

Chesapeake Bay Program Biennial Strategy Review System: General Description One Pager

The Chesapeake Bay Program's "Biennial Strategy Review System" (SRS) is the adaptive management process by which the Partnership seeks to meet its 2014 Watershed Agreement commitment to:

"Goal Implementation Teams will re-evaluate biennially and update strategies as necessary, with attention to changing environmental and economic conditions. Partners may identify policy changes to address these conditions and minimize obstacles to achieve the Outcomes." (2014 Chesapeake Watershed Agreement)

The overarching focus and tone of the SRS process is not, "where are we falling short?", but rather, "how can we all work together to improve our success?"

In short, the SRS is a two-year process during which the Partnership will review progress on each Outcome, identify what is working and what is not working, consider recent developments in the scientific, fiscal, and policy arenas, and make necessary changes to our Workplans and Strategies as appropriate to improve our effectiveness and efficiency. The SRS process begins with a "2-Day Biennial Review Meeting", which is designed to be a broad identification and discussion of general themes in the implementation, scientific, fiscal, and policy fields that will be used to inform the review and possible modification of individual Outcome discussions over the next two years. The majority of the work is then conducted during "Quarterly Progress Meetings" of the Management Board during which progress on individual Outcomes (grouped by theme) is reviewed and necessary changes identified. This process is then repeated every two years.

The SRS process is scheduled to begin in January, 2017. The inaugural 2-Day Biennial Review Meeting will be an abridged one day meeting given the facts that, as the inaugural meeting, we will not have two previous years of programmatic reviews to look back retrospectively upon, and in recognition of the practical realities of pulling off a two day meeting in the short time frame available. This event will nominally occur at the January 12, 2017 Management Board meeting. The Quarterly Progress Meetings will then begin in February, 2017 and run through 2018. The process will then repeat itself beginning with a full 2-Day Biennial Review Meeting in January, 2019.

It is very important to view the SRS process as a work in progress. The current version of the SRS process is the net result of many conversations with many partners over the past several months. Two conclusions are inevitable from those conversations. First, many partners care deeply about this process and have devoted much time and effort to making it work. Second, what follows is not perfect. Our goal was not to design a perfect process, but rather a process that was good enough to get started – and we have done that. We will be flexible and improve as we move forward.