Pennsylvania's Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan
From A County Leader’s Perspective

April 23, 2019

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Healthy Waters, Healthy Communities
Today we will update you on our progress to date with the Phase 3 WIP and the link to the countywide planning efforts.

Agenda

- Overview of the Draft Phase 3 WIP
  - Nicki Kasi, DEP Chesapeake Bay Office
- Planning for Local Water Quality in the Phase 3 WIP
  - Lisa Schaefer, Co-Chair, Phase 3 WIP Local Area Goals Workgroup
- How We Did It: The Lancaster County WIP
  - Allyson Gibson, Coordinator, Lancaster Clean Water Partners
Background

- What is the Phase 3 WIP?
- Why are we doing this?

- Draft issued April 12, 2019 – Need your comments!!
  - Public comment through June 7, 2019
    www.dep.pa.gov/chesapeakebay/phase3
  - eComment:
    (https://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/eComment)
Pennsylvania is working with neighboring states to clean up our shared waters that run to the Chesapeake Bay. This effort is the Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (Phase 3 WIP).

*The path to success starts locally.*
What is the Phase 3 WIP?

It’s an opportunity to reduce water pollution...

...improve our quality of life...

...address flooding problems...

..and, get credit for the work already underway.
Only a portion of the nutrients and sediment in PA’s local waters actually make it to the Bay.
Bay Goals and Local Waters Goals

Reductions necessary to PA’s Local Waters and the Bay

What’s entering PA Local Waters from PA Land:
- 51.06 M lbs of N
- 2.02 M lbs of P

What’s making it to Chesapeake Bay from PA Land:
- 34.13 M lbs of N
- 0.756 M lbs of P
Who is involved?

Steering Committee
- Secretaries of DEP, DCNR and PDA
- SRBC and ICPRB
- State Conservation Commission – Conservation Districts
- Pennvest
- Chesapeake Bay Commission
- Workgroup Co-Chairs

Workgroups
- Agriculture
- Stormwater
- Forestry
- Wastewater
- Local Area Goals
- Funding
- Communications and Local Engagement

County Governments
- 43 Counties in Goal Area

Other Stakeholders
- Municipal Governments
- Regional Organizations
- Environmental non-profits
- Business and Industry
- Agricultural Groups
- Planning Organizations

WIP3 Planning and Implementation

Over 1100 people total
Working Together to Clean Up Our Local Waters

1. Communications
2. Funding and Resources
3. Enhancing Technical Capacity
4. Tracking and Reporting
5. Compliance
Executive Summary
1 -- Introduction
2 -- State Actions – Programmatic and Numeric Commitments
3 -- Countywide Actions
4 -- Communication and Engagement Strategy
5 -- Existing and Needed Resources
6 -- Federal Role
7 -- Milestones and Progress Reporting
8 -- Accounting for Growth
9 -- Climate Change and Climate Resiliency
10 -- Conclusion
Appendices

- Steering Committee and Workgroup Members
- Summary of Local Engagement
Integrated Documents

- Countywide Action Plan Planning Guide & County Toolboxes
- Countywide Action Plans
  - Lancaster, York, Adams and Franklin
- Federal Facility Action Plans
  - Department of Defense
- Milestone and Progress Reporting Template
  - State Actions
- Draft BMP Verification Plan
- County and Workgroup Recommendations
Planning for Local Water Quality in the Phase 3 WIP

The Countywide Action Plan Development Process

Lisa Schaefer, Director of Government Relations
County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
Phase 3 WIP Local Area Goals Workgroup Co-Chair
Countywide Goals – How Did We Get Here?

Step 1: Receive Statewide Bay Goal from Partnership

Step 2: Convert Bay Goal to Local Streams Goal for State

Step 3: Convert Statewide Local Streams Goal to Goals for Local Geographies

Pollution Diet by River

Pollution Diet by State

73 M lbs N (Bay)

111 M lbs N (Local Streams)
Countywide Goals – How Did We Get Here?

- Land-River Segments: 505
- Rivers: 122
- Counties: 43
- Sub-Basins: 6
Where Should Efforts be Targeted?

Source: Matt Johnston, University of Maryland
How Does a County Prepare Its Action Plan?

Pennsylvania Countywide Pilot Planning Process
Phase III WIP

- Convene Countywide Action Team Members
- Identify Water Quality and Other Goals
- Identify Local Resources
- Select and Report Actions
- Implement Actions and Continue to Report Actions
This bar chart shows how the State Priority Initiatives or Actions merge with the Countywide Action Plans.

The purple bar represents the nitrogen reductions since 1985. The green bar represent the State Priority Initiatives numeric commitments. The blue bar represents a completed Countywide Action Plan. The red bar represents the remaining gap between the county plan and the 2025 goal.

- **Bradford**: 88%
- **Schuylkill**: 59%
- **Lycoming**: 56%
- **Mifflin**: 64%
- **Columbia**: 58%
- **Huntingdon**: 61%
- **Snyder**: 67%
- **Perry**: 62%
- **Northumberland**: 68%
- **Adams**: 56%
- **Bedford**: 61%
- **Centre**: 47%
- **Cumberland**: 62%
- **Lebanon**: 74%
- **Franklin**: 46%
- **York**: 80%
- **Lancaster**:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Planning Process</th>
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</table>
| Lancaster | • Led by existing coalition  
• Smaller plan writing team  
• One-on-one outreach to stakeholders  
• Public meeting - shared draft plan and received input |
| York      | • Led by Planning Commission and Conservation District  
• Utilized existing clean water coalition  
• Meetings open to public throughout process – continuous input  
• Smaller plan writing team |
| Adams     | • Led by Planning Commission and Conservation District  
• Held large stakeholder kickoff and final plan meetings  
• Smaller agriculture and stormwater workgroup meetings |
| Franklin  | • Led by Planning Commission and Conservation District  
• Smaller workgroup and stakeholder meetings |
Total Pilot Counties Implementation Results

In summary if the Pilot Counties’ Countywide Action Plans are implemented as drafted...

Nutrient Reductions in Pilot Countywide Action Plans
Action: Pilot counties are successful in fully implementing their Countywide Action Plans.

**Total Estimated Cost:**
$344 million
(Over the next six years)

Nitrogen runoff reduced by
14.6 M lbs or 29% of PA’s Goal

Phosphorus runoff reduced by
715,000 lbs or 35% of PA’s Goal

**Total Sediment Reductions = 811,000,000 lbs**

The Pilot Counties represent 19.9 M lbs or 39% of PA’s nitrogen goal, and 0.61 M lbs or 30% of PA’s phosphorous goal.
1. Conduct outreach and engagement to other counties in the watershed
2. Countywide groups need more of a framework to get started (e.g. who to invite to the table, timing/schedules)
3. Community Clean Water Toolbox is too large for one document
4. Coordination and technical staff resources will be key to successfully completing the rest of the countywide plans
5. Need to give countywide groups sufficient time to complete the planning process
6. Implementation is just as important as planning
## Moving Forward – The Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Staged Approach Phase 1</th>
<th>Staged Approach Phase 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2019</td>
<td>Implementation phase begins – Pilot counties</td>
<td>Tier 2 planning efforts</td>
<td>Begin outreach and engagement – Tier 3 and 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2019</td>
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<td>October 2019</td>
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<td>November 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2020</td>
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<td>Implementation phase begins – Tier 2</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Late 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tier 3 and 4 planning efforts</td>
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## Phased Plan Implementation

<table>
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<th>Phase 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tier 2 - Second 25% of Reductions</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tier 3 - Third 25% of Reductions</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin -- Completed</td>
<td>Adams -- Completed</td>
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### NOTE:

- Plans for the Two Tier 1 Counties, **Lancaster and York** are also **Completed**.
Phase 1 (Begins July 2019 and lasts 6 to 8 months)

- Efforts in this phase are focused on the eight Tier 1 & 2 counties that make up 54% of PA’s nutrient load.

- Actions include:
  - Assist Pilot Counties with transition to Countywide Action Plan implementation.
  - Work with remaining Tier 2 counties develop and implement Countywide Action Plans.
  - Begin outreach to Tier 3 and 4 counties.

Phase 2 (Begins February 2020 and lasts 6 to 8 months)

- Efforts in this phase are focused on the thirty-five Tier 3 & 4 counties that make up 46% of PA’s nutrient load.

- Actions include:
  - Assist Pilot and Tier 2 counties with Countywide Action Plan implementation.
  - Break Tier 3 and 4 counties in to regional groupings based on existing partnerships.
  - Work with regional groups to help Tier 3 and 4 counties to develop and implement Countywide Action Plans.
Regionalized Support. Staffing resources/coordinators will be provided on a regionalized basis, rather than by county.

- Regional groupings proposed based on existing networks, partnerships and resources.
- Countywide Action Plans would still be submitted by each county in the region.
- Counties in regional groupings are not required to work together, or to develop a regional plan.
Counties with Minimal Loadings.

- Continue to implement existing programs in these counties.
- Separate countywide plan not required in these counties.
- Nine counties with less than 200,000 pounds of nitrogen per county
  - Wyoming, Elk, Indiana, Wayne, McKean, Jefferson, Carbon, Cameron, Somerset
Benefits of Staged Approach

- All county planning complete in 18 months
- Counties have more time to complete planning process (6-8 months)
- Implementation begins sooner in higher loading counties
- More time to scale up funding and resources
- More time for coalition building
- Recognizes unique variations in nutrient loads for individual counties
How Does a County Prepare Its Action Plan?

• Support Team
  • DEP Staff Person from Chesapeake Bay Office – Internal Coordinator
  • DEP Regional Office
• External Coordinator (County Planning Team Lead)
• Technical Coordinator (Provides Technical Support to Counties)
Planning Resources and Support

Community Clean Water Planning Guide
- Standardized introduction to the planning process
- Clearly defined framework for process, directions
- Timeline and expectations
- Real world examples from pilot counties

Community Clean Water Technical Toolbox
- Customized toolbox populated with county-specific data
- Simplified technical information provided
- Provide clarity on in-stream monitoring
- Incorporates the state workgroup recommendations
How We Did It:
The Lancaster County WIP

Local plan developed by the Lancaster Clean Water Partners

Allyson Gibson, Coordinator
Lancaster Clean Water Partners
Conservation in Lancaster County
60 municipalities
43 MS4 communities

Don’t forget!
- Businesses
- Schools and higher education institutions
- Non-profits
- Approx 550,000 residents
- 5400 farms, half are plain sect

Over half of our streams are impaired.
Clean water is a quality of life issue!
Criteria

- Nutrient Loads are High
- Local Impairments Exist
- Local Efforts Underway
Focusing efforts where they can make the most difference
Lancaster County Impaired Streams

Aquatic Life

The water quality in the red streams is not sufficient to support healthy fish and insect populations.

Stream health data is from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. High-resolution land cover dataset courtesy Chesapeake Conservancy.

The water quality in the green streams contains less pollutants.

Stream health data is from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. High-resolution land cover dataset courtesy Chesapeake Conservancy.
Lancaster needs to reduce **11 million pounds of nitrogen** and **500,000 pounds of phosphorus**

The data we received throughout the process was very helpful. But we kept coming back to the data in the Toolbox as our foundation.
Our mission is to coordinate efforts and expand the impact of our partners' work in improving the health and viability of our local streams.

We facilitate collaboration across sectors using a grassroots approach.

We knew there was a need for a strategy for clean water and had sort of started that process...
The Writing Team – The “Who”

- Every 2 weeks since July:
  - Justin Evans from Mt Joy Township,
  - Allyson Ladley Gibson, Lancaster Clean Water Partners
  - Brian Gish, Chesapeake Bay Foundation
  - Ruth Hocker, City of Lancaster
  - Mark Huber, Lancaster County Planning Commission
  - Peter Hughes, Red Barn Consulting
  - Matt Kofroth, Lancaster County Conservation District
  - Joe Sweeney, Water Science Institute
  - Chris Thompson, Lancaster County Conservation District
  - Joellyn Warren, West Lampeter Township and Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium
- The other local experts who were essential to this process: Charity Quinn, Kevin Lutz, Jeff Hill, Jeff Sholly, Jon Beck, Nate Kurtz, members of the Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium, the Engineers Roundtable, Lancaster’s buffer team, the Lancaster County Ag Council, the Lancaster Clean Water Partners Action Teams, and many more.
• Identify what efforts are “compliance” and what are new, big ideas with local support
• Continuous conversation and data collection
  • Municipal roundtable & Engineers luncheon
  • Conference call with the Ag Council
  • Presentation to the County Planning Board of Commissioners
  • Meetings with EPA and the Bay Program for customized data and resources
  • Data summit that pulled experts together for a community mapping tool
• Farmer Forum
• Public Release in October, then integrate revisions
Everything was on a shared Google Drive.

The writing team met every 2 weeks with homework in between.

We set ourselves a few deadlines and worked backwards with assignments.

We made revisions and added more detail based on public comments and expert feedback.
Basics of the Plan

- Agriculture
- Stormwater
- Buffers
- Stream Restoration
- Land Use & Planning
- Data Management
Results

- 80% of our nitrogen goal
- Over 100% of our phosphorus goal
- Community support!
The Process

- We submitted the final plan to DEP on December 21st.
- Shared the final plan on social media and in an email newsletter to all partners.
- Presented the final plan to DEP in January 2019.
- Constantly sharing it at events and presentations.
**Planning Team:** York County Coalition for Clean Waters (Muni’s, ag community, watershed assoc., utilities, environmental orgs, interested residents, and others)

- Developed a prior WIP for York County in 2013
- Included actions/strategies/solutions to clean up local waters
- Laid the groundwork for preparing the WIP 3

**Leadership Role:** York County Planning Commission & York County Conservation District Staff

**Planning Meetings:**
- Kick-off Meeting June 29, 2018
- Met bi-weekly through November
- Followed process outlined in the WIP Community Clean Water Tool Box
- Invited new stakeholders to participate
- Much discussion and input from Coalition
Keys to Success

• Implementation of the recommended State/County programmatic changes
• Ample funding
• Willing landowners
• Buy in from the public

Outcome of York County Plan

Four-Prong Strategy:

1. State level Programmatic Changes to enable the success of County WIPs
2. Policy and funding actions for the County and/or municipalities
3. Implementation of a mix of Urban and Ag Water Quality BMPs
4. Water quality actions achievable through funding programs administered by the Conservation District

Opportunity to share local concerns, initiatives, and needs with DEP and EPA
York County - “We’ll only improve water quality when we work as a team. Anything less will shortchange future generations.”

Let’s do this!
Learn More: Lancaster and York Team Blog Posts


Questions?
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Public Comment (April 12 through June 7, 2019)
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DEP Chesapeake Bay Program Website:
http://www.dep.pa.gov/ChesapeakeBay
Phase 3 WIP Website:
www.dep.pa.gov/chesapeakebay/phase3

Sign Up for Participation in Countywide Action Plan