

# Beyond 2025 Update

Chesapeake Bay Commission Quarterly Meeting

Anna Killius

January 4, 2024



Chesapeake Bay Commission  
**Policy for the Bay**



# 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.**

”

# TWO-PHASED APPROACH

- Step 1 – Determine the scope and breadth of what will be undertaken to meet the EC Charge and develop a plan to complete that work
  - Use a Steering Committee to develop plan/scope of work for all activities to be undertaken to strengthen Partnership in years ahead
  - Membership based on Management Board
  - Contract support
- Step 2 – Execute the plan

# BEYOND 2025 STEERING COMMITTEE

- 7 Jurisdictions
- 1 Chesapeake Bay Commission
- 8 Core Federal Agencies
- 1 Scientific and Technical Assessment and Reporting
- 3 Advisory Committees
- 6 Goal Implementation Teams
- 2 At-Large Stakeholder Representatives

# STEERING COMMITTEE PROPOSED PRODUCT BY EC2024

Where we are

Summary of where we are with the 2014 Watershed Agreement

Where do we want to be

Vision

What we do

Impact assessment

How we work

Assessment of our overall partnership

Path Forward

Recommendations on what to do with the Watershed Agreement post-2025 and on our partnership

# HIGH LEVEL TOPICS

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



# OVERARCHING QUESTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS

Vision

Value

Vanguard

Climate

Living  
Resources

People

Cross-Program  
Coordination

# CLIMATE CHANGE



Recommendations to transform CBP partnership policies, programs, and projects to address the significant ongoing and future impacts that climate change will impose on the Bay and its watershed and people across generations.



Develop strategies to better incorporate climate mitigation, adaptation and resiliency across the watershed and tidal Bay.





# CLEAN WATER



Recommendations related to the Bay TMDL, Water Quality Assessment, Nonpoint Source Management, Water Quality Monitoring, and Water Quality Standards



How interim goals focused on the 92 segments that make up the TMDL may change how we work and where and when we see improvements



What monitoring data and networks we have, how to make the best use of those before filling small watershed monitoring gaps.





# HEALTHY WATERSHED



Considering the spectrum of health across all catchments in the Bay watershed, to be able to characterize health at the local level



Information for decision-making that supports protection of intact habitats, as well as restoration and maintenance of degraded habitats



Opportunity to integrate with state wildlife action plans, due for update in 2025, with state-defined priority habits and living resources



## SHALLOW WATER HABITATS



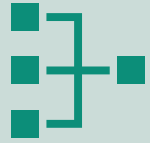
Promote healthy and sustainable shallow water habitats that support resources, communities, and economies that are resilient to long-term changes in watershed conditions.



Shallow waters defined as edges where land meets water and the nearshore waters of 3 ecological zones: Non-tidal Fresh, Tidal Fresh, Tidal Estuarine.



# PEOPLE



Focus on systems-level and process-based recommendations that will ensure people are part of the vision for the Bay program.



Define who the *people* of the Bay watershed are and who we need to reach.



Ask whether and how people in each jurisdiction are or are not a part of the Bay partnership's work.



# PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE TIMELINE

## February 2024:

2-day symposium

## March-April 2024:

Adopt small group recommendations

Draft Steering Committee product

## May-June 2024:

Solicit public feedback

## July 2024:

Revise and affirm Steering Committee recommendations

## August-September 2024:

Seek approval from Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee

## October 2024:

Present to and request approval from Executive Council



# GATHERING YOUR THOUGHTS

**What's Missing?** – Are there topics, ideas, and questions about the future of the Bay Program that you don't see reflected in the Steering Committee's work so far?

**Tough Questions** – Do you have a question that you want to see one of these small groups tackle?

**Public Engagement** – At what points in the process should we prioritize broad public education and engagement versus targeted stakeholder perspectives?

# THANK YOU

Anna Killius

Executive Director

Chesapeake Bay Commission

[akillius@chesbay.us](mailto:akillius@chesbay.us)

2024



All photos by Will Parson/Chesapeake Bay Program