Beyond 2025
Phase 2:
A snapshot of the "fluid" process for Water Quality

...as of December 9 WQGIT meeting

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Objectives for our time today

- ***Caveat: Everything is fluid!***
- Overview of tasks & what has changed so far
- Focus on timeline, orient ourselves to the weeks and months ahead
  - Outcome review & assessment → due 2 wks ahead of MB meeting
  - Project list → due Jan 3
- Please share your questions, ideas or suggestions as we go, especially in the chat

Quick notes

- Reminder: 11/21 Email from Sushanth has a lot of information and materials

- Other materials and information available [on Planning for 2025 and Beyond webpage](#)[1]
  - Bookmark this page if you're keeping tabs on the process!

- Thursday's (12/12) Management Board meeting could illuminate more about the process or tasks

[1] https://www.chesapeakebay.net/what/what-guides-us/planning-for-2025-and-beyond

EXERPT FROM THE DRAFT EC CHARGE:

Therefore, let it be resolved that we, the Chesapeake Executive Council, in recognition of the consensus-based work of the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee, guided by the findings of their "A Critical Path Forward for the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership Beyond 2025" report and our continued commitment to meet the goals of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, hereby direct the Principals' Staff Committee to complete the following by **December 31, 2025:**
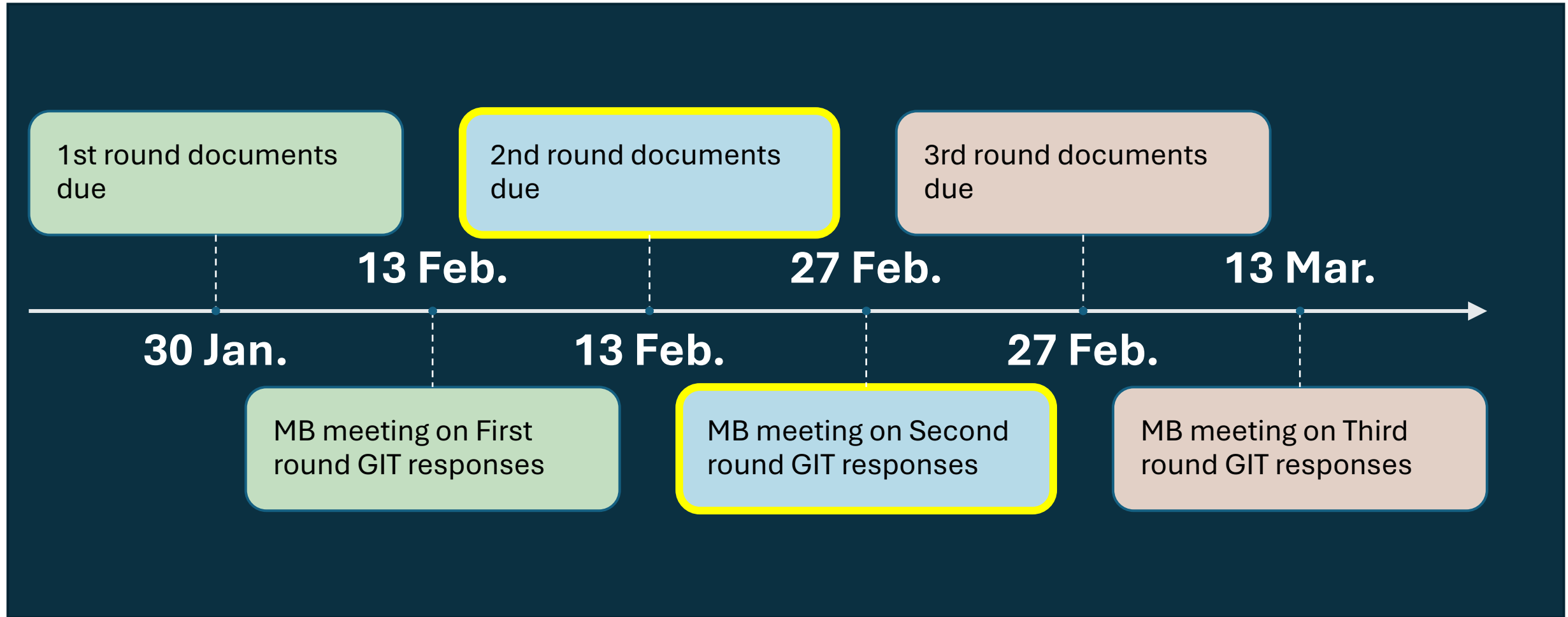
1. Revisions to the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement, not a new Agreement. **Revisions to outcomes** should be executed pursuant to the Governance and Management Framework for the Chesapeake Bay Program. While not all outcomes will need revision, some **reviews will likely result in consolidating, reducing, updating, removing, replacing, or adding new outcomes.**

Proposed revisions should be considered as they are being reviewed, with every effort to complete most reviews and revisions by the end of calendar year 2025. Furthermore, it is the intent of the Chesapeake Executive Council, **that these changes reflect:**

Why an Outcome Assessment?

○ A renewed and greater emphasis on **engaging all communities** of the watershed as active stewards of a healthy and resilient Chesapeake Bay and its watershed;

○ Our mandate to address water quality **and living resources** throughout the Bay and watershed;

○ **Elevating conservation** as a key pillar of the Chesapeake Bay Program, alongside science, restoration, and partnership;

○ A grounding in the most recent scientific understandings and issues that have emerged since the current Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement was signed in 2014;

○ Goals and outcomes that are **measurable and time bound**. Time frames should be sufficient to accomplish the outcomes as quickly as possible. In particular, our regulated nutrient and sediment load reductions, especially those within non-point sources;

○ Acknowledgement that our scientific understanding is continuously evolving and that our efforts need to constantly adapt accordingly; and

○ The fact that while each partner shares a common goal, we are all approaching this goal from different perspectives, challenges, and opportunities.

TIMELINE

Tentative MB schedule for Outcome Assessment

First Meeting - Feb 13th Jan 30 1st round documents	Second Meeting - Feb 27th Feb 13th 2nd round documents	Third Meeting - March 13th Feb 27th 3rd round documents
[Climate] Monitoring and Assessment Outcome: (STAR)	Brook Trout: (GIT 2)	**Toxic Contaminants Research Outcome: (GIT 3/TCW)**
[Climate] Adaptation Outcome: (STAR)	Diversity Outcome: (GIT 5)	**Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention Outcome: (GIT 3/TCW)**
Local Leadership Outcome (GIT 6)	Stewardship Outcome: (GIT 5)	Wetlands Outcome: (GIT 2)
Blue Crab Abundance Outcome: (GIT 1)	Stream Health Outcome: (GIT 2)	Black Duck: (GIT 2)
Oyster Outcome (GIT 1)	**Forest Buffer Outcome: (GIT 3/FWG)**	Environmental Literacy Planning Outcome: (GIT 5)
Forage Fish Outcome (GIT 1)	**Tree Canopy Outcome: (GIT 3/FWG)**	Student Outcome: (GIT 5)
Fish Habitat Outcome: (GIT 1)	**Water Quality Standards Attainment and Monitoring Outcome (STAR)**	Sustainable Schools Outcome: (GIT 5)
Fish Passage Outcome: (GIT 2)	**2025 WIP Outcome: (GIT 3)**	Protected Lands Outcome: (GIT 5)
	Healthy Watersheds Outcome: (GIT 4)	Public Access Site Development Outcome: (GIT 5)
	Land Use Methods and Metrics Development Outcome: (GIT 4)	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Outcome: (GIT 2)
	Land Use Options Evaluation Outcome: (GIT 4)	

Dates/schedule to keep in mind

WIP or Toxics or Forestry outcomes	Overall / Multiple Outcomes
Dec 9 – Today's monthly WQGIT meeting	
Dec 11 – Toxic Contaminants WG office hours #1	
	Dec 12 – MB (process)
	Dec 20 – PSC (process)
Jan 8 – Monthly Forestry WG meeting (TC + RFB)	
Jan 14 – Office hours (WQ outcomes)	
	Jan 23 – Monthly STAR meeting (multiple outcomes)
Jan 27 – Monthly WQGIT meeting	
Feb 13 – materials due for meeting #2	Feb 13 – MB meeting #1
Feb 24 – Monthly WQGIT meeting	
Feb 27 – materials due for meeting #3	Feb 27 – MB meeting #2 (WQ + forestry)
	March 13 – MB meeting #3 (toxics)

Big Question: What advice do you have for the Management Board on how to consolidate, reduce, update, remove, replace or add new outcomes within your GIT?

Guidelines: You do not have to answer all these questions, but the first two are necessary.

1. In reviewing your outcome, provide advice to the Management Board on whether "to consolidate, reduce, update, remove, replace or add new outcomes".
   a. Don't need to provide updated Outcome language at this point in the process.
   b. If consolidation is recommended, which outcome(s) do you advise combining with?
   c. Should the outcome be moved or restructured?

2. Consider if the Outcome is SMART, and specifically, whether the current outcome meets the definition of an outcome, as described in the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement ("Agreement"), or if that outcome is an output or indicator.
   a. Review ERG's Beyond 2025 Report for existing assessment of **S**pecific, **M**easurement, and **T**imebound.
   b. Consider the Secret Sauce

3. Consider the challenges to and opportunities for achieving the outcome. You are encouraged to leverage past documentation and learnings from the Strategy Review System process, as well as Charting a Course to 2025 report and Beyond 2025 Small Group recommendations as they pertain to the outcome.

4. Consider how the outcome relates or could relate to the Bay Agreement mission, vision, and themes/pillars

Big Question: What advice do you have for the Management Board on how to consolidate, reduce, update, remove, replace or add new outcomes within your GIT?

Guidelines: You do not have to answer all these questions, but the first two are necessary.

5. Consider the timescale for completing the outcome (5, 10, 15 years). Determine if achieving the outcome is an incremental step or is it a final outcome.

6. Consider resource needs and availability (high, medium, low).

7. Consider the risk or unintended consequences of removing the Outcome.

8. What value is added by having the Chesapeake Bay Program work on the outcome?

9. Consider how the Outcome, as written, benefits the public. Does the outcome reflect public input already received and have the potential to galvanize public support/engagement?

10. We will provide links to the supplemental information, including:
    a. 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement
    b. Secret Sauce
    c. Beyond 2025 Recommendations
    d. Charting a Course to 2025 report

Updates

- [Josh Kurtz (PSC Chair, MD DNR) Memo to PSC](#)
- Suggestions from GIT Chairs & Outcome Leads

Continued Management Board Process and Timeline

April 10, 2025	Continued discussion to consolidate, reduce, update, remove, replace or add new outcomes. Outcomes identified as being kept or combined are assigned to workgroups for rewriting
May 7-8, 2025	**Finalize outcome assessment/evaluation**
May 2025	• PSC Check in on Draft List of Outcomes. Share approach for structure development and governance review • Advisory Committee Presentation – all together
June 12, 2025	Work through any PSC feedback on outcomes. **Prepare final outcome list for public sharing**
July 1, 2025	Discussion of overall Partnership Structure. Includes all partnership Goal Teams/workgroups/action teams
August 14, 2025	Continue Grouping /Structure Development/ Governance
August 2025	PSC Check-in Grouping /Structure Development/ Governance
September 11, 2025	Continue work on Structure/ Governance and draft list of outcomes
October 9, 2025	**Finalize outcomes and Complete Draft of New Structure**
October 2025	Presentation of Final Draft to PSC
November 2025	Preparation of Final Package Based on PSC feedback

2025 WIP Outcome - brainstorming

Need or want to change (critical, obvious or makes sense?)	TBD - Points of deliberation
2025 deadline (extend deadline and/or add interim step)	How do we set it and when will we have that information if we don't have it now?
The name/title ("Practice Implementation" instead of WIP?)	Is implementation an outcome or output for the Water Quality Goal?
	Do we combine/reconfigure with water quality monitoring? If so, how?

Discussion

Thoughts on how to approach this with the GIT and workgroups?

Project list

- Focus on tasks/needs from Phase 1 – "a small urgent list of projects"
- Not exhaustive of all activities; will be iterative
- Process still taking shape
- See posted list for current draft ideas (very rough draft for some) from WQGIT/related outcome leads
- Feedback on our list welcome by Dec 19th
  - …later feedback welcome, but given holiday schedules sooner is better under the current timeline:
- Currently requested from outcome leads by Jan 3rd

Discussion

Thoughts on how to approach this with the GIT and workgroups?

Recap

- Everything is fluid, we'll do our best to communicate at checkpoints/meeting or in-between as possible

- We'll probably know more following 12/12 MB and 12/20 PSC

- Ideas and input always welcome!