

PPoW Quarterly Meeting

Chesapeake Bay Plastic Pollution

Source Reduction Strategy

October 2, 2026

Laura Morrison and Verone Bernard



Overview

01 Re-Introductions: RTI Team and Plastic Source Reduction Strategy Scope

02 Project Status Update

03 Emergent Themes

04 Interactive Strategy Discussion

The RTI team brings a combined 50+ years of designing and implementing waste management solutions



Laura Morrison
Project Director



Keith Weitz
Plastics Technical Lead



Jamie Pero Parker
Strategy & Facilitation Lead



Emily Thompson
Research Analyst



Verone Bernard
Senior Researcher

Review Global Best Practice & Inventory Current Management Practices in the Bay

Literature Review of Best Practices - *Complete*

Objective: Conduct a literature review of implemented plastic pollution source reduction strategies to provide an evidence base for strategy development.

Approach: RTI reviewed peer-reviewed and grey literature and synthesized findings from 129 documented interventions across 12 strategy categories, assessing what types of plastics they target, implementation conditions, and available evidence of effectiveness.

Findings: The strongest evidence for macro-plastic reduction strategies (e.g., plastic bag bans, deposit-return systems, reuse/refill programs, and voluntary business initiatives) while identifying evidence gaps for microplastic source reduction approaches.

Inventory of Current Interventions - *Underway*

Objective: Develop a Chesapeake Bay watershed-specific inventory of existing plastic pollution policies, programs, and implementation activities to understand what actions are already underway and where opportunities exist.

Approach: RTI created a comprehensive inventory of 302 policies, programs, plans, research activities, and funding initiatives, supported by a map of 229 stakeholder orgs.

Findings: Actions across governance levels / interventions show that a mix of regulatory approaches and voluntary programs dominate the current landscape; gaps in microplastics, procurement policies, industrial controls, and operational best management practices are highlighted.

Forthcoming: Develop Source Reduction Strategy

Strategy Development

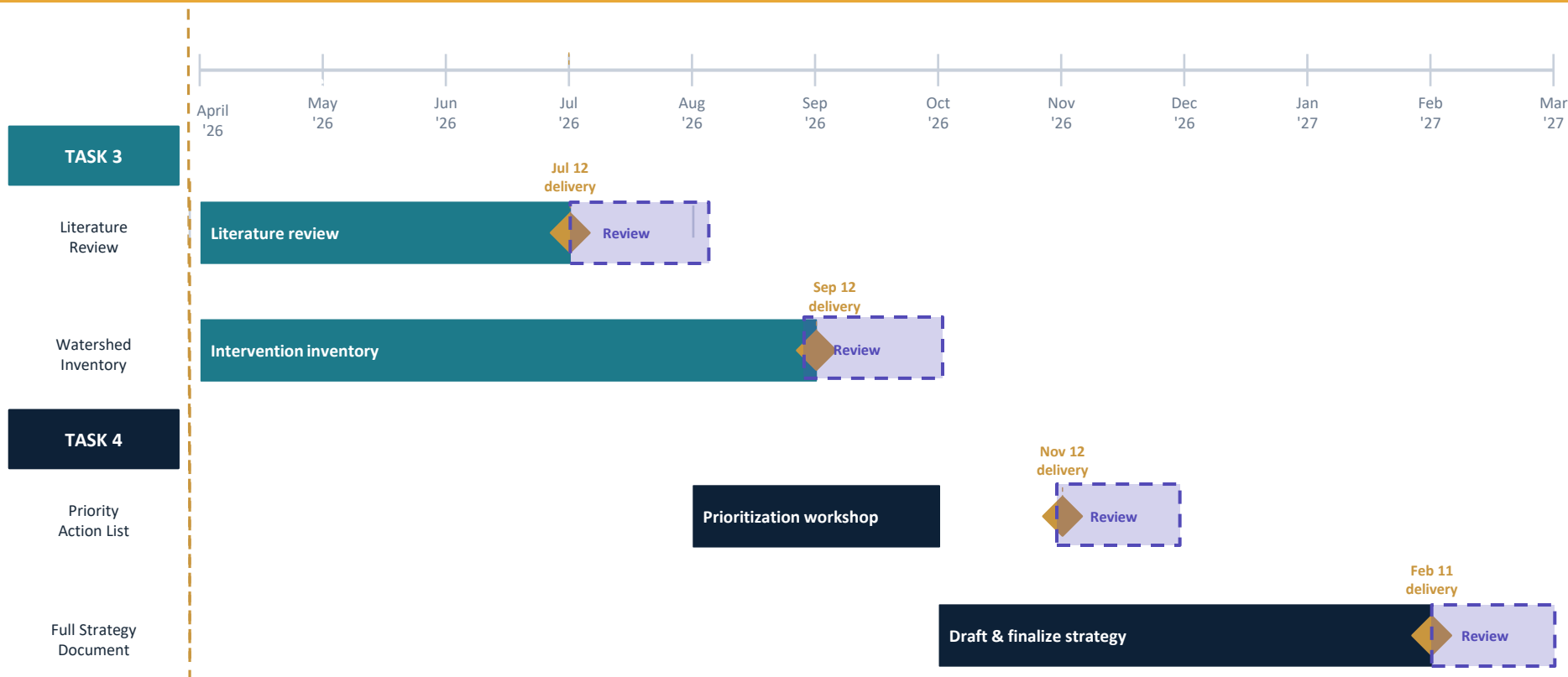
Objective: Develop a practical, evidence-based Plastic Pollution Source Reduction Strategy for the Chesapeake Bay watershed. RTI translated findings from the literature review and watershed inventory into a prioritized set of actions and a comprehensive strategy tailored to Chesapeake Bay governance, pollution pathways, and implementation realities.

RTI will:

- Work with PPOW to evaluate candidate strategies based on effectiveness, feasibility, cost, scale, and implementation barriers, using structured stakeholder engagement and human-centered design methods to build consensus around priority actions; and,
- Integrate priorities into a watershed-wide strategy that identifies gaps, opportunities, and actionable voluntary and policy approaches aligned with EPA's National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution.



Project Timeline



Interactive Strategy Discussion on Strategy Development

01

What does the strategy need to contain in order to be successful (*useful and actionable*)?
What does it *not* need?

02

What, if any, priority pathways or sectors should be prioritized? Why?

03

Where is coordination most needed and how have you seen this be successful?



Thank you

We look forward to partnering with you.

