: Clean Water

Outcome: Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorous  
& Sediment (RENPS)

Outcome:  
Toxic &  
Emerging  
Contaminants

Outcome: Reducing Excess Nitrogen, Phosphorous  
& Sediment (RENPS)

•Target 1

•Target 2

•Target 3

•Target 1

Target 1

Target 2

Target 3

Target 4

# Relationship Between Key Documents

## Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (through 2040)

**Describes what we want to do**

- Establishes and defines partners' commitment to shared goals, outcomes and targets
- States CBP's vision and principles

## CBWA Strategic Plan (6 years)

**Describes how we will do it**

- Outlines the means for accomplishing each outcome and its targets
- Identifies challenges
- Defines management approaches and participating partners

## Workplans (3 years)

**Describes shorter term work to make progress**

- States specific actions partners will undertake to implement management strategies
- Identifies implementation partners, resources and deliverables

**Attainment of goals, outcomes and targets**

Management strategies for each Goal chapter will be contained within a single Strategic Plan

# Accountability and Adaptive Management

Workplans too!



- Annual Check-Ins** – extended PSC meetings that communicate progress, and address and prioritize implementation needs
- Triennial Reviews** – cross-program review & symposium to document successes and challenges and initiate new Workplans
- Strategy and Program Evaluation** – assess the current progress towards achieving the Goals and Outcomes of the Agreement, evaluate the efficacy of existing Management Strategies and identifies opportunities for improvement
- In 2040, the Strategy and Program Review will prompt revision to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement

•Source: [Demystifying Management Strategies](#)

# Development Timeline

**OCTOBER 22, 2026**

- Send Strategic Plan draft to Policy Steering Committee (PSC).
- (Chapters due Oct. 19)

**DECEMBER 3-18, 2026**

- PSC approves draft Strategic Plan for Public Feedback Period release via email.

**APRIL 2027**

- Present revised Strategic Plan to PSC.
- Receive and incorporate input

**MAY 2027**

- Goal Teams approve Strategic Plan

M A Y 2 0 2 6 J U N 2 0 2 6 J U L 2 0 2 6 A U G 2 0 2 6 S E P 2 0 2 6 O C T 2 0 2 6 N O V 2 0 2 6 D E C 2 0 2 6 J A N 2 0 2 7 F E B 2 0 2 7 M A R 2 0 2 7 A P R 2 0 2 7 M A Y 2 0 2 7 J U N 2 0 2 7

**NOVEMBER 5, 2026**

- Present draft Strategic Plan chapters to PSC. Receive and incorporate PSC input.
- (Revisions due Nov. 20)

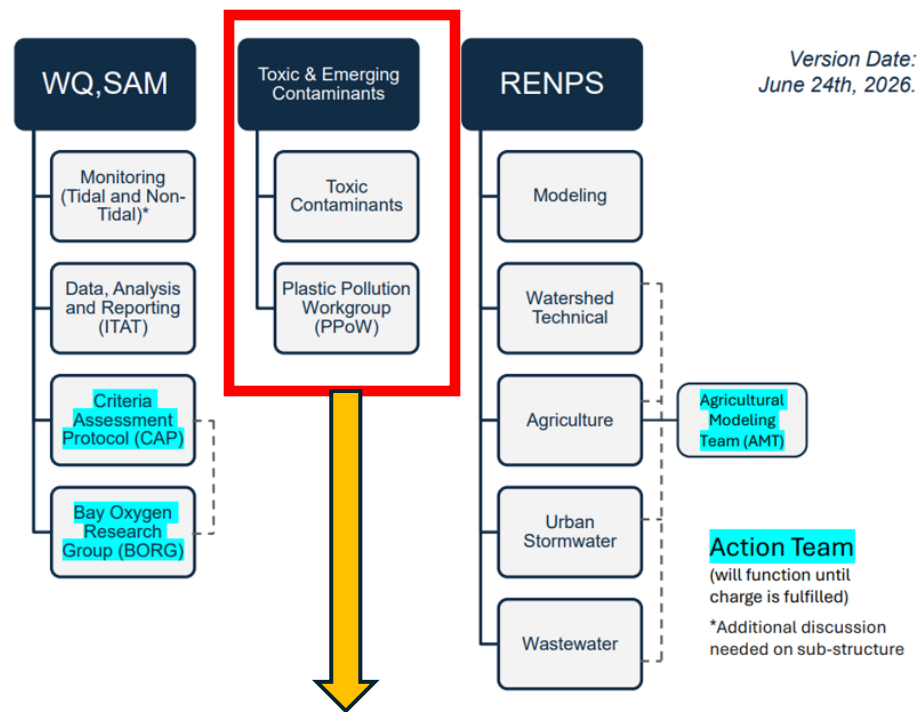
**JANUARY 5 – 31, 2027**

- Strategic Plan Public Feedback Period

**JUNE 2027**

- PSC approves Strategic Plan
- Goal Teams approve Workplans

•Source: [Demystifying Management Strategies](#)



# What's the outcome of our work?

## **Toxic and Emerging Contaminants Outcome:**

Reduce the amount and effect of toxic contaminants, such as PCBs, plastics, mercury and PFAS, on the waters, lands, fisheries, wildlife and communities of the Chesapeake Bay watershed through an increased understanding of their impacts and mitigation options.

## Draft management approaches for achieving the TEC outcome (approaches in highlight specific to PPoW):

- Management Approach [2.2.1]: Continue communicating the state of legacy and emerging toxic contaminants in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Management Approach [2.2.2]: Share information on the occurrence, concentrations, and sources of toxic contaminants.
- Management Approach [2.2.3]: Share research on the effects of toxic contaminants in fish on human health and fish health.
- Management Approach [2.2.4]: Synthesize and share research on the efficacy of mitigation practices and communicate the toxic contaminant reduction co-benefits of nutrient-focused best management practices.
- Management Approach [2.2.5]: Gather and share information on issues and contaminants of emerging scientific and regulatory concern.
- Management Approach [2.2.6]: Strengthen collaborative connections across the Chesapeake Bay Program and engage new partners and practitioners beyond CBWA signatories.
- **Management Approach [2.2.7]: Support developing and instituting a plastics monitoring program for the Chesapeake Bay watershed.**
- **Management Approach [2.2.8]: Continue to research and disseminate microplastic pollution findings to understand the threats of plastic pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and its resources.**
- **Management Approach [2.2.9]: Identify and implement management solutions to reduce the occurrence of plastic pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.**

# Next Steps

- Final draft of Management Strategy – October 19
- PSC approval, public comment period –November-January
- Start of PPOW Workplan Development – December
- Workplan due to CWGT in Spring 2027

# Open Discussion

- All PPOW presentations and activities will be connected to the Toxic and Emerging Contaminants management approaches.
- We want PPOW members and participants to make their voices heard! The Workplan will be a group effort!
  - What topics do you want meetings to cover?
  - What science do you want to hear more about?
  - What do you hope to get out of PPOW?

