



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

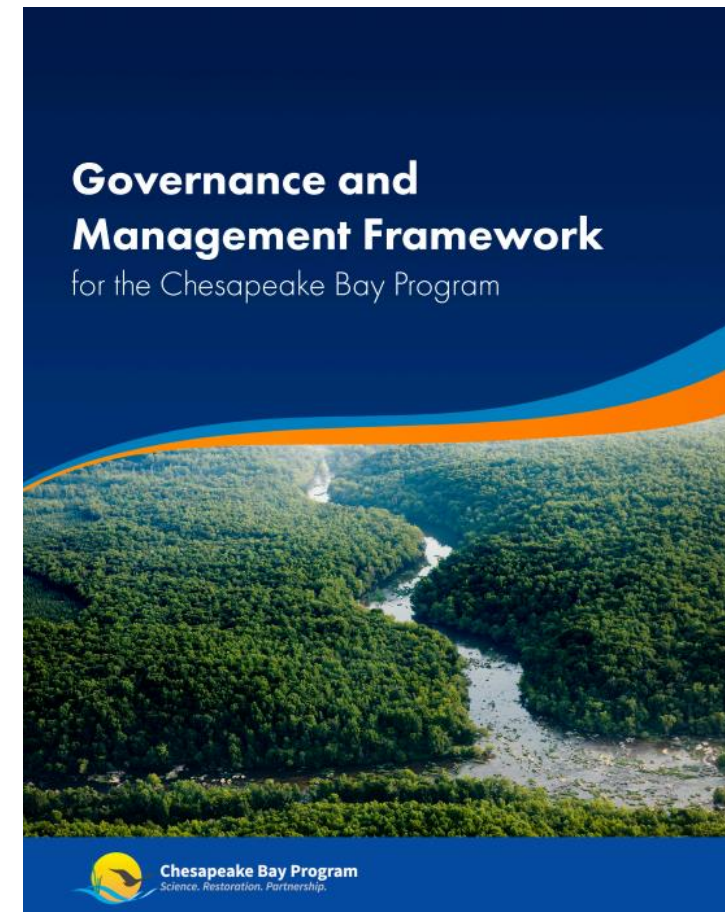
Updates on the Priority Setting Framework

Governance and Operations Workgroup

September 2026

Priority Setting Framework (PSF) established by the Governance and Management Framework (GMF)

- PSC will establish priorities based on:
 - EC charge/direction
 - Input from Advisory Committees
 - Suggestions from the Goal Teams
- Workload shared across signatory members
- Short term action teams may be established
- PSF will elevate priorities within the Watershed Agreement as well as emerging issues
- Process maintained and guided by the Governance and Operations Workgroup (GO Team)



Current Draft Document

- Introduction
 - Aligning Partners
 - Focusing Resources
 - Supporting Adaptive Management
 - Clarifying Expectations
 - Signaling Leadership Intent
- Priority Criteria
- Priority Setting Process
- Tracking Priorities

2026 – 2027 Chesapeake Bay Program¹ Priority Setting Framework The Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) broadly identifies partnership goals, outcomes, and targets within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement (Agreement). This Priority Setting Framework builds on the Agreement's foundation by outlining a process by which the CBP's Policy Steering Committee (PSC), goal teams, and workgroups can accelerate Agreement implementation by identifying and elevating specific priorities for focused partnership attention. These priorities, informed by Chesapeake Executive Council (EC) direction as well as advisory committee, goal team, and workgroup recommendations, will strengthen the partnership by: • Aligning partners around shared strategic direction and initiatives: Biennial priority setting ensures federal agencies, states, and other partners are accelerating outcome achievement by working on the highest-impact or most urgent activities while operating within their respective authorities and missions. • Focusing resources: A curated list of top priorities may help direct funding, staff time, and policy attention toward actions likely to advance restoration goals while avoiding potentially redundant activity. • Supporting adaptive management: Biennial priorities allow the partnership to respond to new science, emerging risks, and implementation challenges. • Clarifying expectations and accountability: Clear and immediate priorities provide a reference point for workgroups, goal teams, and leadership to measure progress and report results. • Signaling leadership intent internally and externally: A unified list of leadership priorities communicates to implementing partners, funders, Congress, and the public where their support may matter most. <i>Priority criteria</i> – Priority initiatives must have an anticipated and articulable impact on accelerating Agreement implementation and should generally be scoped with the following in mind: 1. Time-sensitive: The priority initiative requires focused collaborative effort to accomplish because of near-term factors. 2. Major shared barriers: The priority initiative represents a significant obstacle to outcome attainment for multiple jurisdictions and requires enhanced coordination. ¹ As CBP has not previously implemented and managed this prioritization process, the partnership will conduct a biennial review of the process and will adapt it based on feedback from those involved in identifying, promoting, managing or tracking priorities.	multiple take on the Chesapeake technical to more than al schedule SPA will ed unding the ct and on. (The list which PSC with their r al nd PSC his includes EC and other priority al ulation al. Once the identify and orty. This Leadership	Chesapeake emented by develop an meeting. meetings er, Fall, approved gress and giving a system and their
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Priority Criteria

Priorities must have an impact on accelerating Agreement implementation. The following should be considered:

1. Time Sensitive
2. Major Shared Barriers
3. Emergent in Nature
4. Enhanced Collaboration
5. Beyond Annual Deliverables
6. Short Term Implementation

For discussion

- Relationship to Management Strategies
- Potential for competing, excessive or misaligned priorities

Priority Setting Process

Biennial Bilateral Process

1. Identification
2. Introduction
3. Development
4. Approval
5. Presentation
6. Implementation

For discussion

- Biennial vs. Annual
- Off Cycle Emerging Issues
- Resource Needs
- “Champions” for projects
- Majority Approval

For example...



Tracking Priorities

- GO Team will coordinate with Goal Team Chairs to track progress and report to the PSC.
- GO Team will ensure progress is transparent to the partnership.

Next Steps

- Meeting with Goal Team Chairs on 9/29
- Accepting comments from PSC through 10/9
- Draft final document available on 10/22
- Will request approval at 11/5 PSC Meeting

Questions? Thank you!

GO Team CBP Webpage:

<https://www.chesapeakebay.net/who/group/governance-operations#members>

GO Team Email: governanceandoperations@chesapeakebay.net