

# Envisioning the Bay of the Future

## Principals' Staff Committee Meeting

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March 12, 2024



## Executive Council Charge

“ Thus, this Executive Council charges the Principals’ Staff Committee (PSC) in recommending a critical path forward that prioritizes and outlines the next steps for meeting the goals and outcomes of the Watershed Agreement leading up to and beyond 2025. The PSC is to report back to the Executive Council at our 2023 annual meeting with recommendations on how to best address and integrate new science and restoration strategies leading up to 2025. **At our 2024 annual meeting, the PSC is to prepare recommendations that continue to address new advances in science and restoration, along with a focus on our partnership for going beyond 2025.**

”



## Preparing the Executive Council Final Product

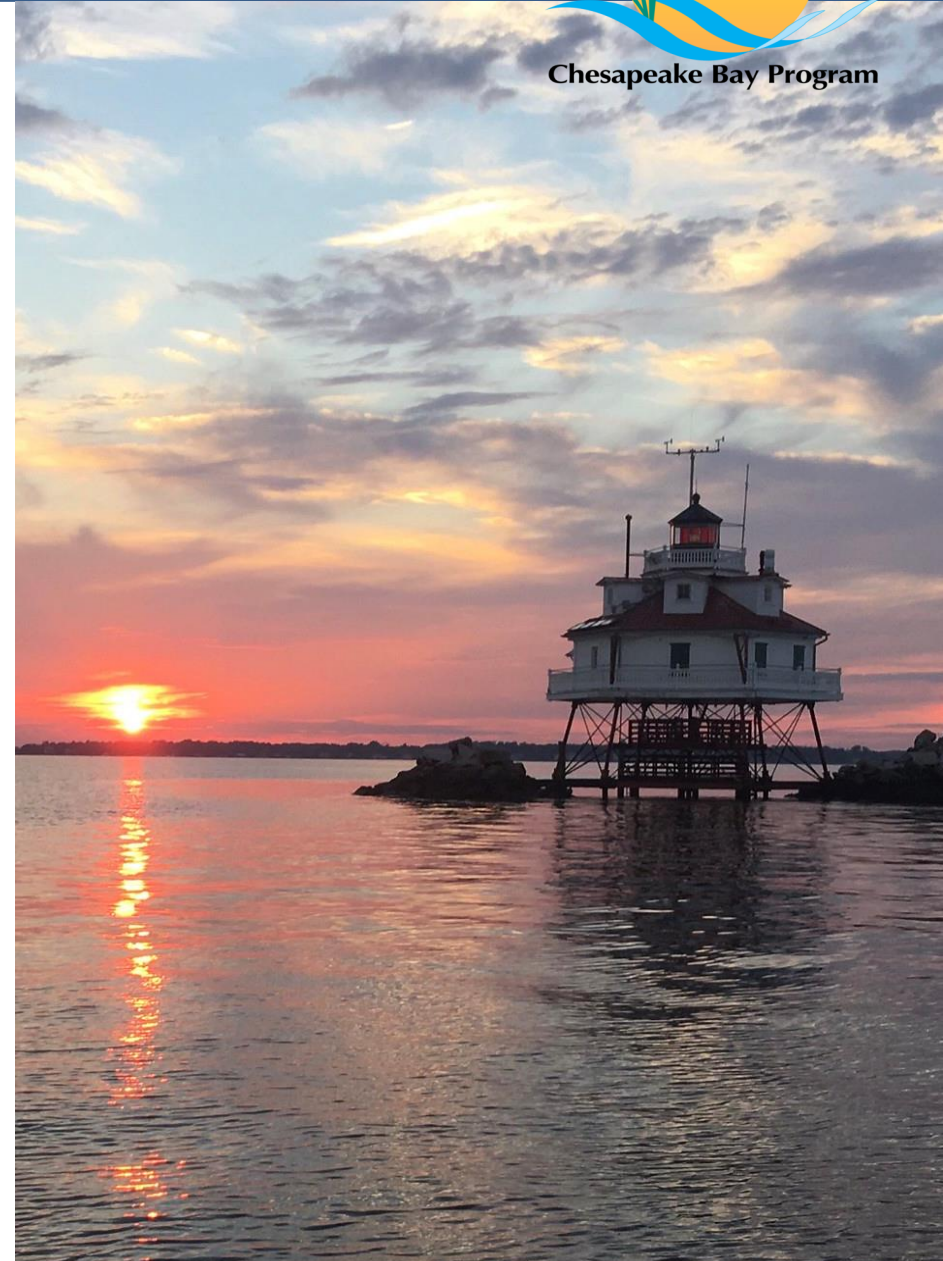
- Two-step approach:

### Step 1

- Form a Steering Committee
- Determine the scope and breadth
- Develop a plan

### Step 2

- Acceptance at the Executive Council
- Implement the plan



# Steering Committee Planned Product



## Where we are

### Summary of where we are with the 2014 Watershed Agreement

- Charting a Course to 2025, Chesapeake Progress: Outcome Attainability
- CESR, Rising Temperatures, Forest Buffers & Wetlands Conference Reports, meeting reports, Advisory Committee recommendations, and more

## Where do we want to be

### Vision

- Current Partnership Vision – Reaffirm? Refine?

## What we do

### Impact assessment

- What is the ability of our Partnership to positively impact each goal and outcome?
- Do we have the right outcomes for our goals and the right goals for our vision?

## How we work

### Assessment of our overall partnership

- Partnership Structure
- Governance and Adaptive Management

## Path Forward

### Recommendation on what to do with the Watershed Agreement post-2025

### Recommendations on the Partnership



- Climate Change
- Healthy Watersheds
- Clean Water
- People
- Shallow Water Habitats

# Developing Recommendations



## Vision

**What do we want to hand to the next generation?**

**What does success look like?**

## Value

**What are we doing that works?**

**What could be improved?**

**What changes would help us attain our vision?**

## Vanguard

**What idea is transformational for the future of the Bay and its watershed?**

**What would it take to implement that idea?**

## CLIMATE CHANGE

### Recommendations

- Framework for a climate adaptive Bay and watershed of the future
- Prioritize efforts for communities facing increasing climate risks
- Promote carbon stewardship as a holistic approach to climate mitigation
- Strategies for healthy and productive ecosystems under changing climate
- Promote regenerative agricultural production and food systems

### Key Themes / Focus Areas

- Estimate climate impacts for Chesapeake ecosystems
- Resilience, adaptation, and mitigation
- Food security and agriculture
- Resistance-resilience-transition
- Strengthen cross-program coordination





# Beyond 2025 Small Workgroups



## HEALTHY WATERSHEDS

### Recommendations

- Characterize and track watershed health using partnership data and tools
- Strategic green infrastructure planning for watershed health
- Increase the reach & effectiveness of local community and partner engagement through capacity building
- Integrate land conservation & local stewardship into goals
- Revise the accountability framework to promote protecting, restoring, and maintaining watershed health

### Key Themes / Focus Areas

- Spectrum of watershed health
- Build community understanding of local watersheds
- Land conservation
- Habitat conservation
- Stewardship and resilience of watershed lands





# Beyond 2025 Small Workgroups



## CLEAN WATER

### Recommendations

- Review and revise the accountability framework to improve effectiveness and increase emphasis on measured outcomes and water quality data
- Tiered implementation approach for the Bay TMDL
- Establish and promote cross-program coordination for water quality monitoring
- Increase nonpoint source implementation, incentivize effective and innovative nonpoint source management across all sectors
- Expand existing local liaison programs

### Key Themes / Focus Areas

- Chesapeake Bay TMDL
- Water Quality Assessment
- Nonpoint Source Management
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Water Quality Standards



# Beyond 2025 Small Workgroups



## PEOPLE

### Recommendations

- Independent expert on equitable, collaborative partnerships on governance, structure, accountability framework, and decision-making
- Develop measures of success to reflect community priorities
- Activate the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice implementation plan
- Create partnerships using networks focused on Watershed Agreement goals to learn and accelerate collaborative progress
- Budget & staffing plan to support strategic application of social science

### Key Themes / Focus Areas

- Directed Public Engagement
- DEIJ
- Social Science
- Stewardship
- Public Health





## SHALLOW WATER HABITATS

### Recommendations

- Climate-resilient restoration
- Integrated modeling and monitoring
- Adaptation strategy: habitat management and project planning
- Communication and engagement
- Effective governance, collaboration, and innovative funding

### Key Themes / Focus Areas

- Social science
- Modeling and decision tools
- Shoreline protection and integrity
- Living resource impacts and prioritization
- Data needs and monitoring
- Land Use Planning





# STEP 1 PROCESS



## RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

### Steering Committee (SC)

- Jurisdiction/Feds/ACs/GITs/+
- Monthly Meeting Frequency

### ERG (Independent Evaluator via Contract)

- Evaluation plan (EP) scoped by SC
- EP implemented: Sept '23 to July '24

### Small Groups

- People, Climate, Clean Water, Shallow Habitats, Healthy Watersheds
- SC + Invitees
- Active from Nov '23 to Mar '24

## SOURCE MATERIAL

*Supplemental to SC Product*

Evaluation Report  
(April - Interim / July - Final)

- Content Analysis + Discussions
- Themes → Statement of Findings
- Considerations for SC

Recommendations (5 x 5 Group)  
(March)

- Vanguard, Value, Vision
- Crosscutting topics
- Rationale and Phase 2 Next Steps
- Impact Assessment: Agreement / Partnership

## FINAL PRODUCT

Report to the EC  
(December)

- (1) DRAFTING
- (2) SC REVIEW
- (3) PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
- (4) REVISIONS
- (5) REVIEW



# Proposed Draft Outline for Final Product



- Pages 1-2: Critical path forward
  - Our charge
  - Our Bottom Line Up Front statement (agreement/partnership)
  - Our vision for the partnership
- Page 3+: Synthesized recommendations
  - Our process and what informed our work
  - Synthesized findings from small groups and ERG report
  - Summary of public engagement and outreach
- Source materials
  - Small group recommendations – one page per recommendation
  - Final ERG report

# Getting from "A" to "B25"?



1

Standardize  
Information

*Decide Today,  
Gather by March*

2

Combine  
Recs

*Begin Today, Continue through March*

3

Categorize/  
Synthesize  
Recs

4

Measure  
Consensus

*Begin March,  
Through May*

5

Our Work  
Ahead  
(BLUF)

*April?*



# In short, assuming no one has a Tardis, Time Sled, or DeLorean...

Week	January				February				March				April				May					June				July					August				September				October					November				December																								
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4																					
Small Groups Recommendations	Discuss & Draft							SC	1-pager							SC																																																								
ERG Report	Content Analysis and Interviews								Draft	SC	Draft												SC																																																	
Steering Committee Draft									Draft												SC	Revise												SC																																						
Public Engagement																													Comment & Dialogues																																											
Approval Process																													MB					MB					PSC?					EC																												

## Schedule Requirements

- Work backwards from December EC and November PSC
- Review and communicate with our MB members and PSC members (June - October)
- A quality product we can put out for public comment by June, which integrates Small Group recommendations and ERG content
- Integrated periods between SC drafting, review, and revisions



# Translating the Scope of Work...

## MAJOR ACTIVITIES

1. Small Group Recommendations
2. ERG Evaluation & Report
3. Steering Committee Final Product
4. Public Engagement
5. Approval Process

THANK YOU!

2024

