STAR STRUCTURE

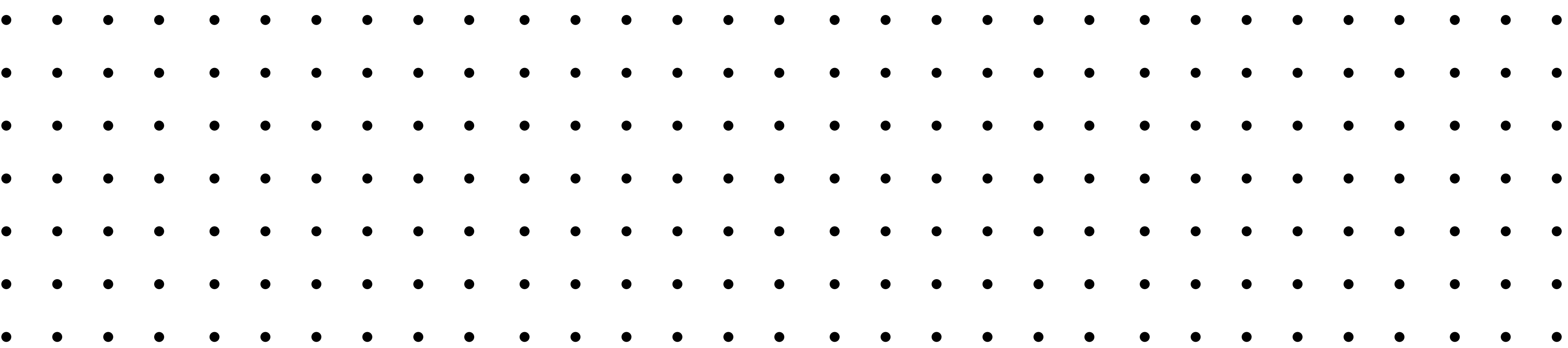## for cohesion

9/25/2025 STAR Meeting

OBJECTIVES

1. With Beyond 2025, how to gain efficiencies through the structure?

2. How can the structure support STAR's purpose and function?

3. Share ideas and gain feedback on how to move forward – especially on STAR monitoring related groups.

CBP

LEADERSHIP
- Chesapeake Executive Council
- Principals' Staff Committee
- Management Board

ADVISORY COMMITTEES
- Stakeholders'
- Local Government
- Scientific & Technical
- Agricultural

GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS
- Sustainable Fisheries
- Habitat
- Water Quality
- Healthy Watersheds
- Stewardship
- Partnering, Leadership & Management

PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT
- Scientific, Technical Assessment & Reporting
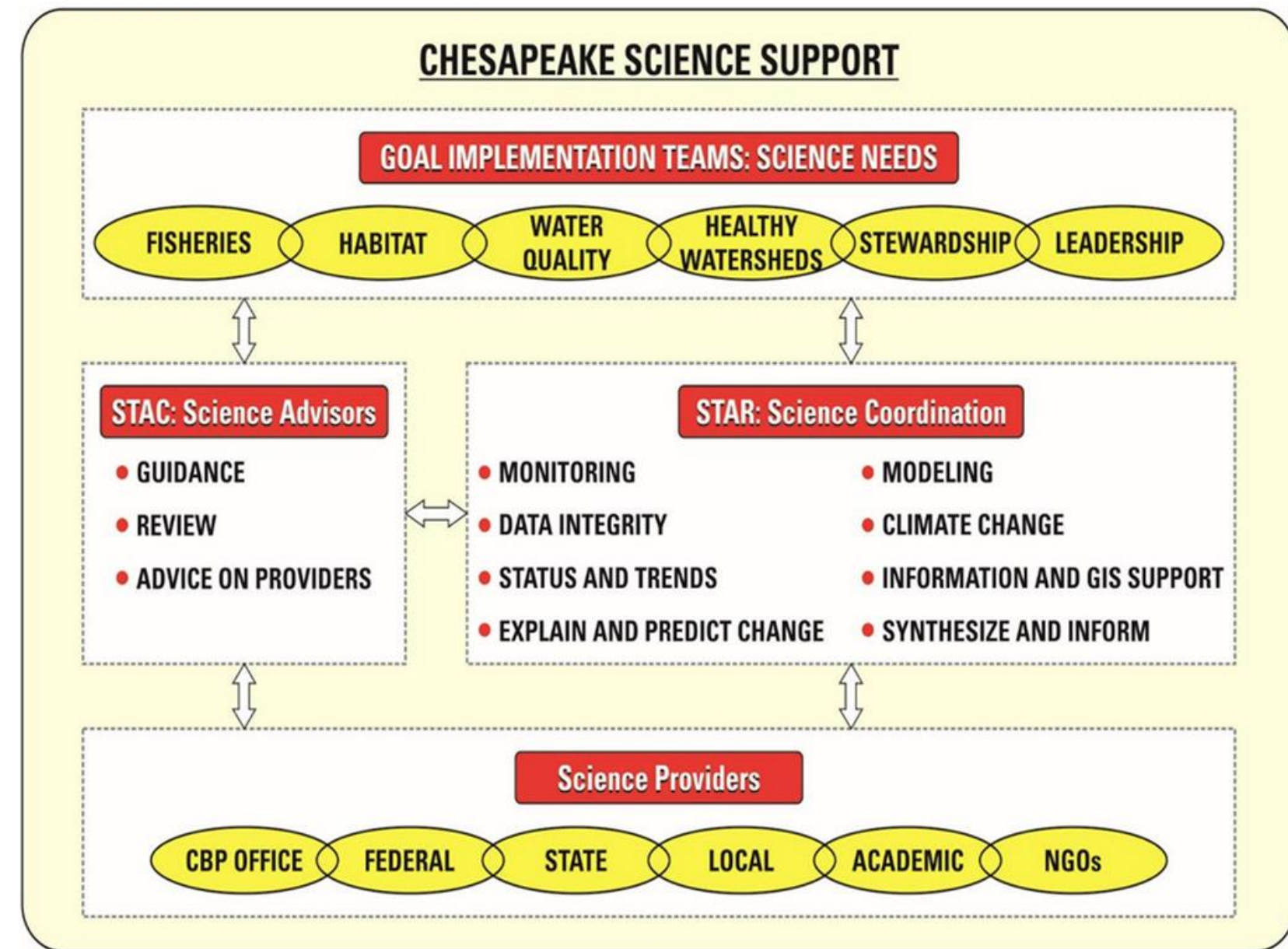- Strategic Engagement Team

STAR

PURPOSE

Champions monitoring, analysis, and science synthesis across outcomes to support the entire partnership.

FUNCTION
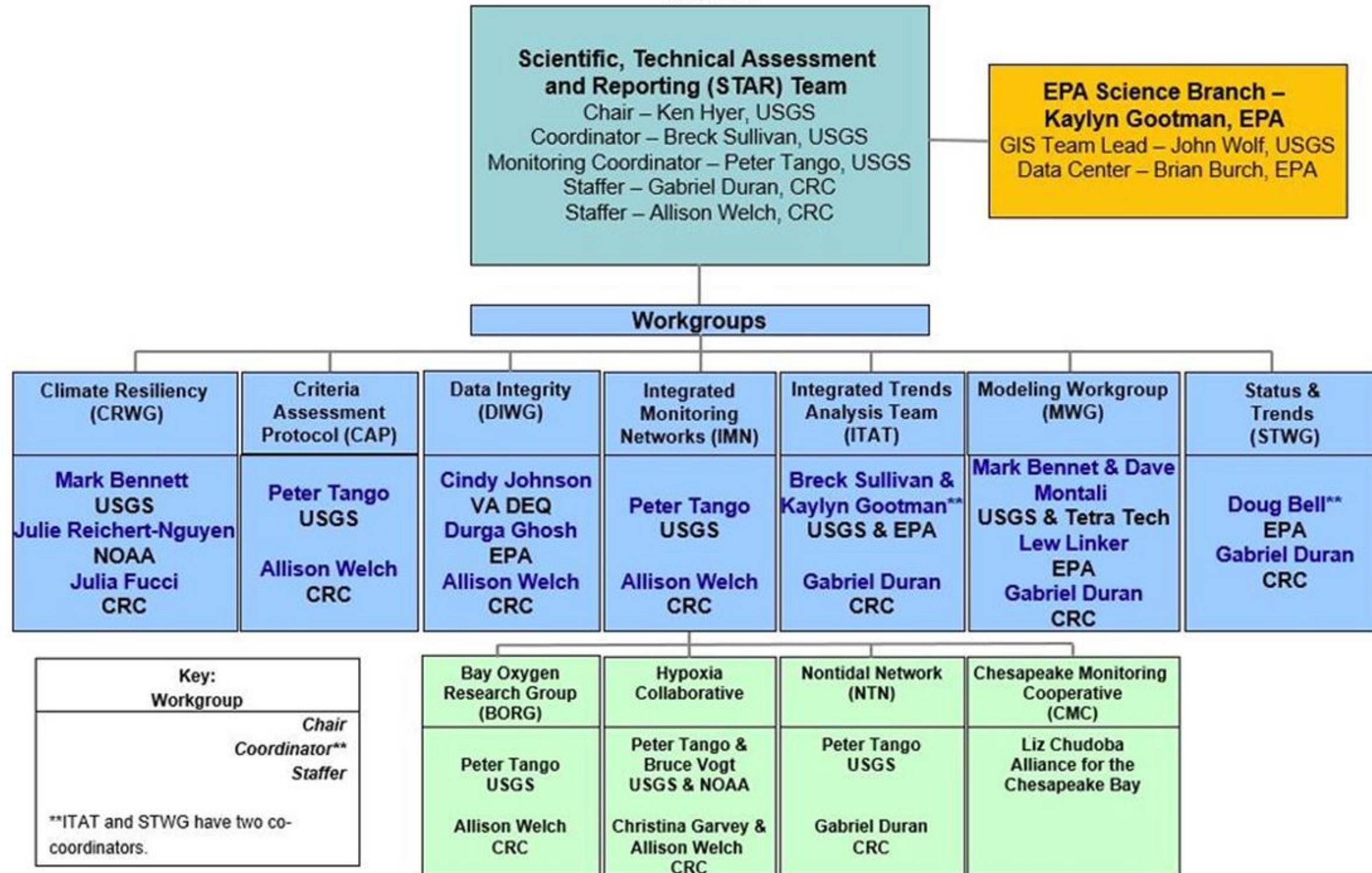
1. Coordinates monitoring, analysis, and science synthesis across CBP.
2. Identify, organize, and address science needs for all outcomes.

CHESAPEAKE SCIENCE SUPPORT

GOAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAMS: SCIENCE NEEDS

FISHERIES HABITAT WATER QUALITY HEALTHY WATERSHEDS STEWARDSHIP LEADERSHIP

STAC: Science Advisors
- GUIDANCE
- REVIEW
- ADVICE ON PROVIDERS

STAR: Science Coordination
- MONITORING
- DATA INTEGRITY
- STATUS AND TRENDS
- EXPLAIN AND PREDICT CHANGE
- MODELING
- CLIMATE CHANGE
- INFORMATION AND GIS SUPPORT
- SYNTHESIZE AND INFORM

Science Providers

CBP OFFICE FEDERAL STATE LOCAL ACADEMIC NGOs

CURRENT STRUCTURE

STAR Organizational Structure and Leadership
03/26/2025

CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Coordinate science support of climate change activities

STATUS AND TRENDS

Update and deliver the status and trends (indicators) of ecosystem conditions

DATA INTEGRITY

Ensure data comparability, completeness, and integrity

DATA CENTER

Enhance information and data management and access

MODELING

Conduct modeling to improve water-quality decision-making and better understand and predict ecosystem response

INTEGRATED MONITORING

Manage CBP-funded monitoring networks and collaborate with monitoring organizations to utilize and enhance additional networks to address the outcomes in the Watershed Agreement

+4

GSAT

Broaden and optimize the use of geospatial data, technologies, solutions, and communication products

CAP

Addresses and advises on questions related to water quality criteria assessment protocols

ITAT

Contribute to explaining ecosystem condition and change in water quality
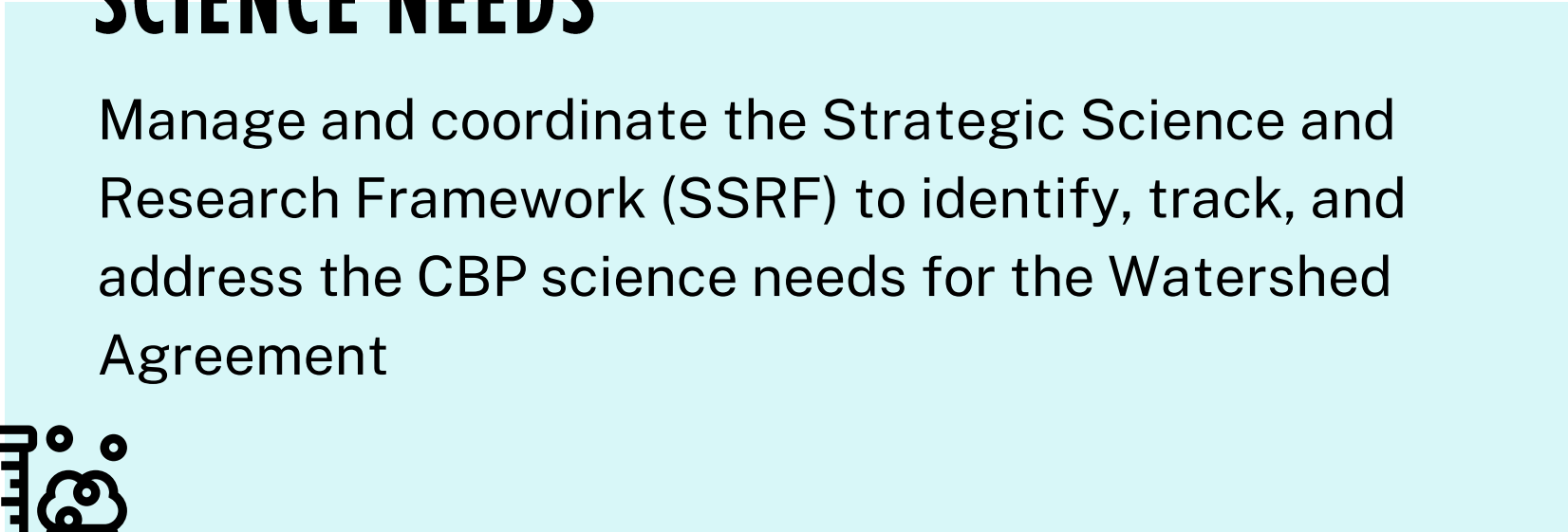
STAR Functions Overall:

SCIENCE NEEDS

Manage and coordinate the Strategic Science and Research Framework (SSRF) to identify, track, and address the CBP science needs for the Watershed Agreement

SCIENCE CAPACITY

Interact with GITs to coordinate science partnerships and identify new opportunities to address science needs in SSRF and science capacity for Watershed Agreement outcomes

SCIENCE SYNTHESIS

Produce synthesis products and reports to better communicate scientific results and aid in science informed management decisions
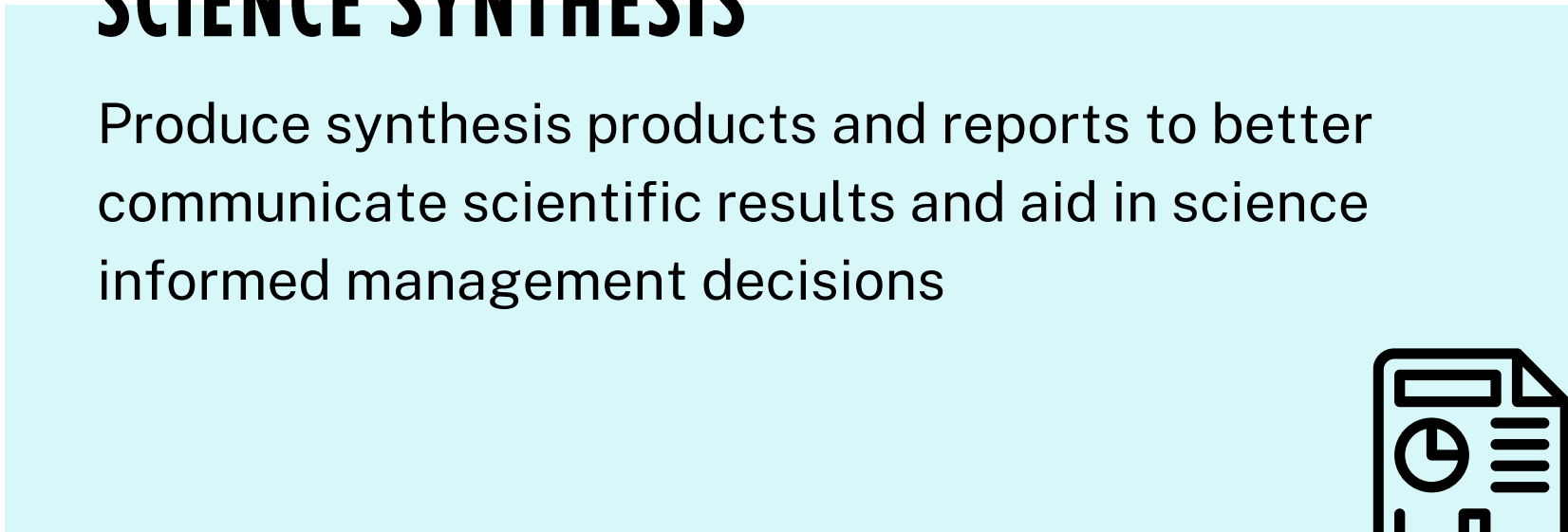
Changes Based on Beyond 2025

Climate Resiliency Workgroup is breaking into 2 entities:

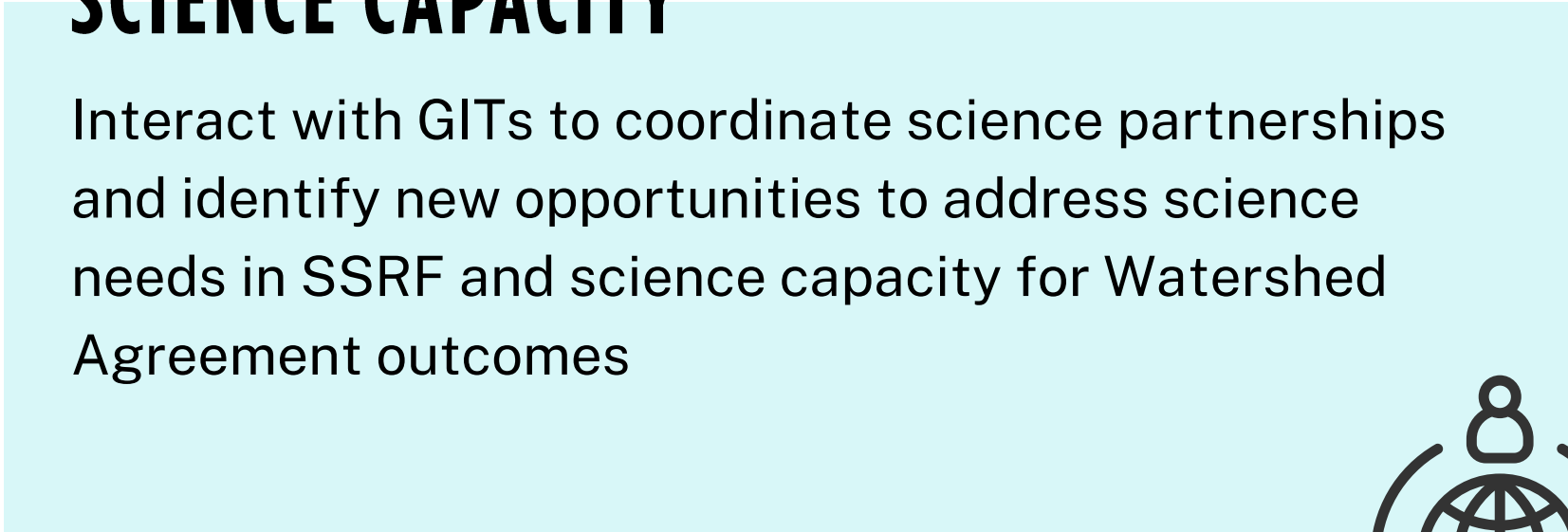- Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions Workgroup <u>under Healthy Landscape Goal</u> - overseeing Adapting to Changing Environmental Conditions Outcome
- Changing Environmental Conditions Team <u>under STAR</u> to collaborate with the GITs and outcomes to effectively incorporate the effects of changing environmental conditions into each outcome

Feedback on Structure for Beyond 2025:

1. All Outcomes under Goal Implementation Team
2. Seperate policy related groups from science groups

1.Outcomes under Goal Teams

Adaption Outcome updating to Adaptation to Changing Environmental Conditions and under Healthy Landscapes Goal

Monitoring and Assessment Outcome no longer an outcome

Water Quality, Standards Attainment, and Monitoring under Clean Water Goal *(Surprise - it is already under Water Quality GIT!)*

Communication of Outcome Support:
1. STAR contributes to the scientific products and advancement of all outcomes
2. State "Clean Water releases..." instead of "STAR releases..."

2. Separate policy and science groups

Most STAR groups are scientifically centric.

Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP) is the only one that is policy focused. Attainment of water quality standards is under the Clean Water Act.

STAR groups still support the data collection, management, analysis, and synthesis on water quality criteria, but CAP approves the the methods for analyzing the criteria.

Recommendation:
1. CAP move from STAR to Clean Water Goal.
2. STAR continues to support the monitoring and analysis for CAP.

STAR Workgroups ➡ STAR Teams
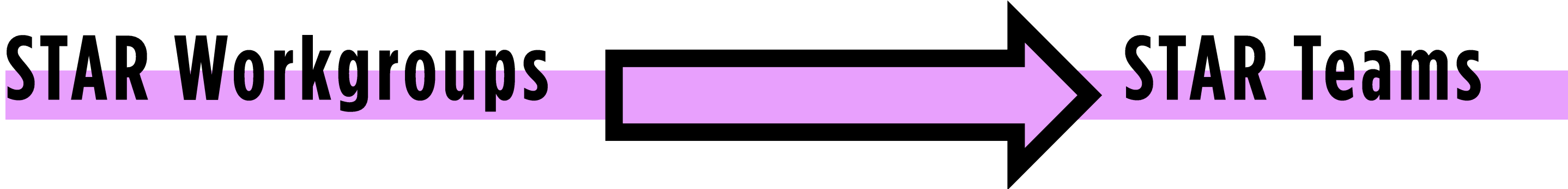
WORKGROUPS

"Workgroups strive to maintain a membership that appropriately represents the signatories to the Agreement, Advisory Committees, expertise in the field, people at various points in their careers, federally and state recognized tribes…"

"…workgroups for specific actions under the purview of their GIT as needed."

Work is driven by and support a specific outcome.

TEAMS

Work is driven by **supporting a function across the partnership**: monitoring, modeling, GIS, indicators, etc.

Team members are Subject Matter Experts/Skill Experts. **Coordinate** with Goal Implementation Teams to address needs.

Geospatial and Science Application TEAM
Integrated Trends and Analysis TEAM
Hypoxia Collaborative TEAM
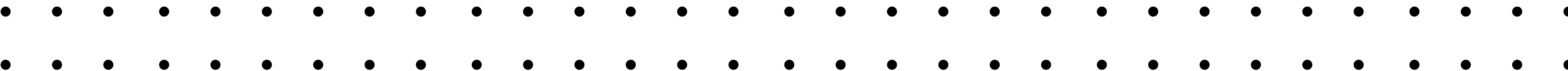
Initial Thoughts:

Some groups are more resolved than others:

Tan boxes – Good sense of scope and need to be an individual team.

White boxes – Good sense of scope but open to ideas on if/how to consolidate. Mainly monitoring and analysis related teams.

STAR Organizational Structure and Leadership
03/26/2025

Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team
Chair – Ken Hyer, USGS
Coordinator – Breck Sullivan, USGS
Monitoring Coordinator – Peter Tango, USGS
Staffer – Gabriel Duran, CRC
Staffer – Allison Welch, CRC

EPA Science Branch – Kaylyn Gootman, EPA
GIS Team Lead – John Wolf, USGS
Data Center – Brian Burch, EPA

Workgroups

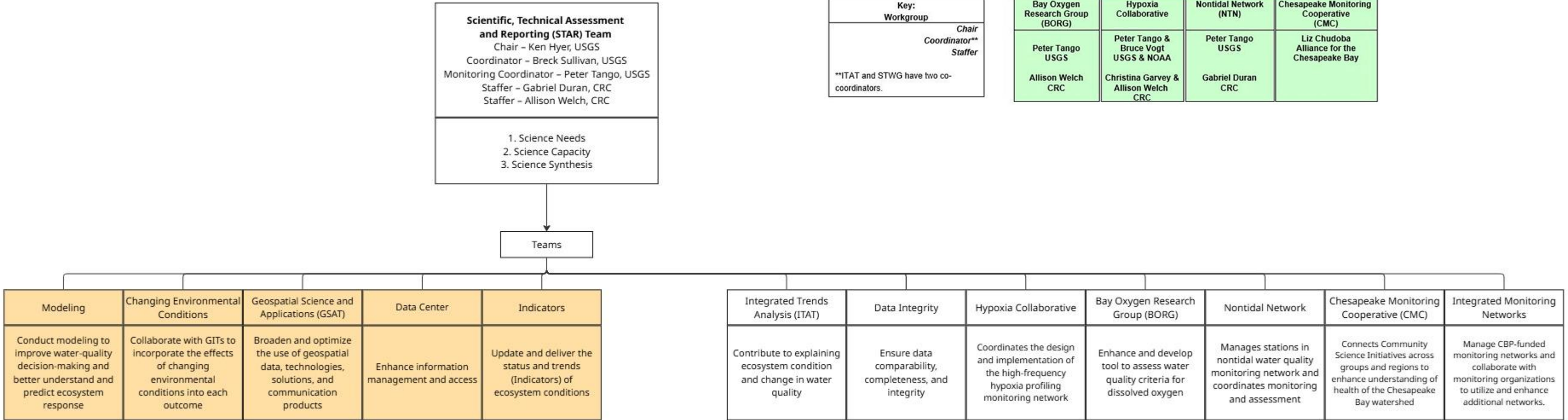| Climate Resiliency (CRWG)	Criteria Assessment Protocol (CAP)	Data Integrity (DIWG)	Integrated Monitoring Networks (IMN)	Integrated Trends Analysis Team (ITAT)	Modeling Workgroup (MWG)	Status & Trends (STWG)
Mark Bennett USGS Julie Reichert-Nguyen NOAA Julia Fucci CRC	Peter Tango USGS Allison Welch CRC	Cindy Johnson VA DEQ Durga Ghosh EPA Allison Welch CRC	Peter Tango USGS Allison Welch CRC	Breck Sullivan & Kaylyn Gootman** USGS & EPA Gabriel Duran CRC	Mark Bennet & Dave Montali USGS & Tetra Tech Lew Linker EPA Gabriel Duran CRC	Doug Bell** EPA Gabriel Duran CRC

Key:
Workgroup
Chair
Coordinator**
Staffer

**ITAT and STWG have two co-coordinators.

Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG)	Hypoxia Collaborative	Nontidal Network (NTN)	Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC)
Peter Tango USGS Allison Welch CRC	Peter Tango & Bruce Vogt USGS & NOAA Christina Garvey & Allison Welch CRC	Peter Tango USGS Gabriel Duran CRC	Liz Chudoba Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay

Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team
Chair – Ken Hyer, USGS
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1. Science Needs
2. Science Capacity
3. Science Synthesis

Teams

Modeling	Changing Environmental Conditions	Geospatial Science and Applications (GSAT)	Data Center	Indicators		Integrated Trends Analysis (ITAT)	Data Integrity	Hypoxia Collaborative	Bay Oxygen Research Group (BORG)	Nontidal Network	Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC)	Integrated Monitoring Networks
Conduct modeling to improve water-quality decision-making and better understand and predict ecosystem response	Collaborate with GITs to incorporate the effects of changing environmental conditions into each outcome	Broaden and optimize the use of geospatial data, technologies, solutions, and communication products	Enhance information management and access	Update and deliver the status and trends (Indicators) of ecosystem conditions		Contribute to explaining ecosystem condition and change in water quality	Ensure data comparability, completeness, and integrity	Coordinates the design and implementation of the high-frequency hypoxia profiling monitoring network	Enhance and develop tool to assess water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen	Manages stations in nontidal water quality monitoring network and coordinates monitoring and assessment	Connects Community Science Initiatives across groups and regions to enhance understanding of health of the Chesapeake Bay watershed	Manage CBP-funded monitoring networks and collaborate with monitoring organizations to utilize and enhance additional networks.

FEEDBACK

1. With Beyond 2025, how to gain efficiencies through the structure?

2. How can the structure support STAR's purpose and function?

3. Share ideas and gain feedback on how to move forward – especially on STAR monitoring related groups.