



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION



Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Pennsylvania's Progress on Water Quality

Water Resources Advisory Committee

March 24, 2021

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

Agenda

- **State partners' progress**
- **County teams' progress and plans for 2021**
- **2021 Vision**
- **Questions**

Pennsylvania's Phase 3 WIP Implementation Strategy

Chesapeake Bay Office

Statewide Leadership, Coordination & Support

**Implementation
State Team & Action Leaders**



Local Action



Reporting



**Communication
& Engagement**



**Programmatic
Actions**



**Monitoring
& Data Management**



Phase 3 WIP Implementation Guidance

State Team

- Co-chaired by: Secretaries of Environmental Protection, Agriculture, and Conservation and Natural Resources
- Members: Action leaders
- Provides overall direction; meets January and July; open to public

Action Leaders

- State and federal agency and external partners
- Assess progress and address challenges
- Meet quarterly; invite-only

DEP Chesapeake Bay Office

Reorganized internally for more efficient and effective policy development and execution:

- 6 technical staff and 1 administrative staff -- Chesapeake Bay Watershed efforts: grants, reporting and data management, WIP oversight, and federal coordination
- 2 technical staff -- agricultural compliance activities statewide: Ag E&S, Manure Management, CAFO, and initiatives in agricultural BMP implementation and conservation district reporting
- 2 technical staff and 1 manager -- watershed support activities statewide: Section 319, Growing Greener, CREP, conservation district Watershed Specialist Agreements
- 5 technical staff -- conservation district support statewide

DEP Chesapeake Bay Office

Streamlining support for external partners:

- Weekly permitting pre-application meetings available to York and Lancaster Counties
 - Managed by DEP Southcentral Regional Office Waterways and Wetlands Program
- [The Pennsylvanian's Guide to Permitting for Watershed Improvement Projects](#) -- published in December

Countywide Action Plans

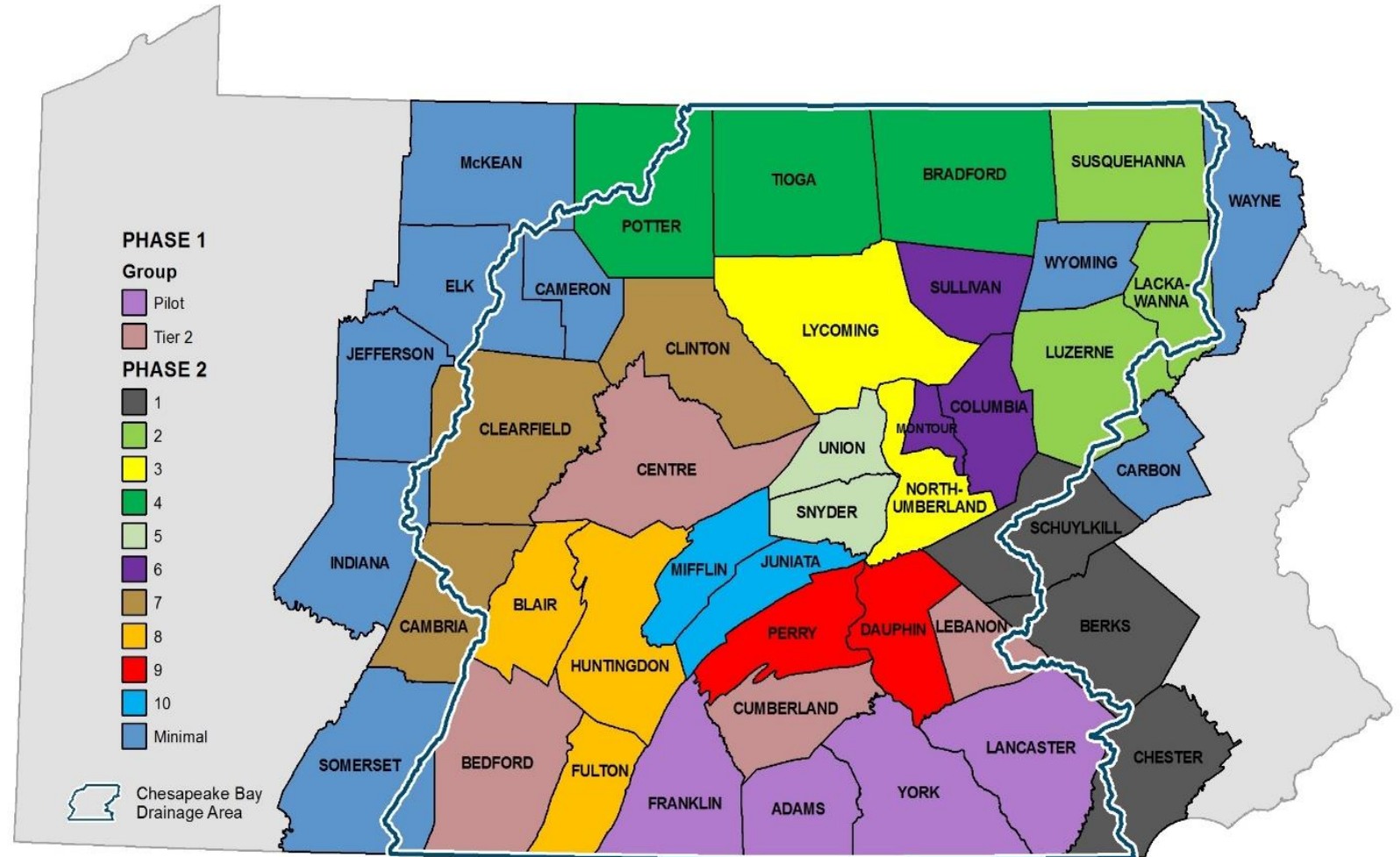
CAP Completion Timeline

Phase 1 (Individual Counties):

- Pilot – 2019
- Tier 2 – 2020

Phase 2 (County Clusters):

- Tier 3 and 4 – 2021



DEP: Accelerating Support for Countywide Action Plans

DEP Regional Office support for Tier 3 and 4 CAP development

Chesapeake Bay Office administered \$17+ million in state funds to Phase 1 Counties:

- October: Section 319 Grants awarded
 - Over \$1 million awarded to Section 319 projects in Phase 1 counties
- November: CAP Implementation and Coordinator Grants
 - Over \$6 million awarded in Phase 1 counties
- December: Growing Greener Plus Grants awarded
 - Over \$9 million awarded to watershed restoration project implementation in Phase 1 counties
 - Over \$16 million awarded in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in total
- January: Coordinator Grants awarded in Phase 2 counties
 - \$1 million available to Phase 2 counties for 10 coordinators

Agriculture: Funding

Implementation funding:

- Conservation Excellence Grant Program Expansion – includes funds for technical assistance
- REAP Expansion – Additional \$3 million
- DEP Phase 2 Inspection Program – includes funds for technical assistance
- DEP PA Ag Plan Reimbursement Program – approximately \$700,000 available for cost-share assistance

Conservation District funding – continued at same levels as prior year:

- Chesapeake Bay Technicians and Engineer Specialists/Assistants (DEP and EPA)
- Nutrient Management Specialists (SCC, DEP, and EPA)
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Conservation Initiative through PACD Agreement (DEP and NRCS)
- Conservation District Fund Allocation Program and Ag Conservation Technician Program (SCC and DEP)

Agriculture: Reporting

- PracticeKeeper: ongoing enhancements
- 2020 Penn State Survey of Best Management Practice Implementation
- Agreement with NRCS and USGS to share data for analysis of reporting overlap (double-counting)
- Further credit practices through participation on CBP Ag Workgroup CAST-21 and BMP Verification Ad Hoc Committees
 - Examples:
 - PA NRCS 561 Heavy Use Area Protection reported as CBP Loafing Lot Management
 - Dairy Precision Feeding – evaluating the opportunity to use Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN) as a surrogate for nitrogen reductions through precision feeding

Agriculture: Tools and Training

- Agricultural Technical Training, supported by State Conservation Commission, DEP, NRCS and PACD
- State Conservation Commission and DEP funding and support of PAOneStop - Manure Management and Ag Erosion and Sediment Control (Ag E&S) Planning
- Clean Water Academy – web-based training
 - Ag E&S Manual Training Modules
 - PracticeKeeper Training for Conservation Districts for added consistency and tracking
 - Ag Inspection Module Standard Operating Procedure and training
 - Chesapeake Bay Quarterly Reporting training
 - County Coordinator “Webinar Wednesdays” – ag-focused sessions, as provided by CBO, SCC, and other partners such as NRCS, Capital RC&D, 4R Nutrient Stewardship Alliance, EPA CBPO

Forestry, Streams, and Wetlands

- Legacy sediment removal projects and CBP Protocol development
- Funding: C2P2 Grant Program, TreeVitalize, and on-demand funding for buffers with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
- Lawn Conservation and Riparian Forest Buffer Advisory Committees
- Partnership with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Reporting buffer implementation through PracticeKeeper
 - Includes tree plantings from CBF Keystone 10 Million Tree Initiative

Stormwater

- MS4 permit implementation and expanded flexibility
- Launched Urban Stormwater Basics Training Course
- Updated Pennsylvania Stormwater BMP Manual to be released in 2021
- Continued implementation of NPDES Stormwater Programs (Chapter 102, MS4, and industrial stormwater)

Additional Partner Support

Fish and Boat Commission:

- Expansion of the Northcentral Stream Restoration Model

PennDOT:

- Reporting of almost 1,000 additional stormwater BMPs toward 2020 progress

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation:

- Local Government Implementation grant administration on behalf of DEP
- Chesapeake Bay INSR and Small Watersheds grant funding

Communication and Engagement: Increasing Transparency

- [Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Communities](#) story map: 3,000+ views
- Clean Water Academy: Web-based training modules
- Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 WIP Website updates
- Materials and training to support county teams' local outreach needs
- [Phase 3 WIP News](#) monthly e-newsletter: Increasing subscribers

Reporting: Improving Process, Accuracy

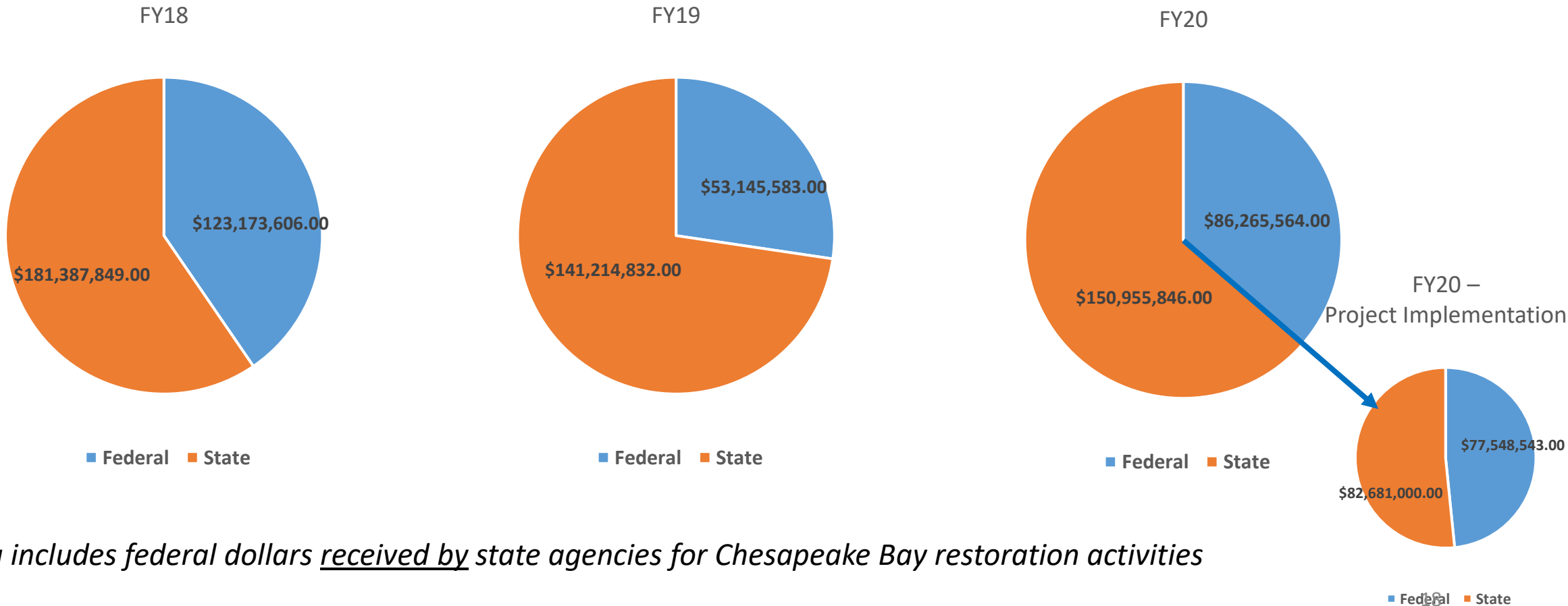
- Submitted 2020 Numeric Progress and Draft 2020 Programmatic Milestones Progress to EPA
 - Submitted revised Quality Assurance Program Plan and BMP Verification Program Plan
- FieldDoc and PracticeKeeper: Enhanced for more efficient, effective data collection
- New reporting programs: Oil and Gas, Septic, PennDOT, DCNR, and Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Collaborating with EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office and Partners to better account for practices
 - BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Committee membership
 - Streams and wetlands restored through compensatory mitigation
 - Urban and non-urban stream restoration
 - Agricultural BMPs such as: Dairy Precision Feeding, Animal Heavy Use Area Protection, Manure Treatment and Transport, Nutrient Management on full-season soybean acres, etc.

Monitoring and Data Management

- Final 2020 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring Report accepted by EPA
- TMDL Plans Approved in 2020:
 - Peters Creek (Lancaster County)
 - Cisna Run (Perry County)
 - Susquehecka Creek (Snyder County)
 - Pleasant Valley Run (Bedford County)
 - Imlertown Run (Bedford County)
 - Sweitzers Run (Union County)
 - Little Fishing Creek (Centre County)
 - Mummasburg Run (Adams County)
- NRCS and USGS – Super Gauge Station in Chiques Creek Watershed, Lancaster County
- Ongoing monitoring at 77 water quality monitoring stations

Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act

Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act State and Federal Funding Reporting Requirement



Reporting includes federal dollars received by state agencies for Chesapeake Bay restoration activities



Local Action Progress and Plans for 2021

Countywide Action Plans: Plans and Progress Reports

[DEP](#) > [Businesses](#) > [Water](#) > [Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Program Office](#) > [PA's Phase 3 WIP](#)
> [Get Involved](#) > [Countywide Action Plans](#)

- Pilot Counties – Lancaster, York, Adams, Franklin
 - 2020 Progress Reports
 - Updated Narratives
- Tier 2 Counties – Bedford, Centre, Cumberland, Lebanon
 - Finalized Countywide Action Plans
 - Narratives
 - Snapshots



2021 Vision

2021: Vision

- **Expand collaboration:** Continue working with multi-agency programs to increase efficiencies and outcomes.
- **Implement Best Management Practices:** Accelerate through additional and flexible funds for project implementation and staff.
- **Expand technical assistance:** Focus on-demand and necessary training for internal and external personnel.
- **Share success stories:** Work with state and county partners to share our progress.



Questions





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