

Pennsylvania Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Milestone Reporting
Progress Reporting Period: January 1, 2024 – December 30, 2024

Action #	Description	Performance Target(s) and	Responsible Party(ies) and Partnerships	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline	Potential Implementation Challenges or Recommendations	Resources Available Technical and Financial	Resources Needed Technical and Financial	Progress to Date (2020 – 2021 – 2022 – 2023 - 2024)
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Priority Initiative 1: Communications and Outreach

Section 2, State Action, Numeric Commitments

2.1.1A	Continue communication, outreach and stewardship programs to increase the use of conservation tillage and no-till practices.	306,196 acres in conservation tillage; 805,778 acres in no-till.	PDA, SCC, CDs, CCAs, Private Consultants, Penn State Extension, No Till Alliance, Farmland Preservation, Local Farmland Trusts / Conservancies, PA Farm Bureau	Chesapeake Bay	December 2025				<p>2020 Update: All state agencies, WIP action leaders and partner organizations continue to communicate the message and the availability of funding (technical or financial). This BMP is encouraged and emphasized. PA has invested significant resources through the REAP tax credit program to assist PA farmers in purchasing No-till equipment.</p> <p>2021 Update: All state agencies and partner organizations continue to communicate the message and the availability of funding (technical or financial). This BMP is encouraged and emphasized. As shown in the Numeric Milestones, submitted progress through 2021 shows an increase in reported no-till. PA has invested significant resources through the REAP tax credit program to assist PA farmers in purchasing No-till equipment. In 2021, \$3.5 million in tax credits were awarded for no-till equipment through REAP.</p> <p>The PA No Till Alliance continues to assist in education/outreach/training, etc. See https://panotill.org/</p> <p>2022 Update: REAP funding continues to provide producers with funding for no-till equipment. In addition, the Pennsylvania Clean Streams Fund was funded by the legislature and signed by the Governor as part of the FY 2022-23 General Fund State Budget. From this, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was created, which provides \$154 million in funds for best management practices on farms statewide. The first apportionment of funds to county conservation districts is set to occur in January 2023. It is anticipated that conservation districts will enter delegation agreements in January 2023.</p> <p>2023 Update: The Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) is up and running with \$141 million committed to 66 county conservation districts through signed delegation agreements. At least 10 counties are using funds to either supplement existing cover crop programs or start a new cover crop program. In addition, the PA No-Till Alliance, in coordination with the Soil Health Coalition, continues to increase its network of farmers. Look for acres of cover crops and no-till to increase when the latest ag census figures are released.</p>
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									<p>Pennsylvania’s Sustainable Agriculture Board, provided for under the Sustainable Agriculture Act, will be funded in part by Chesapeake Bay MEB IJA funds. Related to the Sustainable Agriculture Board, grants of up to \$25,000 (or \$50,000 if dollar per dollar match) will be awarded for projects that improve soil health and are considered “climate smart” or “regenerative agriculture” practices, such as cover crops, conversion of cropland to rotational grazing, working buffers, forested buffers, agroforestry and silvopasture. Although limited initially to the Chesapeake Bay watershed due to funds being used, it is the SCC’s intent to provide statewide funding as it become available.</p> <p>2024 Update: ACAP implementation continued in 2024 with now over 1,200 signed contracts with producers statewide. It is estimated that roughly 70% of these contracts lie within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.</p> <p>The Sustainable Ag Board was appointed in 2024 and the board met twice. Sustainable Ag Grant program guidelines are currently being published in the PA Bulletin and grants will begin being awarded in 2025. Projects will include regenerative farming practices that fund small, diversified family farms with an emphasis on soil health. Funding is provided through EPA’s IJA Most Effective Basin program and must be spent in the Bay watershed.</p> <p>PA had a 22% increase in no-till acreage from 2012 to 2022.</p>
2.1.2A	Continue communication, outreach and stewardship programs to increase implementation of cover crops.	547,695 acres with fall nutrients, traditional cover crop; 161,601 acres of land without fall nutrients, traditional cover crop; 124,106 acres no fall nutrients and harvested crop	PDA, SCC, CDs, CCAs, Private Consultants, Penn State Extension, No Till Alliance, Farmland Preservation, Local Farmland Trusts/Conservancies, PA Farm Bureau	Chesapeake Bay	December 2025	Challenges include CBP definition of cover crop and the inability to report commodity cover crop via transect survey methodology.			<p>2020 Update: All state agencies, WIP action leaders and partner organizations continue to communicate the message and the availability of funding (technical or financial). This BMP is encouraged and emphasized. REAP made some changes to the cover crop BMPs for FY 2019-20 and beyond. Also, Cover Crops are eligible for 90% Tax Credit in any area covered by an agricultural TMDL.</p> <p>2021 Update: All state agencies and partner organizations continue to communicate the message and the availability of funding (technical or financial). This BMP is encouraged and emphasized. As shown in the Numeric Milestones, submitted progress through 2021 shows an increase in reported cover crop acres. REAP provides that Cover Crops are eligible for 90% Tax Credit in any area covered by an agricultural TMDL. In 2021, \$210,500 was awarded in tax credits for cover crops and roller/crimpers thru the REAP tax credit program.</p> <p>Nearly 400 acres of cover crops were planted last fall utilizing \$13,109 of CEG funds.</p>

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									<p>2022 Update: Legislative passage of Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP).</p> <p>The Pennsylvania Clean Streams Fund was funded by the legislature and signed by the Governor as part of the FY 2022-23 General Fund State Budget. From this, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was created, which provides \$154 million in funds for best management practices on farms statewide. The first apportionment of funds to county conservation districts is set to occur in January 2023. It is anticipated that conservation districts will enter delegation agreements in January 2023. It is anticipated that ACAP funding will include technical and financial assistance for cover crops. It is anticipated that conservation districts will enter delegation agreements in January 2023.</p> <p>DEP also worked with Penn State, Capital RC&D, and CBPO to create a method using the Voluntary Producer Survey and the Transect Survey better account for cover crop type and planting / harvesting method. This alternative method was approved by the Chesapeake Bay Agriculture Workgroup in November 2023 and will be applied in select county(ies) for 2022 numeric reporting.</p> <p>2023 Update: The Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) tax credit for agriculture BMPs continues to be oversubscribed at \$13 million in credits each year. The total estimated number of credits and acres issued for cover crops over the past year was \$530,000 for 17,000 acres of cover crops. Eligible applicants may receive up to 90% credit for multispecies cover crops. In addition, tax credits were used for equipment, including no-till drills, crimpers, and new this year, drones.</p> <p>As noted regarding no-till and conservation tillage above: The Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) is up and running with \$141 million committed to 66 county conservation districts through signed delegation agreements. At least 10 counties used funds to either supplement existing cover crop programs or start a new cover crop program. In addition, the Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance, in coordination with the Soil Health Coalition continues to increase its network of farmers. Look for acres of cover crops and no-till to increase when the latest ag census figures are released.</p> <p>Pennsylvania’s Sustainable Agriculture Board, provided for under the Sustainable Agriculture Act, will be funded in part by Chesapeake Bay MEB IIA funds. Related to the Sustainable Agriculture Board, grants of up to \$25,000 (or \$50,000 if dollar per dollar match) will be awarded for projects that improve soil health and are considered “climate smart” or “regenerative agriculture” practices, such as cover crops, conversion of cropland to rotational grazing, working buffers, forested</p>

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									<p>buffers, agroforestry and silvopasture. Although limited initially to the Chesapeake Bay watershed due to funds being used, it is the SCC's intent to provide statewide funding as it become available.</p> <p>2024 Update: The Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP) tax credit for agriculture BMPs continues to be oversubscribed at \$13 million in credits each year. The total estimated number of credits and acres issued for cover crops over the past year was \$790,000 in credits for 28,000 acres of cover crops. Eligible applicants may receive up to 90% credit for multispecies cover crops. In addition, tax credits were used for equipment, including no-till drills, crimpers, and drones.</p> <p>At least 11 counties (statewide) are using ACAP funding to enhance existing or establish new cover crop programs.</p>
2.1.3A	Continue communication, outreach and stewardship programs to increase implementation of pasture management.	180,201 acres of land used for pasture would follow NRCS Prescribed Grazing Plan or Resource Improvement Practice.	NRCS, Penn State Extension, Private Consultants, CDs			Challenges include CBP definition of Prescribed Grazing and non-alignment with PA State regulatory requirements under Chapter 91 Manure Management and Chapter 102 Ag E&S.			<p>2020 Update: All state agencies, WIP action leaders and partner organizations continue to communicate the message and the availability of funding (technical or financial). This BMP is encouraged and emphasized.</p> <p>2021 Update: All state agencies and partner organizations continue to communicate the message and the availability of funding (technical or financial). This BMP is encouraged and emphasized. As shown in the Numeric Milestones, submitted progress through 2021 shows an increase in reported Prescribed Grazing acres. Reporting and tracking of implementation of the NRCS 528 Prescribed Grazing Plan and Resource Improvement Practice criteria remains a challenge.</p> <p>In 2021, \$110,000 was award in tax credits for Pasture Related BMPs form the REAP Tax Credit Program.</p> <p>2022 Update: The Pennsylvania Clean Streams Fund was funded by the legislature and signed by the Governor as part of the FY 2022-23 General Fund State Budget. From this, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was created, which provides \$154 million in funds for best management practices on farms statewide. The first apportionment of funds to county conservation districts is set to occur in January 2023. It is anticipated that rotational grazing and pasture management projects will be included for ACAP funding.</p> <p>2023 Update: As the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) is now fully operational, the SCC will track farms that have installed rotational grazing and pasture management systems by next year's report, via Practice Keeper. It is</p>

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									<p>anticipated that a good number of applications will include this practice. The SCC has been encouraging conservation districts to use ACAP funds for agronomic practices that do not require the same level of engineering as structural practices. It is also estimated that the REAP program issued over \$100,000 in credits for prescribed grazing in 2023.</p> <p>Pennsylvania’s Sustainable Agriculture Board, provided for under the Sustainable Agriculture Act, will be funded in part by Chesapeake Bay MEB IJA funds. Related to the Sustainable Agriculture Board, grants of up to \$25,000 (or \$50,000 if dollar per dollar match) will be awarded for projects that improve soil health and are considered “climate smart” or “regenerative agriculture” practices, such as cover crops, conversion of cropland to rotational grazing, working buffers, forested buffers, agroforestry and silvopasture. Although limited initially to the Chesapeake Bay watershed due to funds being used, it is the SCC’s intent to provide statewide funding as it become available.</p> <p>2024 Update: The ACAP program through the Penn State Center for Ag Conservation Assistance Training (CACAT) is developing a Practice Approval System (PAS) to build technical assistance capacity for conservation district staff and other conservation professionals to design and implement practices. The first suite of practices developed through the new PAS system is grazing and watering systems which was approved by the Commission. Twenty-four counties (at least two-thirds of which are in the Bay watershed) are reporting funding prescribed grazing practices through ACAP.</p> <p>The Sustainable Ag Board will presumably fund practices that assist conventional farms with conversion of row crops to rotational grazing practices.</p>
2.1.4A	Communicate with EPA Region 3 Agricultural Liaison, Ag Permitting, Compliance and Enforcement Staff	Provide status updates related to agricultural programs and BMP implementation	DEP, SCC, EPA	Statewide	Quarterly				<p>2020 Update: Initial call held with EPA permitting, compliance, and agriculture staff on November 24, 2020 to discuss the Key Areas to Address in EPA’s Milestone Evaluation.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP and SCC meet with EPA CBPO and Water Division staff on a quarterly basis to discuss WIP progress. DEP staff also meets with EPA CBPO on a bi-weekly and/or monthly basis to discuss technical assistance needs as well as model process needs. DEP and SCC responded to informal questions regarding Pennsylvania’s agricultural programs submitted by EPA Water Division in written format as well as via virtual conference call. In 2022, the EPA Animal Agriculture Programs Assessment will be conducted.</p>

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									<p>2022 Update: DEP and SCC met with EPA CBPO and Water Division staff on at least a quarterly basis, if not more frequently. However, meetings with EPA agricultural staff were primarily due to the EPA Animal Agriculture Programs Assessment and the CAFO General Permit (PAG-12) and not held on a regular, quarterly basis. DEP and SCC has participated in multiple ad-hoc meetings with EPA , such as those related to Infrastructure funding and other Chesapeake Bay grants, CAST and other technical issues, Management Board office hours with EPA CBPO, and the PA Animal Agriculture Programs Assessment. Bi-weekly meetings were held with CBPO and DEP / SRBC Technical Team throughout the year.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP and SCC met with EPA CBPO and Water Division staff on at least a quarterly basis, if not more frequently. However, meetings with EPA agricultural staff were primarily due to the CAFO General Permit (PAG-12) and not held on a regular, quarterly basis. DEP and SCC have participated in multiple ad-hoc meetings with EPA, such as those related to Infrastructure funding and other Chesapeake Bay grants, CAST and other technical issues, Management Board office hours with EPA CBPO, and USDA/EPA Crediting Task Force. Monthly meetings were held with CBPO and DEP / SRBC Technical Team throughout the year.</p> <p>In addition, DEP Agricultural Compliance staff meet bi-monthly to discuss cases and progress. Currently developing a quarterly meeting with Regional DEP staff to discuss Agriculture Compliance, inspections, Ch 102, and BMP implementation.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP and SCC met with EPA CBPO and Water Division staff on at least a quarterly basis, if not more frequently. DEP and SCC have participated in multiple ad-hoc meetings with EPA, such as those related to Infrastructure funding and other Chesapeake Bay grants, CAST and other technical issues, Management Board office hours with EPA CBPO, and USDA/EPA Crediting Task Force. Monthly meetings were held with CBPO and DEP / SRBC Technical Team throughout the year.</p> <p>In addition, DEP Agricultural Compliance staff meet bi-monthly to discuss cases and progress. Currently holding quarterly meetings with Regional DEP staff to discuss Agriculture Compliance, inspections, Ch 102, and BMP implementation.</p>
2.1.5A	Hire 2 Conservation District Field Representatives (CDFRs) in the	CDFRs provide communication, liaison, and operational support to conservation	DEP	Northeast Counties	July 2022				<p>2022 Update: Two CDFRs were hired by July 2022, providing assistance and support to the northeast counties, including those within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.</p> <p>2023 Update:</p>

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	Northeast Region, providing operational and liaison assistance to conservation districts	districts; these CDFRs will be engaged in Chesapeake Bay-related restoration activities and efforts.							This task was completed in 2022.
2.1.6A	Hire 1 Conservation District Field Representatives (CDFRs) in the Northcentral Region, providing operational and liaison assistance to conservation districts	CDFRs provide communication, liaison, and operational support to conservation districts; this CDFR will be engaged in Chesapeake Bay-related restoration activities and efforts.	DEP	Northcentral Counties	March 2023				<p>2022 Update: This position was reposted and expected to fill by March 2023.</p> <p>2023 Update: Task was completed in 2023.</p>
2.1.7A	Hire 2 Conservation District Field Representatives (CDFRs) in the Southcentral Region, providing operational and liaison assistance to conservation districts	CDFRs provide communication, liaison, and operational support to conservation districts; these CDFRs will be engaged in Chesapeake Bay-related restoration activities and efforts.	DEP	Southcentral Counties	July 2023				<p>2022 Update: Two CDFRs were hired by December 2022, providing assistance and support to the southcentral counties.</p> <p>2023 Update: Both positions experienced turnover in 2023. One position was filled in September 2023. The other position will be filled in early 2024.</p> <p>2024 Update: Both positions are filled as of the end of 2024.</p>
2.1.8A	Food Processing Residuals (FPR) Workgroup	In early 2024, DEP began convening stakeholders for an FPR workgroup to better understand concerns related to FPR application in Pennsylvania, including odor complaints and concerns about impacts to water resources, and to	DEP, State Agency Partners (SCC, PDA), Conservation Districts, and Legislators	Statewide	Began March 2024				<p>2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP set up an FPR Work group. While the DEP maintains an FPR manual to provide guidance for safe FPR application, the Department has gathered stakeholders to convene an FPR Workgroup to better address concerns related to FPR application. The group will discuss common complaints related to FPR application.</p>

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		discuss options for addressing those concerns through changes to legislation, regulation, and/or policy, including likely revisions to DEP's FPR Manual.							<p>Food Processing Residual Waste (FPR) is a type of residual waste that is produced in animal and non-animal food processing (slaughterhouses, food packaging facilities, etc.). In Pennsylvania, FPR is able to be used in a normal farming operation as a soil amendment, soil conditioner, and alternative nutrient source. FPR is often transported to and stored at agricultural operations in Pennsylvania for land application. Because FPR is a waste, it is addressed under the Commonwealth's Solid Waste Management Act (SWMA) and by the Commonwealth's residual waste regulations at 25 Pa. Code Article IX. Under the SWMA, FPR application is exempted from permitting as long as guidance in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) <i>Food Processing Residual Management Manual</i> (FPR Manual) is followed.</p> <p>In the last year, DEP, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), and state lawmakers have received several comments and complaints related to FPR use in some parts of Pennsylvania. The most common complaints are related to odor and concerns about potential threats to drinking water sources, like groundwater. Often, many complaints submitted to DEP are not violations under the FPR Manual. Since DEP currently maintains the FPR Manual to provide guidance for safe FPR land application, DEP, in partnership with PDA, gathered stakeholders to convene an FPR workgroup to better address concerns related to FPR storage and land application in Pennsylvania. The group: discussed the current status and concerns of the use of FPR in Pennsylvania; evaluated the efficacy of the FPR Manual in addressing existing concerns; and created proposed solutions to enhance Pennsylvania's management of FPR land application and storage at agricultural operations.</p> <p>The proposed solutions from the workgroup are summarized as follows, with more detail provided in the body of the document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify liability and secure documentation; • Enhance training for FPR haulers; • Create a clearer definition of FPR; • Require more stringent odor management for high-odor-risk FPR; • Require notification of intent to store or apply FPR; • Codify required minimums in land application system (LAS) plans; • Reorganize internal management of FPR rules; and • Enhance education around FPR rules and management.
2.1.9A	Agriculture Permitting Roundtable	In early 2024, DEP began convening a group of agricultural stakeholders to discuss issues related to permitting on	DEP, State Agency Partners (SCC, PDA), Conservation Districts, and Agricultural Industry Stakeholders	Statewide	Began March 2024				<p>2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025.</p> <p>2024 Update: The Agriculture Permitting Roundtable continued to meet through 2024 breaking into three subject matter workgroups (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, Construction 102, and 105). Each workgroup provided a list of recommendations. Some short-term recommendations have been acted upon. Other</p>

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		agricultural operations in Pennsylvania. In addition to broader DEP initiatives to improve permitting processes (such as Project Jumpstart and the pilot program to streamline review of Chapter 102 permits) this roundtable is focused on complementary or additional initiatives that can be undertaken to improve permitting specifically for agricultural operations. Initial discussions have identified CAFO permitting, Chapter 102 permitting, and Chapter 105 permitting as focus areas.							recommendations continue to inform short, medium, and long term priorities of the DEP.
2.1.10A	Track Nutrient and Manure Management Delegation Agreements Education and Outreach Efforts	PA DEP Tracks and Reports Education and Outreach Required Output measures and reports bi-annually through CBRAP progress reporting	PA DEP, SCC?	Chesapeake Bay/Statewide	2023-2025	EPA Grants Progress Reporting is on the Federal Fiscal year while Milestone progress is on the Calendar year.			<p>2023 Update: Nutrient management technicians conduct outreach initiatives to the agricultural community to instruct farmers and consultants regarding the MMM and Agriculture Erosion and Sediment Control requirements for the time period October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 299 outreach events and activities • 17,450 farmer contacts via outreach and assistance • Train 49 farm consultants on Manure Management and/or Agriculture Erosion and Sediment Control planning requirements <p>2024 Update: Nutrient management technicians conduct outreach initiatives to the agricultural community to instruct farmers and consultants regarding the MMM and</p>

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									Agriculture Erosion and Sediment Control requirements for the time period October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 314 outreach events and activities • 22,524 farmer contacts via outreach and assistance • Train 148 farm consultants on Manure Management and/or Agriculture Erosion and Sediment Control planning requirements
2.1.11A	Section 319 WIP Audit and Closeout Process	There are over 40 319 WIP's throughout the state of PA which are in different stages of activity. The NPS support section is reviewing all existing WIPs, working with our partners to close out WIPs that have met their goals, updating plans older than 10 years and working with those that have been inactive.	DEP, Conservation Districts, WIP sponsors	Statewide	First round completed by June 30 th 2024				<p>2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025.</p> <p>2024 Update: All partners with existing WIPs were contacted to determine activity and whether the partner was implementing the WIP and if they were still interested in keeping it open. All partners with WIPs older than 8 years were informed that a WIP that has not been updated within the last 10 years would need to be updated within the next 4 years to be eligible for funding through 319 NPS funds. In the 2025 FY guidance we indicated that updates were a priority for funding and that this would also be a priority in the next FY. With EPA direction and concurrence, the Section 319 program is not funding new WIPs for the foreseeable future until updates are made. The program will be contacting partners on an annual basis who are nearing the 10-year threshold or have shown a lack of activity.</p>
2.1.1F	Implement a comprehensive communication /outreach strategy to engage farmers/landowners in planting and maintaining riparian forest buffers. (This is part of PA's Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy, as published here)	85,000ac. of forest buffers planted on agricultural lands, and 3,100 acres of forest buffers on developed/non-ag lands.	DCNR, DEP, PSC, RFBAC, PA WIP III Forestry Workgroup, SCC, PDA, PSU, etc.	Chesapeake Bay	By 2022 Continue implementation through 2025	Coordination, scheduling, lack of funding for marketing/communications/outreach/education, etc.			<p>2020 Update: DCNR, in cooperation with its partners via the RFBAC (Riparian Forest Buffer Advisory Committee), launched a two-fold outreach effort in June 2020 that included a direct mailing to riparian area landowners and a public media campaign: https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/RiparianBuffers/BufferMyStream/Pages/default.aspx Collaboration continues with RFBAC and DCNR, and has discussed with PA Farm Bureau opportunities to enhance outreach and communications with PA farmers.</p> <p>2021 Update: DCNR continues to work on the Buffer My Stream outreach campaign that was launched in 2020, finding funding to implement projects that have resulted from that outreach. DCNR continues to collaborate with the RFBAC to share outreach materials developed and is now partnering with Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) as they begin outreach work on the K10 marketing campaign with the firm SWELL, using lessons learned from Buffer My Stream. As shown in the Numeric</p>

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									<p>Milestones, submitted progress through 2021 shows an increase in reported forest buffers in fenced riparian areas.</p> <p>DCNR has not yet followed up with Farm Bureau to partner on continued outreach, due to a shortage of implementation funding in 2021. However, DCNR intends to reinvigorate this effort as soon as additional implementation funds are ready to disburse. DCNR felt it would be a detriment to the program and reputation of buffers as a practice to conduct outreach without the funding to follow-through with implementation.</p> <p>2022 Update: In 2022, the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was approved by the House and Senate and the program started.</p> <p>Through an allocation to the Keystone Tree Fund, DCNR has received an additional \$5.28 million to disburse as buffer grants. DCNR will be reinvigorating some outreach strategies to help utilize these new funds, including reaching out to the PA Farm Bureau for feedback.</p> <p>DCNR also hired five new Regional Watershed Forestry Specialists, bringing the total number of Regional Watershed Forestry Specialist positions within DCNR up to seven. Each of these seven positions serves a unique region of the commonwealth, and each region touches a portion of the Chesapeake Bay. The new specialists started in late August and have been working on outreach since.</p> <p>2023 Update: DCNR distributed the \$5.28M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding allocated to the Keystone Tree Fund, and \$2M in EPA Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funding, via the Community Conservation Partnership Program (C2P2) grants for buffer implementation to various partners working around the Watershed and the Commonwealth. DCNR's new Regional Watershed Forestry Specialists are working with C2P2 grantees with buffer funding like Stroud, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Chesapeake Conservancy, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and others to conduct outreach to streamside landowners to implement buffers with these EPA and ARPA funds by December 31, 2025. DCNR continues to do buffer outreach on an as-needed basis. We see value in updating our Prime Prospects outreach tool but have not yet been successful in securing the funding necessary to do so.</p> <p>2024 Update: DCNR is in the process of updating our Prime Prospects outreach prioritization work. An RFP is being developed to hire a contractor to expand the tool that</p>

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									<p>currently exists for the Bay Watershed statewide, and to update the current Bay landowner data to more recent tax parcel maps. This will be completed in 2025.</p> <p>DCNR continues to award C2P2 grants to partners who conduct outreach according to their own prioritization methodologies. In 2024, approximately \$2M in state funds were awarded to grantees to outreach and implement riparian forest buffers statewide.</p>
2.1.2F	Implement a communication/outreach program to engage a variety of turf owners to plant trees and meadows on their properties.	5K acres of “Urban Forest Expansion” (turf to trees) + 5K acres of “Conservation Landscaping” (turf to meadow).	PRPS, DCNR, DEP, agencies and partners, municipalities and parks, etc.	Chesapeake Bay	By 2023	Brand new program-Coordination, scheduling, lack of funding, etc.			<p>2020 Update: DCNR, in cooperation with its partners, formed a new Lawn Conversion Advisory Committee in early 2020. This committee includes a variety of partners and stakeholders who will work together to inform future outreach and communications efforts. DCNR also launched a dedicated lawn conversion website in 2020 https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/LawnConversion/Pages/default.aspx, and has dedicated a staff person to coordinate this work.</p> <p>2021 Update: DCNR continues to work with the LCAC to develop outreach materials and a DIY guide to small lawn conversion projects. Some outreach materials will be ready by the end of 2021. But developing a steady stream of implementation funding for lawn conversion implementation projects has been a challenge, which has dampened outreach efforts as landowners have been frustrated. Their interest in the new program is growing, but DCNR has been unable to implement many projects. As soon as a steady mechanism for funding has been developed, DCNR will reinvigorate outreach efforts around Lawn Conversion.</p> <p>2022 Update: PA DCNR has received an overwhelming response to small amounts of outreach conducted for the Lawn Conversion program, but establishing a steady funding stream remains a challenge.</p> <p>DCNR accepted grants via the C2P2 Partnerships RFP in the spring of 2022. Awards will be announced in the fall of 2022.</p> <p>The C2P2 Partnership Lawn Conversion grant announcements have been pushed to early 2023.</p> <p>During Fall 2022, DCNR updated the Buffer Grant Opportunity under DCNR’s C2P2 grants to now include lawn conversion, under the Community and Watershed Forestry (CWF) Grant Opportunity, which also will fund buffers and TreeVitalize. DCNR accepted grants via the C2P2 CWF RFP in the fall of 2022, and multiple applications for lawn conversion grants were received from partners. DCNR will</p>

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									<p>award eligible applications with state funds, as well as a portion of the \$727,000+ of EPA infrastructure funds set aside for lawn conversion work. These lawn conversion grants awards will be announced in early 2023.</p> <p>2023 Update: Demand for Lawn Conversion projects from landowners outpaces funding capacity. Lawn Conversion practices have been incredibly popular. Additional active outreach to new landowners is not needed at this time, until additional funding can be secured for implementation. The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts applied for and received a C2P2 CWF grant that allows them to distribute Lawn Conversion mini grants to County Conservation Districts. DCNR will focus outreach over the next several years on increasing partner capacity vs. landowner demand to help better balance technical assistance and funding capacity when compared to demand.</p> <p>2024 Update: DCNR has renamed the Lawn Conversion program, and it is now the Lawn to Habitat (Lth) Program. Demand for Lth practices continues to significantly outpace funding capacity. Additional active outreach to new landowners is not needed at this time, until additional funding can be secured for implementation. The Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts applied for and received a second C2P2 CWF grant from DCNR that allows them to distribute Lawn Conversion mini grants to County Conservation Districts. DCNR continues to actively focus on increasing partner capacity and funding availability for Lth BMP implementation.</p>
2.1.3F	Communicate the importance and values of forests and farmland to facilitate and encourage state and local land conservation programs.	Increase conserved lands both in the headwaters of the PA Chesapeake Bay watershed and near developing areas.	DCNR, DEP, PALTA, etc.	Chesapeake Bay	By 2023	Coordination, scheduling, lack of funding.			<p>2020 Update: DCNR Bureau of Forestry celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2020; finalized the statewide Forest Action Plan, and is currently drafting a revised strategic plan with a 30-year planning horizon. As part of these planning efforts, DCNR conducted public polling on the importance of forests to people, and will incorporate these results into future work.</p> <p>2021 Update: DCNR continues to engage in numerous communications and outreach events and methods around the importance of forests and conservation, including social media posts <i>Good Natured Pennsylvanians</i>, newsletters such as <i>the Resource</i>, tours, meetings, and other events. Engaging state and local leaders in buffer planting events, including human health benefits: https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/DCNR_details.aspx?newsid=739, https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/DCNR_details.aspx?newsid=748. DCNR's work initiated several news articles published in The Bay Journal and Pennsylvania Forests. The Forest Action Plan was completed and announced:</p>

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									<p>https://www.media.pa.gov/Pages/DCNR_details.aspx?newsid=770. A Walk In Penns Woods event occurs annually: https://sites.psu.edu/walkinpennswoods/</p> <p>2022 Update DCNR continues all efforts as outlined in the 2020 and 2021 updates, including continuing to finalize the new Bureau of Forestry Strategic Plan, communication and outreach events, <i>Good Naturesd Pennsylvanians</i>, <i>Resource</i> newsletters, etc. A Walk in Penns Woods events continue to occur annually.</p> <p>2023 Update: According to a Bay Program Press Release, as of 2022, data collected by the Chesapeake Bay Program show that 9.1 million acres of land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed—roughly 22% of the total land in the region—are permanently protected from development. Pennsylvania currently has the greatest number of protected lands in the watershed at 3.6 million acres.</p> <p>2024 Update: DCNR continues to engage in numerous communications and outreach events and methods around the importance of forests and conservation, including social media posts <i>Good Naturesd Pennsylvanians</i>, newsletters such as <i>the Resource</i>, tours, meetings, and other events. DCNR continues to host the annual Walk in Penn’s Woods event each fall. DCNR Bureau of Forestry is in the process of updating the bureau’s Strategic Plan, which is expected to be finalized in 2025.</p>
2.1.4F	Emphasize the full range of benefits & co-benefits of stream and wetland restoration to facilitate additional implementation.	Increased acres of wetlands restored to approximately 400 acres annually; increased feet of stream restoration projects implemented to approximately 60,000 linear feet annually.	DEP and appropriate NGO partners.	Chesapeake Bay	By 2023	Coordination, scheduling, lack of funding.	<p>DEP staff are developing stream restoration training courses for County Conservation District and DEP staff on the Clean Water Academy</p> <p>DEP staff reviews of legacy sediment removal floodplain restoration (FR-LSR) projects</p>	<p>Four Wetlands Encroachments & Training Division (WET) staff and \$40 million in annual project funding to facilitate project implementation.</p> <p>Eight staff to facilitate development of the banking industry in PA and to begin implementation of the ILF program in 2021.</p>	<p>2020 Update: No additional staff have been added to program complement.</p> <p>The Pennsylvanian’s Guide to Permitting for Watershed Improvement Projects was published in December 2020.</p> <p>Program staff participated in CBP’s efforts to improve stream and wetland restoration definitions and crediting for Legacy Sediment Removal (LSR) projects (2020 Consensus Recommendations to Improve Protocols 2 and 3 for Defining Stream Restoration Pollutant Removal Credits.)</p> <p>Reviewed and approved three compensation banking projects completed since last data reporting. Wetland acres and stream linear footage will be reported. Initiation of one In-lieu Fee (ILF) project began in 2020.</p> <p>Compensation crediting guidance and submission of Draft ILF Instrument is to occur at the end of the 2020 reporting period.</p> <p>2021 Update:</p>

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							<p>that are subject to state and federal regulations including Chapter 102, Chapter 105/106 and Section 401 Water Quality Certifications. Currently approved FR-LSR plans will provide approximately 50 acres of wetland restoration and 35,000 linear feet of stream restoration.</p> <p>Chapter 105/Section 401 WQC revisions currently being reviewed will further support implementation of aquatic resource restoration projects.</p>	<p>Dedicated funding sources to support demonstration projects, including monitoring and research of those projects.</p>	<p>Compensation crediting guidance and submission of Draft ILF Instrument did not occur by the end of the 2020 reporting period and are still in progress as of 9/29/2021. Program staff continue to work diligently toward the goal of submitting the Draft ILF Instrument by early 2022. As shown in the Numeric Milestones, submitted progress through 2021 shows an increase in reported urban stream restoration, due to increased reporting from MS4 permittees to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model.</p> <p>2022 Update: Compensation crediting guidance and submission of Draft ILF Instrument did not occur as expected. Although the program published its final technical guidance on the function-based compensatory mitigation methodology, a major step toward achieving this goal, there remains uncertainty if the program can implement an ILF program without adequate staff capacity. PA has identified this lack of capacity in its 2022 Wetlands “PA State Action Plan,” presented to the Chesapeake Bay Program Management Board in December 2022, along with several other action items relating to building capacity and achieving Bay-wide restoration goals.</p> <p>2023 Update: Introduction to Guiding Principles of Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration training was finalized and posted to the Clean Water Academy. Two comprehensive webinars and four summary presentations were also conducted as part of the development and roll-out of this training. Additional more in-depth trainings on Watershed Alterations and Effect and Practitioners Perspective training are underway in 2023 and expected to be final in 2024.</p> <p>Staff are assisting with the Post Construction Stormwater Water Management (PCSWM) manual revisions related to stream and wetland restoration, specifically the Floodplain Restoration stormwater control measures. Redrafting of the PCSWM manual language is underway.</p> <p>Compensation crediting guidance was rescinded in January. Work has been on-going on revisions and replacement guidance. completion expected in late 2024. The ILF draft instrument was not submitted due to rescission of crediting technical guidance and lack of dedicated staff commitment. Planned staff positions were removed from the organizational chart indicating that no positions were planned for in the foreseeable future. A new program revisions request is under way for action in 2024.</p> <p>Approximately 33,000 linear feet of stream restoration and 47 acres of wetland restoration have been accomplished in the CB through mitigation banking program to date (2010-2023). Several projects are planned for in 2024. Unfortunately, none of these restored streams and wetlands are credited toward Pennsylvania’s</p>

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									<p>annual numeric progress, due to CBP policies precluding mitigation from being credited.</p> <p>Approximately 30,000 linear feet of stream restoration and 17 acres of wetland restoration were accomplished through legacy sediment removal projects in 2023. These implemented projects were verified and reported toward Pennsylvania’s annual numeric progress.</p> <p>2024 Update: Compensation crediting guidance was rescinded in early 2023, but work has been on-going on revisions and replacement guidance.</p> <p>The program continues seek opportunities to more comprehensively be able to market the full range of benefits and co-benefits of stream and wetland restoration to facilitate additional implementation.</p> <p>In the past 10+ years of mitigation banking efforts, private funding has provided for 130 acres of wetland restoration and 225,000 linear feet of stream restoration, (an average of 13 acres per year for wetlands and 22,500 feet of stream restoration). Several projects are approved each year, with more planned for in 2025. Unfortunately, none of these restored streams and wetlands are credited toward Pennsylvania’s annual numeric progress, due to CBP policies precluding mitigation from being credited.</p> <p>Approximately 50 acres of wetland restoration were accomplished through legacy sediment removal projects in 2024. These implemented projects were verified and reported toward Pennsylvania’s annual numeric progress.</p>
2.1.5F	<p>Incorporate outreach as a more fundable activity within C2P2 grants for riparian forest buffers, lawn conversion, and TreeVitalize.</p> <p>(This is part of PA’s Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy,</p>	Outreach clearly included as a fundable activity in Round 28.5 and future C2P2 grant rounds.	DCNR	Chesapeake Bay	Begins Spring 2023 or sooner				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. DCNR had a special fall grant round during the fall of 2022, under the newly expanded Community and Watershed Forestry grant opportunity. In this special round, outreach activities were clearly fundable activity. This will remain in all future regular and special CWF grant rounds for buffers, TreeVitalize, and Lawn Conversion projects funded by DCNR under the C2P2 CWF umbrella.</p> <p>2023 Update: Outreach has been fully incorporated as a fundable activity under DCNR C2P2 grants.</p> <p>2024 Update: C2P2 Community and Watershed Forestry Grants continue to fund outreach for RFBs, Lth, and UCF-related work.</p>

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	as published here)								
2.1.6F	Develop aquatic resource restoration training for targeted staff including all DEP staff and County partners	Finalize general overview training module and begin presentations for target audiences.	DEP	Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Training development Fall 2021 with implementation beginning in Fall of 2022	Additional training staff needed. Need outreach and messaging support from other DEP programs to reach target audiences	Wetland program staff and funding for specific subtopic focused modules	Technical and financial	<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. Training modules are being developed for PA’s Clean Water Academy, the first of which is near completion. The plan is to build out a full curriculum that includes several modules into one comprehensive training course. For example, in partnership with Soil Hub, a soils training course entitled “Foundations of Pennsylvania Soils” and, in partnership with LandStudies, “A Case Study – Legacy Sediment Evaluation at Oil Creek” were published to the Clean Water Academy in November 2022. Presentations on aquatic resource restoration were also provided to the conservation districts through the annual Conservation District Watershed Specialist conference.</p> <p>2023 Update: The Introduction to the Guiding Principles of Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration training was finalized and posted to the Clean Water Academy in 2023. Two comprehensive webinars (DEP and CCD) and four summary presentations were also conducted as part of the development and roll-out of this training. Additional more in-depth trainings on Watershed Alterations and Effects and Practitioners Perspective training are underway in 2023 and expected to be final in 2024.</p> <p>Staff also conducted a field tour and presentations on legacy sediment removal focused on comprehensive ecosystem restoration to the Mid Atlantic Wetland Workgroup.</p> <p>Staff presented the Guiding Principles for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration applied to legacy sediment issues at the National Stream Restoration Conference. In addition, staff participated in various conference initiatives related to performance standards for compensatory restoration requirements.</p> <p>2024 Update: Training modules continue to be developed for PA’s Clean Water Academy. Work continues toward the build out of a full curriculum that includes training for regulations and permitting, as well as aquatic resource science, including restoration.</p>
2.1.7F	Develop mapping resources of dam inventory breach locations for the	Make database of breached dams available in a publicly accessible GIS application.	DEP	Statewide	Beginning 2022	Making database and mapping results available for public use	Wetland program staff	GIS technology support	<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. This effort is ongoing.</p> <p>2023 Update: Over 4,000 breached dams were geo-located from Pennsylvania’s Dam Inventory Database that represents over 100 years of program information. Work is on-</p>

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	purpose of targeting legacy sediment impaired wetlands, streams and floodplains								going to present the data to the public for targeting legacy sediment removal in a user- friendly manner via DEP’s website. 2024 Update: After the 2023 update to Pennsylvania’s Dam Inventory Database, work is on-going to present the data to the public for targeting legacy sediment removal in a user- friendly manner via DEP’s website. Progress was slow due to several other priority efforts this year.
2.1.8F	Develop comprehensive restoration strategies at dam removals, including removal of legacy sediment to restore integrated wetlands, streams and floodplain resources	Improve restoration target development for comprehensive aquatic resource restoration.	DEP	Statewide	Beginning 2022	Conventional dam removal planning and design may not include comprehensive aquatic resource restoration targets	Wetland program staff and Growing Greener funding for project demonstrations	Additional funding for project demonstrations	2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. 2022 Dam Removal Workshop with multiple partners was completed. 2023 Update: Coordination and development of improved strategies of dam removal program efforts are active and on-going. Engagement with long time partners to develop comprehensive aquatic resource strategies has begun and demonstration projects are being developed. In October 2023 Program Staff, as well as BWRNSM staff met with the new Mid-Atlantic Regional Director for American Rivers to discuss comprehensive restoration strategies related to dam removal projects. Pennsylvania continues to be a leader in the nation for dam removal and fish passage projects. For example, more than 250 miles of stream and aquatic habitats have been reconnected when the Oakland Dam was removed in September 2023. More information can be found at the link, here: https://www.fws.gov/story/2023-10/largest-dam-removal-pennsylvania#:~:text=Over%20time%2C%20the%20dam%20became,the%20success%20of%20this%20project 2024 Update: Coordination and development of improved strategies of dam removal program efforts continue. Engagement with long time partners to develop comprehensive aquatic resource strategies also continues. Pennsylvania continues to be a leader in the nation for dam removal and fish passage projects.
2.1.9F	Work with SCC to promote their 2022 Stream Crossing Replacement Policy, Design and Installation Standard, and Technical Manual (cross-	Promote stream crossing replacement designs that incorporate stream simulation through the structure, promote bank-full width designs to improve flow and	DEP, SCC, PFBC, PSU	Statewide	April 2022	Traditional crossing designs are cheaper and require less scientific study	PSU Center for Dirt and Gravel Roads, SCC dirt and gravel low-volume roads program, and DEP	Cost-Benefit Analysis to demonstrate longevity and lowered maintenance costs provide long-term savings.	2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. In 2022, DEP presented at SCC annual meeting to explain permitting considerations and promote the benefits of bank-full width culvert designs, including improved flood resiliency, lowered maintenance costs, and structure longevity. DEP highlighted inherent flexibility in permitting which allows for the best possible on-the-ground solutions consistent with PA Law. 2023 Update: Coordination of additional DEP training and education and outreach has been on-going. One in-depth and field training session was held for DEP staff. Additional

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	benefit with building flood resiliency and climate change resiliency, while installing structures with lowered maintenance costs and improved lifespan)	aquatic organism passage.						Outreach to public and private sector, consultants, state and local governments.	sessions are being planned. Coordination of common web-page contents related to stream crossing standards across agencies is on-going. 2024 Update: Coordination of additional DEP training and education and outreach continues. One in-depth and field training session was held for DEP staff. Additional sessions are being planned. Coordination of common web-page contents related to stream crossing standards across agencies is on-going.
2.1.10F	Provide trainings and other materials to assist stakeholders needing permits for activities in wetlands and streams.	Remove ambiguity, promote best practices, help practitioners navigate the permitting process.	DEP	Statewide	Ongoing	Demystifying the permitting process and past negative experiences of practitioners.	PA Clean Water Academy, DEP website, in-person field trainings	Funding for in-person field trainings.	2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025. In addition to a complete revamping of DEP’s Chapter 105 permitting website, DEP has released an interactive tool to help owners of bridges and culverts and others wanting to do debris, trash, or streambed material removal in streams to better understand when a permit may be required. The tool goes into more detail and is designed as a companion to the “Guidelines to Maintaining Streams in Your Community” booklet that was published in November of 2018. Where bridges and culverts are not properly maintained by the owner, there can be problems with erosion and sedimentation within and outside the channel, buildup of debris and bedload materials, increased adverse flooding effects, etc. 2024 Update: The “Guidelines to Maintaining Streams in Your Community” booklet that was initially published in November of 2018 has been updated and continues to be a valuable tool, especially after flooding events. Where bridges and culverts are not properly maintained by the owner, there can be problems with erosion and sedimentation within and outside the channel, buildup of debris and bedload materials, increased adverse flooding effects, etc. The Bureau of Waterways Engineering and Wetlands’ Division of Wetlands Encroachment and Trainings launched a NEW Introduction to Wetland Determinations Training Course in Clean Water Academy. The comprehensive 8-hour training was done in collaboration with several other agencies. This training will give participants a basic understanding of how to properly recognize wetlands in Pennsylvania and at the conclusion they will be able to identify and evaluate the three components that make up a wetland; hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soil. This training was designed specifically to meet DEP’s regulatory programs related to wetland identification and the 1987 Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and the associated Regional Supplements. This training is not a substitute for field experience and is meant to be foundational educational information. These lessons do not cover all wetland topics, terms, or

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									other information but are meant to provide relevant training for DEP and the public.
2.1.1S	Continue to engage with municipalities and others on the benefits of implementing and maintaining stormwater management practices through web-based trainings, in-person meetings, workshops, etc.	Implementation of stormwater BMPs within MS4 PRPs, construction stormwater permits, and developed areas outside of the scope of the permitting programs	DEP, PMAA, CCAP, Conservation Districts, Penn State	Chesapeake Bay	Ongoing			Limitations on the amount of training that can be developed due to current DEP staff levels.	<p>2020 Update: DEP continues to assist MS4s with permit implementation. DEP has worked with Penn State Extension to produce “Urban Stormwater Basics” training courses that will be published to DEP’s Clean Water Academy for public use. The Pennsylvanian’s Guide to Permitting for Watershed Improvement Projects was published in December 2020.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP continues to assist MS4s with permit implementation. DEP developed guidance on stream restoration crediting (crediting checklists and Clean Water Academy training). Additionally, DEP coordinated with EPA to present a series of MS4 Forums for municipalities located in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. These forums gave municipalities the opportunity to learn from each other and share lessons learned about BMP project implementation. All of these presentations are posted for permittees to reference on Clean Water Academy. As shown in the Numeric Milestones, submitted progress through 2021 shows an increase in reported urban stream restoration, due to increased reporting from MS4 permittees to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. Additionally, MS4 communities receive funds through the Growing Greener Plus and CAP Implementation Grant programs to install BMPs that are identified in Pollutant Reduction Plans and Countywide Action Plans.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP continues to engage with permittees to provide comments on proposed BMP projects. DEP coordinated with PACD through a "mini-grant" program to develop a series of short training videos on the O&M and inspection of three BMP types. These videos have been posted to Clean Water Academy. The intent of these videos is to provide permittees guidance for assessing the maintenance needs of the BMPs in their PCSM BMP inventories. DEP intends to continue this coordination with PACD as funding and staffing allows.</p> <p>2023 Update: In addition to the web-based training and guidance documents available on DEP’s website, DEP continues to engage with permittees to answer questions and provide feedback on proposed BMP projects.</p> <p>2024 Update:</p>

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									DEP's Bureau of Clean Water conducted outreach events on current and future municipal stormwater management during 2024, including sessions with the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Villanova University, and the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers. DEP launched its Qualified Visual Site Inspector training program with the assistance of its conservation district partners; one course within the program is devoted to the construction and maintenance of post-construction stormwater management (PCSM) stormwater control measures (SCMs). To date, the program has been taken by approximately 1,000 members of the public.
2.1.2S	Provide more awareness of the expanded opportunities for BMP implementation in connection with the MS4 permit requirements	Demonstrate success in improvements to local water quality using the MS4 Flexibilities	DEP, EPA	Statewide	Begins October 2019				<p>2020 Update: DEP has been in discussions with partners in Lancaster County for several potential projects that may utilize the flexibilities DEP has provided MS4s to work with the agricultural sector.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP continues to respond to inquiries from permittees looking to implement BMP projects within the expanded opportunity areas. DEP Southcentral Regional Office has scheduled weekly pre-application meetings for York and Lancaster counties to bring their proposed projects and includes their MS4 permitting chief in those meetings as well as the Waterways and Wetlands Program staff. More information regarding the MS4 flexibilities is available under FAQ #69 at: https://files.dep.state.pa.us/Water/BNPNSM/StormwaterManagement/MunicipalStormwater/MS4_FAQ.pdf</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP continues to respond to inquiries from permittees looking to implement BMP projects within the expanded opportunity areas to meet the load reduction obligations of their PRPs.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP continues to answer project specific questions from permittees interested in implementing BMPs within the expanded opportunity area. In addition to meeting the conditions of FAQ #69, expanded opportunity area projects that have been successful in generating MS4 credit have demonstrated that the proposed project goes above and beyond what is required by all other applicable regulatory requirements.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP continues to respond to inquiries from permittees looking to implement BMP projects within the expanded opportunity areas to meet the load reduction obligations of their PRPs.</p>

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2.1.3S	Track and incentivize MS4 and nonpoint source coordination and collaboration	Document utilization of MS4 and nonpoint source flexibility through PRPs and Annual Reports Incentivize collaborative approaches through Countywide Action Plan (CAP) development and implementation funding and support	DEP, Chesapeake Bay Counties, MS4s	Statewide	Begins October 2019				<p>2020 Update: MS4s submitted annual reports on or before 9/30/2020 and revisions to PRPs to incorporate flexibilities are possible in the future.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP strongly supports joint or collaborative efforts for BMP projects to satisfy other MS4 permit obligations. The Collaboration section of DEP's MS4 website was updated this year to include recommendations on developing written agreements to guide collaborations, and list examples of permittees who are part of collaborative efforts. CAP development and implementation has led to strengthened partnerships across sectors.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP continues to support collaborative efforts for BMP implementation. Any permittee proposing a collaborative project is encouraged to reach out to the appropriate DEP regional office to discuss the collaboration. DEP has formed a stakeholder workgroup to discuss the next version of the PAG-13 General Permit where incentives for collaboration will be on the agenda.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP continues to answer project specific questions from permittees interested in implementing collaborative BMPs. DEP is looking at ways to incorporate feedback on incentivizing collaboration received from the PAG-13 General Permit Workgroup into the future permit.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP continues to answer project specific questions from permittees interested in implementing collaborative BMPs. DEP's Bureau of Clean Water has proposed new volume management crediting procedures for collaborating MS4s for the proposed PAG-13 General Permit. The draft PAG-13 will be published for public comment on January 18, 2025.</p>
2.1.4S	Continue dialogue with EPA regarding expanding opportunities for MS4 implementation		DEP, EPA	Statewide	Ongoing				<p>2020 Update: This collaboration with EPA is ongoing.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP continues to have ongoing discussions with EPA on this topic. DEP also has discussed this topic with county CAP leaders and municipal officials.</p>

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									<p>2022 Update: Discussions with EPA on this topic are ongoing. DEP is awaiting the 2020 Census-defined urbanized area (UA) mapping to determine how any changes to the census data will impact the planning area of MS4 permittees in future permit terms.</p> <p>2023 Update: Discussions with EPA are on-going. DEP has had preliminary discussion with EPA on changes to the urban areas as a result of the 2020 Census and is awaiting further guidance from EPA.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP’s Bureau of Clean Water has proposed expanding the available area for MS4 Stormwater Control Measure (SCM) projects in its draft PAG-13 that will be published for public comment on January 18, 2025.</p>
2.1.5S	Work with partners to develop and implement voluntary Urban Nutrient Management (UNM) Plans.	Identify priority initiative in Countywide Action Plans and work together to develop templates and curriculum, as needed.	Chesapeake Bay Counties, Penn State Extension, Chesapeake Stormwater Network	Chesapeake Bay watershed	Beginning 2022				<p>2022 Update: DEP provided guidance and example Urban Nutrient Management (UNM) Plan templates to local CAP Coordinators in one-on-one meetings to begin the process of incorporating UNM Plans into county nutrient reduction strategies. Multiple counties have drafted UNM Plans as part of the establishment of pollinator meadows from turf and farmland.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP worked with county partners to develop UNMs, utilizing examples from Maryland. Several counties have created Urban Nutrient Management Plans as part of larger County Conservation Landscaping Programs. Adams County is working with the National Park Service on the development of a UNM for Gettysburg National Park.</p> <p>In addition, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) Bureau of Plant Industry developed a newsletter – “Be Green While Protecting Our Streams” – which has also been shared with MS4s. They also published a short video for the public audience focused on fertilizer use.</p> <p>Newsletter: https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/Fertilizer/Documents/Newsletter.pdf</p> <p>Video for Homeowners: PACast</p> <p>2024 Update: Template for an Urban Nutrient Management Plan has been established for Adams County and approved by DEP to document commercial and homeowner nutrient applications in developed lands. Adams County is continuing</p>

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									to work with the National Park Service on the development of an urban nutrient management plan for Gettysburg National Park.
2.1.6S	Work with partners to ensure that PA Golf Courses have access to the GCSAA Best Management Practices for Pennsylvania Golf Courses , published in October 2020	Ensure access to the publication and review the publication to identify how golf course activities and implementation of the BMPs can be captured and credited toward annual progress.	DEP, Penn State, EPA CBPO, Chesapeake Stormwater Network	Chesapeake Bay watershed	Beginning 2022				<p>2022 Update: DEP submitted the GCSAA BMP Manual to CBPO for consideration of crediting the BMPs identified in the manual toward nutrient and sediment reductions. Based on feedback provided, there is no current “crosswalk” to credit the implementation of the BMPs (such as Urban Nutrient Management) as identified in the GCSAA BMP Manual, although it was thoroughly vetted by the regulatory agencies prior to publication. EPA announced a partnership with the GCSAA, however further work conducted by the partnership is needed to fully account for golf course and turfgrass management across the watershed.</p> <p>2023 Update: No further update for 2023. Awaiting more work to be done by the CBP.</p> <p>2024 Update: No further update for 2024. Awaiting more work to be done by the CBP.</p>
Section 3, Countywide Actions									
3.1.1	Continue to develop and collaborate on communication and outreach strategies to support CAP implementation in all counties, with a particular focus on Tier 3 and 4 counties.	Webinars and calls to provide overview of WIP, define the expectations, and discuss implementation next steps with Tier 3 & 4 counties. Designed to prepare these counties for CAP implementation.	DEP, Technical Coordinator, Bay office, Agencies Outreach, Communication contractor, Communication and Engagement Workgroup, External Contractor, DEP	Tier 3 & 4 counties	Ongoing	DEP/state staffing limitations and funding limitations around human resource needs Continued participation and engagement of counties due to staffing and funding limitations	See Funding and Resources Section, <i>Resources Needed Phase 2</i> columns below	See Funding and Resources Section, <i>Resources Needed Phase 2</i> columns below	<p>2020 Update: DEP created DEP Regional CAP Support Teams in the Northeast, Northcentral, and Southcentral regions to aid DEP Chesapeake Bay Office (DEP) in outreach and support to the Tier 3 and 4 Counties. With their support, DEP conducted webinars and extensive outreach to Tier 3 and 4 conservation districts, planning commissions, and county commissioners.</p> <p>The DEP conducted a Region CAP Support Team Workshop to educate DEP region staff on the WIP and CAP project. DEP and the Region CAP Support Teams conduct weekly calls to address concerns and questions that arise from the outreach to the Tier 3 and 4 counties, as well as calls with county leaders.</p>

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			Region CAP Support Teams			Funding for CAP implementation			<p>The DEP created an extensive library of resources and courses on DEPs Clean Water Academy that serves as an information and document sharing portal for the Tier 3 and 4 counties.</p> <p>2021 Update: The DEP and the DEP Region CAP Support Teams met with the Tier 3 and 4 counties to secure their participation in the development of a CAP. This led to a 100% participation from the Tier 3 and 4 Counties.</p> <p>The DEP conducted the 2nd Coordinator Training Academy in a fully virtual format due to COVID-19 constraints for the Tier 3 and 4 counties to educate the counties on the Phase 3 WIP, what the CAP development process looks like, what resources are available, and how to write their CAPs.</p> <p>The Tier 3 and 4 FAQs and Coordinator Grant FAQs were expanded to CAP Technical, CAP Grant, and County CAP FAQs, and were utilized as ever-expanding documents where all questions from the counties are addressed.</p> <p>The DEP created three resource email accounts: Pilot and Tier 2 counties, Tier 3 and 4 counties, and CAP Grants. This allows the DEP to better track all questions from the counties and maximizes efficiency in response with limited staff resources.</p> <p>DEP developed a CAP Project Tracking spreadsheet to track projects, milestones, and contacts and shares it with internal team members using an easy to access system.</p> <p>DEP maintains and continually updates the extensive library of materials on the CWA. Given the volume of materials available to counties, DEP reorganized the CWA materials for a more user-friendly experience.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP meets monthly with each Tier 3 and 4 county groupings to discuss implementation project statuses, to problem solve any hurdles that have arisen, and to provide an updates and announcements from DEP.</p> <p>DEP provided Implementation Workshops, organized by DEP Region for the Tier 3 and 4 counties to help counties get set up for successful implementation of their CAPs.</p>

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									<p>DEP Region CAP Support Teams continue to support Tier 3 and 4 counties by facilitating the monthly meetings, assisting with permitting questions, assisting with press announcements, and general topic specific help.</p> <p>The Tier 3 and 4 counties completed their first Annual Progress Report. DEP provided feedback to assist the counties with documenting all of their good work.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP meets monthly with each Tier 3 and 4 county groupings to discuss implementation project statuses, to problem solve any hurdles that have arisen, and to provide an updates and announcements from DEP.</p> <p>DEP hosted 6 Webinar Wednesday meetings to provide education and information to county partners.</p> <p>Tier 3 and 4 counties completed their first 2-year milestone update. DEP provided feedback to assist counties in identifying updates to their CAPs, and in encouraging counties to share their successes.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP meets monthly with each of its county groupings (Pilot, Tiers 2, 3, and 4) to discuss implementation project statuses, to problem solve any hurdles that have arisen, and to provide an updates and announcements from DEP.</p> <p>DEP hosted 4 Webinar Wednesday meetings to provide education and information to county partners.</p> <p>Tier 2 counties completed their 2-year milestone updates. DEP provided feedback to assist counties in identifying updates to their CAPs, and in encouraging counties to share their successes. Pilot, Tier 3, and Tier 4 counties completed their annual progress reporting. DEP provided feedback to assist counties in identifying updates to their annual progress and encouraged counties to share their successes.</p>
3.1.1(i)	Create and utilize living Frequently Asked Question documents for technical, coordinator, and grant questions from CAP county		DEP	Chesapeake Bay watershed	Ongoing				<p>2022 Update: DEP created and regularly maintains three (grants, technical, and coordinator) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Documents to assist CAP coordinators. The FAQs are updated with questions that are posed by the counties, as well as by DEP to share consistent messaging and answers. The questions and answers are made generic and go through an internal review process before they are released.</p>

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	partners and provide access to CAP coordinators to assist with disseminating information broadly and consistently.								<p>Each time an FAQ is updated, it is shared with the county partners and Region CAP Support Teams through an established weekly email update, and is also updated on the CWA Resources Tab.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP continues to maintain three FAQ documents: Coordinator, Technical, and Grant. Questions are generated by county partners as well as information DEP wishes to share.</p> <p>DEP continues to share updated FAQs via the weekly Friday email as well as the Clean Water Academy Resources tab.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP continues to maintain three FAQ documents: Coordinator, Technical, and Grant. Questions are generated by county partners as well as information DEP wishes to share.</p> <p>DEP continues to share updated FAQs via the weekly Friday email as well as the Clean Water Academy Resources tab. A total of three new FAQs were created and published to the documents.</p>
3.1.2	Conduct outreach via webinars and one-on-one meetings to provide support to the counties through the implementation process.	Tier 3 & 4 county regional groupings continue CAP implementation utilizing their assigned external coordinator and DEP. the DEP Region CAP Support Team.	DEP, Technical Coordinator, Bay office, Agencies Outreach, Communication contractor, Communication and Engagement Workgroup, External Contractor, DEP Region CAP Support Team	Tier 3 & 4 counties	Ongoing	<p>State staffing support</p> <p>No new dedicated funding streams</p> <p>County staffing issues may hinder county abilities to utilize all funds that are available due to staff concerns, based on experience with Pilot and Tier 2 counties.</p>	See Funding and Resources Section, <i>Resources Needed Phase 2</i> columns below	See Funding and Resources Section, <i>Resources Needed Phase 2</i> columns below	<p>2020 Update: The DEP Regional Support Teams and the DEP Chesapeake Bay Office has conducted several outreach meetings with each of the 26 Tier 3 and 4 counties, to present the Countywide Action Planning (CAP) process, answer questions, troubleshoot issues, present materials, and work through next steps.</p> <p>The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) conducted meetings with each county to review their Clean Water Technical Toolbox and answer technical questions.</p> <p>DEP has developed several Tier 3 and 4 and Coordinator Grant FAQs to assist the Tier 3 and 4 counties.</p> <p>The Tier 3 and 4 counties have organized into 10 regional groups. Each of these 10 groups will share a coordinator position. Grant applications for each coordinator position have been submitted.</p> <p>2021 Update: The Tier 3 and 4 counties have completed and submitted their CAPs, with 30 counties completing individual CAPs and 4 counties completing a regional CAP.</p>

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									<p>The DEP, with assistance from Consulting with a Purpose, developed a comprehensive timeline with key benchmarks identified to assist the counties with strategically planning through and past the CAP planning process.</p> <p>DEP Chesapeake Bay Office staff established biweekly Touchbase Tuesday webinars designed to meet with the coordinators and county lead entities to provide trainings and opportunities for collaboration. DEP Chesapeake Bay Office and DEP Region CAP Support Teams transitioned from the Touchbase Tuesdays to monthly calls with the county groupings to provide more individualized support as the counties began finalizing their CAPs. These monthly calls will continue through implementation. The Touchbase Tuesday calls are being utilized for larger trainings as needed.</p> <p>The Susquehanna River Basin Commission ran the counties' BMP scenarios through CAST as they developed their CAPs, and provided presentations showing the anticipated results, as well as a comparison to the state WIP workgroup recommendations. These comparisons gave the counties feedback for where they may want to focus their BMP efforts.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP transitioned the Tier 3 and 4 counties from the biweekly Touchbase Tuesday webinars to the established biweekly Webinar Wednesdays (used by Pilot and Tier 2 counties) as all counties were now in implementation. DEP Watershed Administration and Accountability (WASS) and DEP Region CAP Support Teams conducted monthly calls with all counties/county groupings to discuss implementation project statuses, to problem solve any hurdles that have arisen, and to provide an updates and announcements from DEP.</p> <p>The DEP, with assistance from Consulting with a Purpose, developed a comprehensive timeline with key benchmarks identified to assist the counties with strategically planning through implementation, grants, Annual Progress Reporting and Two-Year Milestone reporting.</p> <p>The Susquehanna River Basin Commission ran the Tier 2 counties' BMP scenarios through CAST as they developed their two-year milestones, and provided presentations showing the anticipated results, as well as a comparison to the state WIP workgroup recommendations. These comparisons gave the counties feedback for where they may want to focus their BMP efforts for the next two years.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP Region CAP Support Teams were restructured to best support the CAP counties. These teams are now comprised of the DEP Watershed Administration and Accountability (WAAS) project advisor, a DEP Watershed Manager, and a DEP</p>

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									<p>Conservation District Field Representative. All staff report centrally under the DEP Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management. WAAS and DEP Region CAP Support Teams conducted monthly calls with all counties/county groupings to discuss implementation project statuses, to problem solve any hurdles that have arisen, and provide updates and announcements from DEP.</p> <p>The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) provided BMP CAST scenarios for the Pilot and Tier 3 and 4 counties to assist development of County two-year milestones and provided the anticipated results. These comparisons gave the counties feedback for where they may want to focus their BMP efforts for the next two years.</p> <p>DEP, with assistance from Consulting with a Purpose, developed a comprehensive timeline with key benchmarks identified to assist the counties with strategic planning through implementation, grants, Annual Progress Reporting and Two-Year Milestone reporting.</p> <p>2024 Update: The DEP Watershed Administration and Accountability (WAAS) project advisors, DEP Watershed Managers, and a DEP Conservation District Field Representative have all continued to provide support to our county partners through monthly calls to discuss implementation project statuses and provide updates and announcements from DEP.</p> <p>The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) provided updated BMP CAST scenarios for the Tier 2 counties to assist in their evaluation and update of their Countywide Action Plans (CAPs) for the Two-Year Milestone reporting.</p> <p>DEP continued to host Webinar Wednesday Webinars on the first Wednesday of the month. These webinars provided county partners with relevant presentations from local, state, and federal partners along with updates and announcements from DEP.</p>
3.1.3	CAP implementation across Pilot, Tier 2,3 and 4 counties.	External coordinator designated for each Pilot and Tier 2 county to assist with CAP planning and implementation efforts.	DEP, Technical Coordinator, Bay Division, Agencies, Outreach, Communication and Facilitation contractors, External Contractors	Pilot and Tier 2 Counties 2022-23 Update: Pilot, Tier 2, 3 and 4 counties	Begins January 2020	State staffing support Internal and External Coordination limited due to funding limitations for human resources	See Funding and Resources Section, <i>Resources Needed Phase 1 & 2</i> columns below	See Funding and Resources Section, <i>Resources Needed Phase 1 & 2</i> columns below	<p>2020 Update: Pilot Counties have begun implementation of their Countywide Action Plans (CAPs). Counties were able to apply for CAP Implementation Grant Funds to support CAP implementation.</p> <p>Lancaster, York, Cumberland and Franklin County received Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) funding to support implementation efforts.</p> <p>Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinators were hired to support implementation. Tier 2 counties each hired a Community Clean Water Action Plan</p>

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		<p>2022-2023 Update: there will be an external coordinator designated for each Pilot and Tier 2 county and each Tier 3 and 4 county grouping to assist with CAP progress and implementation efforts. Focus will be on CAP implementation in support of PA's WIP goals. Extensive staff time will be dedicated to WIP/CAP project management and coordination to support counties in CAP implementation and to work with state action leaders in supporting this effort. Continued expansion of services outlined in the 2021 Milestone Update.</p> <p>Region CAP Support Teams will continue to support this effort.</p> <p>External coordinators will also continue to be funded.</p>							<p>Coordinator to support plan development. Tier 2 counties are in the final stages of finalizing their CAPs.</p> <p>2021 Update: All counties (Pilot, Tier 2,3,4) have finalized and are implementing CAPs. All counties were eligible to apply for CAP Implementation Grant Funds to support CAP implementation. DEP is providing nearly \$17.4 million in CAP Coordinator and Implementation Grant funds for 2022 calendar year (to include EPA Ag and EJ MEB grant funds and CBRAP funds for BMP Verification).</p> <p>Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) funding is also available to support implementation efforts in several high loading counties.</p> <p>Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinators continue to support CAP implementation and state funding has been committed and funding requests submitted by counties for 2022.</p> <p>Transitioned to one-on-one meetings with counties to provide individualized attention.</p> <p>Webinar Wednesdays were held as broader topics were raised for the larger group. 2021 webinars included: Water Quality Monitoring Update; Environmental Finance Center Technical Assistance; BMP Verification Deep Dive with EPA; Growing Greener, Section 319 and NFWF MEB Grant Funding Opportunities; CAP Implementation Grant Guidance; BMP Verification, Round 3.</p> <p>The Tier 3 and 4 FAQs and Coordinator Grant FAQs were expanded to CAP Technical, CAP Grant, and County CAP FAQs, and were utilized as ever-expanding documents where all questions from the counties are addressed.</p> <p>DEP created three resource email accounts for CAP coordination: Pilot and Tier 2 counties, Tier 3 and 4 counties, and CAP Grants. This allows the DEP to better track all questions from the counties and maximizes efficiency in response with limited staff resources.</p> <p>DEP developed a CAP Project Tracking spreadsheet to track projects, milestones, and contacts.</p> <p>DEP maintains and continually updates the extensive library of materials on the CWA. Given the volume of materials available to counties, DEP reorganized the CWA materials for a more user-friendly experience.</p> <p>2022 Update:</p>

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									<p>All counties (Pilot, Tier 2,3,4) are implementing CAP projects. All counties applied for CAP Implementation Grant Funds to support CAP implementation. DEP granted over \$12 million in CAP Coordinator and Implementation Grant funds for 2023 calendar year.</p> <p>One-on-one meetings with counties provide individualized attention and support. Staff are working with state and federal agency partners on county programmatic recommendations to enhance efforts.</p> <p>Webinar Wednesdays continued to address needs across all counties. 2022 webinars included: 03-09-2022 Agriculture BMP Verification – On Site Stagey and Tools 05-11-2022 CAP Implementation Funding Opportunities 06-01-2022 Countywide Action Plan Two-Year Milestone Reporting 06-08-2022 FieldDoc Walkthrough and Update 06-22-2022 Partners, Projects, and Progress - Behind the Scenes in Clearfield, Franklin and Lancaster Counties 07-13-2022 Countywide Action Plan Annual Progress Reporting 09-28-2022 CAP Grant 2023 Announcement 10-12-2022 Using Technology to Assist in Conducting BMP Verification</p> <p>The CAP Technical, CAP Grant, and County CAP FAQs were utilized as ever-expanding documents where all questions from the counties are addressed.</p> <p>Resource email accounts continued to be an important administrative tool for managing work and maximizing efficiency for limited staff across all of Bay counties.</p> <p>DEP utilized the CAP Project Tracking spreadsheet to assure projects across all counties were on track and funds were being spent in the designated 12-18 month timeframe.</p> <p>Trainings were added to the Clean Water Academy.</p> <p>2023 Update: All counties (Pilot, Tier 2,3,4) continued implementing CAP projects. 176 implemented BMPs funded in whole or in part by the CAP Implementation Grant were verified and reported toward Pennsylvania’s annual numeric progress.</p> <p>All counties applied for CAP Implementation Grant Funds to support CAP implementation. DEP granted over \$19.3 million in CAP Coordinator and Implementation Grant funds for 2024 calendar year. A minimum funding</p>

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									<p>allocation of \$200,000 per county was established due to constructive feedback provided by the counties.</p> <p>One-on-one meetings with counties provided individualized attention and support. Staff continue to work with state and federal agency partners on county programmatic recommendations to enhance efforts.</p> <p>Webinar Wednesdays continued to address needs across all counties.</p> <p>The CAP Technical, CAP Grant, and County CAP FAQs were utilized as ever-expanding documents where all questions from the counties are addressed in a consistent and standardized manner.</p> <p>Resource email accounts continued to be an important administrative tool for managing work and maximizing efficiency for limited staff across all of Bay counties.</p> <p>DEP utilized the CAP Project Tracking spreadsheet to assure projects across all counties were on track and funds were being spent in the designated 12-18 month timeframe.</p> <p>Trainings were added to the Clean Water Academy.</p> <p>The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division hosted its first ever Clean Water Gathering of 80 state program action leaders and county partners to expand efforts to address hurdles and barriers to implementation. One outcome of this meeting was to develop progress teams for the three identified focus areas: Technical and Administrative Assistance; Staff Building/Staff Retention; and Funding/Multi-Grant Coordination. Teams will begin work in 2024.</p> <p>2024 Update: All counties (Pilot, Tier 2,3,4) continued implementing CAP projects.</p> <p>All counties applied for CAP Implementation Grant Funds to support CAP implementation. DEP granted \$24 million in CAP Coordinator and Implementation Grant funds for 2025 calendar year. A minimum funding allocation of \$200,000 per county was continued due to positive feedback we received from our county partners after the guideline was established in 2023.</p> <p>An updated CAP Implementation Grant application was established and used for the first time this year. This new application requested more detailed information on each project being applied for, allowing DEP staff to make more informed decisions during the application review process.</p>

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									<p>All CAP funded implementation projects were collected and organized to be included in DCNR's grant viewer website.</p> <p>One-on-one meetings, monthly Webinar Wednesdays, weekly Friday update emails, and monthly newsletters all continued as avenues that DEP WAAS staff use to support and provide useful resources to our county partners during implantation.</p>
3.1.3i	County CAP partners will continue to expand partnerships, projects, and progress efforts.	2024-2025 Update: County partners will join and collaborate with state program action leaders in forming three specific Progress Teams to address identified issues and barriers implementing the CAPs and Phase 3 WIP.	DEP, State/Federal Agency Partners, Conservation Districts, and Community Clean Water Coordinators	34 PA Bay Counties	Begins January 2024				<p>2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025.</p> <p>2024 Update: In an October 2023 Clean Water Gathering of 80 county, state, and federal program action leaders, three priority action area challenges to clean water project implementation were identified: technical and administrative assistance, staff building and retention, and funding and multi-grant coordination. Since January 2024, three teams of made up of more than 60 individuals dedicated nearly 1,000 people hours to develop actionable recommendations to address the three challenge areas. Teams were made up of individuals from county, state, and federal entities including program staff, CAP Coordinators (represented by both public and private sector organizations), and nonprofit program staff.</p> <p>This collaborative effort resulted in the development of 25 actionable strategies to meaningfully address clean water challenge areas and advance clean water project implementation. Members of the three teams met in November 2024 to share their recommendations with one another. The 25 strategies were catalogued and summarized in preparation for a second Clean Water Gathering. The second Clean Water Gathering will occur in January 2025 where teams will engage with state and federal policymakers, program leaders, and other action leaders to advance their recommendations as part of a multi-level collective approach addressing high level needs and challenges.</p>
3.1.4	Seek staffing to support this large-scale coordination and support effort.	Facilitation support and marketing services will continue with Consulting with a Purpose and Green Words Consulting in support of extensive WIP and CAP outreach and engagement needs.	DEP, Technical Coordinator, Bay Division, Agencies Outreach, Communication and Facilitation contractors, External Contractors	34 PA Bay Counties	Begins January 2020	State staffing support Internal and External Coordination	See Funding and Resources Section, <i>Resources Needed Phase 1</i> columns below	See Funding and Resources Section, <i>Resources Needed Phase 1</i> columns below	<p>2020 Update: Each Pilot County and Tier 2 County received \$100,000 in state Environmental Stewardship Funds to hire a Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinator to support CAP implementation.</p> <p>The Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinator application has been released for Tier 3 and 4 counties.</p> <p>Two additional Chesapeake Bay Office Coordinators were hired to support efforts.</p> <p>2021 Update:</p>

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									<p>External coordinators have been hired by county partners for each Pilot and Tier 2 county and each Tier 3 and 4 county grouping to assist with CAP planning and implementation efforts.</p> <p>Extensive facilitation support and marketing services were utilized in 2021 through contracts with Consulting with a Purpose and Water Words That Work in support of extensive WIP and CAP outreach and engagement needs during planning and implementation. Some examples of these efforts include the 2020 Progress Report Summary and the 2020 Healthy Waters Healthy Communities Annual Report. Both of these documents are published on the Tracking Pennsylvania's Progress website.</p> <p>2022 Update: The Chesapeake Bay Office expanded into the Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management in fall 2022. A Chesapeake Bay Restoration Division was created that includes two sections dedicated to Bay work: Watershed Accountability and Administration and Chesapeake Bay Partnership. Staff enhancements to the Bureau include centralizing region-based Watershed Managers and Conservation District Field Reps who will support Bay efforts.</p> <p>Funding continued to support external county-based CAP coordinators to assist with CAP planning and implementation efforts.</p> <p>Extensive facilitation support and marketing services were utilized in 2022 through contracts with Consulting with a Purpose and Water Words That Work in support of extensive WIP and CAP outreach and engagement needs during planning and implementation. The 2021 Healthy Waters Healthy Communities Annual Report can be found on PA's Plan website. County partners testimonial pieces were published: PADEP-CAP-Testimonial-Handout-06102022 (state.pa.us) and PADEP-CAP-Testimonial-Handout-02192021.pdf (state.pa.us) to provide outreach pieces for county and state partners to use with their stakeholders. Other new informational pieces included "Supporting Local Countywide Action Plan Implementation in Pennsylvania" and "Supporting Local Clean Water Planning in Pennsylvania".</p> <p>2023 Update: A new Management Technician administrative staff position was created and filled to specifically handle administrative responsibilities, including grants and invoicing. Additional staff needs have been identified to fulfill NPS and grant program objectives within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.</p> <p>Funding continued to support external county-based CAP coordinators to assist with CAP planning and implementation efforts.</p>

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									<p>Extensive facilitation support and marketing services were utilized in 2023 through contracts with Consulting with a Purpose and Water Words That Work and Clean Water Consulting in support of continued WIP and CAP outreach and engagement needs. The 2022 Healthy Waters Healthy Communities Annual Report, which includes county partner testimonials and stories, can be found on PA's Plan website.</p> <p>The monthly Healthy Waters newsletter highlighting PA activities across local, state, federal, public and private partners can be found here: Newsletter (pa.gov)</p> <p>2024 Update: The Management Technician administrative staff position was upgraded to a Program Analyst to add project management tasks to administrative responsibilities, including grants and invoicing. Additional staff needs have been identified to fulfill NPS and grant program objectives within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.</p> <p>Funding continued to support external county-based CAP coordinators to assist with CAP planning and implementation efforts.</p> <p>Extensive facilitation support and marketing services were utilized in 2024 through contracts with Consulting with a Purpose and Water Words That Work and Clean Water Consulting in support of continued WIP and CAP outreach and engagement needs. The 2023 Healthy Waters Healthy Communities Annual Report, which includes county partner testimonials and stories, can be found on PA's Plan website.</p> <p>The monthly Healthy Waters newsletter highlighting PA activities across local, state, federal, public and private partners can be found here: Newsletter (pa.gov)</p>
3.1.5	Delineate and communicate Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Chesapeake Bay Partnership staff roles and responsibilities to county partners for more effective and efficient	2022-2023 Update: With the addition of 2 new staff in 2021, DEP will conduct strategic delegation and communication of coordination and project management roles and responsibilities of the 7 total staff members in the	DEP	Chesapeake Bay watershed	February 2022				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. Staff enhancements to the Bureau include centralizing region-based Watershed Managers and Conservation District Field Reps who will support Bay efforts.</p> <p>Internal coordinators have been assigned to Tier 1, 2, 3, 4 counties as specific points of contact for CAP issues, questions and reporting.</p> <p>A handout was provided to county partners to provide details of staff roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>2023 Update:</p>

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	delivery of services	two Chesapeake Bay-focused sections.							<p>Internal coordinators have continued as specific counties’ points of contact for CAP issues, questions, invoicing and reporting. Watershed Managers and Conservation District Field Reps continue to play an important support role in these efforts at the regional level.</p> <p>A new Management Technician administrative staff position was created and filled to specifically handle administrative responsibilities, including grants and invoicing.</p> <p>The Bay Partnership section added new staff members who oversee data analysis and reporting, quality assurance and federal grant management.</p> <p>2024 Update: The Management Technician staff position was upgraded to a Program Analyst and project management responsibilities were added to administrative responsibilities, adding programmatic duties to grants and invoicing duties. The final vacancy in the CB Partnership Section was filled. The new Water Program Specialist is managing multiple large federal grants.</p> <p>In 2024 WAAS became fully staffed leading to a more stable environment for our County partners as well as a clear delineation of roles within the section. The more stable environment for our County partners strengthened their ability to implement BMPs. The roles assigned to the three Water Program Specialist were Coordination Education Outreach, Technology, and Technical. These roles allow the section to perform the day-to-day tasks like, 1 on 1 county meetings, newsletters, and weekly emails more efficiently.</p>
Section 9, Climate Change									
9.1.1C	Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment	Reduce an additional 1.81 million pounds of nitrogen and 0.095 million pounds of phosphorus delivered to the Chesapeake Bay due to climate change by 2025. A Climate Impacts Assessment for Pennsylvania is conducted every 3 years, per Act 70 of 2008. The most	DEP	Statewide	Ongoing				<p>2022 Update: The 2021 Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment was released in May 2021. This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>2023 Update: The 2024 Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment is currently under development.</p> <p>2024 Update: The 2024 Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment has been completed and will be published in the near future.</p>

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		<p>recent Pennsylvania Climate Impacts Assessment can be found on DEP's website: Impacts</p> <p>2022-2023 Update: compilation of 2019 GHG Inventory data will begin.</p> <p>The next Climate Impacts Assessment is anticipated to be released in 2024.</p>							
9.1.2C	Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan	<p>Reduce an additional 1.81 million pounds of nitrogen and 0.095 million pounds of phosphorus delivered to the Chesapeake Bay due to climate change by 2025.</p> <p>A Climate Action Plan for Pennsylvania is conducted every 3 years, per Act 70 of 2008. The most recent Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan can be found on DEP's website: PA Climate Action Plan</p>	DEP	Statewide	Ongoing				<p>2022 Update: The 2021 Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan was released in September 2021. This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>2023 Update: The Act 70-required 2024 Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan is currently under development, as is the CPRG (PCAP).</p> <p>2024 Update: The Act 70-required 2024 Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan will be published in the near future.</p>

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9.1.2Ci	Participate in the Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Program.	Pennsylvania has received a \$3M Inflation Reduction Act-Funded grant to conduct Climate Pollution Reduction Planning. A Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) is due to EPA by March 1, 2024, and a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan is due in July of 2025.	DEP	Statewide	Begins March 2024				<p>Lindsay Byron</p> <p>2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025.</p> <p>2024 Update: The Priority Climate Action Plan was submitted to EPA on March 1, 2024. Measures were selected to be included in the PCAP based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback heard from interested parties (local governments, community outreach, industrial organizations, PA agency outreach) • Magnitude of GHG reduction potential • Feasibility for implementation by 2030 • Benefits to environmental justice communities • Air pollution reduction benefits <p>In July, PA was awarded \$396 million for the RISE PA program (Reducing Industrial Sector Emissions in PA). This program will provide a competitive grants program and incentives for small, medium, and large-scale decarbonization projects across Pennsylvania.</p> <p>The due date for the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan has been moved to the end of 2025. The plan builds on the 2024 CAP – GHG reduction measures across sectors. It expands on the co-benefits analysis, environmental justice/equity analysis, and workforce analysis. It also includes mapping to funding opportunities for implementation and analysis of authority to implement measures.</p>
9.1.3C	Local Climate Action Program	Reduce an additional 1.81 million pounds of nitrogen and 0.095 million pounds of phosphorus delivered to the Chesapeake Bay due to climate change by 2025. The Local Climate Action Program provides technical assistance to local governments to develop local	DEP	Statewide	Began 2020				<p>2022 Update: Currently, 12 local governments are participating in the program for 2022/2023 fiscal year. Draft climate action plans are due from participating municipalities in June 2023. DEP is working to find a partner to take on the program for future years.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP Energy Program Office (EPO) is now collaborating with Penn State Sustainability Institute to deliver the LCAP program. Over the course of the full program year, all 12 of the participants completed greenhouse gas inventories, 10 have produced final progress reports or draft Climate Action Plans, and two of the participants are continuing with the LCAP program into the next cohort. Several of the participants that have produced climate action plan drafts are planning on continuing to work with DEP in a CAPstone project to fully complete/adopt them.</p> <p>2024 Update:</p>

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		greenhouse gas inventories and climate action plans. More information about the program can be found on DEP's website: Local Climate Action Program							<p>The local government cohort for the 24-25 program year kicked-off with Penn State Sustainability on August 26, 2024. The 14 participants of the current cohort have been working to complete their greenhouse gas inventories that were developed over the course of the fall semester. The students participating in the program have been presenting the results of the work completed to their local government partners starting with Centre Region Council of Governments on December 9th.</p> <p>Work will begin on draft climate action plans and final deliverables in the upcoming spring semester.</p>
9.1.4C	DEP Energy Programs Office (EPO) Clean Energy Program (CEP) Plan	<p>Reduce an additional 1.81 million pounds of nitrogen and 0.095 million pounds of phosphorus delivered to the Chesapeake Bay due to climate change by 2025.</p> <p>The CEP Plan is intended to guide EPO in fulfilling its obligations to support energy conservation and efficiency, advance clean energy technologies, and provide energy security and resilience while improving the environment and health of Pennsylvanians through education, outreach, funding, and technical support. More</p>	DEP	Statewide	Ongoing				<p>2022 Update: DEP released the CEP Plan in November 2020 and has used the plan to better align Department goals and programs. This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. EPO is developing an update to the CEP Plan, which will identify successes since 2020 and priorities through 2025. The updated CEP is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2022.</p> <p>2023 Update: EPO released the updated CEP in December of 2022.</p> <p>2024 Update: The Clean Energy Program Plan, <i>Priorities in Energy and Energy Efficiency, Security and Workforce Development 2023-2025</i>, builds on the 2020 CEP Plan by documenting progress made, refining ongoing priorities, and presenting additional new priorities for the EPO.</p>

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		information about the CEP can be found here: Clean Energy Program Plan							
9.1.5C	Annual Pennsylvania Greenhouse Gas Inventory	Reduce an additional 1.81 million pounds of nitrogen and 0.095 million pounds of phosphorus delivered to the Chesapeake Bay due to climate change by 2025. The GHG inventory is updated annually, per Act 70 of 2008, and published mid-year on DEP's website: GHG Inventory	DEP	Statewide	Ongoing	DEP is currently looking for opportunities to shorten the lag time between data availability and report publication.			<p>2022 Update: The 2021 PA GHG Inventory report (2018 data year) is complete. This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. The 2022 PA GHG Inventory report (2019 data year) is complete, published 10/6/22.</p> <p>2023 Update: The 2023 PA GHG Inventory report (data years 2005-2020) was published December 2022.</p> <p>2024 Update: The 2024 Inventory was published in June.</p> <p>Key Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 net emissions increased by 8.3% from 2020 • Statewide net emissions decreased 19% from the 2005 baseline • Sectors with the largest contribution to PA's GHG emissions are industrial, electricity production, and transportation; accounts for 83% of all gross GHG emissions in 2021
Section 10, Communication and Engagement Strategy									
10.1.2	Develop the outreach materials, webinars, templates for letters and mailings and success stories identified by the Communications and Engagement (C&E) Workgroup for their use in message delivery and outreach.	Final materials will be distributed to the C& E Workgroup materials as they are finished for their use.	DEP/DCNR/PDA Communication Office, DEP		Completed December 2022		\$200,000		<p>2020 Update: Outreach efforts for C&E Workgroup: DEP's contractors, Consulting with a Purpose and Water Words That Work, worked with the C&E Workgroup to identify outreach and engagement needs for local partners in different sectors and geographies, and then worked in coordination with the C&E Workgroup to develop county leader invitation to participate letters and documents, webinars and social media campaigns that were used to explain the WIP and CAP efforts. These materials built the foundation for outreach and engagement for Tier 1, 2, 3 and 4 outreach.</p> <p>Outreach efforts for CAP county coordinators: DEP maintains a contract with Water Words That Work to provide communication support to the Phase 3 WIP. Water Words That Work has produced communication templates, PPTs, brochures and training to county coordinators to support local efforts. Water Words That Work continues to provide communication support for state lead efforts.</p> <p>DEP Communications Office developed talking points document for integrated messaging at county and state levels. Used by all counties.</p>

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									<p>2021 Update: Extensive facilitation support and marketing services were utilized in 2021 through contracts with Consulting with a Purpose and Water Words That Work in support of extensive WIP and CAP outreach and engagement needs during planning and implementation.</p> <p>DEP’s Communications Office provided support through interviews, media events and news releases highlighting Phase 3 WIP and CAP progress and efforts.</p> <p>In April 2021, DEP Chesapeake Bay Office Director participated in the hour-long Chesapeake Bay Summit, hosted by Maryland Public Television and shown on Pennsylvania Public Broadcasting Station.</p> <p>Talking points and presentations were developed and provided through numerous public participation outlets, including meetings hosted by the State Conservation Commission Board of Directors; DEP Agriculture Advisory Board; DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee; DEP Citizens Advisory Council; County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania; PA Farm Bureau; Chesapeake Bay Program Citizens Advisory Committee; and the Chesapeake Bay Commission.</p> <p>2022 Update: C&E Workgroup disbanded as PA moved from planning into full implementation of its WIP and CAP efforts.</p> <p>2023 Update: No updates to report. Milestone Complete.</p>
10.1.2A	Utilize facilitation support and marketing services with Consulting with a Purpose and Green Words Consulting in support of extensive WIP and CAP outreach and engagement needs.		DEP		Ongoing				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. Extensive facilitation support and marketing services were utilized in 2022 through contracts with Consulting with a Purpose and Water Words That Work in support of extensive WIP and CAP outreach and engagement needs during planning and implementation.</p> <p>DEP’s Communications Office provided support through interviews, media events and news releases highlighting Phase 3 WIP and CAP progress and efforts.</p> <p>The 2021 Healthy Waters Healthy Communities Annual Report can be found on PA's Plan website. County partners testimonial pieces were published: PADEP-CAP-Testimonial-Handout-06102022 (state.pa.us) and PADEP-CAP-Testimonial-Handout-02192021.pdf (state.pa.us) to provide outreach pieces for county and state partners to use with their stakeholders. Other new informational pieces</p>

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	DEP's Communications Office will provide support through interviews, coordinating media events, and news releases highlighting Phase 3 WIP and CAP progress and efforts.								<p>included "Supporting Local Countywide Action Plan Implementation in Pennsylvania" and "Supporting Local Clean Water Planning in Pennsylvania".</p> <p>2023 Update: Extensive facilitation support and marketing services were utilized in 2023 through contracts with Consulting with a Purpose, Green Words Consulting and Water Words That Work in support of extensive WIP and CAP outreach and engagement needs.</p> <p>DEP's Communications Office provided support through news releases highlighting Phase 3 WIP and CAP progress and efforts.</p> <p>The 2022 Healthy Waters Healthy Communities Annual Report can be found on PA's Plan website.</p> <p>The monthly Healthy Waters newsletter highlighting PA activities across local, state, federal, public and private partners can be found here: Newsletter (pa.gov)</p> <p>2024 Update: Extensive facilitation support and marketing services were utilized in 2024 through contracts with Consulting with a Purpose and Green Words Consulting in support of extensive WIP and CAP outreach and engagement needs.</p> <p>DEP's Communications Office provided support through news releases highlighting Phase 3 WIP and CAP progress and efforts.</p> <p>The 2023 Healthy Waters Healthy Communities Annual Report can be found on PA's Plan website.</p> <p>The monthly Healthy Waters newsletter highlighting PA activities across local, state, federal, public and private partners can be found here: Newsletter (pa.gov)</p>
10.1.3	Finalize the DEP Web-based StoryMap.	Final StoryMap	DEP Communication Office		Completed December 2022		\$20,000		<p>2020 Update: Launched story map focused on public education during Chesapeake Bay Watershed Awareness Week in June. Promoted via press release, a social media campaign, and stakeholder outreach. Over 3,500 views since launch. Healthy Waters, Healthy Communities.</p> <p>2021 Update: Completed in 2020 and will be incorporated in the 2022 Integrated Water Quality Report story map in 2022.</p> <p>2022 Update: Incorporated into the 2022 Integrated Water Quality Report story map in 2022.</p>

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									2023 Update: Milestone Complete.
10.1.4	Schedule and participate in focus groups, forums and workshops, as appropriate.	Presentations and summaries of such events and the input provided will be shared as appropriate.	C & E Workgroup members; DEP/DCNR/PDA Communication Offices, DEP	Chesapeake Bay	As needed				2020 Update: DEP worked with the Bay Local Government Advisory Committee and participated in WIP listening sessions conducted by LGAC. Outreach was also conducted with nonprofit partners. WIP Steering Committee Workgroup chairs participated in sector-specific outreach to the agriculture community and webinars were held with local leaders. 2021 and 2022 Updates: Completed in 2020
10.1.5	DEP and its state and county partners will use the delivery tools developed to reach their respective constituents through mailings, newsletters, their respective websites, conferences, workshops, etc. about the importance of clean water and the goals of the Phase 3 WIP and the CAPs.	Mailings, newsletters, websites, meetings, conferences and workshops are utilized as appropriate to convey the message developed. DEP will continue to publish its informative monthly WIP newsletter, weekly emails to CAP partners, and update the website.	DEP/DCNR/PDA Communication Offices, DEP	Chesapeake Bay	Between now and 2025				2020 Update: DEP Communications Office launched the Phase 3 WIP News monthly newsletter: a go-to resource for the latest updates at the state and county levels and in funding, data and reporting, and other areas of the Phase 3 WIP effort. Through promotion and outreach, subscriptions have increased from about 90 in June to 278 in December. C&E Workgroup members, as well as WIP action leaders utilized above-mentioned outreach tools in organization publications and mailings (member letters, magazines, newsletters, etc) and on organization websites and presented at meetings and conferences. 2021 Update: DEP continued to publish a monthly Phase 3 WIP Newsletter, renamed Healthy Waters – Pennsylvania. Partnership. Progress. This collaborative newsletter shares updates and progress from federal, state and county partners, and is utilized to share updates from DEP and announce various funding opportunities for the counties. Anyone can subscribe to receive the electronic newsletter in their inbox or visit the website to see the monthly archive. DEP provided a weekly email update to county CAP coordinators and Action Leaders with up to the moment funding, outreach and training opportunities that are relevant to their CAP work. DEP continually updates the WIP and CAP webpages as new material is developed. 2022 Update: DEP continued to publish a monthly Phase 3 WIP Newsletter, renamed Healthy Waters – Pennsylvania. Partnership. Progress. This collaborative newsletter shares

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									<p>updates and progress from federal, state and county partners, and is utilized to share updates from DEP and announce various funding opportunities for the counties. Anyone can subscribe to receive the electronic newsletter in their inbox or visit the website to see the monthly archive.</p> <p>DEP provided a weekly email update to county CAP coordinators and Action Leaders with up to the moment funding, outreach and training opportunities that are relevant to their CAP work.</p> <p>DEP continually updates the Clean Water Academy, WIP and CAP webpages as new material is developed.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP continued to publish a monthly Phase 3 WIP Newsletter, renamed Healthy Waters – Pennsylvania. Partnership. Progress. This collaborative newsletter shares updates and progress from federal, state and county private and public partners, and is utilized to share updates from DEP and announce various funding opportunities for the counties. Anyone can subscribe to receive the electronic newsletter in their inbox or visit the website to see the monthly archive.</p> <p>DEP provided a weekly email update to county CAP coordinators and Action Leaders with up to the moment funding, outreach and training opportunities that are relevant to their CAP work.</p> <p>DEP continually updates the Clean Water Academy, WIP and CAP webpages as new material is developed.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP continued to publish a monthly Phase 3 WIP Newsletter, Healthy Waters – Pennsylvania. Partnership. Progress. This collaborative newsletter shares updates and progress from federal, state and county private and public partners, and is utilized to share updates from DEP and announce various funding opportunities for the counties. Anyone can subscribe to receive the electronic newsletter in their inbox or visit the website to see the monthly archive.</p> <p>DEP provided a weekly email update to county CAP coordinators and Action Leaders with up to the moment funding, outreach and training opportunities that are relevant to their CAP work.</p> <p>DEP continually updated the Clean Water Academy, WIP and CAP webpages as new material is developed.</p>

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Priority Initiative 2: Funding and Resources									
Section 2, State Action, Programmatic and Narrative Commitments									
2.2.1	Pass legislation providing a funding source or combination of funding sources for the implementation of the Phase 3 WIP.	PA Farm Bill - The Conservation Excellence Grant provides grants, loans, and tax credits to incentivize agricultural BMPs in priority geographies as found within the WIP. Keystone Tree Fund – This fund will go toward DCNR’s tree planting initiatives Clean Streams Fund Growing Greener III Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP)	PDA, DCNR, DEP, State Legislature, Governor’s Office		2019-2020 Session 2021-2022 Session 2024-2025 Session				<p>2022 Update: The Pennsylvania Clean Streams Fund was funded by the legislature and signed by the Governor as part of the FY 2022-23 General Fund State Budget. From this, the Stormwater Management Grant program provides \$8.8 million toward grants and reimbursements to counties and municipalities, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP), which provides \$154 million in funds for best management practices on farms statewide, \$8.8 million toward the existing Keystone Tree Fund, \$22 million toward a new Clean Water Procurement Program, \$22 million toward the existing Nutrient Management Fund, and \$4.4 million toward the existing Acid Mine Drainage program. The first apportionment of funds to county conservation districts for ACAP is set to occur in January 2023, with \$1.5 million of the additional Nutrient Management funds being provided to conservation districts beginning January 2023 as well. The Stormwater Management grant funds will be rolled into the Growing Greener Plus program, with the solicitation slated to be released Spring 2023 and initial awards made Winter 2023-2024. State agencies are working together to ensure commitment and expenditure of funds are in alignment with the federal requirements for COVID-ARPA, as well as meeting the reporting requirements and deadlines. DEP, PDA, SCC, DCNR, and PENNVEST have been meeting on a monthly basis since September 2022, and will carry that forward through 2023, adding NRCS and NFWF representation to further coordinate funding sources and programs.</p> <p>2023 Update: As above. Pennsylvania’s Senate attempted to provide dedicated funding toward the Clean Streams Fund from another state funding source. However, the appropriations for a dedicated fund did not come to fruition.</p> <p>2024 Update: The FY2024-2025 enacted budget realized dedicated annual funding of \$50 million toward the Clean Streams Fund.</p>
2.2.1(i)	Incentivize implementation of Agriculture BMPs that comprise 60% and/or 10-fold increase of the nitrogen	Initiate Conservation Excellent Grant Program, to include bundling grants with REAP tax credits and low-	PDA, SCC, DCNR, DEP, PENNVEST, EPA, NRCS, Pilot, Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties, non-profit and private entities		Ongoing Beginning July 2020				<p>2020 Update: The vendor for the Center for Water Quality Excellence has been selected and is Keystone Safety Services, Inc. d/b/a Land Logics Group. Contracts have been finalized and a Notice to proceed was issued on November 12, 2020. Next step is to get the virtual center component up and running which is anticipated by May 2021. Also, between now and May 2021 and beyond, the vendor will be doing outreach at events, assuming those events happen, and appropriate COVID safety</p>

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	reductions through complementary local, state, federal, non-profit and private funding programs	<p>interest loans in Tier 1 Counties.</p> <p>Expand funding of REAP tax credits and prioritize in Chesapeake Bay Watershed.</p> <p>Initiate Chesapeake Bay Ag Inspection Program – Phase 2, to include providing cost-share to farmers that are yet to be or have been inspected, in select counties.</p> <p>Coordinate with NRCS to identify and prioritize funding through RCPP, EQIP, CREP, and other federal funding programs.</p> <p>Prioritize up to 50% of Growing Greener funding to nutrient and sediment reducing practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed through Block Grants (CAP Implementation Grants)</p> <p>Pilot Center for Water Quality Excellence, which will provide</p>							<p>protocols can be maintained. The physical center should be opening June/July 2021. The Pilot will focus on Lancaster and York Counties initially.</p> <p>SCC staff continues to work with staff from the Treasury Department to reinvigorate the AgriLink Loan Program. This existing program previously made more than \$5 million in low interest loans, but has been inactive for approximately 8 years due to lack of funding to “subsidize” these linked deposit loans. This discussion was sidetracked in 2020 due to the challenges presented by COVID. PennVEST has also recently expressed an interest in exploring a linked deposit low interest loan program for agricultural BMPs.</p> <p>The SCC is actively implementing its new Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) program through agreements with Lancaster, York, Cumberland and Franklin Conservation Districts, as well as a pending agreement with Lancaster Farmland Trust and Salisbury Township (Lancaster County) as a public private partnership pilot. Total funding for these five CEG agreements is nearly \$6 million, and the SCC received an additional \$2 million in state funds in November to continue this effort.</p> <p>Pennsylvania DEP announced the Growing Greener Plus awards on December 30, 2020. More than \$16 million has been awarded to projects in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, with many of those projects focused on agricultural Best Management Practices and forested riparian buffer implementation.</p> <p>2021 Update: PENNVEST continues exploring a linked deposit low interest loan program for agricultural BMPs.</p> <p>In December 2021, the AgriLink Loan Program was relaunched. More information can be found here: https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/StateConservationCommission/Pages/Agriculture-linked-Low-Interest-Loan-Program-.aspx</p> <p>The Center for Water Quality Excellence funded by PENNVEST is up and running both virtually and with a storefront. 2021 –2022 focused on outreach. CEG: The SCC continues with delegation agreements with seven county conservation districts – Tier 1 - Lancaster and York counties and Tier 2 - Cumberland, Franklin, Bedford, Centre and Lebanon counties for the implementation of the CEG Program.</p> <p>The Lancaster and York county conservation districts have been accepting CEG applications since July 2020. Between July 2020 and September 2021, the LCCD</p>

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		<p>financial assistance and technical guidance, in Tier 1 Counties.</p> <p>Prioritize EPA CBIG funds for riparian forest buffer and agriculture BMP implementation in Tier 1 and 2 counties.</p> <p>Utilize EPA “Most Effective Basin” (MEB) funds to cost-share implementation of agriculture BMPs in geographic areas of highest impact in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.</p>							<p>awarded 27 CEG grants totaling \$1,252,434.15. The YCCD awarded 9 CEG grants totaling \$49,247.50.</p> <p>The Cumberland and Franklin county conservation districts began accepting CEG application in January 2021. Between January 2021 and September 2021, the CCCD awarded 4 CEG grants totaling \$427,000. The FCCD awarded 19 CEG grants totaling \$949,640.04.</p> <p>The Bedford and Centre county conservation districts have been accepting CEG applications since March 2021. Between March 2021 and September 2021, the BCCD awarded 1 CEG grant totaling \$250,000. The CCCD awarded 5 CEG grants totaling \$735,000.</p> <p>The Lebanon county conservation district has just been included into the CEG program and is in the process of executing a delegation agreement. LCCD has already been in preliminary talks with 5 operations and expect to have 5 applications ready to be accepted as soon as they can begin accepting applications.</p> <p>All conservation district outreach efforts include posting CEG information on the conservation district’s websites and newsletter and flyers distributed to agricultural support program organization in the counties</p> <p>Lancaster Farmland Trust began a Private Party Partnership with the SCC in October 2020. Ever since the inception LFT has been working with 5 grant recipients totaling \$900,000.</p> <p>Expansion of REAP Program: Since 2019, REAP continues at a \$13 million allocation for tax credits providing a total of \$13 million. Approximately 70% of the annual allocation of tax credits is awarded to eligible producers and projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Applicants from ag-impaired TMDL watersheds (including the Chesapeake Bay) are eligible for a REAP tax credit equal to 90% of out-of-pocket costs for some high-priority BMPs.</p> <p>CEG: The SCC continues with delegation agreements with seven county conservation districts – Tier 1 - Lancaster and York counties and Tier 2 - Cumberland, Franklin, Bedford, Centre and Lebanon counties for the implementation of the CEG Program.</p> <p>The Lancaster and York county conservation districts have been accepting CEG applications since July 2020. Between July 2020 and September 2021, the LCCD awarded 27 CEG grants totaling \$1,252,434.15. The YCCD awarded 9 CEG grants totaling \$49,247.50.</p>

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									<p>The Cumberland and Franklin county conservation districts began accepting CEG application in January 2021. Between January 2021 and September 2021, the CCCD awarded 4 CEG grants totaling \$427,000. The FCCD awarded 19 CEG grants totaling \$949,640.04.</p> <p>The Bedford and Centre county conservation districts have been accepting CEG applications since March 2021. Between March 2021 and September 2021, the BCCD awarded 1 CEG grant totaling \$250,000. The CCCD awarded 5 CEG grants totaling \$735,000.</p> <p>The Lebanon county conservation district has just been included into the CEG program and is in the process of executing a delegation agreement. LCCD has already been in preliminary talks with 5 operations and expect to have 5 applications ready to be accepted as soon as they can begin accepting applications.</p> <p>All conservation district outreach efforts include posting CEG information on the conservation district’s websites and newsletter and flyers distributed to agricultural support program organization in the counties.</p> <p>Lancaster Farmland Trust began a Private Party Partnership with the SCC in October 2020. Ever since the inception LFT has been working with 5 grant recipients totaling \$900,000.</p> <p>MEB: 2021 EPA MEB funds provided to DEP have been allocated to Chester County (Ag MEBs) and Lancaster County (EJ MEBs) to implement high priority projects in their CAPs and Pennsylvania’s Phase 3 WIP.</p> <p>Of the 2022 CAP Implementation Grant funds allocated to 34 counties in the Chesapeake Bay watershed in December 2021, 89% were approved for agriculture practices and 11% were approved for developed/stormwater practices.</p> <p>2022 Update: Expansion of REAP Program: Since 2019, REAP continues at a \$13 million allocation for tax credits providing a total of \$13 million. Approximately 70% of the annual allocation of tax credits is awarded to eligible producers and projects in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Applicants from ag-impaired TMDL watersheds (including the Chesapeake Bay) are eligible for a REAP tax credit equal to 90% of out-of-pocket costs for some high-priority BMPs.</p> <p>CEG: The SCC continues with delegation agreements with seven county conservation districts – Tier 1 - Lancaster and York counties and Tier 2 -</p>

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									<p>Cumberland, Franklin, Bedford, Centre and Lebanon counties for the implementation of the CEG Program.</p> <p>From January 2022-December 2022, 111 practices were reported as implemented through the CEG program, including but not limited to: animal waste management systems and associated waste transfers, heavy use area protection and roof runoff structures, grassed waterways and diversions, stream crossings and fence, structure for water control, and animal trails and walkways.</p> <p>MEB and IJJA: 2022 EPA MEB and MEB IJJA funds provided to DEP have been allocated to pilot counties (Lancaster, York, and Franklin) through the existing countywide action plan implementation grant program, awarded on December 1, 2022.</p> <p>Growing Greener Plus and CAP Implementation Grant Programs: At least 50% of the overall funding available has been directed toward the counties within the Chesapeake Bay. CAP implementation grants were awarded to counties on December 1, 2022, with a press release announcing the awards on December 14, 2022. Growing Greener Plus award recipients were notified by December 31, 2022.</p> <p>2023 Update: PENNVEST continues to search for banks interested in participating in a link deposit program. The Center for Water Quality Excellence continues to provide assistance in identifying funding resources to assist with bmp implementation.</p> <p>SCC continues to implement the Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) program with record funding made available in 2023, including \$2 million in EPA IJJA Most Effective Basin (MEB) funds to incentivize public-private partnerships. An additional \$4 million is made available through the standard program criteria. 108 implemented agriculture BMPs funded in whole or in part by the CEG program were verified and reported toward Pennsylvania’s annual numeric progress.</p> <p>The 2023 round of Growing Greener grant program will provide more than \$4.5 million to 27 projects in Pennsylvania’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed, with an estimated reduction of 48,337 pounds per year of nitrogen; 5,855 pounds per year of phosphorus; and 4,193 tons per year of sediment. DEP also continued to support the rapid stream delisting approach in agriculturally-impaired watersheds through the Growing Greener Watershed Renaissance Initiative.</p> <p>58 implemented BMPs funded in whole or in part by the Growing Greener Grant program were verified and reported toward Pennsylvania’s annual numeric</p>

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									<p>progress, of which more than 45 BMPs were implemented in the agriculture sector.</p> <p>DEP continues to administer the EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Program and Section 319 grants. 64 implemented BMPs funded in whole or in part by Section 319 were verified and reported toward Pennsylvania’s annual numeric progress, of which more than 55 BMPs were implemented in the agriculture sector.</p> <p>176 implemented BMPs funded in whole or in part by the CAP implementation grant program were verified and reported toward Pennsylvania’s annual numeric progress, of which more than 160 BMPs were implemented in the agriculture sector.</p> <p>399 implemented agriculture BMPs were verified and reported through the initial Ag Plan Reimbursement Program toward Pennsylvania’s annual numeric progress. An additional 34 implemented Nutrient Management Core N and P BMPs were reported through the current Ag Plan Reimbursement Program administered by PACD.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP received 155 applications totaling approximately \$44 million for the 2024 Growing Greener Plus grant round. DEP will award more than \$15 million; 45 grants in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and 48 grants throughout the rest of Pennsylvania. Estimated reductions within the Chesapeake Bay watershed are more than 122,000 pounds of nitrogen, 25,000 pounds of phosphorus, and 4,900 tons of sediment per year. DEP also continued to support the rapid stream delisting approach in agriculturally-impaired watersheds through the Growing Greener Watershed Renaissance Initiative and expanded it statewide.</p> <p>Based on the initial submission of all of PA’s partners’ nonpoint source data, PA is currently reporting nearly 16,700 Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the 2024 Progress Year, which is an increase of more than 2,100 BMPs. Official reports will not be generated until early February 2025, and as such, the reported number of BMPs is an estimated figure.</p> <p>DEP Chesapeake Bay IJA funding accounts for a significant percentage of CAP grant funding for local partners approximately \$7.1 million for 2025 projects and approximately \$18.2 million over the entire 5-year grant cycle.</p>

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									The SCC continued to administer the Conservation Excellence Grant program (CEG) in 2024 with now \$26.6 million invested in the program for 136 agriculture BMPs in Tier 1 and Tier 2 Bay counties.
2.2.1(ii)	Clean Streams Fund: Implement the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP). ACAP would provide a true statewide cost-share program to help implement practices that keep healthy soils and nutrients on the land and out of waterways. Agriculture is an integral part of Pennsylvania's culture, heritage, and economy.	Develop guidelines and allocation methodology; distribute funds in 2023.	SCC, Conservation Districts		Begins Fall 2022				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. By January 2023, SCC will approve ACAP Program Guidelines and County Allocations. By April 2023, SCC will train county CD staff on the administration of the ACAP.</p> <p>The Pennsylvania Clean Streams Fund was funded by the legislature and signed by the Governor as part of the FY 2022-23 General Fund State Budget. From this, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was created, which provides \$154 million in funds for best management practices on farms statewide. The first apportionment of funds to county conservation districts is set to occur in January 2023. It is anticipated that conservation districts will enter delegation agreements in January 2023.</p> <p>2023 Update: ACAP is fully operational. As of the date of this report, the SCC has committed \$141 million through signed delegation agreements with 66 counties. To date, counties have received over \$80 million in applications from farm owners across the state. Roughly 70% of the funding and corresponding applications are located in the Bay watershed. In addition, an entire infrastructure is being built around ACAP, including creation of a new technical assistance center in partnership with USDA-NRCS and Penn State University. Counties have also hired additional staff.</p> <p>2024 Update: Over \$150 million in ACAP funds from the original federal ARPA funds were committed by the 12/24 deadline. All funds have been committed to county conservation districts for ag BMPs and related administrative and contractual services expenses. Funding was distributed to counties per a formula prescribed in the law, with roughly 70% of the funds going to counties at least partially located in the Bay watershed.</p> <p>In addition, the FY 24/25 state budget included a dedicated fund for ACAP of \$35 million, though Clean Streams Fund. Including interest monies from the original federal funds, the state spending threshold was set at \$43 million in September of 2024. Funds are available to counties for two years to spend or encumber. Again, the formula used for distribution is prescribed by state law.</p>
2.2.1(iii)	Clean Streams Fund: Nutrient Management Fund was increased. The	Develop allocation along with ACAP and CEG program allocations.	SCC, DEP, Conservation Districts		Begins Winter 2022-2023				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. Proposals include education for technical assistance, financial assistance in CEG and Agri-link, and other priorities of the Commission. \$1.5 million of this additional funding has been allocated in the 2022-2023 fiscal year to go toward the Nutrient Management technician salary increases.</p>

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	majority of this increase will be set aside for Technical Assistance capabilities to implement ACAP and CEG, as well as including some additional funding to CEG.								<p>2023 Update: The increase in funding for the nutrient management program line under Clean Streams Fund is actively being used to boost salaries for counties that administer the Nutrient Management Program through delegation agreements. In addition, the funds are being used to increase CEG program grants to counties for BMPs, fund the work of Stroud Water Research via No-till Alliance and Soil Health Coalition. Funds are being used to supplement PACD’s conservation plan reimbursement program. Funds are being used to update and improve technology.</p> <p>2024 Update: The increase in funding for the nutrient management program line under Clean Streams Fund is actively being used to boost salaries for counties that administer the Nutrient Management Program through delegation agreements. In addition, the funds are being used to increase CEG program grants to counties for BMPs, fund the work of Stroud Water Research via No-till Alliance and Soil Health Coalition. Funds are being used to supplement the Ag Conservation Plan Reimbursement Program, administered by PACD. Funds are being used to update and improve technology.</p>
2.2.1(iv)	Clean Streams Fund: Implement the Pennsylvania Clean Water Procurement Program	Develop guidelines and implement funding program.	PennVest, SCC, DEP		Begins Winter 2022-2023				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>Lead state agencies met multiple times throughout Fall 2022 to discuss program structure and feasibility. Met with MDE multiple times to gather and compare information related to both pay-for-performance programs.</p> <p>2023 Update: The PENNVEST Board of Directors adopted the guidelines to stand up the Clean Water Procurement Program at its April 19, 2023 Board Meeting. Application cutoff for the program was September 1, 2023. Contracts are currently under form and legality and review with notification expected in early 2024.</p> <p>2024 Update: The initial \$22M for the program has been awarded. The Fiscal Code for 2024 has established a designated funding source totaling about \$7M annually to continue the Clean Water Procurement Program. The most current RFP for the program opened in the fall of 2024 and will close March 5, 2025.</p>
2.2.1(v)	Clean Streams Fund: Implement the Grants/Reimbursements to	Develop grant guidance and determine staffing needs to support Act 167 Plan review	DEP		Begins Winter 2022-2023				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. Staff have met multiple times throughout Fall 2022 to develop guidelines for the stormwater management grants and reimbursements program. Guidelines must be in alignment with Act 167 and Chapter 111, respectively. The requisite forms were submitted to GBO to provide information regarding this new program, as it is funded through COVID-</p>

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	Counties and Municipalities for Stormwater Management Act (Act 167) Planning and Implementation	and implementation.							<p>ARPA, and information has been received from GBO regarding reporting deadlines and requirements.</p> <p>2023 Update: Seven applications were received from counties to complete Phase 1 Scopes of Study projects, which is the first step under Chapter 111 to completing an Act 167 Plan for partial reimbursement. In 2025 DEP will make decisions regarding who will receive funding for Phase 2 (plan development).</p> <p>The SCC will stay involved in the Clean Water Procurement process and help to advance performance- based outcomes as a viable option alongside traditional BMPs for non-point source.</p> <p>2024 Update: During 2024, DEP awarded \$260,000 to six counties to complete Phase I Scopes of Study and \$2,670,854 to eight counties for the development or update of Act 167 Stormwater Management Plans. As the FY 2024-2025 PA budget included \$2 million/yr for Act 167 Plan development or updates, another round of applications for Act 167 Plan Phase I funding will be accepted through the 2025 Growing Greener Plus grant application process.</p>
2.2.1(vi)	Clean Streams Fund: Continue to implement the Keystone Tree Fund and disburse funding via Riparian Forest Buffer Grants and TreeVitalize Program	Develop grant guidance and other strategies for funding disbursement; incorporate into C2P2 grant solicitation.	DCNR		Begins Summer 2022.				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023</p> <p>DCNR had a special fall grant round in 2022 which is expected to fully expend the Clean Streams Fund allocation of \$8.8 million once awards are announced in early 2023. CWF requirements were fully incorporated into this grant round and will allow any additional future allocations to the Clean Streams Fund to be incorporated seamlessly into future grant rounds.</p> <p>2023 Update: All \$8.8M allocated to the Clean Streams Fund has been awarded to C2P2 grantees. Grantees are actively working to implement projects with these funds and will continue to do so through the grant end date in 2025.</p> <p>2024 Update: All funds made available for riparian forest buffer and “Treevitalize” (now known as Urban and Community Forestry, or UCF) continue to be awarded to grantees via the annual DCNR C2P2 grant cycle. Grantees continue to implement work funded through the Clean Streams Fund via the Keystone Tree Fund previously. In 2024, it was announced that an additional \$250,000 would be allocated to the Keystone Tree Fund annually via the Clean Streams Fund. These funds will be allocated to grant applications submitted during the 2025 C2P2 grant cycle, along with all other</p>

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									Keystone Tree Funds received from individual donations or via the vehicle and driver's license renewal checkboxes.
2.2.2	Identify and implement the process and develop and implement specific procedures for the award of "block grants" to the lead planning teams for the implementation of the CAPs.	Policy and procedures and a grant agreement developed for use in the development and award of grants to counties in the implementation of the CAPs	DEP, Comptroller's Office		Begins Fall 2019				<p>2020 Update: Allocation-based funding program (Community Clean Water Coordinator and CAP Implementation Grants) were developed and approved in Fall 2019</p> <p>2021 Update: Allocation-based funding program (Community Clean Water Coordinator and CAP Implementation Grants) have been implemented annually since Fall 2019. It takes 4-6 weeks on average, from the time of application submission and the time of award.</p> <p>2022 Update: Allocation-based funding program (Community Clean Water Coordinator and CAP Implementation Grants) continues to be implemented. This type of grant program was highlighted for the utility and associated efficiencies during the 2022 PA In the Balance conference, held in December 2022.</p> <p>2023 Update: Allocation-based funding program (Community Clean Water Coordinator and CAP Implementation Grants) continues to be implemented. The flexibility of this type of grant program was extolled during the recent Clean Water Gathering of State Action Leaders and County Partners, held in October 2023. Due to demand and project funding needs, a minimum threshold of \$200,000 was established for the 2023-2024 CAP grant round.</p> <p>2024 Update: Allocation-based funding program (Community Clean Water Coordinator and CAP Implementation Grants) continued to be implemented. The CAP application was updated to streamline the process as well as collect more precise information from the applicant. Due to demand and project funding needs, a minimum threshold of \$200,000 was established for the 2024-2025 CAP grant round. 205 projects were awarded in the 2024-2025 CAP grant round. It takes 4-6 weeks on average, from the time of application submission to the time of award.</p>
2.2.3	Initiate allocation of funding utilizing "block grants" to the lead planning and implementation	Allocate state and federal funding to Pilot, Tier 2, and Tier 3/4 counties to fund coordinators as well as to accelerate the	DEP, Comptroller's Office		Begins January 2020				<p>2020 Update: Eight Community Clean Water Coordinator Grants for the Pilot and Tier 2 Counties were provided via PA state Environmental Stewardship Funds (ESF), totaling \$800,000 in the initial year (January-December 2020) and \$1.8 million for Pilot, Tier 2, 3 and 4 counties in second year (January – December 2021).</p>

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	teams of the CAPs	implementation of their CAPs. Best Management Practices in the CAPs focus on reductions for agricultural, stormwater, and forestry/natural sectors.							<p>CAP Implementation Grants were provided to the Pilot Counties via CBIG2 in the initial year (January-December 2020) and to the Pilot and Tier 2 Counties via ESF the second year (January-December 2021).</p> <p>Applications for both rounds were submitted by the counties in a four-week open round and awarded in less than six weeks thereafter.</p> <p>2021 Update: In December 2021, a total of \$17.4 million was awarded for County Coordinators, CAP Implementation Grants, and BMP Verification. EPA Most Effective Basin (MEB) funding was allocated to Lancaster (EJ funding) and Chester (Ag funding). https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-announces-17-4-million-to-improve-local-water-quality-for-chesapeake-bay-watershed/</p> <p>2022 Update: In December 2022, a total of \$12.2 million was awarded for County Coordinators and CAP Implementation Grants. This included EPA MEB and IJA funding. https://www.ahs.dep.pa.gov/NewsRoomPublic/articleviewer.aspx?id=22236&typeid=1</p> <p>2023 Update: In December 2023, a total of \$19.6 million was awarded for County Coordinators and CAP Implementation Grants. This included EPA MEB and IJA funding.</p> <p>2024 Update: In December of 2024, a total of \$24 million was awarded for County Coordinators and CAP Implementation Grants. The 2025 CAP Implementation Grants include \$9.6 million from the state Environmental Stewardship Fund and \$14.4 million in EPA funding, including \$7.1 million in Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds.</p>
2.2.3i	Report annual metrics identified through the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Program Countywide Action Plan Implementation Grant Application	2024-2025 Update: Will report the number of projects approved for funding, and the associated estimation of nutrient and sediment reduction for this milestone period.	DEP		Begins November 2023				<p>2023 Update: This is a new milestone. In the 2023-2024 application period, 226 projects were approved for funding and are estimated to reduce: More than 170,000 lbs/year of nitrogen, 122,000 lbs/year of phosphorus, 36.3 million lbs/year of sediment.</p> <p>Nutrient and sediment reduction estimates were generated through FieldDoc as part of the application process.</p> <p>2024 Update:</p>

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									<p>In the 2024-2025 application period, 205 projects were approved for funding and are estimated to reduce roughly:</p> <p>110,000 pounds/year of nitrogen 42,150 pounds/year of phosphorus 11.8 million pounds/year of sediment</p> <p>Nutrient and sediment reduction estimates were generated using Model My Watershed.</p>
2.2.4	Continue to work with NFWF to fund the Local Government Implementation (LGI) grants	<p>Assist with the development of RFP and review of applications</p> <p>2022-2023 Update: NFWF anticipates continued coordination with DEP and sister agencies on delivery of Pennsylvania-specific funding streams, including LGI and MEB funding, as well as ongoing coordination for Pennsylvania implementation through the INSR and SWG programs.</p> <p>2024-2025 Update: The initial milestone was specific to the LGI grant. The milestone commitment for this reporting period will include a report for all NFWF</p>	DEP		Begins February 2020				<p>2020 Update: On February 2, 2020, representatives from EPA, DEP, and NFWF met to discuss the PA LGI RFP. Some annual practices were added to the list of Priority practices that could be funded through this grant. NFWF hosted a webinar for LGI grant applicants, which reviewed the RFP and application process on March 17, 2020. Due to the pandemic, the application deadline was extended from April 16, 2020 to April 30, 2020. On June 5, 2020 Staff from EPA, DEP and NFWF took part in a grant review meeting.</p> <p>2021 Update: In February 2021, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced \$1.2 million in grant funding for 8 PA LGI projects that will help improve local waters in Pennsylvania and contribute to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. The awards will directly support efforts by local governments and partners throughout the Bay watershed in Pennsylvania to implement water quality projects that reduce polluted runoff from urban, suburban, and agricultural lands.</p> <p>In April 2021, NFWF released the Small Watershed Grant (SWG) Program Request for Proposals. DEP, EPA and NFWF staff participated in review of the applications and included PA LGI criteria for PA implementation projects submitted under the 2021 SWG grant opportunity. The 2021 SWG grant slate will be announced in October 2021.</p> <p>In June 2021, NFWF announced 2021 awards under the Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants program, including nearly \$5 million in awards to Pennsylvania projects, including support for DCNR's forest buffer and conservation landscaping goals, and support for several emerging CAP-coordinated county-level implementation efforts.</p> <p>In June 2021, NFWF released the Pennsylvania Most Effective Basins grant program Request for Proposals. Building from successful coordination through PA-LGI funding and the 2021 SWG program, NFWF engaged DEP and EPA staff in review and selection of projects for the programs inaugural round. The 2021 MEB slate will be announced in November 2021.</p>

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		programs and projects funded in Pennsylvania.							<p>2022 Update: The 2021 Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed grant slate was announced in October 2021. Pennsylvania received a total of \$3,386,806. The 2021 INSR grant slate was announced in August 2021. Pennsylvania received \$4,979,700.</p> <p>On December 3, 2022, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced a total of \$27.8 million awarded through the 2022 SWG grant program. As in previous years, the SWG grant slate included funding specifically earmarked for Pennsylvania through the local government implementation funds (PA-LGI). Of the \$27.8 million, 9 Pennsylvania projects received a total of \$3,498,401 in PA LGI funds and 25 Pennsylvania projects received a total of \$5,737,884 in SWG funds. The 2022 INSR grant slate of \$8.9 million provided \$2.4 million toward 4 PA projects. The 2022 PA MEB grant slate awarded \$6.3 million to eight projects.</p> <p>2023 INSR applications were due November 17, 2022 and are currently under review.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP staff continue to assist NFWF and participate in rating and scoring applications. As of this year, Pennsylvania DEP BWRNSM Chesapeake Bay Restoration Division has accepted management of the Local Government Implementation Funding through the EPA CBIG4 grant. These funds will be delivered through the CAP implementation program for 2024 toward the Conowingo WIP. Other funds delivered to Pennsylvania projects through NFWF grant programs include: The 2023 INSR grant slate, announced October 2023 and included \$4 M for six (6) Pennsylvania projects; The 2023 Chesapeake WILD grant slate, also announced in October and includes \$1.8 M for four (4) Pennsylvania projects. Some announcements may be forthcoming after the decision for the EPA RFP for these programs previously awarded to NFWF.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP staff provided support to NFWF by rating and scoring applications for several grants including the Chesapeake Bay Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction grant and the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed grant.</p> <p>The DEP BWRNSM Chesapeake Bay Restoration Division continued management of Local Government Implementation Funding through the EPA CBIG4 grant. The funding was administered through the CAP Implementation program to support efforts towards the Conowingo WIP.</p> <p>Chester County accepted these LGI funds for a second year for project implementation as well as a new coordinator position whose primary</p>

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									responsibility is to implement projects in the Octoraro watershed and other Chesapeake Bay watersheds in Chester County, with priority to Octoraro.
2.2.5	Engage with other jurisdictions regarding interstate trading and cross-jurisdictional financing (e.g. Conowingo)		DEP, PennVest, SRBC		2025				<p>2020 Update: PA continues to co-chair the Conowingo WIP (CWIP) Steering Committee and has been in discussions with other jurisdictions regarding the CWIP Finance Structure, as well as potential partnerships related to pay-for-performance strategies.</p> <p>2021 Update: Letter of Understanding was negotiated with other jurisdictions and SRBC for SRBC to serve as the financial entity for Conowingo WIP funding.</p> <p>2022 Update: PA continues to co-chair the Conowingo WIP (CWIP) Steering Committee. Meetings have been held frequently throughout 2022 with MDE, DEP, SRBC, and PENNVEST to discuss cross-jurisdictional financing, including but not limited to the Maryland Conowingo Financing Program and the Pennsylvania Clean Water Procurement Program.</p> <p>2023 Update: Weekly meetings have been held with MDE, PA DEP, and NYDEQ to discuss cross-jurisdictional programming and funding related to the CWIP. The PENNVEST Clean Water Procurement Program will be leveraged to fund projects that would be reported toward meeting the CWIP goals.</p> <p>2024 Update: PA continues to co-chair the Conowingo WIP (CWIP) Steering Committee. Weekly meetings have been held with MDE, PA DEP, NYDEQ, and EPA to discuss cross-jurisdictional programming and funding related to the CWIP. The PENNVEST Clean Water Procurement Program as well as the federal Local Government Implementation (LGI) grant has been and will continue to be leveraged to fund projects that would be reported toward meeting the CWIP goals.</p>
2.2.6	Investigate the potential for and implementation of short-term, low-interest, loans and other financing streams for		PennVest, PDA, DEP		2021 Implement beginning 2022				<p>2020 Update: Meeting held with AG Choice to determine interest in a Link Deposit style program utilizing PENNVEST funds. General support and interest exist among all parties. Structure of a program is being further investigated with a second meeting planned upon gathering of additional information.</p> <p>Additionally, a sublevel revolving loan fund is under discussion with regional planning agencies to provide low interest loans directly to eligible applicants including agriculture in cooperation with local County Conservation Districts.</p>

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	agricultural projects								<p>Initial meetings have been held with interest from all parties. Regional planning agencies is assembling terms that can work for them for further discussion.</p> <p>SCC staff continues to work with staff from the Treasury Department to reinvigorate the AgriLink Loan Program. This existing program previously made more than \$5 million in low interest loans, but has been inactive for approximately 8 years due to lack of funding to “subsidizes” these linked deposit loans. This discussion was sidetracked in 2020 due to the challenges presented by COVID. PennVEST has also recently expressed an interest in exploring a linked deposit low interest loan program for agricultural BMPs.</p> <p>The SCC is actively implementing its new Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) program through agreements with Lancaster, York, Cumberland and Franklin Conservation Districts, as well as a pending agreement with Lancaster Farmland Trust and Salisbury Township (Lancaster County) as a public private partnership pilot. Total funding for these five CEG agreements is nearly \$6 million, and the SCC received an additional \$2 million in state funds in November to continue this effort.</p> <p>2021 Update: AgChoice link deposit program is unable to be implemented as they do not do certificates of deposit.</p> <p>Additionally, a sublevel revolving loan fund continues to be discussed with regional planning agencies to provide low interest loans directly to eligible applicants including agriculture in cooperation with local County Conservation Districts. Initial meetings have been held with interest from all parties. Regional planning agencies is assembling terms that can work for them for further discussion. Progress delayed due to COVID.</p> <p>SCC staff continued to work with staff from the Treasury Department to roll out the 2nd edition of the AgriLink Loan Program. In December 2021, AgriLink Loan Program was relaunched. More information can be found here: https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/StateConservationCommission/Pages/Agriculture-linked-Low-Interest-Loan-Program-.aspx</p> <p>CEG: The SCC continues with delegation agreements with seven county conservation districts – Tier 1 - Lancaster and York counties and Tier 2 - Cumberland, Franklin, Bedford, Centre and Lebanon counties for the implementation of the CEG Program.</p> <p>The Lancaster and York county conservation districts have been accepting CEG applications since July 2020. Between July 2020 and September 2021, the LCCD</p>

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									<p>awarded 27 CEG grants totaling \$1,252,434.15. The YCCD awarded 9 CEG grants totaling \$49,247.50.</p> <p>The Cumberland and Franklin county conservation districts began accepting CEG application in January 2021. Between January 2021 and September 2021, the CCCD awarded 4 CEG grants totaling \$427,000. The FCCD awarded 19 CEG grants totaling \$949,640.04.</p> <p>The Bedford and Centre county conservation districts have been accepting CEG applications since March 2021. Between March 2021 and September 2021, the BCCD awarded 1 CEG grant totaling \$250,000. The CCCD awarded 5 CEG grants totaling \$735,000.</p> <p>The Lebanon county conservation district has just been included into the CEG program and is in the process of executing a delegation agreement. LCCD has already been in preliminary talks with 5 operations and expect to have 5 applications ready to be accepted as soon as they can begin accepting applications.</p> <p>All conservation district outreach efforts include posting CEG information on the conservation district's websites and newsletter and flyers distributed to agricultural support program organization in the counties.</p> <p>Lancaster Farmland Trust (LFT) began a Private Party Partnership with the SCC in October 2020. LFT has been working with 5 grant recipients totaling \$900,000.</p> <p>2022 Update: Opportunities continue to be pursued for a link deposit program which should be more desirable with increasing interest rates. PENNVEST, DEP, and SCC have met multiple times, along with SRBC and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), to discuss Pay-for-Performance outcomes through the new Clean Water Procurement Program. Guidelines are under development for Spring 2023 approval.</p> <p>2023 Update: A sublevel revolving loan fund continues to be under discussion with regional planning agencies to provide low interest loans directly to eligible applicants including agriculture in cooperation with local County Conservation Districts. Initial meetings have been held with interest from all parties. Regional planning agencies are assembling terms that can work for them for further discussion.</p> <p>The Agri-Link low interest loan program has processed five loans for producers, totaling \$1.1 million in subsidized loans. At the time of this report, SCC and PDA</p>

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									<p>executive office recently met with State Treasurer to discuss expanding REAP to include preserved farms and new and beginning farmers.</p> <p>2024 Update: To date, no private lenders have entered a Link Deposit program with PENNVEST. Outreach is still occurring to find a private lender to partner with PENNVEST to enter into subsidized financing for agriculture bmp projects backed by PENNVEST. (Boos)</p> <p>The Agrilink program continued to be underutilized in 2024, primarily due to the record funding available for cost share, which minimizes the need for farmers to utilize a loan program. Will continue promote in 2025 and especially as cost share funding levels out.</p>
2.2.7	Apply and receive approval for the designation of a new Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape, bringing new partnerships and resources to the area.	2024-2025 Update: The Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape (KRSL) proposal was developed and submitted.	DCNR, PGC, USDA, DOD, USFWS	Kittatinny Ridge	Beginning January 2024				<p>2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025. For 25 years, the Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Landscape (KRCL) has united partners to protect the largest, healthiest forested landscape in the continental U.S. “The Ridge” is the most biodiverse region in eastern North America and a crucial corridor for rare wildlife, songbird migration, clean water, and carbon sequestration. It also is key to military readiness, as the home of the nation’s busiest National Guard training center—Fort Indiantown Gap—and plays a leading role in Pennsylvania’s robust agriculture and recreational economies. The Kittatinny Ridge Sentinel Landscape (KRSL) will bring in new partners and resources, fortify the landscape-scale stewardship approach in the face of climate change, and mitigate threats to the military mission.</p> <p>2024 Update: The KRSL was established in 2024 as one of 18 Sentinel Landscapes across the country. More information about the KRSL can be found here: https://sentinellandscapes.org/landscapes/kittatinny-ridge/ A story map with more detail can be found here: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bb8a24fa758a45d98266c714f7520613</p>
2.2.8	Grant making under the DCED Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (annually) and the H2O PA and PA Small Water and Sewer	Under WRPP, DCED collects final reports from grantees that document the activities, sources of funds and water quality improvements resulting from the	DCED	Statewide	Ongoing		WRPP - Act 13 Impact Fees collected annually H2O PA and PASWS – Appropriated funds; currently in process of	Given current staff demands, an additional 5 analysts and 1 manager would be needed to accommodate regular investment in H2O PA and	<p>2020 Update Statewide funding of: WRPP – 17 projects; \$1,673,608 approved PASWS – 271 projects; \$58,484,193 approved (48 projects and \$11,070,224 for stormwater) H2O PA – 47 projects; \$27,925,593 approved (13 projects and \$5,110,075 for stormwater)</p> <p>Funding in Chesapeake Bay Counties: WRPP - 3 projects; \$332,933 approved</p>

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	Programs (PASWS), when funds are appropriated	<p>project and sends them to DEP.</p> <p>In 2020, PASWS and H2O PA projects started tracking funding by project type (water, sewer, stormwater, and flood control)</p>					awarding \$320M of ARPA funds	PASWS or new programs targeting stormwater and water quality issues	<p>PASWS – 110 projects; \$23,872,328 approved (12 projects and \$3,045,223 for stormwater) H2O PA – 19 projects; \$11,286,700 approved (4 projects and \$2,031,651 for stormwater)</p> <p>2021 Update Statewide funding of: WRPP – 10 projects; \$1,035,784 approved</p> <p>Funding in Chesapeake Bay Counties: WRPP – 2 projects; \$334,741 approved</p> <p>No funds appropriated for PASWS or H2O PA</p> <p>2022 Update Statewide funding of: WRPP – 21 projects; \$3,407,495 approved</p> <p>Funding in Chesapeake Bay Counties: WRPP – 6 projects; \$1,069,409</p> <p>**PASWS and H2O PA received appropriations of \$320 million of ARPA funds – applications pending</p> <p>2023 Update Statewide applications received: WRPP – 55 applications; \$14,167,189 requested PASWS – 964 applications; \$300,675,716 requested (201 applications and \$61,606,668 requested for stormwater) H2O PA – 473 applications; \$1,235,710,508 requested (61 applications and \$124,241,596 requested for stormwater)</p> <p>Chesapeake Bay Counties applications: WRPP – 16 applications; \$4,499,216 requested PASWS – 401 applications; \$129,165,279 requested (76 applications and \$23,399,156 requested for stormwater) H2O PA – 208 applications; \$559,883,037 requested (21 applications and \$62,682,504 requested for stormwater)</p> <p>CFA H2O and Small Water and Sewer Projects were announced on December 19, 2023</p>

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									<p>https://dced.pa.gov/newsroom/shapiro-administration-announces-335-million-in-new-investments-to-strengthen-pennsylvanias-economy-and-ensure-communities-across-the-commonwealth-have-reliable-clean-drinking-water/</p> <p>https://dced.pa.gov/download/approved-projects-2023-12-19-arpa-h2o-small-water-and-sewer-programs/?wpdmdl=122828&refresh=6582479a82c0d1703036826</p> <p>2024 Update: Statewide funding of: WRPP – 15 projects; \$2,160,856 approved</p> <p>Funding in Chesapeake Bay Counties: WRPP – 7 projects; \$883,392 approved</p> <p>No funds appropriated for PASWS or H2O PA Pennsylvania’s Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget, Act 54 of 2022, allocated \$22 million of non-lapsing funds to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) for the establishment of the PENNVEST Clean Water Procurement Program (CWPP) and the purchase of verified nutrient and sediment reductions by PENNVEST through a competitive bidding process. PENNVEST issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) on March 15, 2024, and on June 11, 2024 and June 28, 2024 PENNVEST issued Notices to Proceed for the two Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Purchase Agreements being awarded funder the RFP for the purchase of up to 38,472.25 pounds of verified nitrogen reductions, and the associated 6,040.81 pounds of verified phosphorus and 261,703.25 pounds of sediment reductions annually for 20 years, for a maximum purchase price of \$7.1 million. Two successful agreements are HGS, LLC - received a maximum contract award of \$5,869,832.24 for the purchase of up to 29,438.95 pounds of verified nitrogen reductions along with the associated 4,609 pounds of verified phosphorus and 106,362 pounds of sediment reductions annually. And Lancaster Farmland Trust – received a maximum contract award of \$1,248,763.39 for the purchase of up to 9,033.30 pounds of verified nitrogen reductions along with the associated 1,431.81 pounds of verified phosphorus and 155,341.25 pounds of sediment reductions annually.</p>
Section 2, State Action, Numeric Commitments									
2.2.1A	Investigate the incorporation of alternative manure treatment technologies and other potential	Identify various strategies to minimize nutrient imbalances in areas of excess manure nutrient generation,	PDA, SCC, DEP Nutrient Trading Program, NRCS	Chesapeake Bay counties that are identified to have excess manure	December 2025	Capital investment, cost effectiveness, and modeled nutrient reduction effectiveness is of concern.			<p>2020 Update: DEP, PDA and SCC staff continue to work with Energy Works and other proposed manure treatment technologies to have treatment technologies properly recognized and credited under the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model. In addition, several counties have identified and prioritized manure transport as a component of their County Action Plans (CAPs).</p>

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	strategies to address areas of excess manure nutrient generation and capital investment required for implementation of manure treatment systems	including the incorporation of manure treatment technologies and manure transport, as they are determined to be feasible.		generated for crop need					<p>SCC and DEP have held discussions with and provided information pertaining to animal density and manure production to PennAg Industries and other consultants have occurred as it relates to the transport of manure from two Tier 2 counties.</p> <p>SCC and DEP have been in discussions with one Tier 1 county as it relates to better tracking of manure transport within and outside of that county.</p> <p>2021 Update: The SCC, PDA, and DEP continue to work with EnergyWorks (gasification of layer manure), ESPOMA (transport and treatment of layer manure to a full line of bagged home use fertilizers), and <u>Epcot Crenshaw Corporation/ Stroud Water Research</u> (Bio-char).</p> <p>2022 Update: Discussions between Energy Works, DEP, and SCC continue. Concern related to the main poultry facility being excluded from Bay model due to location in Adams County. CBNTT has been released for use for nutrient trading, along with the supplemental information, which takes into account the TMDL baseline as well as reduces the uncertainty ratio from 3:1 to 2:1.</p> <p>2023 Update: SCC is exploring options for the Chesapeake Bay Program to credit nutrient reductions from manure treatment technologies as an alternative to the current method. PDA is concerned about the Chesapeake Bay Program creating a disincentive for these technologies.</p> <p>2024 Update: SCC worked alongside DEP in advancing the concept of EnergyWorks facility in Adams County as a “sandbox demonstration” in the Bay program specifically regarding the use of manure treatment technologies to address the nutrient mass balance concerns raised in the CBP Comprehensive Evaluation of System Response (CESR) report, to be vetted by the new Ag Advisory Committee and Science and Technical Advisory Committee. PSC will consider this recommendation at a future meeting.</p>
2.2.1A(i)	Prioritize and/or incentivize increased manure transport and manure transport implementation and tracking in counties, such as Lancaster		DEP, SCC, PDA, Lancaster County		Beginning 2020	Tracking and auditing of manure hauler/broker records			<p>2020 Update: Tracking tools were updated in PracticeKeeper and Nutrient Balance Sheets from manure brokers, received by Conservation Districts, are to be entered. Continue to reinforce with manure brokers that NBS are to be submitted to conservation districts by regulation.</p> <p>2021 Update: Continue to reinforce with manure brokers that NBS are to be submitted to conservation districts by regulation and thus entered into PracticeKeeper.</p>

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	County, that have been identified through CBPO Modeling Tools to be in excess of organic nutrients								<p>The SCC has started the process of a regulatory review of the Commercial Manure Hauler and Brokers Program.</p> <p>2022 Update: Work is ongoing to ensure NBS are submitted to the conservation districts and entered into PracticeKeeper. Regulatory review is ongoing.</p> <p>2023 Update: Necessary updates to the NBS were approved by the SCC Board in 2023.</p> <p>2024 Update: Updated nutrient balance sheets approved in 2023 are being implemented. Work is ongoing to ensure NBS are submitted to the conservation districts and entered into PracticeKeeper. Regulatory review is ongoing.</p>
2.2.2A	Increase funding for Conservation District Nutrient Management Technicians in an effort to reduce staff turnover	2022-2023 Update: Beginning in state fiscal year 2022-2023, SCC and DEP will increase the full time equivalent (FTE) rate from \$60,000 to \$70,000 using state Nutrient Management Fund and federal Chesapeake Bay Regulatory Accountability Program.	SCC, DEP	Chesapeake Bay/Statewide	Beginning July 2022				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>2022 state budget included a \$22 million line item increase in the Nutrient Management Fund. Technician salaries were raised by \$10,000, split between Chesapeake Bay Regulatory Accountability Program (CBRAP) and this increase in state funding through COVID-ARPA, for full-time equivalent.</p> <p>2023 Update: Funding increases for full-time equivalents were made possible by COVID-ARPA funds.</p> <p>2024 Update: The FY 24/25 state budget included a \$5 million annual increase in the nutrient management administrative line, ensuring that the FTE increase for nutrient management technicians in delegated counties will continue.</p>
2.2.3A	Increase funding for Conservation District Chesapeake Bay Technicians in an effort to reduce staff turnover	2022-2023 Update: Beginning in state fiscal year 2022-2023, DEP will increase the full time equivalent (FTE) rate from \$65,550 to \$70,000 using state Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Source Abatement Fund and federal	DEP	Chesapeake Bay	Beginning July 2022				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>Additional funds were allocated to the Chesapeake Bay Technical Assistance Program Objective in the federal Chesapeake Bay Regulatory Accountability Program Workplan. Federal and state Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Source Abatement Fund are used for this increase.</p> <p>2023 Update: Funding increases for full-time equivalents were made possible by COVID-ARPA funds.</p> <p>2024 Update: Conservation District Chesapeake Bay Technician funding per FTE continued at 2022 and 2023 levels, and with dedicated state funds associated with</p>

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		Chesapeake Bay Regulatory Accountability Program.							complimentary programs it is anticipated that per FTE reimbursement for the Chesapeake Bay Technician contract will continue through 2025.
2.2.4A	Increase funding for Conservation District Chesapeake Bay Engineer Specialists and Engineer Assistants in an effort to reduce staff turnover	2022-2023 Update: Beginning in state fiscal year 2022-2023, DEP will increase the full time equivalent (FTE) rate from \$86,250 to \$91,900 for Engineer Specialists and \$79,350 to \$85,000 for Engineer Assistants using federal Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant.	DEP	Chesapeake Bay	Beginning July 2022				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. Additional funds were allocated to the Chesapeake Bay Engineering Program Objective in the federal Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant Workplan. Federal funds are used for this increase.</p> <p>2023 Update: Funding increases for full-time equivalents were made possible by Federal CBIG and State Chesapeake Bay Abatement Funds.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP continues to fund County Conservation Districts as in previous years and is currently in year two of a five-year agreement where salaries were increased in year one of the agreement.</p>
2.2.5A	Add up to 5 new NRCS technical assistance support / engineers	2022-2023 Update: NRCS and PDA will fund up to an additional five new NRCS personnel to provide additional support for CEG and ACAP projects.	PDA, NRCS	Statewide	December 2023				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. Agreement with NRCS has been signed to move forward with hiring engineers.</p> <p>2023 Update: The engineers have been hired to prioritize ACAP projects that commingle with EQIP funds. In addition, the SCC is funding an engineering firm to work alongside an NRCS engineer at the new technical assistance center. The firm has been selected and announcement forthcoming. More information on the technical assistance center can be found here: Federal, State Officials Launch New Training Center for Ag Professionals in Pennsylvania Natural Resources Conservation Service (usda.gov) Additionally, DEP is in development of an IFB for additional technical assistance in coordination with SCC and NRCS.</p> <p>2024 Update: Engineers hired jointly by NRCS and SCC continue to design projects with priority on EQIP (highest) and EQIP/ACAP (second) priorities.</p>
2.2.1F	Maximize existing funding sources for riparian forest buffer	Fully utilize existing funding sources for buffer implementation and maintenance	DEP (GG, 319), UDSA (CREP+), SCC (REAP), DCNR (C2P2) TreePennsylvania	Chesapeake Bay	By 2025	Rigid programs, existing restrictions, coordination, lack of understanding			<p>2020 Update: See above under 2.2.1. DCNR leadership intends to explore additional opportunities in early 2021.</p> <p>2021 Update:</p>

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	implementation in Pennsylvania.	annually, including federal, state, and private programs (esp. under-utilized programs such as REAP).	(TreeVitalize) CBF (K10), etc.			about all individual programs, etc. Lack of funds to start a new program.			<p>DCNR is funding buffers through its C2P2 program with Keystone Rivers funding, the Environmental Stewardship Fund, and the Keystone Tree Fund. DCNR also anticipates allocating \$700,000 of oil and gas funding to support on-demand, shovel-ready buffer projects. DEP funds buffer projects through the CAP Implementation Grants and Growing Greener Plus grant program. DEP also continues to work with USDA-FSA and PACD in partnership for the PA CREP Program.</p> <p>2022 Update: DCNR has received \$3 million from EPA IJIA MEB funds via the BIL, and will use these funds via the existing C2P2 Grants and/or the new Environmental Restoration ITQ for both riparian forest buffers and lawn conversion projects.</p> <p>2023 Update: DCNR continues to leverage available internal and external funding for buffers to utilize via C2P2 grants and the Ecological Restoration Invitation to Qualify (ITQ). However, demand for grants and projects continues to outpace available funding. New/Additional/Increased funding sources are needed.</p> <p>19 implemented BMPs were reported as funded in whole or in part by CBF for urban forest planting, riparian forest buffer, and tree planting, toward Pennsylvania’s annual numeric progress.</p> <p>2024 Update: DCNR continues to leverage available internal and external funding for buffers to utilize via C2P2 grants and the Ecological Restoration Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) contract. In 2024, DCNR was allotted \$7M in new state funds for riparian forest buffer implementation, which will help fund the ongoing demand for riparian forest buffer work. DCNR plans to leverage the new \$7M in funds as match for other federal and private grants in coming years. DCNR was also awarded an additional \$2M in NFWF INSR funds, some of which will fund riparian forest buffers, as well as an additional \$2M in EPA funds, some of which will also fund the implementation of riparian forest buffers.</p> <p>In 2024, DCNR awarded approximately \$2.3M to fund riparian forest buffer projects through C2P2 and the Natural Resource ITQ.</p>
2.2.2F	Expand TreeVitalize and utilize other programs to facilitate community tree	50 New Acres of New Urban Trees (300 trees = 1 acre)	Tree Pennsylvania, DCNR, PSU, municipal partners, etc.	Chesapeake Bay	By 2022	Coordination, scheduling, lack of funding.			<p>2020 Update: DCNR named a new TreeVitalize Leader in 2020 and is currently exploring opportunities to both solidify and expand the TreeVitalize program.</p> <p>2021 Update:</p>

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	planting and maintenance. (This is part of PA's Tree Canopy Action Plan, as published here.)								<p>DCNR hired a Tree Equity Specialist who will focus on community engagement around tree planting.</p> <p>2022 Update: Treevitalize hired a new Program Manager in January of 2022.</p> <p>TreeVitalize, in partnership with Watershed Forestry, applied for a ATBC NFWF grant, under which they have requested funding for a Bay-focused TreeVitalize employee.</p> <p>A new TreeVitalize team member focused on community outreach to increase implementation projects in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed will be hired in late 2022.</p> <p>2023 Update: TreeVitalize, now known as PA's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program, has been fully integrated into C2P2 CWF Grants. An influx in federal funding will allow expansion of grants for UCF, and expansion of DCNR's UCF Staff in 2024 and beyond. UCF also intends to leverage and utilize the new Ecological Restoration ITQ to get urban and community forestry implementation projects on the ground with the newly increased federal funding starting in 2024.</p> <p>2024 Update: PA's Urban and Community Forestry Program facilitated the hiring of two new regional UCF specialists in 2024, who will primarily focus on reaching new environmental justice communities in PA's Bay Watershed. Additional new hires are planned for 2025 to further expand the program. In 2024, DCNR awarded \$7.7M+ to fund UCF projects statewide via IRA funds and state funds.</p>
2.2.3F	Create additional, flexible funding options for riparian forest buffers. (This is part of PA's Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy, as published here)	Develop new, innovative PA (or Ches. Bay) funding source and mechanism for Buffers, including incentive programs for landowners utilizing buffer co-benefits such as wildlife habitat, income/product potential, flood mitigation, etc. Streamline funding	All agencies and partners	Chesapeake Bay	Ongoing/A SAP	Innovation, Funding, Coordination, etc.			<p>2020 Update: In cooperation with Western PA Conservancy, DCNR has established a mechanism to provide on-demand, flexible funding to partners for buffer implementation. We plan to seek additional funding for this program. We have also been actively engaged in numerous discussions with NGO partners, consultants, and USFS on alternative conservation financing strategies to leverage private capital.</p> <p>2021 Update: DCNR has continued conversations with various NGO partners, consultants, and USFS on conservation financing strategies to leverage private capital, or develop a revolving funding mechanism. In August 2021, the Riparian Forest Buffer Advisory Council (RFBAC) meeting focused entirely on this topic.</p>

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		source similar to DCNR's NFWF-Funded Stream ReLeaf program.							<p>DCNR has hit some hurdles on the flexible funding mechanism developed with WPC, through the new Master Agreement with WPC that began 7/1/21, new opportunities could exist. DCNR aims to find a solution to this issue before the end of the 2021 calendar year.</p> <p>DEP funds buffer projects through the CAP Implementation Grants, as applied for by the counties to implement their priority initiatives.</p> <p>2022 Update: DCNR worked with DGS to create an Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) contract for Environmental Restoration work, including the planting and maintenance of riparian forest buffers. Currently, at least one contractor able to implement buffers has qualified, and DCNR is working to notify other potential contractors. DCNR intends to test this new funding mechanism with NFWF Funds awarded in 2021 for the "Penn's Woods and Meadows" proposal. This will be tested in 2023.</p> <p>2023 Update: DCNR is in the process of testing the new Ecological Restoration ITQ to implement riparian forest buffer projects. The first projects funding via this mechanism will be installed in the Spring of 2024. While this mechanism is flexible, there is a lack of funding available to continue to utilize it to meet demand for projects.</p> <p>DCNR is investigating the opportunity to partner with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to develop a new funding mechanism for buffers and other forestry practices.</p> <p>2024 Update: DCNR was able to get the new Ecological Restoration ITQ up and running in 2024 to fund riparian forest buffer projects on private and public lands statewide. DCNR will continue to utilize this newly functioning mechanism, and will continue to look for ways to improve the mechanisms efficiency moving forward. DCNR intends to use this mechanism as the primary way to fund riparian forest buffer projects outside of the C2P2 grant program moving forward.</p>
2.2.3F(i)	Continue to seek sustainable sources of funding for forestry practices in order to fulfill current demand amongst PA landowners.	PA DCNR will continue to evaluate NFWF grant opportunities annually, and apply for funds as appropriate to support Watershed and Urban/Community	PA DCNR	Watershed Boundary/Statewide	Ongoing	One-off grants and continual applications each year can be burdensome administratively and at time of application.	Technical resources available to implement awards. More technical resources needed to continue to write grants.	Match resources may be needed to meet match requirements for grants. State funding and resources needed to support C2P2 grant awards and	<p>2024 Update: PA DCNR continues to seek funding from sources such as NFWF, EPA, and internally. In 2024, DCNR was awarded an additional \$2M from EPA, an additional \$2M from NFWF, and awarded \$10M+ in state funds and federal funds via C2P2 grants for Community and Watershed Forestry practices. DCNR also anticipates finalizing a grant from PEMA/FEMA for another \$2M to fund forestry practices in 2025.</p>

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		<p>Forestry programs and projects.</p> <p>PA will also continue to advocate for state funds to support Community and Watershed Forestry BMP implementation through both C2P2 grants, as well as through the Natural Resource Inventory and Ecological Restoration Invitation to Qualify statewide contract.</p> <p>PA DCNR will also look to in-state partners, such as PEMA and PAGC for opportunities to partner to bring in federal/private/foundation funding to support Community and Watershed Forestry Projects.</p>						ITQ statewide contract project implementation	
2.2.4F	Ensure that riparian forest buffers are adequately maintained to ensure survival by developing a Maintenance funding source for NGOs to develop their own maintenance programs.	Develop a Riparian Forest Buffer Maintenance funding source to create the capacity for NGOs to develop their own maintenance programs for new and already-implemented buffers (up to 5 years after initial planting).	All agencies and partners involved in riparian forest buffer implementation	Chesapeake Bay	Ongoing	Lack of interest in funding maintenance from traditional funding sources as it does not result in “new” load reductions.			<p>2020 Update: Most DCNR funding sources provide for establishment and maintenance; but we do not currently have a dedicated source for maintenance. The Riparian Forest Buffer Advisory Committee will be launching an Action Team focused on Maintenance in 2021 to explore options on how to address this and other RFB maintenance concerns.</p> <p>The SCC included maintenance on riparian forest buffers as a new qualifying reimbursable expense through the REAP program, which pays farmers back in tax credits for out-of-pocket expenses related to best management practices that promote on-farm conservation.</p> <p>In FY 19-20, the enabling legislation for the REAP Tax Credit Program was amended to provide a 90% tax credit for a number of priority BMPs in areas with a TMDL</p>

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	(This is part of PA's Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy, as published here)								<p>with impairments from agricultural nutrients and sediments (entire PA Bay watershed). Included in this amendment is a 90% tax credit for the installation and maintenance of forest riparian buffers. Changes were made to the REAP guidelines for FY20-21 and is now available.</p> <p>2021 Update: Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and funding issues, the Maintenance Action Team effort with the RFBAC was put on hold. This will be resumed in late 2021 or early 2022. Available DCNR funding sources continue to provide funds for post-planting establishment costs.</p> <p>Partners in Lancaster have developed BEST, or the Buffer Establishment Support Team, which works on and fundraises for buffer maintenance for any buffers planted within Lancaster County.</p> <p>The SCC is working with the Stroud Water Research Center on a sample / draft maintenance agreement / contract and funding options for riparian forest buffer maintenance.</p> <p>2022 Update: Post-planting establishment on forest buffers is now a fundable activity for all buffers planted with any funding source in the past 5 years under the C2P2 grants. It can be up to 20% of the overall grant ask to DCNR.</p> <p>2023 Update: DCNR continues to share with partners that C2P2 grants can be utilized to fund maintenance on any buffers planted within the past 5 years. DCNR's new Ecological Restoration ITQ can also be utilized to fund maintenance, however, there is a lack of funding available to leverage that new mechanism at this time.</p> <p>The SCC is encouraging counties to incentivize riparian buffer projects with the \$154 million in ACAP funded grants. The SCC will take a very intentional focus on riparian buffers on farmland in the coming year and seek funding through RCPP and collaboration with county farmland preservation boards.</p> <p>2024 Update: The SCC continues to seek ways to incentivize buffers on farms. The ACAP program requires that any farms with animal concentration areas (ACAs) being treated have a 35 ft. Buffer as a condition of receiving funds. Conversations continued in 2024 with partners at DCNR related to how we can collectively work together to incentivize voluntary buffers on farms.</p>

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									DCNR continues to fund maintenance on buffer plantings through C2P2 grants. DCNR continues to seek funding for buffer maintenance to utilize via the ITQ funding mechanism.
2.2.5F	Continue and Increase Urban Tree Canopy Grants to Communities and non-governmental organization Partners (This is part of PA's Tree Canopy Action Plan, as published here .)	Utilize and increase funding available through the TreeVitalize annual grant program. Encourage tree planting and/or conservation of existing tree canopy in existing DCNR Grant programs, other agency grant programs as appropriate (grants to community parks, etc.) Connect this work to DCNR's Climate Plan.	DCNR, Tree Pennsylvania, PRPS	Chesapeake Bay	Ongoing	Current Funding does not meet demand. Processes, procedures, and administration.			<p>2020 Update: Please refer to 2.2.2.F.</p> <p>2021 Update: Grants are now offered through the department's C2P2 program, funded with Environmental Stewardship and Keystone Tree Funds.</p> <p>2022 Update: Grants are continuing to be offered via the C2P2 grants, funded w/ Environmental Stewardship and Keystone Tree Funds. DCNR is actively exploring ways to combine TreeVitalize and Riparian Forest Buffer Grants under one forestry umbrella within C2P2.</p> <p>The Clean Streams Fund made \$3,520,000 for TreeVitalize grants, now under CWF grants, for C2P2 grant round 28.6. This was a major boost and greatly increased the number of TreeVitalize grant applications. These awards will be announced in early 2023.</p> <p>2023 Update: DCNR announced C2P2 CWF grants funded with the Clean Streams Fund allocation of \$3.52M for urban and community forestry projects in early 2023. Grantees are working to implement these projects by December of 2025.</p> <p>DCNR has applied for and been awarded federal funds totaling over \$10M that will be utilized for urban and community forestry grants to communities in 2024 and in future years.</p> <p>DCNR is also increasing regional staff capacity across PA to help conduct outreach to additional communities and provided assistance for access to various grants and funding available for urban and community forestry work.</p> <p>2024 Update: In 2024, DCNR awarded \$7.7M+ to fund UCF projects statewide via IRA funds and state funds to support partners such as communities and non-governmental organizations engaged in urban and community forestry work.</p>
2.2.6F	Leverage existing funding sources for Stream and	Explore potential to improve leveraging of EQIP, CFA and	DEP, NRCS, SCC, NGOs, DCNR, Universities, etc.	Chesapeake Bay	Ongoing	Strict program regulations, lack of knowledge about			<p>2020 Update: Utilization of CAP Implementation Grants for stream and wetland restoration projects. Also, please refer to 2.1.4.F</p>

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	Wetland Restoration.	REAP programs to support creditable/conforming stream and wetland restoration implementation, management and monitoring.				existing programs and creditable BMPs, etc.			<p>2021 Update: Utilization of CAP Implementation Grants and Growing Greener for stream and wetland restoration projects. In 2021, DEP Growing Greener competitive grants program provided additional preference for flood resiliency and stream and floodplain restoration projects. DCED continues to fund stream restoration and flood protection projects through the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) Act 13 Watershed Restoration and Protection Program (WRPP). DEP provides technical assistance, construction oversight and funding through the Stream Improvement Program and the Flood Protection Program.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP is continuing its efforts mentioned in the 2021 update.</p> <p>DEP continues to advocate for multiprogram accounting so that the unrealized co-benefits of stream and wetland restoration projects initiated through mitigation banking and In-Lieu Fee programs can be attributable to other programs such as MS4 and other pollution reduction evaluations.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP provides technical assistance and permitting through Division of Wetlands, Encroachments and Training to support legacy sediment removal projects and complex large watershed scale phased projects that result in comprehensive aquatic resource restoration. Pennsylvania continues to utilize existing funding sources as noted above to incentivize stream restoration.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP continues to provide technical assistance and permitting through Division of Wetlands, Encroachments and Training to support legacy sediment removal projects and complex large watershed scale phased projects that result in comprehensive aquatic resource restoration. Pennsylvania continues to utilize existing funding sources as noted above to incentivize stream restoration.</p>
2.2.7F	Develop funding opportunities for turf conversion programs.	Include Conservation Landscaping as an eligible BMP in existing conservation grant programs. Seek new innovative funding sources and mechanisms.	DCNR, TreePennsylvania, TreeVitalize, DEP, etc.	Chesapeake Bay	By 2021	Time, finding funding sources, etc.			<p>2020 Update: DCNR allocated \$50,000 for implementation as part of its Lawn Conversion Program launch in 2020. An additional \$75,000 was made available for 2021, and a portion of DCNR's EPA CBIG award for 2021 will be available for Lawn Conversion practices. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay received a NFWF SWG grant to fund Lawn Conversion practices in 2020 and 2021. DCNR is also working with partners to explore options for funding Lawn Conversion practices via the existing C2P2 grant opportunities in 2021, and DCNR plans to apply for a NFWF INSR grant in</p>

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		Explore funding opportunities tied to flood mitigation.							<p>early 2021 that would also make Lawn Conversion implementation funding available to partners.</p> <p>2021 Update: \$75,000 was made available for 2021, and a portion of DCNR’s EPA CBIG award for 2021 was also utilized for Lawn Conversion practice implementation. However, the demand for implementation has far outpaced the funding available. The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is working to finalize their NFWF SWG grant to fund Lawn Conversion practices in 2021. Further, DCNR was recently awarded a \$1M NFWF INSR grant, of which \$500K will be utilized for work supporting Lawn Conversion.</p> <p>DCNR continues to work with the existing C2P2 grant program to determine how to best incorporate Lawn Conversion practices. DCNR expects partners to apply to the C2P2 program in early 2022 for grants that include Lawn Conversion implementation.</p> <p>2022 Update: DCNR encouraged partners to apply for C2P2 funding for turf conversion projects under the C2P2 Partnerships umbrella. Three proposals were accepted that focused on turf conversion work. Funding decisions are currently being made, and will be announced in early 2023.</p> <p>Further, DCNR will be utilizing funds awarded by both NFWF INSR and EPA MEB to fund lawn conversion practices implementation in PA.</p> <p>DCNR is also exploring options to include lawn conversion under the Riparian Forest Buffers grant category, expanding it to be a more wholistic forestry grants mechanism within C2P2.</p> <p>As of fall 2022, Lawn Conversion is now an integrated part of the C2P2 CWF Grants, and applications for lawn conversion projects will be accepted annually. Funding will be requested each year from the state budget to fund applications based on amount requested for viable projects.</p> <p>2023 Update: DCNR has fully incorporated Lawn Conversion into the C2P2 CWF Grant Program, as well as the Ecological Restoration ITQ. However, available funding lags behind demand. DCNR is also exploring partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Trust to create another mechanism for distributing funding, when available, for lawn conversion implementation work.</p> <p>2024 Update:</p>

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									DCNR continues to award Lth grants through the C2P2 CWF Grant Program annually, and is now funding Lth implementation projects via the Ecological Restoration ITQ. Available funding continues to lag behind demand for this work. DCNR received grants from NFWF and EPA to fund Lth implementation work in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, but was unfortunately unsuccessful in securing funding via a NFWF ATBC grant for Lth implementation statewide.
2.2.8F	Continue to implement stream restoration, emphasizing legacy sediment removal and floodplain restoration projects (FR-LSR). Identify areas that may have low cost-to-benefit ratios for nutrient load reductions from FR-LSR projects. Pair stream, wetland, and other aquatic resource restoration projects with upland BMPs whenever possible.	Identify areas that would benefit from Legacy Sediment Removal and Ecosystem Restoration throughout priority areas of the watershed	DEP, CDs, Watershed Organizations, Private sector companies or NGOs working on remote sensing tools		Beginning 2020	Capital investment for design/ implementation is of concern.	Restorable wetland mapping and probable wetland mapping are completed and available for public use to target potential sites. Total Wetness Index (TWI) data is now available for use in evaluating potential pollutant flow paths and BMP effectiveness. USGS Scientific Investigation Report (SIR 2020-5031) of monitoring efforts at Big Spring Run that provide verified load reductions and a basis to evaluate benefits for FR-LSR restoration projects.	Additional cross program development of tools for targeting aquatic resource restoration BMP implementation, particularly FR-LSR projects. Additional cross program coordination, expert panel participation and technical expertise. Re-evaluation of the cost-effectiveness for established BMPs based on existing program data. Identify broader historical watershed scale legacy alterations, distributions and effects and integrate cross program data collection and analysis to develop targets	<p>2020 Update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Data published to PASDA PA’s GIS data clearing house. Discussed with DEP Water Quality/TMDL program and consultants. 2. Ongoing EPA Wetland Program Development Grant project is focusing on developing a Watershed Legacy Alteration Index. Grant extension, contracts and revised work plan in place. 3. Scientific research and monitoring of restoration projects in several watersheds across PA was accomplished with assistance from Federal, State and Private funding sources. These scientific research and monitoring efforts provide credible results and a basis for developing cost-effective aquatic resource restoration projects. <p>2021 Update:</p> <p>DEP recently completed working with PSU to publish Total Wetness Index (TWI) and Geomorphon Landform mapping that provides foundational data for understanding landform/waterflow paths and project potentials. Both datasets are available on Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA).</p> <p>2022 Update:</p> <p>DEP continues to promote the availability of the remote-sensing datasets for use in identifying potential restoration sites.</p> <p>DEP is continuing to highlight several LSR projects that have been completed to date. PA Clean Water Academy training showcases the significant environmental benefits of the Little Fox Run LSR project in Dover Twp., PA, as well as the notable economic and social benefits. The webinar touches on some of the long-term cost savings and other non-environmental benefits realized by the landowner and the local community. Click here to access the video.</p> <p>2023 Update:</p> <p>DEP is continuing the efforts listed previously and developing Level 2 Geomorphon valley mapping to assist with identifying valleys that have been modified and higher potential to maximize restoration benefits.</p>

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							<p>Cost-effectiveness analysis of FR-LSR project at Big Spring Run compared with alternative BMP's published in 2019 that demonstrates the potential of targeting low cost solutions for watershed hot spots impaired by legacy sediment (Flemming et al, 2019 Legacy sediment erosion hot spots: A cost-effective approach for targeting water quality improvements).</p> <p>Completion of statewide Geomorphon Level 1` mapping for use in restoration targeting and planning available on PASDA.</p> <p>Implementation of the Restoration</p>	<p>for aquatic resource restoration projects.</p>	<p>Restoration Community Predictor Tool released on the PNHP website to assist restoration project designers with selection of vegetation communities that are similar to a site's constraints. PNHP staff conducted training to a limited audience, additional training is in the planning stages.</p> <p>Over 4,000 breached dams were geo-located from Pennsylvania's Dam Inventory Database that represents over 100 years of program information. Work is on-going to present the data to the public for targeting legacy sediment removal in a user- friendly manner via DEP's website.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP continues previously listed efforts and has reinvested in cross-program relationships to broaden these efforts.</p>

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							Community Predictor Tool on the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) website to assist restoration project designers with selection of vegetation communities that are similar to a site's constraints.		
2.2.9F	Apply for NFWF funds via America the Beautiful Challenge Grant, next INSR grant round, and potentially Central Appalachian Stewardship Program to seek additional implementation funding for TreeVitalize, Lawn Conversion, and Riparian Forest Buffers (This is part of PA's Tree Canopy Action Plan, as published here.)	Expand funding available for implementing high-priority Forestry BMPs within the Bay Watershed and beyond.	DCNR	Chesapeake Bay	Grant Application Submitted: July 2022	Competitive funding- cannot guarantee success			<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>DCNR was informed that their ATBC proposal was not awarded in 2022, but will seek NFWF feedback in 2023 and try again in future years.</p> <p>DCNR did not apply for Central Appalachian Stewardship Program funds in 2022, but plans to do so in 2023.</p> <p>2023 Update: DCNR's ATBC grant application for Forestry work was not funded. DCNR will consider applying again in future rounds, as appropriate. DCNR did submit a proposal to the Central Appalachian Habitat Stewardship Program to fund buffers. Those grant awards have not yet been announced. DCNR will also consider applying to NFWF's next CBSP INSR Round in 2024.</p> <p>2024 Update: DCNR's second ATBC grant application for LtH work was again not funded, after initially making it through the pre-proposal process. DCNR will seek feedback on why this application was not supported by NFWF ATBC, and will consider another application in 2025. DCNR was awarded a \$2M NFWF INSR grant in 2024, which will support both LtH and RFB work. DCNR was also awarded a Central Appalachian Habitat Stewardship Program grant to fund RFB work in the amount of \$400K.</p>

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	(This is part of PA's Riparian Forest Buffer Action Strategy, as published here)								
2.2.10F	Evaluate effectiveness of the PA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (PA CREP) and identify solutions to boost enrollments / re-enrollments	Work with federal and local partners to evaluate and streamline the existing PA CREP to help boost enrollments and re-enrollments in the program	DEP, USDA-FSA, Conservation Districts	Statewide – Ohio, Chesapeake Bay, Delaware	Beginning 2024	Potential for contractual limitations	DEP continues to invest funds in PA CREP		2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025. 2024 Update: The PA CREP evaluation continued through 2024, resulting in recommendations and actionable changes that will be pursued in 2025.
2.2.11F	Reclaim abandoned mine lands (AML) and construct abandoned mine drainage (AMD) treatment facilities.	2024-2025 Update: Reclaim 600 acres of AML and construct 2-3 new AMD treatment plants.	DEP, Consultants, Conservation Districts, Watershed Organizations	Coal regions	Ongoing	Staffing and grant management	Financial – AML/AMD Grant program	Hire new staff and staff training	2023 Update: Over the life of the program, more than 34,000 acres have been reclaimed and > 200 stream miles restored. 2024 Update: Over the life of the program, more than 34,500 acres have been reclaimed and > 200 stream miles restored.
Section 3, Countywide Actions									
3.2.1	Phase 1 (Pilot and Tier 2 counties): Provide 8 – Community Clean Water Coordinators (External Full Time position) Phase 2 (Tier 3 & 4 counties):	External coordinating staff would be assigned to individual Tier 1 & 2 counties in phase 1, and to regionalized Tier 3 & 4 counties in phase 2. External Coordinators would be DEP contractors reporting to the DEP Internal	DEP External Contractor County Planning Offices County Conservation Districts Other County Partners	Chesapeake Bay	Phase 1: Begins in January 2020, ongoing through 2025 Phase 2: Begins in August 2020, ongoing	State staffing support Internal and External Coordination Federal funding for Tier 2 and Pilot Counties was not provided in a timely manner in order to begin		Total: 21 – Community Clean Water Coordinators \$2,100,000 (\$100,000 per coordinator) Phase 1: 8 – Community Clean Water Coordinators \$800,000 Phase 2:	2020 Update: Phase 1 implementation is in progress. 8 – Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinators were hired in Tier 1 & 2 Counties. PA state Environmental Steward Funds were used to fund these positions. Phase 2 planning is in progress. 10 – Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinator positions are provided, and the application is open. Environmental Stewardship Funds will also be used to fund these positions. No federal funding received for these positions. 2021 Update: Provided funding to sustain: 8 – Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinators in Pilot & Tier 2 Counties.

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	Provide 10 – Community Clean Water Coordinators (External Full Time position)	<p>Coordinators. Serve as the point of contact to their assigned county(ies). They would support county efforts to develop and implement countywide action plans.</p> <p>DEP will continue to fund and continue to seek federal funding for: 8 – Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinators in Pilot & Tier 2 Counties. 10 – Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinator positions hired in Tier 3&4 counties.</p>			through 2025	Phase 1. This pushed the schedule back for both Phase 1 and Phase 2.		13 – Community Clean Water Coordinators \$1,300,000	<p>10 – Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinator positions hired in Tier 3&4 counties.</p> <p>2022 Update: Provided funding to sustain: 8 – Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinators in Pilot & Tier 2 Counties. 10 – Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinator positions hired in Tier 3&4 counties.</p> <p>2023 Update: Provided funding to sustain: 8 – Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinators in Pilot & Tier 2 Counties. 10 – Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinator positions hired in Tier 3&4 counties.</p> <p>2024 Update: Provided funding to sustain: 8 – Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinators in Pilot & Tier 2 Counties. 10 – Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinator positions hired in Tier 3&4 counties.</p>
3.2.2	<p>Phase 1: Provide 3 – Community Clean Water Coordinator (Full Time Internal Coordinator Position)</p> <p>Phase 2: Provide 7 – Community Clean Water</p>	<p>Internal Coordinators: Would be DEP employees. Internal Coordinators would serve as the point of contact and provide WIP coordination for DEP and all other state agencies for external coordinator and</p>	DEP		<p>Phase 1: Begins in January 2020</p> <p>Phase 2: Begins in August 2020</p>	<p>State staffing support</p> <p>Internal and External Coordination</p> <p>Phase 1 – internal coordinators were on-boarded beginning January 2020</p>		<p>Total: 10 – Community Clean Water Coordinator \$1,000,000 (\$100,000 per coordinator)</p> <p>Phase 1: 3 – Community Clean Water Coordinator \$300,000</p> <p>Phase 2:</p>	<p>2020 Update: DEP Chesapeake Bay Office hired one internal Coordinator. This makes a total of three Internal coordinators to support Phase 3 WIP efforts. The three internal coordinators are currently supporting the coordination of all state agencies, WIP action leaders and 34 active counties.</p> <p>2021 Update: Chesapeake Bay Office hired one Internal Coordinator in December 2021, with the turnover of one earlier in 2021. Staffing challenges continue at same levels as 2020 update above. For this reason, DEP developed Region CAP Support Teams, to utilize existing staff and expand their job duties and responsibilities. Two (2) Conservation District Field Representatives (CDFR) assist with county support within the Chesapeake Bay watershed.</p>

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	Coordinator (Full Time Internal Coordinator Position)	<p>technical coordinators.</p> <p>2024-2025 Update: The previous milestone commitments denoted 10 internal coordinator positions. With the 2020 and 2022 Reorganizations of the Bureau, the program now has 1 supervisor, 3 internal coordinators, and 3 regionally based watershed managers to directly support the internal coordination of Countywide Action Plan implementation. Up to 4 regionally based Conservation District Field Representatives provide additional support.</p>						7 – Community Clean Water Coordinator \$700,000	<p>Four (4) CDFR positions were posted in November 2021, of which three (3) will be located in the Northeast and Southcentral regions. Interviews commenced in early 2022.</p> <p>2022 Update: A total of three DEP Internal coordinators support Phase 3 WIP efforts. The three internal coordinators are currently supporting the coordination of all state agencies, WIP action leaders and 34 active counties.</p> <p>The Chesapeake Bay Office expanded into the Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management in fall 2022. A Chesapeake Bay Restoration Division was created that includes two sections dedicated to Bay work: Watershed Accountability and Administration and Chesapeake Bay Partnership. Staff enhancements to the Bureau include centralizing region-based Watershed Managers statewide. Watershed Managers that serve the southcentral, northcentral, and northeast portion of the state will provide additional support through their normal job duties for Chesapeake Bay watershed restoration efforts. Two Watershed Manager positions (northcentral and southcentral) report to the Watershed Accountability and Administration Section. Watershed Manager interviews for southcentral and northeast regions were conducted in December 2022.</p> <p>2023 Update: A total of three DEP Internal coordinators support Phase 3 WIP efforts. The three internal coordinators are currently supporting the coordination of all state agencies, WIP action leaders and 34 active counties.</p> <p>With the 2022 expansion of the Chesapeake Bay Office into the Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management, the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Division continued the work outlined in 2022 (above) and also added a Management Technician position, funded in part by Chesapeake Bay IJJA, to handle administrative duties associated with tracking and reporting funding.</p> <p>2024 Update: A total of three DEP Internal coordinators support Phase 3 WIP efforts. The three internal coordinators are currently supporting the coordination of all state agencies, WIP action leaders and 34 active counties.</p> <p>With the 2022 expansion of the Chesapeake Bay Office into the Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management, the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Division continued the work outlined in 2023 (above), upgraded its Management Technician position to a Program Analyst, and added a Water Program Specialist to its Bay Partnership Section.</p>

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3.2.3	<p>Phase 1: Provide 2 – Clean Water Technical Assistance Coordinators (Full Time Technical Coordinator)</p> <p>Phase 2: Provide 8 – Clean Water Technical Assistance Coordinators (Full Time Technical Coordinator)</p>	<p>Technical Coordinator: A DEP contractor reporting to the DEP Internal Coordinator. The Technical Coordinator would be responsible for:</p> <p>for providing information and facilitation of planning tools through the planning and implementation process, assist with reporting and tracking of milestones annual progress, assist in model runs for plan development and during annual milestone updates.</p>	Technical Contractor		<p>Phase 1: Begins in July 2019</p> <p>Phase 2: Begins in August 2020</p>	<p>State staffing support</p> <p>Internal and External Coordination</p> <p>Technical coordinators will have varied workloads.</p> <p>Phase 1: preparation for Phase 1, to include development of tools (guides, toolboxes, web-based reporting systems, training) was on schedule.</p>		<p>Total: 10 – Clean Water Technical Assistance Coordinators \$900,000 (\$90,000 per coordinator)</p>	<p>2020 Update: DEP Chesapeake Bay Office hired one internal Technical Coordinator. Additionally, DEP maintains a contract with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) to provide additional technical support to Phase 3 WIP efforts. Support was provided to Phase 1 counties for CAP development and implementation support. Phase 2 support was provided with CAP technical toolbox development and technical assistance at stakeholder meetings.</p> <p>2021 Update: One internal Technical Coordinator and the DEP-contracted Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) continue to provide additional technical support to Phase 3 WIP efforts. Support was provided to Phase 1 counties for CAP implementation support and numeric progress updates to Pilot counties’ CAP milestones. Phase 2 support was provided with CAP technical toolbox development and technical assistance at stakeholder meetings.</p> <p>2022 Update: The Chesapeake Bay Partnership Section was created under the new Bureau and a Section Chief and two employees will provide technical coordination and the DEP-contracted Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) continued to provide additional technical support to Phase 3 WIP efforts. Support was provided to counties for CAP implementation support and numeric progress updates to Tier 2 counties’ CAP milestones.</p> <p>2023 Update: The Chesapeake Bay Partnership Section Chief and three Water Program Specialist staff members continued to provide internal technical coordination, and the DEP-contracted Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) continued to provide additional technical support to Phase 3 WIP efforts. Support was provided to counties for CAP implementation support and numeric progress updates to Tier 2 counties’ CAP milestones. SRBC also provided technical assistance in Conowingo WIP efforts and on a mussel restoration steering committee.</p> <p>2024 Update: The Chesapeake Bay Partnership Section Chief and three Water Program Specialist staff members continued to provide internal technical coordination, and the DEP-contracted Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) continued to provide additional technical support to Phase 3 WIP efforts. Support was provided to counties for CAP implementation support and numeric progress updates to Tier 2 counties’ CAP milestones.</p>

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3.2.4	Phase 1: Provide 1 – Clean Water Facilitation Coordinator (Full Time Facilitation Coordinator Position)	Facilitation Coordinator: A DEP contractor reporting to the DEP Internal Coordinator.	Facilitation Coordinator DEP		April 2019	State staffing support Internal and External Coordination		1 – Clean Water Facilitation Coordinator \$100,000	<p>2020 Update: DEP maintains a contract with Consulting With a Purpose to provide facilitation and planning support for Phase 3 WIP efforts. Consulting With a Purpose continues to provide facilitation for internal and external coordination and county support.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP maintains a contract with Consulting With a Purpose to provide facilitation and planning support for Phase 3 WIP efforts. Consulting With a Purpose continues to provide facilitation for internal and external coordination and county support.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP maintains a contract with Consulting With a Purpose to provide facilitation and planning support for Phase 3 WIP efforts. Consulting With a Purpose continues to provide facilitation for internal and external coordination and county support.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division maintained a contract with Consulting With a Purpose to provide facilitation and planning support for Phase 3 WIP and CAP efforts. Consulting With a Purpose continued to provide facilitation for internal and external coordination and county support.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division maintained a contract with Consulting With a Purpose to provide facilitation and planning support for Phase 3 WIP and CAP efforts. Consulting With a Purpose continued to provide facilitation for internal and external coordination and county support.</p>
3.2.5	Phase 1: Provide 1 – Clean Water Outreach Coordinator (Full Time Outreach Contractor)	Outreach Coordinator: A DEP contractor reporting to the DEP Chesapeake Bay Office, in coordination with WIP Communication and Engagement Workgroup and DEP Communication Office.	Outreach Coordinator DEP		April 2019	State staffing support Internal and External Coordination		1 – Clean Water Outreach Coordinator \$100,000	<p>2020 Update: DEP maintains a contract with Water Words That Work to provide outreach and communication coordination support for the Phase 3 WIP. Water Words That Work continues to provide support for communication tools and support for both internal and external needs.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP maintains a contract with Water Words That Work to provide outreach and communication coordination support for the Phase 3 WIP and CAP efforts. Water Words That Work continues to provide support for communication tools and support for both internal and external needs.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP maintains a contract with Water Words That Work to provide outreach and communication coordination support for the Phase 3 WIP and CAP efforts. Water</p>

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									<p>Words That Work continues to provide support for communication tools and support for both internal and external needs.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division maintained its contract with Water Words That Work (WWTW) in the first half of 2022, then switched contractors to Green Words Consulting (GWC) when WWTW closed. GWC is owned by the same person who was the WWTW project manager, so there was no disruption to work and the transition was seamless, beginning in second half of 2023. GWC continued to provide outreach and communication and coordination support for the Phase 3 WIP and CAP efforts, including developing communication tools and support for both internal and external needs.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division maintained its contract with Green Words Consulting (GWC). GWC continued to provide outreach and communication and coordination support for the Phase 3 WIP and CAP efforts, including developing communication tools and support for both internal and external needs.</p> <p>GWC provides support to DEP’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division annually by conducting interviews with partners to glean content/stories and quotes to highlight. GWC prepares the annual report template and content for its inclusion in the report. In addition to the annual report support GWC provided, they developed a case study distilling the CAP Block Grant history and process into a digestible format for distribution. They also designed the layout and edited the Division’s summary of the work done by Clean Water Progress Teams and packaged this for digital and print media.</p>

Priority Initiative 3: Expanding Capacity for Technical Assistance

Section 2, State Actions, Programmatic and Narrative Commitments

2.3.1	Implement a pilot of the Center for Water Quality Excellence concept in the four pilot counties of Lancaster, York, Adams and	A Request for Proposals will be released and awardee put in place. Assistance will be provided to landowners and municipalities to complete projects.	DEP, Pennvest	Lancaster and York	RFP done April 2020 Pilot done Summer 2021				<p>2020 Update: The vendor for the Center for Water Quality Excellence has been selected and is Keystone Safety Services, Inc. d/b/a Land Logics Group. Contracts have been finalized and a Notice to Proceed was issued on November 12, 2020. Next step is to get the virtual center component up and running which is anticipated by May 2021. Also, between now and May 2021 and beyond the vendor will be doing outreach at events, assuming those events happen and appropriate COVID-19 safety protocols can be maintained. The physical center should be opening June/July 2021. The Pilot will focus on Lancaster and York Counties initially.</p>
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	Franklin Counties.	Assistance includes outreach and resources (both technical and financial) to municipalities and farmers to implement BMPs.							<p>2021 Update: The <u>Center for Water Quality Excellence</u> funded by PENNVEST is up and running both virtually and with a storefront. 2021-2022 effort is focused on outreach.</p> <p>2022 Update The Center for Water Quality Excellence has been providing outreach at events, thorough its portal, and one on one with landowners, farms, and municipalities relating to the funding opportunities available to address water quality and MS4 stormwater related issues.</p> <p>2023 Update: The Center for Water Quality Excellence continued to provide outreach at events, through its portal, and one on one with landowners, farms, and municipalities relating to the funding opportunities available to address water quality and MS4 stormwater related issues.</p> <p>2024 Update: The Center for Water Quality Excellence has reached the end of its contract in 2024. Now that Countywide Action Plans are being implemented the impact of the center has been minimized.</p>
2.3.1A	Initiate Implementation of Pennsylvania's Agriculture Conservation Stewardship Program (ACSP)	Finalize draft program guidance, application, and on-farm assessment tools; 3 rd party verification process, pilot program; and release program for initial implementation	Certified Third Parties, CDs, DEP, SCC, PDA	Chesapeake Bay	July 2020 Ongoing				<p>2020 Update: Development of the PA ACSP is on hold until early 2021 due to COVID challenges and staffing challenges.</p> <p>A pilot conducted in Fall/Winter 2019 indicated a need to investigate additional methods and alternatives to incentivize participation by farmers and third-party verifiers.</p> <p>2021 Update: PDA/SCC renegotiated a contract with EPA for an NPG grant agreement to provide resources for the development and implementation of PACS</p> <p>2022 Update: The Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was approved by the PA House and Senate.</p> <p>Set up and begin ACAP program.</p> <p>2023 Update: Discussions on moving forward with PACS continued in 2023, including how to incentivize the PACS program. Regular meetings were held with stakeholder</p>

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									groups including Chesapeake Bay Program in MD, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and PA Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA). 2024 Update: Extensive stakeholder engagement occurred in late 2024 as PDA/SCC prepares to relaunch the PACS program statewide, to reward farmers in compliance with state laws by having all major plans and also some additionality (above and beyond) to certify farm as a “green farm”. SCC worked with DEP to develop public incentives, including preference for grant programs and expedited permitting. Relaunch is anticipated in 2025.
2.3.2A	Work with third-parties, integrators, and co-ops to identify alternative methods to support and assess compliance with regulations without use of regulatory entities	Assess/increase implementation of agricultural plans and BMPs using programs such as those developed by Turkey Hill, Alliance for Chesapeake Bay, and MD/VA Cooperative	Certified Third Parties, Integrators and Cooperatives, DEP	Chesapeake Bay – Animal Producers	December 2025				<p>2020 Update: Ongoing efforts to fund Penn State College of Agriculture’s 2020 Producer Survey.</p> <p>Continue Turkey Hill/ PennAG Industries efforts to get certain practices credited.</p> <p>Funding and support of PAOneStop: https://extension.psu.edu/programs/nutrient-management/planning-resources/paonestop</p> <p>2021 Update: Penn State, PDA, SCC, and DEP hold a joint Letter of Understanding (LOU) and serve on an Executive Committee and Management Committee to oversee the development and enhancements made to <u>PAOneStop</u>. SCC and DEP continue funding and support for the PAOneStop program. Discussions are taking place to see if PAOneStop could serve as an alternative method to support compliance, mapping balance sheet development, manure and nutrient setbacks, etc. Additionally, an online survey mechanism has been developed for PAOneStop to be initially used in the 2022 Producer Survey data collection.</p> <p>Continue to work with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Giant Foods, and Maryland and Virginia Milk Cooperative Association to support local dairy farms to improve their land and water.</p> <p>Continue to work with the Hershey Company and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay on <i>Sustainable Dairy Pa</i>, to support more sustainable and climate friendly dairy supply chain in Pa for the Hershey Milk Chocolate Company.</p> <p>Continue Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership to incentivize dairy farms to use a conservation plan and BMPs on their farms.</p> <p>2022 Update</p>

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									<p>Penn State, PDA, SCC, and DEP hold a joint Letter of Understanding (LOU) and serve on an Executive Committee and Management Committee to oversee the development and enhancements made to PAOneStop. SCC and DEP continue funding and support for the PAOneStop program. Enhancements supported through state agency funding include the implementation of a standard template through the PAOneStop tool for Ag E&S Plan and Manure Management Plans, to ensure administrative completeness.</p> <p>Continue to work with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Giant Foods, and Maryland and Virginia Milk Cooperative Association to support local dairy farms to improve their land and water.</p> <p>Continue to work with the Hershey Company and Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay on <i>Sustainable Dairy Pa</i>, to support more sustainable and climate friendly dairy supply chain in Pa for the Hershey Milk Chocolate Company.</p> <p>Continue Turkey Hill Clean Water Partnership to incentivize dairy farms to use a conservation plan and BMPs on their farms.</p> <p>2023 Update: PDA, SCC, and DEP had meetings with officials from EPA, Hershey Foods, and Alliance for Chesapeake Bay regarding funding for new public-private partnership. SCC had discussions with Lancaster Clean Water Partners on whether ACAP could be administered by third parties to streamline processes around bidding and contracts. In addition, SCC is making its recent Most Effective Basin (MEB) award available for public-private partnerships.</p> <p>2024 Update: Engagement with private industry continued in 2024, including a joint hearing of the state House and Senate Ag committees at Ag Progress Days event to showcase public private partnerships in conservation, with Hershey Company and Alliance for Chesapeake Bay joining SCC and NRCS to testify. Plans to continue using Conservation Excellence Grant program (CEG) to enhance public private partnerships continue. Four projects were funded in 2024 (Lancaster Farmland Trust, Alliance for Chesapeake Bay, Centre and Franklin County Conservation Districts). Lastly, discussions occurred on ways to engage more with private sponsors of REAP program tax credits.</p>
2.3.3A	Implementation of Animal Waste Management Systems (AWMS)	Adequate manure storage for 90% of swine/poultry operations; 75% of	NRCS, CDs, Private Consultants, Swine and Poultry Integrators	Chesapeake Bay – Animal Producers	December 2025	Need to increase amount of licensed P.E's and those with job approval authority in order			<p>2020 Update: Continue to meet with NRCS and other ag partners during the Quarterly Technical Committee meetings. Continued funds via CBIG for Chesapeake Bay Engineering Specialists and Engineer Assistants, as well as state funds for joint funding with NRCS for PA Association of Conservation Districts Engineer Specialists in the four</p>

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		all other animal types				to meet PA regulatory requirements for liquid storages. Need to increase number of qualified engineers for solid storages.			<p>pilot counties. NRCS continues to provide training and Job Approval Authority for Conservation District ag technician staff.</p> <p>Penn State University has initiated a conservation training curriculum to prepare graduating students for a career in ag conservation.</p> <p>CEG and CAP Implementation Grants, for instance, are available for pilot and Tier 2 counties to allocate for AWMS implementation. However, further funds are needed to meet the needs for technical assistance and engineering design of liquid and semi-solid storages.</p> <p>2021 Update: CEG and REAP programs are available for Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties to allocate for AWMS implementation. However, further funds are needed to meet the needs for technical assistance and engineering design of liquid and semi-solid storages.</p> <p>DEP, SCC, NRCS, and PACD continue to work together to provide funding for engineering and technical support staff via Chesapeake Bay Technicians, Chesapeake Bay Engineer Assistants and Specialists, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Conservation Initiative (CBWCI), and Technical Assistance Grant (TAG). Conversations are ongoing regarding effective and efficient deployment of services from these funding programs and staff.</p> <p>2022 Update: SCC in planning phase of developing a Technical Assistance Center to build capacity related to the new Ag Conservation Assistance Program and the potential doubling up of funds under EQIP/CSP.</p> <p>2023 Update: The new Center for Ag Conservation Technical Assistance is staffed and up and running at Penn State University, in partnership with SCC and NRCS. The center was created to help address need for capacity in the short and longer term. Seeking a dedicated fund for ACAP will be crucial to keeping the center going beyond 2026.</p> <p>469 implemented Waste Storage facilities and Dry Waste Storage Structure RI were verified and reported toward Pennsylvania’s annual numeric progress.</p> <p>2024 Update: The most significant ACAP investments are going towards animal agriculture with Heavy Use Area protections and Manure Storage structures receiving the most funding. In addition, the new Ag Innovation Fund provided for under the FY 24/25 state budget, will support new technologies related to animal waste.</p>

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2.3.4A	Develop web-based and in-person training for Manure Management Planning and Agriculture Erosion and Sediment Control Planning	Finalize Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Manual for Agricultural Operations technical guidance (383-4200-002) and train conservation districts and consultants. 2022-2023 Update: Implement web-based and in-person training for Manure Management Planning and Agriculture Erosion and Sediment Control Planning; Revise the Manure Management Manual Technical Guidance Document by 2023	DEP, Penn State Extension, SCC, NRCS	Statewide	September 2020	TGD finalized and released October 2019. Training in development.			<p>2020 Update: Four web-based training modules for the Ag E&S Manual were developed by DEP staff and opened for public consumption on DEP's Clean Water Academy.</p> <p>Entered into agreement with Penn State Extension to create additional in-person curriculum as well as to ensure consistency between PAOneStop and the Ag E&S Manual.</p> <p>2021 Update: Penn State is in development of curriculum as well as finalizing the PAOneStop Ag E&S Plan reporting template and instructions.</p> <p>Ag E&S Plan and Manure Management Plan modules continue to be provided via DEP's Clean Water Academy.</p> <p>2022 Update: Work with Penn State continues for the development and implementation of Ag E&S Plan curriculum. Manure Management Manual Technical Guidance Document is currently under revision, with draft slated for publication in 2023.</p> <p>2023 Update: The draft revision to the Manure Management Manual Technical Guidance Document was published for public comment in 2023. The final version will be published in mid-2024.</p> <p>2024 Update: The final revised Manure Management Manual Technical Guidance Document was published in April 2024.</p>
2.3.5A	Focus agricultural technical assistance and financial resources in areas of highest need and impact to the Chesapeake Bay, to include targeted watershed approach		DEP, SCC, PDA	Chesapeake Bay	Ongoing Beginning July 2020				<p>2020 Update: Both CEG and the new DEP phase 2 inspection funding (for BMPs) is being rolled out based on the Phase 3 WIP Tiered Counties priority status. See the CEG discussion at 2.2.1.</p> <p>2021 Update: The SCC continues to target resources at Tier 1 and 2 counties. Approximately \$10 million for agricultural BMPs is funded through CEG and REAP. Additionally, the Nutrient Management Program funds full time staff (FTEs) at conservation districts, with Chesapeake Bay watershed conservation districts making up 85% of the FTE funding.</p> <p>Governor Wolf announced support of the Chesapeake Conservancy and partners' "30 by 30" initiative, with a goal to delist 30 stream segments for agricultural</p>

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									<p>impairments by 2030. Currently, there are 39 stream segments identified for this “rapid delisting” approach in Lancaster, Union, Clinton, Snyder, Lycoming, Huntingdon, and Centre Counties. DEP continues to work with the Chesapeake Conservancy and county partners to support this endeavor through targeted financial and technical assistance, such as through EPA State Capacity Grant for targeted watersheds in Lancaster County.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP 2022 Growing Greener Plus grant included the Renaissance Watershed Initiative, which will further support targeting of practices to small stream segments listed for agricultural impairment and that identified to have confidence for successful restoration. Project applications were submitted by aggregating practices within one or more stream segments, with the initial Phase being capped at \$750k per project, and would include education and outreach, farm assessments and planning, surveying and inventorying, and design. The purpose of this phased approach was to set the projects up for success, whether it is through a following year of Growing Greener or another funding source, such as NRCS, PENNVEST, SCC, etc.</p> <p>2023 Update: ACAP funds are distributed to counties based on a formula that considers number of animal operations and number of farms and impaired stream miles. In addition, CEG program is available for Tier 1 and 2 counties. Lastly, REAP tax credit program provides higher incentives for location of farms in Tier 1 and 2 counties.</p> <p>DEP continued to support targeted watershed approaches through the Growing Greener Watershed Renaissance Initiative, Rapid Stream Delisting Approach, Section 319 Watershed Based Planning, etc. Funds continued to be allocated in the CAP Implementation grant program based on Tier level and local impairments.</p> <p>2024 Update: ACAP funds are distributed to counties based on a formula that considers number of animal operations and number of farms and impaired stream miles. In addition, CEG program is available for Tier 1 and 2 counties. Lastly, REAP tax credit program provides higher incentives for location of farms in Tier 1 and 2 counties. Technical assistance is being addressed through the new Center for Ag Conservation Assistance Training (CACAT) which is funded by the Commission through ACAP. It is designed to increase technical assistance in the Bay watershed and statewide.</p>
2.3.6A	Coordinate existing technical assistance for more effective	Work with federal, state, local agencies as well as private and nonprofit	DEP, SCC, NRCS, PACD, Private Consultants, Nonprofits	Chesapeake Bay	2023	Swift and effective deployment of services requires additional staff at			<p>2022 Update: Discussions began in late 2021 based on CAP needs identified in multiple counties throughout the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p>

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	and efficient deployment of services	entities to identify and communicate the available services and locations of those services, as well as gaps in service areas and how to effectively fill them				the federal, state, and local level as well as additional private industry capacity			<p>SCC in planning phase of developing a Technical Assistance Center to build capacity related to the new Ag Conservation Assistance Program and the potential doubling up of funds under EQIP/CSP. DEP continues to fund Chesapeake Bay Technicians, Engineer Specialists, and Engineer Assistants. DEP continues to provide funding, along with NRCS, toward the PACD Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) program statewide. DEP also provides funding, along with NRCS, to the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Conservation Initiative (CBWCI) Program in the four pilot counties.</p> <p>2023 Update: As noted above, the new technical assistance center, which is funded through ACAP administrative funds, is up and running. DEP, SCC, NRCS, and PACD continue to meet on at least a quarterly basis to discuss technical assistance programs.</p> <p>2024 Update: Gaps in financial and technical assistance for small, diversified farming operations with unique but significant conservation needs will be addressed through future Commission programming, including the Sustainable Ag Board. Conventional farms currently receive the most of the ACAP funds, which is effective. However, there is a growing sector of PA’s ag economy, including organic production, that requires additional assistance.</p>
2.3.7A	PA Sustainable Agriculture Grant Program	2024-2025 Update: Sustainable agriculture practices will be supported through grant funding in MEB of PA	State Conservation Commission, Farmers, land owners	PA MEB Region	Begins July 2024		\$1 million for year one		<p>2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025.</p> <p>2024 Update: The Sustainable Ag Board met twice in 2024, and program guidelines are currently published. Grants will begin being awarded in 2025, using EPA’s IJJA MEB funds. Program will provide an intentional focus on “soil health” as called out in Pennsylvania’s Phase 3 WIP as a priority.</p>
2.3.8A	PA Agriculture Conservation Research Grant Program	2024-2025 Update: Research on pressing conservation issues in Pennsylvania will be supported through grants to leading Universities and researchers.	State Conservation Commission, PDA, Universities	Statewide	Begins June 2024		\$1.5 million		<p>2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025.</p> <p>2024 Update: Multiple awards including Clear Climate Strategies to study science-based climate action on dairy farms; Penn State University to study solutions for reducing nutrient and sediment runoff from ag and reduced tillage and no-till methods for organic operations; Phospholutions to study use of novel solution to enhance phosphorus efficiency for land application of manure, Resource Innovation Institute to study reductions in food waste and make efficient use of byproducts to enhance soil, water, air quality’ and Stroud Water Research to study carbon stock assessment of riparian buffers.</p>

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2.3.9A	Ag Plan Reimbursement Program	Work with PA Association Of Conservation districts to continue to implement a program to reimburse farmers for obtaining conservation plan, ag E&S plan, manure management plan or nutrient management plan. Previous Ag Plan Reimbursement Programs were funded through DEP Environmental Stewardship Funds/Growing Greener	SCC, PA Association of Conservation Districts and the County Conservation Districts	Statewide	Ongoing with funding through December of 2026.	Ensuring funding of plans leads to future BMP installation. Coordinating with county conservation districts to help direct funding to areas with most need for BMPs.	Total of \$1.1M available through 2026 of federal ARPA funds. Technical assistance provided by county conservation districts and private sector consultants.	Funding after 2026	<p>2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025.</p> <p>2024 Update: Contract with PACD has been fully executed and funding is available to address backlog of plans. Plans are entered into PracticeKeeper upon completion and review.</p>
2.3.1F	Increase technical assistance available to landowners interested in implementing riparian forest buffers.	Create both new Commonwealth staff positions and new positions at partner organizations, and increase entrepreneurial opportunities for forest buffer work.	DCNR, PDA, DEP, SCC, DCED, etc.	Chesapeake Bay	Ongoing	Funding, overhead, space, capacity, available candidates, on-boarding process, hiring process, etc.			<p>2020 Update: DCNR is currently in the process of filling a new Commonwealth position that would focus partly on riparian forest buffers, and continued to make C2P2 grants available to help partner organizations fund positions for buffer outreach and implementation work with landowners.</p> <p>Further, various implementation funding for buffers made available by DCNR can be utilized in some fashion to provide money to buffer contractors/entrepreneurs to implement buffers.</p> <p>DCNR and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay continue to work with individuals with barriers to employment to encourage new buffer planting and maintenance entrepreneurs through the Correctional Conservation Collaborative program.</p> <p>2021 Update: DCNR was able to fill one additional position focused on Watershed Forestry (buffers and lawn conversion) in early 2021.</p>

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									<p>DCNR was also awarded a NFWF INSR grant that supports an additional new position for two years, as well as a grant from the USFS that will support the hiring of three more individuals for one year. DCNR hopes to fill these four new positions via their agreement with WPC in early 2022, once the grant contracts have been finalized.</p> <p>The trainings for individuals with barriers to employment to encourage new buffer planting and maintenance entrepreneurs, in partnership with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, were halted due to the COVID pandemic. When prisons are able to reopen to guests, DCNR and the Alliance hope to reinvigorate this program. Although no Correctional Conservation Collaborative programs were held in 2021, DCNR did wrap up work on a Chesapeake Bay Trust-funded GIT grant for the program in 2021, and a training manual as well as maps of opportunities was developed for DCNR and partners by the project contractor, Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council.</p> <p>2022 Update: DCNR has created five new Regional Watershed Forestry Specialist Positions, which will serve as added technical assistance capacity across PA, with a focus on the Bay Watershed. Two current RWFS positions exist, bringing the total of regional positions providing TA support in PA up to seven. DCNR plans to utilize these new positions to help create additional capacity within each region.</p> <p>As of fall 2022, all seven RWFS positions have been filled, and are working on outreach, planning, and planting projects.</p> <p>2023 Update: DCNR’s new Regional Watershed Forestry Specialists have been fully onboarded and are active in their regions. This has greatly increased technical assistance capacity in PA across the watershed. DCNR plans to continue to seek funds to maintain and/or expand this team. Due to expanded TA capacity, demand for projects greatly outpaces funding availability.</p> <p>2024 Update: DCNR’s Regional Watershed Forestry Specialists continue their work in their regions, building partnerships and working with landowners to develop implementation projects. Demand for projects outpaces funding availability, but the team continues to seek funding to implement projects they are developing.</p>
2.3.2F	Increase Urban Forestry Technical Assistance	Fund positions within the Commonwealth system and with	DCNR, TreePennsylvania, Penn State	Chesapeake Bay	Ongoing	Funding, overhead, space, capacity, available candidates, on-			<p>2020 Update: Nothing new to report.</p> <p>2021 Update:</p>

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	Available to Communities and Citizens.	partner organizations.	Extension, PHS, etc.			boarding process, hiring process, etc.			<p>DCNR hired a Tree Equity Specialist to focus on community outreach and engagement.</p> <p>2022 Update: DCNR created a new Chesapeake Bay Watershed-focused TreeVitalize position, and the new hire started in late 2022.</p> <p>2023 Update: DCNR hired a Regional Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) position focused on the Bay Watershed in late 2022. This position has already increased technical assistance capacity for UCF work in the Watershed. DCNR intends to utilize increased federal funding to develop additional capacity for Urban and Community Forestry in 2024.</p> <p>2024 Update: DCNR hired two additional new Regional Urban and Community Forestry positions in 2024. These new positions will increase TA availability, especially in environmental justice communities within the Bay Watershed.</p>
2.3.3F	Create a turf-conversion technical assistance program.	Identify existing subject matter experts in native grassland and meadow establishment to evaluate and design a new program, technical guidance/specifications, etc. then create new Commonwealth positions to provide technical support to landowners. 2022-2023 Update: Implement turf-conversion technical assistance program.	DCNR, Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Pheasants Forever, PGC, TreePennsylvania, PSU, etc.	PA Bay-wide	By 2022	Creating a new program- start-up costs, time, approvals, budgets, etc. Implementation requires additional funds to sustain program.			<p>2020 Update: See above on launch of new Lawn Conversion Program. The Lawn Conversion Advisory Committee is working on technical guidance documents and trainings for landowners and contractors, as well as local government and NGO partners.</p> <p>2021 Update: DCNR intends to fully incorporate Lawn Conversion into its watershed forestry program. All new hires for positions that will be developed out of recently received grants will be trained in both Lawn Conversion and Riparian Forest Buffer technical assistance. There is still a strong need for additional technical assistance for Lawn Conversion to help meet intense demand from landowners.</p> <p>2022 Update: The five new RWFS positions created by DCNR will not only provide RFB TA, but turf-conversion TA as well. See 2.3.1F DCNR has now integrated Lawn Conversion fully into its Watershed Forestry Program and provides TA and funding to landowners across the Commonwealth.</p> <p>2023 Update: DCNR's new RWFS positions are providing technical assistance to landowners across the watershed in PA. Demand for projects outpaces funding availability.</p>

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									DCNR intends to develop more DIY resources for landowners to access TA without the need for financial resources. 2024 Update: DCNR's new RWFS positions are providing technical assistance to landowners across the watershed in PA. Demand for projects outpaces funding availability. DCNR continues work on developing DIY resources for landowners to access TA without the need for financial resources. DCNR intends to release a DIY meadow guide in 2025.
2.3.4F	Provide informed technical assistance for stream and wetland restoration projects to ensure they are completed in an adequate, reportable manner.	Ensure that county and agency field staff are trained to support potential creditable wetland restoration opportunities. Integrate trainings into existing, well-attended courses.	NRCS, CCDs, SCC, PDA, DEP, DCNR, TNC, and other NGOs.	PA Bay-wide	Ongoing	Training, staff capacity, etc. Inconsistent use of terminology and definitions (federal, state and FGDC) continues to contribute to challenges associated with communicating	Clean Water Academy technical assistance contract in place to develop training courses for the Clean Water Academy to assist CCD and DEP staff in permit application reviews. Technical presentation and webcast 2019 - https://chesapeakestormwater.net/events/big_spring_run_research/ Reviews of legacy sediment removal floodplain restoration (FR-LSR) projects that are subject	Additional cross program guidance development is needed to transfer knowledge of acceptable restoration practices for the purposes of credit reporting. Existing monitoring and assessment programs for streams and other aquatic resources must identify and report additional impairments, including legacy sediments and other legacy alterations.	2020 Update: 1. General Permit processing training sessions completed. Additional training sessions under development for late 2020 and 2021 targeting compensation determinations and environmental assessment restoration plan approvals. 2. DEP staff participated in Chesapeake Bay Program's 2020 efforts to improve stream and wetland restoration definitions and crediting for Legacy Sediment Removal projects. 2021 Update: Engaging in a STAC BMP crediting workshop as a Steering Committee member and presenter planned for 2022 regarding multi-benefit accounting and unintended consequences. 2022 Update: Several DEP staff participated in the Wetlands Outcome Attainability Workshop. DEP provided the PA State Action Plan, which included in the final Wetlands Action Plan, presenting to the Management Board in December 2022. PA highlighted several barriers, including lack of staff and funding capacity, and detailed several strategic plan objectives. 2023 Update: Introduction to Guiding Principles of Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration training was finalized and posted to the Clean Water Academy. Two comprehensive webinars and four summary presentations were also conducted as part of the development and roll-out of this training. Additional more in-depth trainings on Watershed Alterations and Effect and Practitioners Perspective training are underway in 2023 and expected to be final in 2024. Staff are assisting with the Post Construction Stormwater Water Management (PCSWM) manual revisions related to stream and wetland restoration, specifically

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							to state and federal regulations including Chapter 102, Chapter 105/106 and Section 401 Water Quality Certifications		the Floodplain Restoration stormwater control measures. Redrafting of the PCSWM manual language is underway. Coordination work has been on-going with providing technical expertise to the TMDL program exploring stream restoration as part of alternative restoration plans. 2024 Update: DEP continues previously listed efforts and has reinvested in cross-program relationships to broaden these efforts.
2.3.5F	Expand the PFBC Stream Restoration Initiative, implementing stream restoration projects resulting in load reductions with habitat co-benefits, to counties in the southcentral region of the state, starting with one or more of the four pilot counties to include Adams, Franklin, Lancaster and York.	Expand model in Northcentral Region and work with partners in Franklin County to start a similar initiative in the Southcentral Region. This starts with the creation of new positions within the PFBC.	DEP, PFBC	NC, SC regions	January 2020	EPA provided funds to PFBC in order to hire additional staff.			2020 Update: Completed: Four Fisheries Biologists were hired in 2020 to expand the Northcentral stream restoration model in the NC region and move into the SC region. 2021 Update: PFBC has made significant progress on the expansion of the stream restoration initiative in the Northcentral PA region while adding resources to the Southcentral part of the watershed. PFBC also added four more staff in 2021 to assist with restoration projects. 2022 Update: PFBC continues to build partnerships in the southcentral region of the state while maintaining our partnerships in the northcentral region. PFBC staff worked with partners on 35 stream restoration projects that improved over 7 miles of stream. 2023 Update: PFBC continues to build partnerships in the southcentral region of the state while maintaining our partnerships in the northcentral region. PFBC staff worked with partners on 35 stream restoration projects that improved 6 miles of stream. 2024 Update: PFBC continues to build partnerships in the southcentral region of the state while maintaining our partnerships in the northcentral region. PFBC staff worked with partners on 41 stream restoration projects that improved 6.74 miles of stream.
2.3.5F(i)	Hire 5 new Regional Watershed Forestry Specialists to assist with Lawn Conversion and	Hire RWFS for the newly created NW, Western, SW, Central, and NE regions. Continue to keep the already- existing SE	DCNR, WPC	NE, NW, Western, Central, and SW regions.	Hire Summer 2022	Limited term positions- only 2 years of funding secured. Not Commonwealth positions.	Currently have funding for two years from USFS/FSA.	Will need continued funding to keep these positions employed.	2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. All five new positions were filled in August of 2022. 2023 Update:

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	Riparian Forest Buffer Technical Assistance via the Master Agreement with Western PA Conservancy, increasing total number of Regional Watershed Forestry Specialist positions to seven.	and SC RWFS positions filled. All RWFS positions will focus on the Bay counties within their regions. All regions touch part of the Bay watershed.							All 7 RWFS positions are filled and have been fully onboarded and integrated into the DCNR Watershed Forestry Team. DCNR will work to maintain funding for these positions in future years. 2024 Update: All 7 current RWFS positions remain filled. DCNR intends to hire an 8 th RWFS in the near future, as the regions were rearranged slightly in 2024 to alleviate pressure in SC/SEPA where a large demand for work exists. As a result of this restructure, DCNR currently does not have an RWFS focused on NEPA.
2.3.6F	Incorporate Technical Assistance funds into C2P2 grants for lawn conversion, riparian forest buffers, and TreeVitalize	Make funding available to partners so they may increase their own staff able to provide TA to landowners and other partners.	DCNR	Baywide	Begins 2022				2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. This was fully accomplished for the Fall 2022 grant round and will be in place for all future grant rounds. 2023 Update: Technical assistance is now a fully fundable activity under C2P2 CWF Grants. 2024 Update: Technical assistance remains a fully fundable activity under C2P2 CWF Grants.
2.3.1S	Complete revisions to the Pennsylvania Stormwater BMP Manual		DEP, Villanova University and subcontractor	Statewide	Draft 2022-2023 Final 2023				2020 Update: A preliminary draft is nearly complete and will be shared with an internal workgroup for review and comment in the near future. 2021 Update: The updated BMP manual is still under development with a plan for public engagement and comment in 2022. 2022 Update: The new PCSM Manual (draft) is complete and was shared with EPA in 2022. It was presented to DEP's Water Resources Advisory Committee on November 17, 2022 and is expected to be published for public comment in 2023. 2023 Update:

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									<p>The draft Pennsylvania PCSM Manual was published for public comment on January 28, 2023. DEP and its contractor, Villanova University, are in the process of responding to comments and finalizing the manual.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP and Villanova continue to process the 1,700 public comments received and make changes to the final manual. Before publishing the final manual, DEP is planning to develop implementation tools and a 20-hour training program. Given this work the final manual will not likely be published in 2025.</p>
2.3.2S	Revise the Compliance and Enforcement Manual for Construction Stormwater		DEP, Conservation Districts	Statewide	December 2023				<p>2022 Update: DEP has published a new Chapter 102 inspection report in October 2022 as the first step in development of this manual. The next step is to finalize an SOP and training on how to conduct construction stormwater inspections.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP issued a Chapter 102 Inspection SOP for conservation districts on July 1, 2023 and will be providing monthly webinar trainings over the next year. On October 1, 2023, DEP issued an SOP for Calculating Civil Penalties and an updated Clean Stream Law Penalty Spreadsheet for use by Chapter 102 compliance staff.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP’s Bureau of Clean Water has updated the Chapter 102 inspection report to promote consistency with the reissued PAG-02 General Permit, which became effective on December 8, 2024. DEP also prepared a standard operating procedure (SOP) for addressing non-compliance when PAG-02 permitted projects do not submit a renewal NOI.</p>
2.3.1W	Wastewater Plant Performance Technical Assistance	<p>Perform enhanced technical assistance to wastewater treatment facilities to support reduced nutrient loadings from these facilities.</p> <p>DEP reports progress every 6 months to EPA for grant outputs and outcomes.</p>	DEP	Chesapeake Bay	December 2020 Continue through 2025 as funds allow				<p>2020 Update: Existing Wastewater Technical Assistance program continues. Funds have been provided by EPA to purchase necessary supplies and equipment.</p> <p>2021 Update: Wastewater Technical Assistance program continues. Funds have been provided by EPA to purchase necessary supplies and equipment.</p> <p>2022 Update: Wastewater Treatment Evaluations (WTE) were conducted Cornwall Borough in Lebanon County (Swatara Creek / Susquehanna River Basin) Cowans Gap STP in Perry County, continued work at Guest Farm Village in Franklin County, and Bedford STP in Bedford County.</p> <p>Technical Assistance was provided to Mont Alto Municipal Authority in Franklin County, Sullivan Township Sewage Treatment Plant in Tioga County, Northeastern</p>

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									<p>Schuylkill Joint Municipal Authority in Schuylkill County, Somerset Township Municipal Authority, Wells Creek STP in Somerset County, Hastings Borough Municipal Authority in Cambria County, Newport Borough in Perry County, West Branch STP in Cambria County, Curwensville STP in Clearfield County, Hollow Creek STP in York County, and Lancaster County Bible School in Lancaster County.</p> <p>2023 Update: Technical Assistance was completed at Pine Grove STP, Cornwall Borough, Fleetwood Borough STP, Bedford STP, Wellsboro STP, Somerset Borough, Little Buffalo State Park, Prince Gallitzin State Park, Curwensville Sewer Authority, Cooper Township, Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority, Penn Estates STP, White Oaks WWTP, Brady Township, Blue Ridge Sportsman Association, and Shawnee State Park.</p> <p>2024 Update: Technical Assistance was provided at Fleetwood Borough, Northeast Schuylkill County JMA, Factoryville WWTP, Curwensville WWTP, Amity Township WWTP, Bald Eagle State Park, Elk Mountain Ski Resort, Sligo Borough STP, Distant Sewage STP, Lawrenceville Borough Authority WWTP, Vale Wood Farms Dairy Lagoons, South Mountain Restoration Center. Ongoing consultations continue at Bedford Borough and Cornwall Borough.</p>
2.3.1W(i)	Wastewater Plant Performance Technical Assistance	Purchase of equipment and supplies to provide enhanced technical assistance and perform servicing and calibration of equipment	DEP		September 2021 Continue through 2025 as funds allow				<p>2020 Update: Existing Technical Assistance program continues.</p> <p>2021 Update: Wastewater Technical Assistance program continues. Funds have been provided by EPA to provide enhanced technical assistance and perform servicing and calibration of equipment.</p> <p>2022 Update: Field meter sets with instrumentation have been distributed to 6 of 6 regional offices, totaling 36 meters to be used for regional office staff during POTW inspections. Training on use and calibration of the meters was provided to staff at the time of deployment.</p> <p>2023 Update: Equipment purchased included: Suspended solids, ammonium, and nitrate probes that integrate with the existing field equipment. Two each replacement consumable pH and oxidation/reduction potential probes, and a field chlorimeter kit were also bought. Two dissolved oxygen probes. This requisition also included replacement of obsolete probe mounts, automated cleaning unit for ammonium</p>

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									<p>probe and LDO probe, replacement BUS cable for networking, and routine laboratory supplies and test kit reagents. As well as, 3 Raven Process Centrifuges & 3 Core samplers for temporary distribution to T.A. clients and High-end probe bench service, calibration, & repair: 2 ammonia, 1 nitrate, 1 organic carbon probes.</p> <p>2024 Update: Equipment purchased included: 2 cellular enabled probe controllers and 1 Data Gateway as wireless data telemetry continues to become dominant. Routine replacement of consumable probes included 2 pHdsc probes, 1 conductivity probe, 2 LBOD probe, 2 pipettes, 6 pipettors. High end probe bench service or repairs included 3 ammonium, 3 nitrate, 3 total organic carbon, 4 suspended solids probes and 1 probe controller screen replacement. Equipment purchased for temporary distribution to T.A clients included 4 solids centrifuge, 2 spectrophotometers, 4 core samplers, 10 settleometers, 1 composite sampler and lab supplies for process monitoring and testing. Purchases were also made to the centralized work and storage area to increase security and storage area to include 8 locking cabinets, 4 shelving units and 2 safety gates. In-house staff also retrofitted a surplus trailer to serve as a field laboratory at sites where work space is not always available.</p>
2.3.1W(i)	Wastewater Plant Performance Technical Assistance	Provide training related to reducing nutrient loads for wastewater treatment facility staff for a total of eight facilities			September 2021 Continue through 2025 as funds allow				<p>2020 Update: Existing Technical Assistance program continues.</p> <p>2021 Update: Wastewater Technical Assistance program continues. Training related to reducing nutrient loads was provided for wastewater staff at nine facilities.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP has provided an activated sludge training course to Clean Water staff in in all 6 regions. Trainings were also provided to certified operators at PA Rural and PennTech Conferences. Training related to reducing nutrient loads was provided for wastewater staff at 11 unique facilities.</p> <p>2023 Update: Staff have provided 16-hr. Activated Sludge Courses to certified operators at PA Rural and PennTech Conferences as well as DCNR State Park Wastewater Operators in 3 regions and an additional course to operators in Bradford. Additionally, our Professional Wastewater Operators course was provided at PA Rural and PennTech Conferences and our Instrumentation for Biological Nutrient Removal course was provided at PA Rural Water Conference.</p>

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									<p>On-demand video training was developed, produced, and launched by BCW Technical Assistance staff as a resource for field staff who received the field meter set purchased with this grant funding and deployed in 2022. This training covers storage, maintenance, calibration and field use of meters.</p> <p>2024 Update: Staff have provided 16-hr. Activated Sludge Courses to certified operators at PA Rural and PennTech Conferences, DCNR Parks Region, PA DEP Knox District Office, Westmoreland Conservation District, and Upper Montgomery Township. Staff have conducted training on Responsibilities of Professional Operators, a compendium of operator work ethics, site security, permit obligations and regulatory reporting, asset management, and cyber security. These were presented at PRWA and PWEA annual conferences. Training was provided to attendees at the 2024 Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) Southeast water Utility Forum at Albright College in Reading PA that included review of the services provided by the PADEP Wastewater Technical Assistance Program. Additional courses were offered at meetings of regional water quality organizations on use of wastewater treatment instrumentation for improving effluent quality and reducing nutrient loads.</p>
2.3.1W(i ii)	Manual for Land Treatment of Treated Wastewater	Provides guidance for planning, permitting and design of projects proposing the land application of treated wastewater. Land treatment is one alternative to surface water discharge. Nutrient requirements for new and expanding discharges may push a project sponsor to exploring alternative methods of treatment and disposal.	DEP	Statewide	Ongoing				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. Pre-draft presented to Advisory Committee. Draft for public comment expected early 2023.</p> <p>2023 Update: Document being routed for approval to publish as draft for public comment.</p> <p>2024 Update: A draft version of the Manual for Land Treatment of Treated Wastewater was published for public comment.</p>

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2.3.1W(i v)	State Revolving Fund Technical Assistance	DEP and PENNVEST have collaborated on an RFP for Technical Assistance and Outreach the focus is on helping small and disadvantaged wastewater and water systems. The technical assistance may facilitate projects that could result on reduction of nutrients from point and nonpoint source of nutrient to the Bay through the development and implementation of projects through the State Revolving Fund Program. The money for this effort is provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.	DEP, PENNVEST	Statewide	Ongoing – Contract through SFY 22-23 with possibility of 1 yr extension		Technical		<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. The RFP solicitation closed on June 21, 2022. Two proposals were received, and the review team, which included DEP staff, evaluated the proposals. PENNVEST provided the review team recommendation to the Board for consideration. The Board voted to approve the recommended offer at the July 20, 2022 meeting. PENNVEST and DEP staff will begin contract negotiation with the approved offeror which is the Larson Design Group Team; this Team consists of several consulting firms. Notice to proceed was issued on November 18, 2022.</p> <p>2023 Update: Funding for the contract has been fully allocated to communities/projects. As a result of the success of the initial effort, the contract is being extended into 2024 with additional funding equal to the initial contract amount for continuation of the effort.</p> <p>2024 Update: Funding for the contract has been fully allocated to communities/projects. As a result of the success of the initial effort, the contract is being extended into 2025 with additional funding equal to the initial contract amount for continuation of the effort. (Boos)</p>
Section 9, Climate Change									
9.3.1C	Complete the Penn State Study, Climate Change Impacts on Pennsylvania's Watershed Management Strategies and Water Quality Goals	Study will answer some key questions that will be used to more effectively select and target practices that will address climate resiliency goals.	DEP, Penn State	Statewide	July 2020				<p>2020 Update: Completed as part of Climate Impacts Assessment, press release issued April 2020. Posted on DEP Climate Change Impacts page: https://www.dep.pa.gov/citizens/climate/Pages/impacts.aspx</p> <p>2021 and 2022 Updates: Completed in 2020. No further update.</p>
9.3.2C	Pennsylvania Climate Academy	Reduce an additional 1.81 million pounds of nitrogen and 0.095	DEP, GreenGov Council	Statewide	Ongoing				<p>2022 Update: 106 DEP personnel took CC-P training, and 16 of those people received their CC-P credential in Fiscal Year 2020/2021. The Pennsylvania Climate Leadership Academy was established in the second half of 2021. This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p>

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		<p>million pounds of phosphorus delivered to the Chesapeake Bay due to climate change by 2025.</p> <p>This project supports the Green Gov Council through technical assistance to achieve the goals set forth in the 2019-1 Executive Order, Commonwealth Leadership in Addressing Climate Change and Promoting Energy Conservation and Sustainable Governance. DEP over the past fiscal year developed an accredited Climate Training Course for DEP participants which can now be delivered to a wider audience as a Climate Academy. This Academy when paired with the public facing mission of the PA Green Gov Council can be used to educate local governments and the public on Climate and the</p>							<p>PA Climate Leadership Academy has been renamed PA Climate Change Mitigation & Resilience Network (“the Network”). RFQ issued for contractor to manage/lead the Network; bids are due by 12/6. MOU w/8 sibling state agencies to share contractor costs, which will facilitate participation and ownership of the Network by multiple agencies, not just DEP.</p> <p>2023 Update: The PA Climate Network Executive Committee and Advisory Board hired a contractor to assist with the development of Training Modules on climate change and climate related issues which are now completed and posted on the PA GreenGov Council website through the Department of General Services. The executive committee is currently developing a request for interest (RFI) to entities interested in taking ownership and operation of the PA Climate Network going forward. The RFI is expected to be released in December 2024.</p> <p>2024 Update: An RFI to get feedback from interested parties for taking over management of the network closed on February 29th and the responses have been reviewed by the executive committee. A follow-up review on March 28th preceded the results being presented to the Climate Network Advisory Board in late April. To date, 31 completion certificates have been issued for completion of the Network’s training program, which is available on the GreenGov Council website.</p> <p>The responses to the RFI yielded 3-4 respondents that indicated an interest in managing the network and 13 total responses. The information gathered from all responses has been reviewed by the executive committee. The information gathered along with input from the Advisory Board will be used to create an official Request for Proposal to acquire a manager for the climate network. It has been determined that an academic institution/University or an organization affiliated with a major Pennsylvania-based University is desired to manage the network.</p>

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		benefits of sustainable governance.							
Priority Initiative 4: Reporting and Tracking									
Section 2, State Actions, Programmatic and Narrative Commitments									
2.4.1	Pass legislation to revise Pennsylvania’s Right to Know Law to allow for additional confidentiality of landowner records.		Private Sector, Agricultural Organizations		2020-2021 Legislative Session				<p>2020 Update: No action on this item</p> <p>2021 Update: No action on this item</p> <p>2022 Update: No action on this item</p> <p>2023 Update: No action on this item</p> <p>2024 Update: No action on this item but discussions on making it a legislative priority for upcoming session.</p>
2.4.2	Develop a planning and prioritization tool for use in the development and refinement of the CAPs.	<p>A final tool available to county planning teams for use in the prioritization and tracking of practices and future planning</p> <p>2022-2023 Update: Chesapeake Commons procurement and contract may be renewed via the ITQ list. DEP, CC and the Pilot and Tier 2 CAP Coordinators will work together to discuss and implement the</p>	DEP, EPA, Chesapeake Conservancy, Chesapeake Commons	Chesapeake Bay	Begin 2020				<p>2020 Update: FieldDoc was customized to meet the needs of local stakeholders. The Data Tools Review Team, led by Tier 1 and 2 County Coordinators, provided extensive recommendations on enhancements needed to FieldDoc. This review process was completed from March 2020 to August 2020. All critical enhancements were completed by the FieldDoc development team. FieldDoc was introduced for public use in August/September of 2020. Counties are strategizing plans to increase the use of FieldDoc. Additional non-critical enhancements were identified by the Data Tools Review Team and will begin in 2021.</p> <p>2021 Update: From the original Chesapeake Commons (CC) contract, FieldDoc has started the process to complete DEP’s cloud use case so in the future FieldDoc can be connected to the Data Warehouse as the public facing electronic platform. DEP and CC are working closely to renew the FieldDoc contract for another year to complete the identified enhancements from 2020. A scope of work and budget was submitted to DEP in 2021. CC is working on being added to the PA’s ITQ Procurement List. The Tier 2 counties have been added to FieldDoc so they can input non-cost share/non-regulatory BMPs into FieldDoc. Pilot county updated goals were also submitted to be incorporated.</p>

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		<p>previously identified FieldDoc enhancements through the Data Review Team.</p> <p>Enhancements to connect FieldDoc with the Data Warehouse are ongoing, following procurement and IT requirements.</p> <p>2022-23: Update FieldDoc to include the ability to enter details on the inspection of previously installed BMPs and the expansion of projects that are eligible to be recorded through FieldDoc.</p> <p>DEP Chesapeake Bay Office provide virtual training to partners on the new features.</p> <p>2023-2024: The CAP program will be able to track load reductions through FieldDoc per BMP.</p>							<p>Pennsylvania’s 2020 EPA model progress metrics were added to compare with the county CAP goals.</p> <p>2022 Update: Chesapeake Commons (CC) is currently working to complete DEP’s cloud use case so FieldDoc can securely connected to the Data Warehouse as the public facing electronic platform. All necessary API updates have been completed for the connection between FieldDoc and the Data Warehouse.</p> <p>CC completed and is approved for the PA’s ITQ Procurement List and an updated Scope of Work and Budget are being prepared for an updated contract.</p> <p>All Pennsylvania Counties within the Chesapeake Bay watershed have been added to FieldDoc. With their profiles and metrics added all counties are now able to report implemented BMPs into the system. Several training videos and reference documents were created to guide counties as they began entering data. These materials are available on the Clean Water Academy.</p> <p>Several counties reported implemented BMPs through FieldDoc during this reporting cycle that will be counted towards PA’s 2025 goal.</p> <p>2023 Update: The Commons has worked with Pennsylvania DEP on continued maintenance to the FieldDoc site and ongoing enhancements.</p> <p>Most recent enhancements included the consolidation of all DEP CAP county programs into one master Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program. This will allow easy administration changes and updates and less inconsistency when county partners report BMPs. This enhancement is currently underway and should be live on the site soon. FieldDoc maintenance is ongoing.</p> <p>The Commons also prepared a “CAP Implementation Grant Project” program for county partners to use during the 2024 CAP implementation grant round for nutrient reduction estimation of potential projects. The reduction estimates produced by FieldDoc were included the county partner’s CAP applications and were taken into consideration when projects were selected for funding. The Commons also provided technical support to partners, as needed.</p> <p>The Commons first contract with DEP ended on December 31, 2023. A new Scope of Work and Budget are ready to be processed for a 2024 contract.</p> <p>2024 Update:</p>

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									DEP's contract with The Commons officially ended on December 31, 2024 and will not be renewed moving forward. Moving forward, all CAP funded project will be tracked and reported though PracticeKeeper. This shift will streamline reporting for our county partners, reducing the amount of time they have to spend on administrative tasks, and it will allow our staff to receive higher quality and more trustworthy data for reporting.
2.4.3	Work with the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership, Water Quality Goal Implementation Team, to elicit support for a joint remote sensing project with other jurisdictions		DEP, EPA, Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership	Chesapeake Bay	Begin March 2020				<p>2020 Update: Met with WQGIT chairs and BMP Verification Ad Hoc Committee Chairs as it pertains to coordinating and broadening remote sensing opportunities across the watershed. Discussions are ongoing.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP provided Chesapeake Bay Regulatory Accountability Program (CBRAP) funds to all counties that are participating in the CAP implementation process for BMP verification, to be spent through 2022. Some counties have developed a theoretical concept / white paper for remote sensing, based on lessons learned documented in the report from the 2016 NRCS Potomac Watershed Remote Sensing Project and assessed by <u>TetraTech</u> in their third-party report. DEP is encouraging these counties to pursue remote sensing of practices that have been approved for this type of verification methodology and identified in Pennsylvania's BMP Verification Program Plan.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP continues to encourage counties to pursue remote sensing to assist and support verification efforts. In July 2022, funding was added to the DEP Chesapeake Bay Technical Assistance Program grants to further augment verification strategies and efforts throughout Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay watershed, including but not limited to the use of remote sensing technologies. Time and resources are currently not available to conduct a broader, multi-jurisdictional approach at this time.</p> <p>2023 Update: As part of the USDA-EPA Crediting Task Force, remote sensing was elevated as a promising opportunity to verify BMPs more efficiently and cost-effectively. Specific to PA, a method for non-intrusive verification through remote sensing was developed and evaluated by TetraTech, serving as a third-party contractor under EPA, and the CBP Agriculture Workgroup. This method was approved by the CBP Ag Workgroup in August 2023 and can now be used to verify certain Resource Improvement (RI) practices.</p> <p>2024 Update:</p>

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									<p>In February 2024, PA DEP contracted with Resolve Hydro to develop a machine learning model and verification methodology for reporting conservation tillage BMP implementation using high-resolution satellite data. Verifying and reporting conservation tillage BMP implementation throughout Pennsylvania is critical to tracking the State’s progress towards Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) goals. Best practices for remote sensing model development and implementation will be synthesized in a report and verification methodology for use by PA DEP and other reporting agencies in the Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP), planned for approval by the CBP’s Agricultural Workgroup in Spring 2025.</p>
2.4.4	Continue enhancements to PracticeKeeper to capture agricultural and other source sector BMPs as well as compliance and inspection tracking and reporting.		DEP	Statewide	Ongoing				<p>2020 Update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ag Inspection Module updates complete. 2. NMP Module updates in progress. 3. BMP Module (Inspection/verification) updates nearly complete. 4. CEG enhancement in progress. 5. 319/Growing Greener enhancement in progress. <p>2021 Update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nutrient Management Program Module updates in Progress. 2. BMP Module (inspection/verification) updates complete. 3. CEG enhancement complete. 4. Section 319/Growing Greener grant program enhancements nearly complete. 5. Partner plan submission in progress. 6. Tenant transfer in progress. <p>2022 Update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partner Plan Submission enhancement complete. 2. Transfer data ownership enhancement complete. 3. Section 319/Growing Greener grant program enhancements (Phase 1) Complete. <p>2023 Update:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Misc. enhancements complete, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ag. Inspection Modifications b) Attachment G Modifications c) Upcoming Status Review Report d) Updates to CBP-23 Report e) Data Explorer updates (save data queries) f) Shapefile for Spatial data export g) Conservation Plan Module Inspections Tab h) Waste Storage Details

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									i) Add BMP button j) Updates to Copy BMP tool k) Attachment F Updates l) Archiving/Records Retentions m) Generated Manure Updates 2) Growing Greener and 319 Phase 2 Enhancements are complete. 2024 Update: 1) Manure Transport Views 2) Nutrient Management Aggregate Data Report 3) NEIEN Submission Batching
2.4.5	Update the Pennsylvania BMP Verification Plan and Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP)	<p>2022-2023 Update: DEP will be working in 2022 via the CBP Watershed Technical Workgroup to give suggestions on updating the QAPP format and requirements. DEP will continue to submit revised QAPP based on established content requirements and timelines.</p> <p>2023-2024 Update: DEP will continue to update the QAPP according to the specifications of EPA and add new reporters as necessary.</p>	DEP, EPA	Chesapeake Bay	Annually, as needed				<p>2020 Update: Both were updated and sent to EPA on December 1, 2020 - there may be updates if additional progress information is presented from the Penn State Survey.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP sent out new QAPP guidance and template to all of 37+ data reporters to be incorporated into the 2021 QAPP. The QAPP and BMP Verification Plan Addendum were updated and submitted to EPA's CBPO by the December 1, 2021 deadline. DEP continues to work with EPA's CBPO and Water Division to clarify their QAPP expectations. DEP met multiple times with EPA and provided written responses to questions provided by EPA over the course of several months leading up to the QAPP and BMP Verification Program Plan submission. The 2021 QAPP and BMP Verification Program Plan are posted to DEP BMP Verification website.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP sent QAPP guidance and template to all of 39+ data reporters to be incorporated into the 2022 QAPP. The QAPP and BMP Verification Plan Addendum were updated and submitted to EPA's CBPO by the September 1, 2022 deadline. DEP continues to work with EPA's CBPO and Water Division to clarify their QAPP expectations. DEP met multiple times with EPA and provided written responses to questions provided by EPA over the course of several months leading up to the QAPP and BMP Verification Program Plan re-submission on December 1, 2022. The 12/01/22 QAPP included new updates for the Turnpike Commission and US Army Corps and Engineers. DEP extensively updated the PennState Survey QAPP Submission and the new method from Transect Survey / PennState survey collaboration for cover crops. The 2022 QAPP and BMP Verification Program Plan are posted to DEP BMP Verification website.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP sent QAPP guidance and the associated DEP reporting template to all 40 data reporters for incorporation into the 2023 QAPP. The QAPP report was standardized to record individual reporter methods. The updated QAPP, along</p>

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									<p>with the BMP Verification Plan Addendum, were submitted to EPA’s CBPO by the September 1, 2023 deadline. DEP continues to work with EPA’s CBPO and Water Division to meet quality assurance expectations. DEP met with EPA and provided written responses to questions provided by EPA over the course of several months leading up to the QAPP and BMP Verification Program Plan re-submission on December 1, 2023. The 12/01/23 QAPP included new updates for Larson Design Group (LDG) Non-Intrusive BMP Verification Standard of Procedure and methodology. The 2023 QAPP and BMP Verification Program Plan will be published here upon EPA approval: https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/Watershed-Restoration/Chesapeake-Bay-Watershed-Restoration/Farms-and-the-Bay/Pages/BMP-Verification.aspx</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP shared QAPP guidance and the BMP reporting template with all data reporters in Spring 2024 to incorporate updates into the 2024 QAPP. The QAPP report is standardized to record individual reporter methods, while being restructured to meet EPA’s format requirements in 2024. The updated QAPP, along with the BMP Verification Plan Addendum, were submitted to EPA’s CBPO before the September 1, 2024, deadline. DEP continues to work with EPA’s CBPO and Water Division to meet quality assurance expectations. DEP met with EPA and provided written responses to questions provided by EPA over the course of several months leading up to the QAPP and BMP Verification Program Plan re-submission on December 3, 2024. The 2024 QAPP included updates such as the new data reporter, Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) and Attachment J. “Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan” data reporting methods.</p>
2.4.6	Work with EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership to enhance the existing crediting protocols for programs and practices that improve water quality in Pennsylvania not currently getting full credit in the Chesapeake Bay	Finalized crediting protocol that considers all aspects of practices and programs not currently getting credit in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model that improve water quality in Pennsylvania. This includes but is not limited to compensatory mitigation, land conservation	DEP, Bay Program Partnership		January 2021 Ongoing	Buy in from the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership			<p>2020 Update: Presented to the Management Board in April 2020 as it related to stream and wetland compensatory mitigation and mitigation banks. Requested responses from EPA CBPO in early summer 2020 as it related to wetland and stream compensatory mitigation and mitigation banking. Received EPA CBPO draft response on 12/1/2020. Next steps are currently under consideration.</p> <p>Working with DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) on strategies for accounting for and crediting water quality improvements as it relates to mine reclamation/AMD projects.</p> <p>Pulled together a group of internal and external subject matter experts (DEP, SCC, Penn State Extension, Consulting entities) to better account for and credit Dairy Precision Feeding.</p> <p>2021 Update:</p>

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	Watershed Model.	practices related to mine reclamation, dairy precision feeding, etc.							<p>SCC has been working with Penn State University and through the Chesapeake Bay Ag Workgroup to develop and approve a methodology for Dairy Precision Feeding.</p> <p>The Chapter 105 proposed rulemaking includes amendments to Section 20a, which is proposed to be retitled Compensation for impacts to aquatic resources. The proposed for update to Section 20a coincides with advances in science and current understanding of environmental and aquatic resource restoration principles. These revised requirements will also dovetail with the federal mitigation requirements, introduced under the 2008 federal mitigation rule, so that applicants and the regulated community will not have to comply with two different standards, as Pennsylvania’s standards will satisfy the federal standards. The proposed amendments to Section 20a will establish compensatory mitigation standards including siting criteria for service areas, standards for assessment of impacts and the valuation of proposed compensation, monitoring and performance standards.</p> <p>DEP has been in discussion with USGS, CBPO staff, and STAC representatives and have begun the development of a STAC workshop proposal to be submitted in February 2022, with a focus on in-stream water quality improvements and habitat improvements due to AMD treatment systems. If approved, the goal would be to hold the workshop in late 2022, with a potential for a convening of an Expert Panel in early 2023.</p> <p>2022 Update: SCC continues to work with Penn State University and through the Chesapeake Bay Ag Workgroup to develop and approve a methodology for Dairy Precision Feeding.</p> <p>DEP and SRBC continues discussions with STAC leads regarding the STAC Literature Review, beginning June 2022, on the in-stream water quality and habitat improvements of AMD treatment systems.</p> <p>DEP and SRBC are working together, with MDE, CBF, and NFWF, regarding the in-stream water quality and habitat benefits of freshwater mussels.</p> <p>DEP works with NRCS regarding the identification of practices that are funded by USDA but not currently credited toward progress (e.g. Conservation Stewardship Program). Additionally, DEP, SCC, and NRCS are awaiting the USGS report on data overlap between the state and federal data sets, which began in 2020.</p> <p>2023 Update: SCC and DEP representatives served on the USDA-EPA Crediting Task Force as active participants in the development of the strategic action plan to ensure that all federal reporting and cost-shared agriculture BMPs are credited toward states’ nutrient and sediment reduction progress. The pilot data sharing project between</p>

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									<p>USDA, USGS, DEP, and SCC was completed, with the final report provided by EPA in November 2023. Discussions between state, local, and federal agencies continued; action has yet to be taken by the CBP to ensure all implemented BMPs are credited.</p> <p>2024 Update: This is a continued priority for Pennsylvania. New remote sensing methodology has been developed by Pennsylvania partners and approved by the CBP. DEP BWRNSM staff are conducting an ag BMP efficacy study in small watersheds to help assess the actual value of the implemented BMPs on water quality. More BMPs are being captured and reported through Pennsylvania’s PracticeKeeper system. A “sandbox demonstration” for manure treatment technologies was submitted for consideration by EPA and the PSC to ensure appropriate crediting of those BMPs. Pennsylvania state agencies continue to work with NRCS to ensure more holistic crediting and verification of implemented BMPs. More work is needed by the CBP and EPA to allow for greater crediting of implemented BMPs and reduced workload associated with verification.</p>
2.4.7	Install additional monitoring station(s) and begin to collect “real-time” water quality data on the Susquehanna River to further document the story of progress made by Pennsylvania’s efforts to restore local streams and the Chesapeake Bay as part of implementation of the Phase 3 WIP	Monitoring station(s) and water quality results. 2022-2023 Update: The 2022 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Integrated Report) will be published in 2022. It shows the delisting of many impaired stream miles that have been restored to water quality standards, including 32 miles of the Bennet Branch Sinnemahoning Creek.	DEP Bureau of Clean Water	Susquehanna River	January 2021 Ongoing			1 person \$600,000	<p>2020 Update: Ongoing monitoring at 77 Water Quality Network Stations in the Bay watershed continues at up to monthly frequency. This includes 36 Bay nutrient Loading stations that are sampled monthly and are also included in the bay non-tidal network that includes an addition stormwater sediment sampling events per year.</p> <p>Data is uploaded annual to the DUET database and select stations were included in trends analysis to measure progress in the <u>2020 Integrated Report</u>. The results of the trends analysis of mainstem Susquehanna and select tributaries is generally a reduction in total N, P and Suspended Sediment throughout the basin over the past 10 years.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP’s Water Quality Division has successfully submitted additional chemistry data from the period of 2010 - 2020 to the national Water Quality Portal. The enhancement updated/added a total of 2,021,291 records from 64,907 sampling events. This provides other monitoring site data than is provided with the Water Quality Network. These records are statewide but the majority are from the Bay watershed.</p> <p>SRBC published the 2021 SNAP report in storymap format in October 2021.</p> <p>2022 Update: The 2022 Integrated Report was approved by EPA on August 3, 2022 and published to the DEP website here: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/b9746eec807f48d99decd3a583eede12 The</p>

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		The 2022 Integrated Report includes a section dedicated to the Chesapeake Bay and activities to implement the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. This page will highlight multiple activities and progress that has occurred. The Integrated Report will also include the Chesapeake Bay Healthy Waters Healthy Communities story map and the Sediment and Nutrient Assessment Program (SNAP) Report by SRBC that has been reformatted to an interactive report using an ESRI Storymap application.							<p>2022 Integrated Water Quality Report includes a focus on Chesapeake Bay Watershed restoration efforts as well as Climate Change Impacts in Pennsylvania.</p> <p>2023 Update: The Draft 2024 Integrated Report was available for public comment through December 11, 2023. The Draft 2024 Integrated Report includes a focus on Chesapeake Bay Watershed restoration efforts as well as Climate Change Impacts in Pennsylvania and additional information pertaining to Environmental Justice.</p> <p>2024 Update: EPA approved Pennsylvania’s 2024 Integrated Report in April 2024. A combination of discrete and continuous data were used to make updated assessments for portions of the Susquehanna River, West Branch Susquehanna River, and the Juniata River.</p> <p>In preparation for the 2026 Integrated Report, TMDL priorities have been drafted and provided for public comment and updated assessment methods are also being prepared for public comment.</p>
2.4.7(i)	Install real-time monitors at the Marietta Non-Tidal Network (NTN) station to collect continuous water temperature (WT), specific conductance (SC), pH,	The resulting combination of discrete and real-time data will be used to characterize continuous nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment.	DEP, USGS, EPA	Susquehanna River	Beginning September 2022				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. Funds from EPA FY17 and FY18 Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management grants and Pennsylvania state Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Source Abatement Fund will be used for the installation costs of this enhanced water quality monitoring system at Marietta.</p> <p>As of August 2022, the deployment of the Next Generation Station was complete and monitoring and data reporting to the USGS website was successfully occurring.</p> <p>2023 Update:</p>

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	Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Turbidity, and Nitrate plus Nitrite (NOx).								<p>With about two years of paired continuous and discrete water quality data, surrogate regression models are currently under development. Initial efforts will focus on developing models to characterize sediment. Data collection will continue through the foreseeable future for the purpose of developing and refining models.</p> <p>The Marietta NTN station, among all other NTN stations, is included in the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Indicator Tool, located here: Chesapeake Bay TMDL Indicator (Non-Tidal Network Stations) (shinyapps.io)</p> <p>2024 Update: Paired continuous and discrete water quality data collection continues in an effort build the record for developing and refining models.</p>
2.4.8	Updates to the Nutrient Credit Trading Program – Nutrient Trading Tool	Incorporate performance-based credit trading tool through the Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Tracking Tool (CBNTT) for transparent, interactive, site-specific, and regionally consistent methodology linked to the Chesapeake Bay modeling tools, for calculating nutrient credits that can be generated from nonpoint sources and used by point sources to meet NPDES permit obligations in a cost-effective way	DEP Bureau of Clean Water	Chesapeake Bay	Beginning January 2020				<p>2020 Update: CBIG3 and NEIEN funding sources for the work have been identified and are available, and the vendors are ready to proceed, but approval to proceed with the work contracts has not been granted.</p> <p>2021 Update: CBIG3 and NEIEN funding sources are available and work has begun to update CBNTT for use by the Program. The Program intends to pursue updating RIBITS to serve as a tool for administering the Program.</p> <p>2022 Update: TIAER has completed development of the tool and successfully integrated MTT.</p> <p>Thorough testing was completed by DEP, EPA, USDA and former aggregators. Results of testing show were positive with satisfactory results with calculations and user experience.</p> <p>CB Registry update of RIBITS will be contracted to Applied Research Associates Inc. (ARA). Terms and conditions have been agreed upon and contracting process has commenced.</p> <p>EPA and USDA have given DEP approval for adoption of CBNTT for the 2022 trading season.</p> <p>CBNTT went live on DEP’s website for the regulated community to utilize on July 22, 2022. It is currently available for the 2022 Nutrient Trading season.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP met with ARA and Maryland bi-weekly starting in June 2023 for discussion and testing. Test environment was delivered August 2023. Currently working on</p>

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		<p>months to EPA for grant outputs and outcomes.</p> <p>2022-2023 Update: The PA Nutrient Credit Trading Program (Program) intends to use RIBITS, the Regulatory In lieu fee and Bank Information Tracking System developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers with support from EPA, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Federal Highway Administration, and NOAA Fisheries to track water quality trading (WQT) activities and credits for restoration banks recognized under Natural Resource Damage Assessment statutes. The WQT portion was sponsored by the USDA Office of Environmental Markets. Currently, VA is participating as a pilot state and MD also intends to use RIBITS. PA's use of RIBITS will</p>							<p>registry aspects of the website, customizing the site for PA use. Website should be completed for rollout by March 2024.</p> <p>2024 Update: Test environment was delivered August 2023. Ongoing work continues on registry aspects of the website and customizing the site for PA use. Website is scheduled for roll out approximately in summer/fall 2025.</p>

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		facilitate Program activities and increase consistency and transparency in trading among Bay states.							
2.4.8(i)	Continue to implement 3:1 trading ratio for nonpoint source (NPS) credit generation and trading until performance-based or other method-based tool (e.g. CBNTT) is established	This interim policy has been in use and is documented in the Phase 2 WIP Nutrient Trading Supplement found on DEP's Nutrient Trading website	DEP Bureau of Clean Water	Chesapeake Bay	Ongoing				<p>2020 Update: The 3:1 ratio continues to be implemented until the program has moved to CBNTT and uses a performance-based calculation methodology.</p> <p>2021 Update: The 3:1 ratio continues to be implemented until the program has moved to CBNTT and uses a performance-based calculation methodology.</p> <p>2022 Update: CBNTT was released on July 22, 2022 memorializing DEP's transition from practice based to performance based calculations, now implementing a 2:1 uncertainty ratio for all nonpoint source generators.</p> <p>2023 Update: Performance based calculations continue to be implemented with a 2:1 uncertainty ratio for all nonpoint source generators. This milestone has been completed.</p> <p>2024 Update: This milestone has been completed.</p>
2.4.8(ii)	Release CBNTT for use	Update 2022-2023: CBNTT will be available for use in 2022. DEP received EPA support for release.	DEP	Chesapeake Bay	September 2022				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>CBNTT was released July 22, 2022 with EPA and USDA support.</p> <p>2023 Update: CBNTT was released July 22, 2022 with EPA and USDA support. This milestone has been completed.</p> <p>2024 Update: This milestone has been completed.</p>
2.4.8(iii)	Publish revised draft Nutrient	Update 2022-2023: Draft supplement	DEP	Chesapeake Bay	December 2022				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p>

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	Trading Supplement, incorporating CBNTT Performance-based methods to DEP website	will be published to the DEP website to ensure consistent communications.							Draft supplement was published to the DEP website on October 20, 2022 ensuring consistent communications. 2023 Update: Supplement was finalized. This milestone has been completed. 2024 Update: This milestone has been completed.
2.4.9	Continue to work with the Federal Facilities Workgroup and Federal Facilities to report BMPs installed and maintained and finalize local planning goals		EPA, DEP, DoD	Chesapeake Bay	Ongoing				2020 Update: The federal BMPs were reported to EPA for 2020 Progress. 2021 Update: Federal Facility BMPs received from Federal partners were reported with Pennsylvania’s 2021 Progress Submission. DoD tracking has shown Pennsylvania’s reporting of Federal BMPs is at one of the highest success rates (NEIEN acceptance) in the watershed. 2022 Update: The federal facility BMPs were reported for 2022 Progress Submission to EPA. However, DEP discovered that the federal facilities were reporting large impoundments as stormwater BMPs. DEP, USACE, and DoD collaborated to correct the data set for these BMPs. 2023 Update: Federal Facility BMPs received from Federal partners were reported with Pennsylvania’s 2023 Progress Submission. 2024 Update: Federal Facility BMPs received from Federal partners were reported with Pennsylvania’s 2024 Progress Submission. DEP and DOD working toward the inclusion of nutrient credit trading into Federal Reporting in NEIEN as presented by DOD in 2024.
2.4.10	Active participation and collaboration in Chesapeake Bay Partnership Technical Workgroups	Integrate best available data and science from Pennsylvania and ensure that historic model process issues like excess/cutoff are	DEP, SCC, DCNR, EPA, Chesapeake Bay Jurisdictions, NRCS, DoD, and Partnership	Chesapeake Bay	CAST-23 planning begins 2022				2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. DEP and other stakeholders regularly attend and contribute to EPA’s CBPO office workgroups under the Bay Program’s Water Quality Goal Implementation Team for science-based technical updates to CAST.

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	focused on CAST model updates	addressed across the partnership in the two-year CAST model updates.							<p>Notably in 2021, the DEP participated in the newly formed BMP Verification Ad Hoc Committee, Agriculture Ad Hoc Committee, Land Use and Water Technical Work Group, and Conowingo WIP Steering Committee concerning the CAST21 Workplan. Below are the summarized 2021 outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BMP Verification Ad Hoc Committee: Discussed BMP Credit durations for Barnyard Runoff Control (BRC), Loafing Lot Management (LLM), Forest Buffers, Grass buffers, and Wetlands. Presented findings from Pennsylvania’s verification and inspection programs related to BRC/LLM. Forest Buffers and Tree Plantings were changed from 10 to 15-year credit duration. DEP gave feedback on BMP Verification and the volume of the historically reported BMPs from federal sources (such as CREP) lost to credit duration expiration. 2. NRCS NEIEN Crosswalk: DEP and SCC have worked with NRCS to identify gaps in reporting, including the LOU described in 2.4.4A. One area of recent note is the inability to report many NRCS funded practices (such as those funded through Conservation Stewardship Program CSP funding) because there is not an associated “crosswalk” in the NEIEN list. This is a significant issue that must be addressed no later than CAST-23, and DEP and NRCS will work together to ensure that it is included in the CAST-23 workplan. 2. Ag Ad Hoc Committee: DEP and SCC staff represented Pennsylvania on the Ag Ad Hoc Committee to review and execute the CAST-21 workplan. However, multiple areas of the workplan that were raised by Pennsylvania were not addressed due to lack of partnership support, such as modeled nutrient management issues on full-season soybeans and the addition of known animals into the modeling tools. 3. Land Use Workgroup: Discussed new land classifications, cover/use 2017-2019 updates and hydrography data. Partnered with Chesapeake Conservancy to provide local land cover/use review. Incorporated a new method of detecting extractive lands. 4. Watershed Technical Workgroup: Discussed back out and cutoff issues related to forest buffers. 5. Conowingo WIP Steering Committee: Participate as a Co-chair of the Steering Committee and actively engage in discussions relating to Activity 1, 2, and 3. Activity 3 is focused on BMP data management, tracking and reporting; work with Activity 3 leads, Chesapeake Conservancy, to ensure streamlined reporting requirements and crediting.

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									<p>6. CAST-21 – At least 16 state agency staff, including Cabinet Secretaries and other Executive Staff of DEP, PDA, and DCNR, have been engaged throughout 2022 on the evaluation and review of CAST-21. More than 290 personnel hours have been spent on this one item alone. Multiple meetings were held with CBPO and the Chesapeake Bay Partnership at the Principals Staff Committee, Management Board, and Water Quality Goal Implementation Team levels. DEP staff conducted extensive research regarding the concerns brought forth to the partnership about CAST-21, specifically focused on fertilizer sales data, and developed slide decks and briefing documents to inform executive staff and others regarding these concerns. In December 2022, a draft Action Plan for Fertilizer Data Improvements was developed by DEP and shared with other jurisdictions within the Chesapeake Bay Partnership.</p> <p>DEP will continue to address CAST updates through these and other EPA CBPO Workgroups under the governance of the Principals Staff Committee, Management Board, and Water Quality Implementation Team.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP and other stakeholders continue to regularly attend and contribute to EPA’s CBPO office workgroups under the Bay Program’s Water Quality Goal Implementation Team for science-based technical updates to CAST. Because of this attention, improvements to the model have been made including: removing the lifespan of wetland BMPs (they no longer have an end date), extending the lifespan for forest buffers to 15 years, approving the new Non-Intrusive BMP Verification methodology, providing comments on the new high resolution land use layer including the issue of it not detecting buffer BMPs as had been one of the goals, approving the Oyster BMP that may be useful to the proposed Freshwater Mussel BMP, approving the TMDL Indicator to track monitored reductions against modeled expectations, approving the change in nutrient application and timing to make all crops eligible to receive both manure and inorganic fertilizer. The new Agricultural Modeling Team is also attended with the goal of developing the next iteration of the CAST model.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP and other stakeholders continue to regularly attend and contribute to EPA CBPO’s approximately 75 workgroups under its 6 GITs, AMT, STAR, STAC, LGC, MB, and EC for science-based technical updates to CAST Phase 7 and to track theoretical implementation of the Bay TMDL. It should be noted that there is a stated desire by jurisdictions to rely on monitoring to track progress to Bay TMDL attainment rather than relying solely on the Bay model as monitoring represents true water quality conditions while modeling is better used as a restoration guidance planning tool. Of significance to this point, the model is underrepresenting the actual gains in water quality improvements documented by</p>

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									<p>monitoring, thus, the model is giving less credit than attained by jurisdictions for their work, time, dollars spent and programmatic enhancements in watershed restoration especially in the Susquehanna River watershed as demonstrated at the USGS Super Gage Station at Marietta.</p> <p>The 2025 Bay TMDL Milestone is upon us and with that, a reconfiguration and new vision of Bay TMDL implementation is taking shape. One of the primary challenges to this evolution is dealing with the reality of having redundancy in the system and too many workgroups, priorities, GITs, Teams and objectives that take up too much staff time and are not optimally efficient. A significant evolution also taking shape is the development of a Remote Sensing of Conservation Tillage BMP Verification Methodology that is expected to be approved for use in 2025 following collaborative work in 2024 with Resolve Hydro, DEP, AgWG, WTWG and WQ GIT. This new methodology will enable DEP to verify through multi-spectral satellite imagery and machine learning significantly more accurately the conservation tillage BMPs within the Bay watershed of PA. Agricultural nutrient and sediment loads remain in need of large reductions in PA according to the Bay Model and conservation tillage is the best BMP to get large reductions to this source sector. Being able to accurately report the already high rate of implementation of this BMP will demonstrate that more credit is due than currently being documented in the Bay Model.</p>
2.4.11	Hire 1 Aquatic Biologist to support nonpoint source management program and to conduct water quality monitoring assessments with a focus on Tier 1 and Tier 2 counties	2022-2023 Update: Aquatic Biologist will support Section 319 grantees and Conservation District Watershed Specialists, while also conducting and reporting water quality monitoring within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.	DEP	Statewide with a focus on Chesapeake Bay	July 2022				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>Aquatic biologist was hired to further support Pennsylvania’s Nonpoint Source Management Program by July 2022.</p> <p>2023 Update: This milestone is complete.</p>
2.4.12	Hire 1 Environmental Group Manager to oversee the Chesapeake Bay Partnership Section	2022-2023 Update: Environmental Group Manager will provide additional oversight and management of DEP Chesapeake Bay data tracking,	DEP	Chesapeake Bay	December 2022				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>Environmental Group Manager was hired by October 2022 to oversee the tracking, reporting, and modeling efforts with EPA and other federal and jurisdictional partners. In addition, after reorganization taking place in Fall 2022, an Environmental Program Manager was hired by December 2022 to oversee the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division – including Chesapeake Bay Partnership and Watershed Accountability and Administration Sections.</p>

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		reporting, and coordination efforts with EPA and other federal and jurisdictional partners.							2023 Update: This milestone is complete.
2.4.13	Hire 1 Environmental Group Manager to oversee the Watershed Support Section	2022-2023 Update: Environmental Group Manager will provide additional oversight and management of the EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source (NPS) Management Program, DEP Growing Greener Plus, and Conservation District Watershed Specialist Programs. This position will oversee reporting of Section 319 NPS Management Program efforts to EPA.	DEP	Statewide	December 2022				2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. Environmental Group Manager was hired by October 2022 to oversee the Nonpoint Source Management Program, Growing Greener, Conservation District Watershed Specialist programs. In addition, after reorganization taking place in Fall 2022, an Environmental Program Manager was hired by December 2022 to oversee the Nonpoint Source Management Division – including Watershed Support, Conservation District Support, and Agriculture Compliance Sections. 2023 Update: This milestone is complete.
2.4.14	PA DEP Chesapeake Bay Partnership Section partnered with PA Game Commission for Reporting BMPs	The PA Game Commission will identify their BMPs that have not be reported to NEIEN in the past. DEP will work with the Game Commission to report BMPs for submission into NEIEN and CAST for credit towards PA Progress.	PA DEP Chesapeake Bay Partnership Section (CBPS)	PA Counties located within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Boundary	Begins March 2024	Cross walk state to NEIEN BMP names Historical data pull from multiple PGC data sources			2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025. 2024 Update: PGC and DEP collaboration has over doubled the number of BMPs submitted for 2024 Progress. PGC reporting has gone from 1 BMP type reported to 7 BMP types reported.
2.4.15	PA DEP 5-year Nonpoint Source Management Plan	2024-2025 Update: from the 2019 plan	DEP, State/Federal Agency Partners, Conservation Districts,	Statewide	Begins October 2024				2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025. 2024 Update:

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									PA DEP 5-year Nonpoint Source Management Plan was sent in Draft to EPA in December 2024
2.4.16	Review and Revise Pennsylvania’s Wildlife Action Plan (PA WAP) for PA trust species	2024-2025 Update: PGC and PFBC review and revise the 2015-2025 Pennsylvania Wildlife Action Plan (fishandboat.com)	PGC, PFBC	Statewide	Begins May 2024				<p>2023 Update: This is a new milestone for 2024-2025.</p> <p>2024 Update: PA Wildlife Action Plan Conservation Opportunity Area Tool was updated November 2024. Home WAP Conservation Opportunity Area Tool</p>
Section 2, State Actions, Numeric Commitments									
2.4.1A	Work with the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership to establish a credible practice or combination of practices for implementation of advanced soil health strategies or plans on farms in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model for future crediting of these initiatives. Once established as a practice or set of practices that can be credited for progress in the model, commit additional funding or the technical and financial assistance		DEP, PDA, SCC		January 2021	Buy in from the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership			<p>2020 Update: Action has not started</p> <p>2021 Update: Action has not started</p> <p>2022 Update: Action has not started. Will convene partner group in early 2023 to discuss.</p> <p>2023 Update: Pennsylvania’s Sustainable Agriculture Board, provided for under the Sustainable Agriculture Act, will be funded in part by Chesapeake Bay MEB IIA funds. Related to the Sustainable Agriculture Board, grants of up to \$25,000 (or \$50,000 if dollar per dollar match) will be awarded for projects that improve soil health and are considered “climate smart” or “regenerative agriculture” practices, such as cover crops, conversion of cropland to rotational grazing, working buffers, forested buffers, agroforestry and silvopasture. Although limited initially to the Chesapeake Bay watershed due to funds being used, it is the SCC’s intent to provide statewide funding as it become available. While not credited as a collective BMP, soil health and sustainable agriculture lands remain a priority for Pennsylvania’s agriculture industry.</p> <p>2024 Update: Sustainable Ag Board has been appointed, guidelines published, and awards to be granted in 2025.</p>

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	necessary to implement these practices.								
2.4.2A	Expand reporting of dairy precision feeding	Assess and report implementation of dairy precision feeding for 175,000 Animal Units (approximately 152,000 milking cows)	PDA, Dairy Co-ops, PACS Program, Dairy Nutritionists, PA Dairyman’s Assoc., CDs, NRCS		December 2025	Voluntary program. Need to have the ability to track and report what farmers are already doing.			<p>2020 Update: Action is moving forward as planned, workgroup discussing and will be presenting to the CBP Ag Workgroup in January 2021</p> <p>2021 Update: PDA and PSU have presented this approach to the Ag Workgroup. PDA and PSU are developing a proposal for workgroup consideration.</p> <p>2022 Update: Data is being collected from dairy cooperatives to use as baseline for what farmers are already doing.</p> <p>2023 Update: No updates since last year, however, SCC will be resurfacing this as a priority for additional research in 2024.</p> <p>2024 Update: SCC awarded \$22 million USDA-NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) award, in partnership with Land O’Lakes, for enteric feeding practices that reduce methane. It is a statewide project.</p>
2.4.3A	Expand reporting of Enhanced Nutrient Management	64,640 acres with no manure applied would be managed based on a nitrogen and phosphorus based nutrient management plan; 64,640 acres with no manure applied would be managed with nutrient management plans to meet nitrogen and phosphorus requirements as well as supplemental practices based on rate, timing, and placement for	4R Nutrient Stewardship Alliance, PACS, CCAs, CDs, SCC, DEP		December 2025	Voluntary program. Need to have the ability to track and report what farmers are already doing.			<p>2020 Update: 1. Working on the incorporation of verification of Supplemental nutrient management (NM) BMP implementation during annual Act 38 Status Reviews. 2. CBAIP – Standard Operating Procedure and training materials released to support the tracking of Supplemental NM BMPs verified during inspections. 3. Counties have included these BMPs into their CAPs and are actively working to verify them through CAP Implementation Grants and other funding sources and partnerships (e.g. NFWF and 4R Alliance). Action is moving forward as planned, workgroup discussing and developing forms</p> <p>2021 Update: 1. Verification of Supplemental Nutrient Management (NM) BMPs on Act 38 Annual Status Reviews began October 2021. A live webinar was held for certified technicians and recorded for future reference. 2. Counties are actively reporting supplemental NM BMPs in the PracticeKeeper Database while conducting inspections and site visits.</p>

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		nitrogen and phosphorus. Tracking of acres with manure applied, where the land would be managed with nutrient management plans to meet nitrogen and phosphorus requirements as well as supplemental practices based on rate, timing, and placement for nitrogen and phosphorus							<p>3. Coordinating with Penn State University and SCC for the deployment of the 2022 Penn State Voluntary Producer Survey for the Tier 2 and Tier 3 counties, which will also capture supplemental NM BMP implementation.</p> <p>2022 Update: Developed and deployed supplemental onsite status review form for Act 38 Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs), which resulted in increased reporting of implemented supplemental Nutrient Management practices.</p> <p>2023 Update: 1) Enhanced supplemental onsite status review form for Act 38 Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs), which resulted in increased reporting of implemented supplemental Nutrient Management practices. 2) Deployed Data Warehouse which automates the export of PK supplemental NM data and assists with QA/QC.</p> <p>2024 Update: 1) Processes first established in 2023 continue to be implemented. 2) Provided training and guidance on existing processes to county conservation districts using the supplemental onsite status review form.</p>
2.4.4A	Expand reporting of grass buffers	50,000 acres of land adjacent to streams for establishment of grass buffers at least 35 feet in width	NRCS, DEP, CDs		December 2025	Costs associated with on-site inspection to determine grass buffers; use of aerial imagery a potential;	new high-resolution land use layer is being explored for reporting of grass buffers		<p>2020 Update: Agricultural Grass Buffers are being reported through PracticeKeeper, as well as the BMP Partner submission module through the Agricultural Plan Reimbursement Program. Grass buffers are also being reported through Penn State survey, that is scheduled to report by the end of 2020.</p> <p>2021 Update: Agricultural Grass Buffers were reported to EPA’s CBPO from PracticeKeeper, as well as the BMP Partner submission module through the Agricultural Plan Reimbursement Program, and Penn State survey as part of DEP’s 2020 progress submission. Grass Buffer credit duration was being assessed in the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership BMP Verification Ad Hoc Committee. As shown in the Numeric Milestones, submitted progress through 2021 shows an increase in reported grassed buffer acres.</p> <p>DEP, SCC, NRCS, and USGS hold a joint Letter of Understanding (LOU) to assess duplication of Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) reporting in four counties. Currently, NRCS reported CTA projects do not get accounted for due to concerns related to duplicate reporting. DEP provided state reported data to USGS to assess with NRCS reported data. To date, USGS has not yet produced a report from this data sharing project.</p>

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									<p>2022 Update: Increases in grass buffers on fenced pasture corridor, narrow grass buffers, and narrow grass buffers on fenced pasture corridor have been reported in 2022 numeric progress. Further refinement and collection of grass buffers, as well as determining best approaches for verification of grass buffers with expired credit duration, are ongoing.</p> <p>DEP, SCC, NRCS, and USGS hold a joint Letter of Understanding (LOU) to assess duplication of Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) reporting in four counties. Currently, NRCS reported CTA projects do not get accounted for due to concerns related to duplicate reporting. DEP provided state reported data to USGS to assess with NRCS reported data. To date, USGS has not yet produced a report from this data sharing project.</p> <p>2023 Update: Increases in grass buffers on fenced pasture corridor, narrow grass buffers, and narrow grass buffers on fenced pasture corridor have been reported in 2023 numeric progress. Further refinement and collection of grass buffers, as well as determining best approaches for verification of grass buffers with expired credit duration, are ongoing.</p> <p>DEP, SCC, NRCS, and USGS hold a joint Letter of Understanding (LOU) to assess duplication of Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) reporting in four counties. Currently, NRCS reported CTA projects do not get accounted for due to concerns related to duplicate reporting. DEP provided state reported data to USGS to assess with NRCS reported data. EPA provided the complete and final report in November 2023.</p> <p>2024 Update: PA DEP is now able to report Buffer practices in acres and not feet length, after petitioning for the change to the appendix by the CBP. All buffers have been addressed back to their correct acres and reported to overwrite any lengths. An increase in Grass Buffer BMPs has been reported for 2024 Progress Reporting.</p>
2.4.5A	Inventory existing agricultural BMPs and BMP needs through survey, agricultural		PDA, SCC, DEP, CDs, Penn State Extension, NRCS, USGS, EPA		Beginning Spring 2020				<p>2020 Update: 1. PA Farm Conservation Practices Inventory was voluntarily submitted by agricultural operators in Adams, Franklin, and York Counties. Verifications were completed by Penn State Extension professionals, and data analysis is on-going.</p>

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	planning, and inspection programs, focusing on geographic areas through the Tiered approach								<p>2. MOU is finalized, and data analysis and comparison is ongoing across DEP PracticeKeeper and USDA datasets in Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, and York Counties.</p> <p>3. The Chesapeake Bay Ag Inspection Program (CBAIP) continues to collect and report BMP data across the PA Bay watershed as part of initial and follow-up inspections.</p> <p>4. CBAIP has initiated Phase 2 (Plan and BMP Implementation) inspections in Adams, Chester, and Lancaster Counties.</p> <p>PA’s Agricultural Plan Reimbursement Program BMPs are continuing to be reported to Practice Keeper by Team Ag and Larson (APRP contractors) through the BMP Partner Module.</p> <p>2021 Update:</p> <p>1. PA Farm Conservation Practices Inventory was voluntarily submitted by agricultural operators in Adams, Franklin, and York Counties. Verifications were completed by Penn State Extension professionals, and data analysis is complete.</p> <p>2. Data analysis and comparison is ongoing across DEP PracticeKeeper and USDA datasets in Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, and York Counties.</p> <p>3. The Chesapeake Bay Ag Inspection Program (CBAIP) continues to collect and report BMP data across the PA Chesapeake Bay watershed as part of initial and follow-up inspections. The 2020-2021 Agriculture Inspections Annual Summary was published to the website in December 2021.</p> <p>4. CBAIP Phase 2 (Plan and BMP Implementation) inspections continue in Adams, Chester, and Lancaster Counties and has expanded to all counties where initial inspections are complete. Information related to the Phase 2 portion of the CBAIP is included in the 2020-2021 Agriculture Inspections Annual Summary.</p> <p>5. SCC and DEP continue funding and support for the PaOneStop program. Enhancements to PaOneStop will allow for use during the 2022 producer survey data collection.</p> <p>2022 Update:</p> <p>1. PA Farm Conservation Practices Inventory was voluntarily submitted by agricultural operators in Tier 2 Counties. Verifications were completed by Penn State Extension professionals, and data analysis is nearly complete.</p>

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									<p>2. Data analysis and comparison is complete across DEP PracticeKeeper and USDA datasets in Franklin, Juniata, Lancaster, and York Counties. DEP awaits the report from USGS.</p> <p>3. The Chesapeake Bay Ag Inspection Program (CBAIP) continues to collect and report BMP data across the PA Chesapeake Bay watershed as part of initial and follow-up inspections. The 2021-2022 Agriculture Inspections Annual Summary was published to the website in October 2022.</p> <p>4. CBAIP Phase 2 (Plan and BMP Implementation) inspections were completed in Adams, Chester, Clinton, Columbia, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montour, Sullivan, and York Counties and continues to expand to all counties where initial inspections are complete. Information related to the Phase 2 inspections is included in the 2021-2022 Agriculture Inspections Annual Summary.</p> <p>5. SCC and DEP continue funding and support for the PaOneStop program. Enhancements to PaOneStop will allow for use during the 2022 producer survey data collection. Ag. E&S Plan Module to PAOneStop complete.</p> <p>2023 Update:</p> <p>1. The Chesapeake Bay Ag Inspection Program (CBAIP) continues to collect and report BMP data across the PA Chesapeake Bay watershed as part of initial and follow-up inspections. The 2022-2023 Agriculture Inspections Annual Summary was published to the website in December 2023.</p> <p>4. CBAIP Phase 2 (Plan and BMP Implementation) inspections were completed in Adams, Berks, Chester, Clinton, Columbia, Franklin, Fulton, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Montour, Perry, and Sullivan Counties and continues to expand to all counties where initial inspections are complete. Information related to the Phase 2 inspections is included in the 2022-2023 Agriculture Inspections Annual Summary.</p> <p>5. SCC and DEP continue funding and support for the PaOneStop program. Development of the Manure Management Module to PAOneStop is on-going.</p> <p>6. SCC will collect BMP data whenever possible as ACAP field staff are now hired and visiting farms across the state.</p> <p>2024 Update:</p> <p>1. The Chesapeake Bay Ag Inspection Program (CBAIP) continues to collect and report BMP data across the PA Chesapeake Bay watershed as part of initial and follow-up inspections. The 2023-2024 Agriculture Inspections Annual Summary was published to the website in November 2024.</p>

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									<p>2. CBAIP Phase 2 (Plan and BMP Implementation) inspections were completed in Bedford, Berks, Blair, Centre, Chester, Clinton, Columbia, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Mifflin, Montour, Perry, Sullivan, Wyoming, and York Counties and continues to expand to all counties where initial inspections are complete. Information related to the Phase 2 inspections is included in the 2023-2024 Agriculture Inspections Annual Summary.</p> <p>3. SCC and DEP continue funding and support for the PaOneStop program.</p> <p>4. Development of the Manure Management Module to PAOneStop is on-going.</p> <p>5. SCC will collect BMP data whenever possible as ACAP field staff are now hired and visiting farms across the state. Conservation Districts are required to enter ACAP practices in Practicekeeper.</p>
2.4.6A	Develop an electronic reporting system for CAFOs to submit annual reports	2022-2023 Update: DEP will conduct work, using state and federal funding, to develop the CAFO Annual Report e-Reporting Framework to meet EPA e-reporting rule	DEP	Chesapeake Bay/Statewide	Beginning 2022 through 2024				<p>2022 Update: CAFO eReporting tool for annual reports is under development.</p> <p>2023 Update: CAFO eReporting tool for annual reports is deployed and a pilot test involving a limited number of permittees is on-going.</p> <p>2024 Update: 1. The pilot test involving a limited number of permittees was evaluated and deemed successful. 2. Enhancements were completed to CAFO eReporting tool based on feedback received during the pilot test. 3. Coordinated outreach was conducted with the regulated community to provide information and awareness of the soft release of the CAFO eReporting tool. 2. CAFO eReporting tool for annual reports is deployed and the soft release for voluntary use by all CAFOs is on-going.</p>
2.4.7A	Develop functionality for the trained partner submission and DEP or CCD review of verified agricultural	2022-2023 Update: DEP will conduct work using federal funding to develop the PracticeKeeper Partner Submission Planning Modules and enhance the PracticeKeeper	DEP	Chesapeake Bay/Statewide	October 2022				<p>2022 Update: Partner plan submission PK enhancement is complete. Additional guidelines and web-based training modules were developed for third-party verifiers to provide direction regarding BMP verification qualifications and criteria for those entities.</p> <p>2023 Update: Partner submission modules continue to be used and the functionality has been expanded to the DEP Growing Greener and EPA Section 319 Project Modules.</p> <p>2024 Update:</p>

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	BMPs and farm plans	Partner Submission BMP Module.							Partner submission modules continue to be used and the functionality has been expanded to Conowingo WIP reporting.
2.4.8A	Develop and release a NRCS Customer Record Request Form and accompanying FAQs to allow for consistent and clear guidance for sharing of producer data	2022-2023 Update: NRCS will develop, with DEP collaboration, a new Customer Record Request Form to ensure lawful release of records and provide clear guidance to producers and public/private/non profit entities related to information protected under Section 1619 of the Farm Bill. This new form will allow for data to be shared with local and state agencies, as the information will be provided to the producer from NRCS, and the producer will be responsible for the release of information to other partners. It also clearly outlines that the release of information is not a condition of USDA program participation.	NRCS, DEP	Statewide	May 2022				<p>2022 Update: NRCS Customer Record Request form and accompanying FAQs have been developed.</p> <p>2023 Update: NRCS Customer Record Request form continued to be used. This milestone is complete.</p> <p>2024 Update: NRCS Customer Record Request form continued to be used. This milestone is complete.</p>
2.4.1F	Ensure adequate tracking of partner-implemented forestry BMPs	Develop mechanism to capture partner reported and privately funded	DEP, DCNR, PDA, SCC, EPA, PACD, NGOs, Farm Organizations, NRCS, PSU	Pa Bay-wide	Ongoing	QA/QC of partner data, system access, etc.			<p>2020 Update: DCNR Forestry entered BMPs into Practice Keeper from 2017 – 2020 and they were reported as part of 2020 Progress to EPA.</p>

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	including forest buffers, tree canopy, conservation landscaping, urban forest expansion, stream wetland restoration	<p>buffers and other BMPs, with appropriate QA/QC processes, enabling those BMPs to be properly credited.</p> <p>2022-2023 Update: DEP and DCNR Bureau of Recreation and Conservation are developing crosswalk lists, training, and enhancements for reporting priority BMPs that are implemented as part of their grant programs, like parks rehabilitation projects (e.g. green infrastructure, tree planting, and forest buffers).</p>							<p>Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s (CBF) Keystone 10 Million Trees Initiative reported their tree plantings from 2018 – 2020 and was submitted to EPA.</p> <p>DEP is working with DCNR Recreation to report their BMPs in Practice Keeper.</p> <p>FieldDoc, in partnership with Chesapeake Commons, was launched in October 2020 to capture BMPs that are not part of a Commonwealth cost share or regulatory program.</p> <p>NFWF BMPs are going to reported through FieldDoc.</p> <p>DCNR’s TreeVitalize program submitted tree planting BMPs from 2015 – 2019 for 2020 Progress.</p> <p>2021 Update: DCNR Forestry Program entered BMPs into Practice Keeper from 2017 – 2021 and these BMPs were reported as part of 2020 and 2021 Progress to EPA.</p> <p>DCNR’s TreeVitalize program submitted tree planting BMPs from 2015 – 2019 were reported as part of 2020 Progress to EPA. DCNR Forestry and TreeVitalize will continue to report their BMPs to PracticeKeeper.</p> <p>DEP’s DEP and DCNR collaborated with Chesapeake Bay Foundation to set up a PracticeKeeper Partner BMP Module. CBF updated their internal data collection process and requirements to accurately include spatial parcel data that they are going enter PracticeKeeper. DCNR is the reviewing entity and will be QA/QC the data and exporting CBF data from Practice Keeper to submit to DEP. CBF will report historic data to DCNR in a spreadsheet form, but moving forward CBF will utilize PracticeKeeper for all of their future reporting.</p> <p>As part of DCNR’s Climate Resiliency initiative, DCNR Recreation is working with DEP to report their BMPs in PracticeKeeper. DCNR Recreation agreed to “pilot” PracticeKeeper to report BMPs for York and Lancaster County. DCNR Recreation is going to update their grant close out form to include reporting BMPs.</p> <p>For FieldDoc, Chesapeake Commons added the Tier 2 counties so they can input non-cost share/regulatory BMPs along with the Pilot counties. EPA’s CBPO 2020 Progress metrics will be added for the Pilot and Tier 2 counties in FieldDoc to compare with the county CAP goals.</p> <p>NFWF BMPs were reported through FieldDoc to EPA’s CBPO for 2020 progress.</p> <p>2022 Update:</p>

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									<p>DCNR Forestry Program entered BMPs into Practice Keeper and were reported for 2022 Progress to EPA.</p> <p>DCNR’s TreeVitalize experienced some reporting challenges and will report next year for 2023 Progress that will include 2022 BMPs through PracticeKeeper.</p> <p>DCNR’s lawn conversion program has not yet been integrated into PracticeKeeper. DCNR is exploring alternative methods for reporting forest buffers beyond PracticeKeeper.</p> <p>Scheduled for 2023: As part of DCNR’s Climate Resiliency initiative, DCNR Recreation is working with DEP to report their BMPs in PracticeKeeper. DCNR Recreation agreed to “pilot” PracticeKeeper to report BMPs for York and Lancaster County. DCNR Recreation is going to update their grant close out form to include reporting BMPs.</p> <p>For FieldDoc, Chesapeake Commons added the Tier 3 and 4 counties so they can input non-cost share/regulatory BMPs along with the Pilot and Tier 2 counties. EPA’s CBPO 2021 Progress metrics were added for all counties to compare with the county CAP goals. Chesapeake Commons is working with DEP and GeoDecisions to create an automated reporting process to Data Warehouse.</p> <p>NFWF BMPs were reported through FieldDoc to EPA’s CBPO for 2022 progress.</p> <p>2023 Update: DCNR’s TreeVitalize (now UCF) program has improved their tracking and has successfully reported BMPs tracked via TreeKeeper. The data was reported to DEP, and the data was provided to EPA.</p> <p>FieldDoc, in partnership with Chesapeake Commons, captures BMPs that are not part of a Commonwealth cost-share or regulatory program.</p> <p>Relevant BMPs from MS4s are also reported through NEIEN.</p> <p>NFWF BMPs are reported through FieldDoc.</p> <p>All programs identified here are also listed with more information in Pennsylvania’s NPS Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).</p> <p>2024 Update: DCNR’s Urban Community Forest program has improved their tracking and has successfully reported BMPs. The data was reported to DEP, and the data was provided to EPA.</p>

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									<p>FieldDoc, in partnership with Chesapeake Commons, captures BMPs that are not part of a Commonwealth cost-share or regulatory program.</p> <p>Relevant BMPs from MS4s are also reported through NEIEN.</p> <p>NFWF BMPs are reported through FieldDoc.</p> <p>All programs identified here are also listed with more information in Pennsylvania’s NPS Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).</p> <p>PA DCNR’s C2P2 grant program will now report riparian forest buffer implementation to PracticeKeeper internally, without requiring grantees to input data into both the DCNR and the PK systems separately.</p>
2.4.2F	Celebrate successful implementation and maintenance of forestry BMPs through reporting successful efforts.	Generate broad understanding and acceptance of watershed restoration efforts and how they improve quality of life in PA communities through reporting successful efforts, resulting in a greater appetite for forestry and all BMPs. Broader acceptance and appetite for these BMPs will make outreach and implementation less time-intensive, less expensive processes.	All agencies and partners.	Pa Bay-wide	Ongoing	Report generation, digestible messaging, continual messaging, etc.			<p>2020 Update: DCNR included forest buffers and lawn conversion practices in its monthly e-newsletter, <i>The Resource</i>, and celebrated forestry BMPs through the USFS Shared Stewardship agreement signing committing to the Bay Forest Restoration Strategy.</p> <p>Teddi Stark received the 1st Annual Watershed Leadership Award which will be given annually during the Riparian Forest Buffer Summit.</p> <p>The Buffer Vocational Training at Huntingdon State Correctional Institute was a part of the Correctional Conservation Collaborative and received a Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award in 2020, as well as local news coverage.</p> <p>2021 Update: David Wise of Stroud Water Research Center received the 2nd Annual Watershed Leadership Award, which was presented at PA’s Virtual 2021 Buffer Summit.</p> <p>DCNR continued to share success stories via social media and resource newsletters, as they were available.</p> <p>DCNR invited executive and legal staff who work on our many agreements to a partner planting to celebrate progress on buffers internally.</p> <p>CCLC is making October 2021 “buffers month”, and hosting and sponsoring outreach and events around riparian forest buffers.</p> <p>2022 Update: Greg Wilson of Donegal TU was posthumously awarded the Watershed Forestry Leadership Award at the 2022 Watershed Forestry Summit (formerly Riparian Forest Buffer Summit).</p>

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									<p>In May 2022, PA DEP, PA DCNR, PDA, and members of the Chesapeake Bay Commission attended a celebratory buffer planting in Lancaster, PA.</p> <p>2023 Update: Ryan Davis was awarded the Watershed Forestry Leadership Award at the 2022 Watershed Forestry Summit.</p> <p>DCNR will be celebrating a ~300 acre buffer planting at the new Big Elk State Park in early 2024, around Earth Day.</p> <p>2024 Update: As planned, DCNR celebrated the planting of a nearly 300 acre buffer at the new Big Elk Creek State Park during Earth Week of 2024. In July of 2024, Governor Shapiro also celebrated the riparian forest buffer progress made in PA over the past several years during the press event at the SRBC office in Harrisburg that debuted the UMCES 2323/2024 Chesapeake Bay and Watershed Report Card.</p>
2.4.1S	Collect Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) BMP data using the new reporting systems for electronic submission for annual reports and inspections	Implement use of MS4 e-Inspection application. Complete e-reporting system for annual reports by December 2022	DEP, MS4s	Statewide	Begin 2019				<p>2020 Update: DEP is initiating a new project to develop a web-based system for MS4 annual reports to collect BMP data.</p> <p>DEP is utilizing an electronic system for recording MS4 inspections (“eInspection”).</p> <p>2021 Update: The development of an electronic reporting system for MS4 Annual reports is underway. It is anticipated that this system will begin to be implemented for reporting year 2022.</p> <p>2022 Update: The development of the eReporting application for MS4 Annual Status Reports is complete and a small number of MS4s were asked to beta test the system this year. A few bugs were discovered and as a result, it is likely that next year will continue to be considered a testing period.</p> <p>2023 Update: Pilot testing of the MS4 Annual Reporting Systems continues with over 50 MS4s participating this year. Based on the results of the testing period, DEP will decide if use of the eReporting system will be mandated for all MS4s next year.</p> <p>2024 Update: The use of the eReporting application was voluntary for the submission of MS4 Annual Status reports in 2024. Over 120 permittees used the eReporting application to submit their MS4 annual reports in 2024. There are still some bugs</p>

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									in the system and as a result, DEP is unsure whether use of the system will be mandated in 2025.
2.4.2S	Initiate and collect stormwater BMP data from other DEP programs implementing provisions of the Chapter 102 regulations, to include required post-construction stormwater management.			Statewide	Begin 2020				<p>2020 Update: DEP is anticipating the launch of the Chapter 102 ePermit system on January 25, 2021, to allow the regulated community to submit Notices of Intent (NOIs) electronically for PAG-02 NPDES General Permit coverage for stormwater discharges associated with construction activities. The ePermit system will be built in phases, in which new and amendment PAG-02 NOIs will be released first, followed by individual NPDES permit applications and then erosion and sediment control (E&S) permit applications. Use of Chapter 102 ePermit will be voluntary at first, but is expected to be required in the future. The system represents a significant step forward in DEP’s ability to collect information on earth disturbance activities and BMPs across Pennsylvania.</p> <p>2021 Update: The Chapter 102 ePermit system is available for voluntary use for: 1. New NOIs and amendments for the PAG-02 General NPDES Permit (released January 25, 2021); 2. New applications and amendments for Individual NPDES Permits for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (released April 21, 2021); and 3. New applications and amendments for Erosion and Sediment Pollution Control (E&S) Permits for Discharge of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activities (released August 4, 2021).</p> <p>System availability for New NOIs for the Erosion and Sediment Control General Permit (ESCGP-3) for earth disturbance associated with Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Processing or Treatment Operations or Transmission Facilities is tentatively planned for release on December 8, 2021. The ePermit system records anticipated PCSM BMPs for earth disturbance projects.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP’s IT staff continue to make needed improvements to ePermit. Currently about 3-5% of Chapter 102 NPDES applications/NOIs are being submitted through ePermit.</p> <p>2023 Update: Chapter 102 ePermit use continues to be voluntary due to a number of issues that must be corrected before we require its use. DEP is also seeking to update PracticeKeeper software to include Chapter 102 inspections; PCSM BMPs will be part of the planned data collection.</p> <p>2024 Update:</p>

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									Due to its extremely low voluntary usage and significant concerns from both staff and applicants, DEP has decided to discontinue use of the Chapter 102 ePermit system at this time (effective December 8, 2024). A new system is being considered as part of DEP’s overall IT modernization efforts.
2.4.3S	Continue to track MS4 PRP submission, review, and approval.	Internal report is updated and maintained on a quarterly basis and provided to regional staff as well as DEP executive team	DEP Bureau of Clean Water		Ongoing				<p>2020 Update: DEP’s Bureau of Clean Water continues to track MS4 PRPs. Here are the numbers: 1. Percentage of PRPs reviewed of those received: 100% (178 total, there are multiple joint PRPs that include about 250 MS4s) 2. Percentage approved of those reviewed: 87% (155 of 178) 3. Total PRPs not received: 8 4. Total PRPs not yet approved: 31 Note this is being tracked in terms of PRPs instead of MS4s, since there are multiple joint PRPs that involve many jurisdictions. The York County PRP includes more than 40 MS4 which will be approved shortly.</p> <p>2021 Update: There are 345 small regulated MS4s in the Chesapeake Bay watershed (not including PennDOT and PA Turnpike Commission). Of these, 79 have waivers. Of the remaining 266 with permit coverage, 84% have approved PRPs.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP continues to make progress on completing PRP reviews and approval. Approximately 10% of permittees in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed do not yet have approved PRPs.</p> <p>2023 Update: The majority of the MS4s in Chesapeake Bay Watershed have approved PRPs and are implementing their plans. DEP continued to work with the few remaining permittees that do not yet have approved PRPs.</p> <p>2024 Update: The draft PAG-13 was presented to WRAC in November 2024. The draft PAG-13 is will be published for public comment on January 18, 2025. A tentative renewal NOI due date is September 30, 2026.</p>
2.4.4S	Review and approve PennDOT’s and PA Turnpike Commission’s PRPs	PRPs are expected to be received by DEP in October 2022.	DEP	Chesapeake Bay Watershed	Summer 2023	The PRPs are expected to be large and complex but are expected to result in significant pollutant load reductions.			<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>PennDOT’s and PTC’s PRPs were received on October 27 and 31, 2022, respectively. The PRPs will be reviewed by DEP Central Office. Central Office will coordinate with the DEP regional offices where collaborative BMP projects with municipal permittees are proposed.</p> <p>2023 Update:</p>

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									<p>DEP reviewed and provided comments on PennDOT and PTC’s draft PRPs. PennDOT and PTC are in the process of addressing DEP’s comments. It is anticipated that final PRPs from PennDOT and PTC will be submitted to DEP at the end of 2023.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP is in the process of preparing major amendments to PennDOT’s and PTC’s permit which will formally approve their PRPs.</p>
2.4.1W	Explore the feasibility of developing a GIS based online monitoring and reporting program that municipalities can use to report on-lot system operation and maintenance.		DEP						<p>2020 Update: Project has been scoped with the help of DEP IT. Until funds are available to support the development, the system cannot be further developed and implemented.</p> <p>2021 Update: State funds have been made available through the Clean Water Fund. Project is in the intake queue for DEP Bureau of Information Technology.</p> <p>2022 Update DEP Bureau of Information Technology re-evaluated project and determine previous project cost provide to BCW was unrealistic so the rescope project exceeds the project funding so project is currently on hold.</p> <p>2023 Update: State funds have been approved for the initial phase of the project. The work has not yet started. Prioritization of all IT projects are being considered to determine how quickly this project can move forward.</p> <p>2024 Update: State funds have been approved for the initial phase of the project. The work has not yet started. Prioritization of all IT projects are being considered to determine how quickly this project can move forward.</p>
Section 3, Countywide Actions									
3.4.1	Track and report progress in Phase 3 WIP planning and implementation in all counties.	Development of Countywide Action Plans (CAPs) in all counties in Pennsylvania’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed.	DEP, Local planning leaders, External Coordinators	All Counties in CBWS	Phase 1 Begins July 2019 Phase 2 Begins Feb 2020	State staffing support Internal and External Coordination			<p>2020 Update: Pilot counties submitted annual progress templates to DEP for their Countywide Action Plan in October. DEP met and discussed progress templates with each of the pilot counties. Tier 2 counties submitted their Draft Plans in October and are in the final stages of finalizing their CAPs. Tier 2 counties will submit their first annual progress report in 2021.</p> <p>2021 Update:</p>

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									<p>Pilot counties submitted annual progress reports and 2022-23 CAP milestone updates to DEP for their Countywide Action Plans in September. DEP met and discussed progress templates and milestones with each of the pilot counties.</p> <p>Tier 2 counties submitted annual progress reports to DEP for their Countywide Action Plans in September. DEP met and discussed progress templates with each of the Tier 2 counties.</p> <p>All Tier 3 and 4 counties completed and submitted their CAPs to DEP in September 2021. DEP met and discussed CAP initiatives with each of the Tier 3 and 4 counties. DEP also conducted a “Transition to Implementation” webinar in December for the Tier 3 and 4 counties.</p> <p>County annual progress and two-year milestone updates are published to the DEP Countywide Action Plans website.</p> <p>2022 Update: Tier 2 counties submitted annual progress reports and 2022-23 CAP milestone updates to DEP for their Countywide Action Plans in September. DEP met and discussed progress templates and milestones with each of the Tier 2 counties.</p> <p>Pilot and Tier 3&4 counties submitted annual progress reports to DEP for their Countywide Action Plans in September. DEP met and discussed progress templates with each of the Pilot and Tier 3&4 counties.</p> <p>County annual progress and two-year milestone updates are published to the DEP Countywide Action Plans website.</p> <p>2023 Update: Pilot and Tier 3&4 counties submitted annual progress reports and 2022-23 CAP milestone updates to DEP for their Countywide Action Plans in October. DEP met and discussed progress templates and milestones with each of the counties.</p> <p>Tier 2 counties submitted annual progress reports to DEP for their Countywide Action Plans in October. DEP met and discussed progress templates with each of the counties.</p> <p>County annual progress and two-year milestone updates are published to the DEP Countywide Action Plans website.</p> <p>2024 Update: Pilot and Tier 3 & 4 counties provided annual progress reports to reflect on their implementation progress of their Countywide Action Plans for the 2023-2024 time</p>

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									<p>period. DEP WAAS staff reviewed and gave feedback to county partners on these reports.</p> <p>Tier 2 counties submitted Two-Year Milestone reports and updated CAST scenarios for the 2023 – 2024 time period. DEP WAAS staff reviewed and gave feedback to county partners on these reports.</p>
3.4.1(i)	<p>DEP staff will conduct a full review of each county CAP and develop a CAP Highlights and Trends summary of findings.</p> <p>DEP staff will coordinate efforts between county CAP partners and state program action leaders to identify key focus areas that are creating barriers for progress and work together in 2024 to identify strategies for success in overcoming these identified issues.</p>		DEP	34 CAP Counties	March 2022				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>Tier 2 counties submitted annual progress reports and 2022-23 CAP milestone updates to DEP for their Countywide Action Plans in September. DEP met and discussed progress templates and milestones with each of the Tier 2 counties.</p> <p>Pilot and Tier 3&4 counties submitted annual progress reports to DEP for their Countywide Action Plans in September. DEP met and discussed progress templates with each of the Pilot and Tier 3&4 counties.</p> <p>County annual progress and two-year milestone updates are published to the DEP Countywide Action Plans website.</p> <p>2023 Update: Pilot and Tier 3&4 counties submitted annual progress reports and 2023-24 CAP milestone updates to DEP for their Countywide Action Plans in October. DEP met and discussed progress templates and milestones with each of the counties.</p> <p>Tier 2 counties submitted annual progress reports to DEP for their Countywide Action Plans in October. DEP met and discussed progress templates with each of the counties.</p> <p>County annual progress and two-year milestone updates are published to the DEP Countywide Action Plans website.</p> <p>In October, a Clean Water Gathering was held between county CAP partners and state program action leaders to identify key focus areas that are creating barriers for progress and work together in 2024 to identify strategies for success in overcoming these identified issues.</p> <p>2024 Update: Pilot and Tier 3&4 counties submitted annual progress reports to DEP for their Countywide Action Plans in October. DEP met and discussed progress templates with each of the counties.</p>

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									<p>Tier 2 counties submitted 2024-2025 milestone updates to DEP for their Countywide Action Plans in October. DEP met and discussed progress templates and milestones with each of the counties.</p> <p>County annual progress and two-year milestone updates are published to the DEP Countywide Action Plans website.</p> <p>Since January 2024, a diverse and collaborative group of more than 60 people have dedicated nearly 1,000 people hours across three Clean Water Progress Teams that were created following the October 2023 Clean Water Gathering of more than 80 county, state and federal program action leaders. These teams include program staff from DEP, SCC, DCNR, CAP Coordinators associated with county agencies as well as the private sector, and additional individuals from nonprofits and state and federal entities. The three teams worked on developing recommendations to address priority action area challenges identified during the first Clean Water Gathering in October 2023. Those challenge areas identified included: technical and administrative assistance, staff building and staff retention, and funding and multi-grant coordination.</p> <p>The three teams have finalized their recommendations to address the challenge areas. They have developed 25 actionable recommendations. These 25 recommendations have been catalogued and summarized. The teams are positioned to share these recommendations with state action leaders and policymakers at the second Clean Water Gathering, which will take place in January 2025.</p>
3.4.1(ii)	Create a Healthy Communities, Healthy Waters annual report highlighting PA's progress and sharing county-based success stories.		DEP	Chesapeake Bay Watershed	September 2022				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>The 2021 Healthy Waters Healthy Communities Annual Report can be found on PA's Plan website.</p> <p>2023 Update: The 2022 Healthy Waters Healthy Communities Annual Report can be found on PA's Plan website.</p> <p>2024 Update: The 2023 Healthy Waters Healthy Communities Annual Report can be found on PA's Plan website.</p>

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3.4.2	Update reductions in the County Planning Progress template upon completion of each county plan.	<p>Completion of Countywide Action Plans (CAPs) in all counties in Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Watershed.</p> <p>2022-2023 Update: DEP will continue to contract with SRBC to assist in updated Tier 2 CAST runs, updating County CAP Toolboxes, and working on Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) initiatives.</p>	DEP, Local planning leaders, External Coordinators	All Counties in CBWS	Phase 1 Begins January 2020	<p>State staffing support</p> <p>Internal and External Coordination</p>			<p>2020 Update: Tier 2 counties are in final stages of finalizing their CAPs. The Phase 3 WIP input file will be updated in 2021 to represent the Tier 2 CAPs.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP and SRBC have worked closely to assist Pilot and Tier 3 and 4 counties with CAST scenarios. To facilitate this process, DEP and SRBC collaborated on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a standardized and user-friendly BMP Template with directions, BMP crosswalk and definitions and for counties plan their BMPs numeric goals. DEP/SRBC provided training and answered questions about the BMP Template. 2. When counties submitted their BMP Template, SRBC created CAST scenarios and shared results in pie charts and tables via PowerPoint to be reviewed by DEP. SRBC and DEP discussed the CAST scenario results before presenting to each county. 3. DEP/SRBC collaborated to present the CAST results, use the Toolbox to highlight areas of opportunity, and answer technical questions. 4. DEP/SRBC presented the difference between CAST17 and CAST19 to each Tier 1 county and answer technical questions. 5. DEP/SRBC worked together to investigate and find solutions to issues concerning wastewater and excess in the CAST19 model. 6. SRBC is on track to complete Pilot and Tier 3 and 4 Snapshots and Implementation Toolboxes. 7. SRBC provided a comprehensive QA/QC document for their contracted work for DEP. DEP did a QA/QC analysis of SRBC's Franklin County CAST Scenario <p>2022 Update: DEP and SRBC have worked closely to assist Tier 2 counties with CAST scenarios. To facilitate this process, DEP and SRBC collaborated on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a standardized and user-friendly BMP Template with directions, BMP crosswalk and definitions and for counties plan their BMPs numeric goals. DEP/SRBC provided training and answered questions about the BMP Template. 2. When counties submitted their BMP Template, SRBC created CAST scenarios and shared results in pie charts and tables via PowerPoint to be reviewed by DEP. SRBC and DEP discussed the CAST scenario results before presenting to each county. 3. DEP/SRBC collaborated to present the CAST results, use the Toolbox to highlight areas of opportunity, and answer technical questions. 4. DEP/SRBC presented the difference between Tier 2 2020 CAST county runs and answer technical questions. 5. DEP/SRBC worked together to investigate and find solutions to issues concerning excess in the CAST19 model. 6. SRBC completed Tier 2 Snapshots and Implementation Toolboxes.

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									<p>7. SRBC provided a comprehensive QA/QC document for their contracted work for DEP.</p> <p>8. SRBC assisted with Technical Updates involving CAST scenarios to the WIP3 Amendment in regard to Climate Change and Non-reporting programs. SRBC created procedures for these updates and participated on WIP3 evaluation calls with EPA CBPO.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP and SRBC have worked closely to assist Pilot and Tier 3 and 4 counties with CAST scenarios. To facilitate this process, DEP and SRBC collaborated on the following: DEP/SRBC collaborated to present data from CAST showing the BMP implementation rates from 2019 and 2022 along with the proposed CAP BMPs</p> <p>Utilized a standardized and user-friendly BMP Template with directions, BMP crosswalk and definitions and for counties to plan their BMPs numeric goals. DEP/SRBC provided training and answered questions about the BMP Template.</p> <p>When counties submitted their BMP Template, SRBC created CAST scenarios and shared results in pie charts and tables with DEP.</p> <p>SRBC is on track to complete Pilot and Tier 3 and 4 Snapshots.</p> <p>SRBC provided a comprehensive QA/QC document for their contracted work for DEP.</p> <p>SRBC assisted with Technical review of CAST23.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP and SRBC have worked closely to assist Tier 2 counties with CAST scenarios. To facilitate this process, DEP and SRBC collaborated on the following: DEP/SRBC collaborated to present data from CAST showing the BMP implementation rates from 2019 and 2023 along with the proposed CAP BMPs</p> <p>Updated the standardized and user-friendly BMP Template to only calculate total BMPs to create more accurate modeling and for counties to plan their BMPs numeric goals. DEP/SRBC provided training and answered questions about the BMP Template.</p> <p>When counties submitted their BMP Template, SRBC created CAST scenarios and shared results in pie charts and tables with DEP.</p> <p>SRBC is on track to complete Tier 2 Snapshots.</p>

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3.4.3	Track and report progress to continue implementation of the Phase 3 WIP State Numeric Commitments described in Section 4, State Actions in the counties with minimal reductions.	Completion of Countywide Action Plans (CAPs) in all counties in Pennsylvania’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed.	DEP, Local planning leaders, External Coordinators	All Counties in CBWS	State staffing support Internal and External Coordination				<p>2020 Update: Conservation Districts continue to use the PracticeKeeper system, as required by their Nutrient/Manure Management and Bay Technician agreements. PennDOT was added as a new reporting program for stormwater BMPs for 2020 progress. DCNR Recreation is working to report stormwater BMPs on non-MS4 land through PracticeKeeper.</p> <p>2021 Update: See above for CAP updates.</p> <p>PracticeKeeper data collection is improving with expanded use by County Conservation Districts with improved functionality including Partner (non-CCD) BMP Submission capability.</p> <p>2022 Update: See above for CAP updates.</p> <p>DEP staff are working with GeoDecisions to transfer data from PracticeKeeper to the new Data Warehouse</p> <p>For 2022 Progress, DEP worked with a new data reporter, the PA Turnpike Commission, to report their historic and current stormwater BMPs for 2022 Progress.</p> <p>DEP staff will continue to work with DCNR Recreation to report stormwater BMPs on non-MS4 land through PracticeKeeper.</p> <p>2023 Update: See above for CAP updates.</p> <p>DEP staff are working with GeoDecisions to transfer data from PracticeKeeper to the new Data Warehouse.</p> <p>For 2023 Progress, DEP worked with a new data reporter, Larson Design Group (LDG), to report BMPs captured with non-intrusive remote-sensing methodology.</p> <p>DEP staff continued to work with DCNR to report stormwater BMPs on non-MS4 land through PracticeKeeper.</p> <p>2024 Update: See above for CAP updates.</p>

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									<p>DEP staff are working with GeoDecisions to transfer data from PracticeKeeper to Data Warehouse.</p> <p>For 2024 Progress, DEP worked with the PA Game Commission to report 6 new BMP types and double their reportable BMPs. The Game Commission is doing an investigation into their historic BMPs and will report them in 2025 to further boost their numbers.</p> <p>A remote sensing pilot project is underway with methodology approval expected in Spring 2025 to accurately verify and report conservation tillage BMPs within PA's portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. A significant increase in conservation tillage BMPs is expected when we begin using this new methodology.</p> <p>DEP staff continued to work with DCNR to report stormwater BMPs on non-MS4 land through PracticeKeeper.</p> <p>Nutrient Management (NM) BMPs continue to increase, further removing croplands that had received a penalty of 20% added to their loading rates in the Bay model, while also getting a stacked reduction to their loading rate to account for the efficiency of the NM BMPs.</p> <p>Total reportable BMPs have increased by 1,500 records this year to nearly 16,000.</p>
3.4.4	Amend the Phase 3 WIP to incorporate the additional CAPs that are developed (Phase 1 and 2)	Completion of Countywide Action Plans (CAPs) in all counties in Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Watershed	DEP	Phase 1: Tier 2 Counties Phase 2: Tier 3 and 4 Counties	Phase 1: December 2020 Phase 2: December 2021	State staffing support Internal and External Coordination			<p>2020 Update: Phase 1 CAPs are completed.</p> <p>2021 Update: Phase 1 and Phase 2 CAPs are completed and published to the DEP Countywide Action Plans website.</p> <p>Pennsylvania's Phase 3 WIP Amendment was submitted to EPA by December 31, 2021 and published to the DEP Pennsylvania's Plan website.</p> <p>2022 Update: EPA provided the evaluation of the draft amended Phase 3 WIP on April 18, 2022. DEP resubmitted the final amended Phase 3 WIP by the EPA deadline of July 18, 2022. EPA published their final evaluation on November 21, 2022. Pennsylvania's final amended Phase 3 WIP is published to the DEP website. PA's Plan</p> <p>2023 Update: No update to this milestone. This milestone is complete.</p>

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Priority Initiative 5: Compliance									
Section 2, State Actions, Programmatic and Narrative Commitments									
2.5.1	Pass the Fertilizer Bill to achieve the identified nutrient reductions on urban and agriculture lands.				2019-2020 Legislative Session				<p>2020 Update: Fertilizer Bill was not passed in the 2019-2020 Legislative Session.</p> <p>2021 Update: Fertilizer Bill is being discussed in the 2020-2021 Legislative Session.</p> <p>2022 Update: The fertilizer bill was approved by the PA House and Senate.</p> <p>2023 Update: The fertilizer bill was passed and signed into law.</p> <p>2024 Update: PDA's Bureau of Plant Industry has been implementing the new urban nutrient management law.</p>
2.5.2	Review, consider and potentially incorporate a revised Phosphorus Index into the planning requirements for land application of biosolids.	Incorporate revised P index tool into future nutrient management planning efforts where approved for use	SCC, Penn State, DEP, NRCS	Statewide	July 2020				<p>2020 Update: DEP is on track and currently developing draft permits to reissue for the beneficial use of sewage sludge, PAG-07, PAG-08, and PAG-09. One of the items for consideration is incorporation of the management of sewage sludge with the consideration of the total phosphorus content of the sewage sludge. No decisions have been made on what will or will not be in these draft permits to date.</p> <p>2021 Update: P-Index Version 3 is still in development and testing, hopefully to be released in early 2022. DEP is doing outreach on the changes to the general permits that authorize land application of biosolids which include the incorporation of the - index to the biosolids management requirements. DEP is coming up against significant opposition to the proposed P-index requirement.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP has developed pre-draft General Permits for the beneficial use of sewage sludge (AKA biosolids). These permits were shared with the Agricultural Advisory Board, the Water Resource Advisory Committee, as well as a separate DEP stakeholder workgroup. DEP presented the proposed changes to the various stakeholder groups and gathered feedback. The PA legislature has directed the Legislative Budget Finance Committee to "study the costs and methods for permit holders to comply with the proposed revisions to General Permit PAG-07, General Permit PAG-08 and General Permit PAG-09 called for under Pennsylvania's Phase 3 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan." DEP continues work on these permits.</p>

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									<p>2023 Update: Work continued in 2023.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP eagerly awaited the Draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and . In the meantime, discussions regarding next steps for the Biosolids permits, including the incorporation of the P-Index, were held.</p>
2.5.3	Develop State Agency nutrient reduction planning goals and the associated Action Plans for meeting those planning goals for the installation of practices on lands owned and maintained by state agencies.	Completed State Agency Action Plans for the reduction of nutrients on lands owned and operated by state agencies	DEP, DCNR, Other Agencies responsible for the management of state lands, Governor’s Office	Watershed-wide	January 2021				<p>2020 Update: The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is partnering with DCNR’s Bureau of Forestry to conduct a pilot riparian forest buffer implementation project along the Juniata River on four parcels owned by PFBC, which will total approximately eight acres of buffer planting. These plantings are scheduled to take place in April 2021. If all goes well with these pilot plantings, PFBC will look into additional parcels owned by the Commission for potential riparian forest buffer implementation.</p> <p>2021 Update: The partnership plantings with PAFBC took place in April 2021, and PAFBC is working with PA DCNR to identify additional locations for plantings in 2022.</p> <p>DCNR is also exploring options for Lawn Conversion project implementation on DCNR-controlled lands, such as at state park and state forest offices.</p> <p>2022 Update: PFBC again partnered with DCNR to plant 1.5 acres of streamside buffer along the Yellow Breeches Creek, Cumberland County on the PFBC’s Camp Hill Access property.</p> <p>2023 Update: PA DCNR is working with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay to plant ~300 acres of Riparian Forest Buffer at Big Elk State Park. This project will be implemented in 2024.</p> <p>2024 Update: The planting of nearly 300 acres of riparian forest buffers at Big Elk Creek State Park was implemented as intended during the spring of 2024. DCNR is also working with Danville State Hospital to implement ~10 acres of Lawn to Habitat projects, both forests and meadows, on their property within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. DSH was recognized by the Secretary of the Department of Human Services in June of 2024, who presented DSH with an environmental award for their work.</p>

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Section 2, State Actions, Numeric Commitments									
2.5.1A	Implement NPDES Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Program Delegation	Permit 100% of all CAFOs (350+ operations in Chesapeake Bay Watershed); Inspection metrics and results are provided to EPA annually per the required Compliance Monitoring Strategy. EPA also requires NPDES permitting and compliance information to be provided by DEP for ICIS database inclusion. 2022-2023 Update: Implement proactive outreach strategies to regulated community to ensure PAG-12 general permit renewal by April 2023.	DEP		Ongoing				<p>2020 Update: A modification of the PAG-12 General Permit was issued by DEP on October 31, 2020 requiring the submission of NOIs to remain covered under PAG-12. DEP has submitted an end of year CMS report and will continue to provide CAFO permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP and EPA have attended the Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) CAFO workgroup as they deliberate areas for streamlining the permit application and reporting process. DEP will work with the AAB as well as EPA to ensure that there is transparent and consistent communications regarding the PAG-12 and it remains on schedule for renewal.</p> <p>2022 Update: EPA has reviewed DEP’s proposed draft PAG-12 general permit and has participated in AAB meetings. EPA proposed additional elements to the PAG-12, including provisions related to the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and identification of additional BMPs to meet the TMDL, as needed. The public comment period for the draft PAG-12 ended on October 31, 2022. Four sets of comments were received that included two requests by industry organizations to extend PAG-12 to provide sufficient time to vet new requirements relating to TMDL consistency. DEP published the <u>PAG-12 extension</u> on December 17, 2022.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP reissued a final PAG-12 General Permit on September 16, 2023 and the general permit will become effective on January 1, 2024. Letters were mailed to approximately 380 existing PAG-12 permittees, notifying them that they must submit a renewal NOI by December 31, 2023. In accordance with EPA’s request, DEP developed and will be implementing a Reasonable Potential Analysis Spreadsheet for use in helping to determine eligibility for PAG-12 where CAFOs are in a watershed that is impaired for nutrients or sediment. DEP provided training to permitting and compliance staff regarding the reissued PAG-12 and provided the training slides to the DEP Agriculture Advisory Board.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP continues to implement the CAFO permitting program. DEP established an agricultural stakeholder workgroup in 2024 and solicited feedback on streamlining ag permitting. Some of the suggestions will be followed up on during 2025.</p>
2.5.2A	Complete complaint		DEP, SCC, CDs		Ongoing				<p>2020 Update: DEP’s regional offices complete this activity on an ongoing basis.</p>

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	follow-up for CAFO and non-CAFO facilities								<p>2021 Update: DEP’s regional offices complete this activity on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP’s regional offices complete this activity on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP’s regional offices complete this activity on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP’s regional offices complete this activity on an ongoing basis.</p>
2.5.3A	Implement Chesapeake Bay Agriculture Inspection Program, Phase 1, with an emphasis on meeting state planning requirement on non-CAFO operations.	Inspect 10% of the agricultural acreage annually. More information can be found in our Standard Operating Procedure published on DEP’s website. Additionally, progress is reported to EPA every 6 months per the Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program grant.	DEP, CDs	Chesapeake Bay	Ongoing				<p>2020 Update: Chesapeake Bay Ag Inspection Program (CBAIP) Standard Operating Procedure was updated in May 2020. The 2019-2020 Annual Inspection Summary has been developed and published to the DEP Ag Compliance website.</p> <p>2021 Update: Chesapeake Bay Ag Inspection Program (CBAIP) Phase 1 (CBO-INSP-001) Standard Operating Procedure was updated in May 2021. The 2020-2021 Agriculture Annual Inspections Summary was published to the DEP website in December 2021.</p> <p>2022 Update: The CBAIP Phase 1 SOP and the CBAIP Phase 2 SOP were merged and published on the DEP website in May 2022. The 2021-2022 Agriculture Annual Inspections Summary was published to the DEP website in Fall 2022, with a press release announcement as well.</p> <p>2023 Update: The CBAIP SOP was revised and published to the DEP website in August 2023. The 2022-2023 Agriculture Annual Inspections Summary was published to the DEP website in Fall 2023.</p> <p>2024 Update: The 2023-2024 Agriculture Annual Inspections Summary was published to the DEP website in Fall 2024.</p>
2.5.4A	Implement Chesapeake Bay Agriculture Inspection	2022-2023 Update: The CBAIP Phase 2 program will continue to be	DEP, SCC, CDs, NRCS, Private Consultants	Chesapeake Bay	Beginning July 2020	Available funding for Technical Assistance and construction of			<p>2020 Update: Chesapeake Bay Ag Inspection Program – Phase 2 Standard Operating Procedure was finalized June 2020 along with the Phase 2 Inspection Program Funding Guidelines (provided via DEP Environmental Stewardship Funds). Phase 2</p>

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	Program, Phase 2 Pilot, with an emphasis on meeting both state planning and implementation requirements on non-CAFO operations.	expanded as more counties complete their Phase 1 inspections.				BMPs remains a concern.			<p>Inspections have been/will be conducted in Lancaster, Chester, and Adams counties by the conservation districts, and in York County by the DEP Southcentral Regional Office beginning in July 2020.</p> <p>2021 Update: CBAIP Phase 2 (CBO-INSP-002) Standard Operating Procedure was updated in May 2021. The 2020-2021 Agriculture Annual Inspections Summary was published to the DEP website in December 2021.</p> <p>2022 Update: The CBAIP Phase 1 SOP and the CBAIP Phase 2 SOP were merged and published on the DEP website in May 2022. The 2021-2022 Agriculture Annual Inspections Summary was published to the DEP website in Fall 2022, with a press release announcement as well.</p> <p>2023 Update: The CBAIP SOP was revised and published to the DEP website in August 2023. The 2022-2023 Agriculture Annual Inspections Summary was published to the DEP website in Fall 2023. In the 2022-2023 reporting year, 222 Phase 2 Inspections were completed by 11 counties.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP continues to conduct Phase 2 inspections with DEP staff and County Conservation Districts. In reporting year, 2023-2024, 271 Phase 2 inspections in 19 counties.</p>
2.5.5A	Participate in EPA's formal assessment of Pennsylvania's Animal Agriculture Programs	<p>2022-2023 Update: EPA will conduct a follow-up assessment of Pennsylvania's animal agriculture programs to the initial 2015 assessment.</p> <p>2024-2025 Update: Consider recommendations from EPA's final Animal Ag Assessment Report for incorporation of</p>	EPA, DEP, SCC, PDA, CCDs	Chesapeake Bay/Statewide	Beginning January 2022				<p>2021 Update: DEP and SCC staff responded to informal questions and began the review of the questionnaire. This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>2022 Update: EPA provided DEP with a questionnaire to complete in December 2021. DEP coordinated the completion of the questionnaire and submitted to EPA, meeting the deadline of February 11, 2022. EPA held meetings with DEP Central Office, DEP Southcentral and Northcentral Regions, PDA and SCC, as well as four conservation districts (Lycoming, Snyder, Franklin, and Lancaster) throughout March 2022. EPA conducted file reviews of CAFOs and CAOs, provided by DEP and the conservation districts. EPA provided the draft report to DEP on July 8, 2022, and DEP submitted comments on July 22, 2022, meeting the EPA deadline. EPA provided the final report to DEP on December 22, 2022.</p>

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		future programmatic changes.							<p>The final report noted that “DEP has made progress since the 2015 assessment in its efforts to reduce nutrient and sediment loads in the Chesapeake Bay watershed” and that “Pennsylvania has responded to the 2015 recommendations and made progress towards meeting their 2025 goals. However, there are challenges that impact the pace and scale of program implementation. Notably, the scale of agriculture coupled with the demand for assistance, funds, and one-on-one support for farmers, impacts the state’s ability to meet 2025 goals.”</p> <p>2023 Update: EPA published the 2022 Animal Agriculture Programs Assessment Report on January 4, 2023. EPA conducted assessments, following their Conservation Assessment Initiative, on four Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs) in May 2023. DEP continues to work with EPA and the conservation district to ensure regulatory compliance.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP continues to work with EPA and the conservation district to ensure regulatory compliance.</p>
2.5.6A	Finalize and commence utilization of the CAFO Compliance Evaluation and Inspection (CEI) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)	2022-2023 Update: DEP developed the CAFO CEI SOP to ensure consistent and standardized evaluation and tracking of CAFO inspections.	DEP	Chesapeake Bay/Statewide	July 2022				<p>2022 Update: CAFO CEI SOP has been released and is currently being utilized by DEP regional staff. The CAFO CEI SOP has also been provided to EPA.</p> <p>2023 Update: Use of the CAFO CEI SOP is ongoing.</p> <p>2024 Update: Use of the CAFO CEI SOP is ongoing.</p>
2.5.7A	Publish revision to the Manure Management Manual Technical Guidance Document (TGD).	2022-2023 Update: DEP will seek public comment on the revised Manure Management Manual Technical Guidance Document	DEP	Chesapeake Bay/Statewide	Draft: December 2022 Final: December 2023				<p>2022 Update: Revisions to the Manure Management Manual Technical Guidance Document are under development. Draft is scheduled to be published in Spring 2023.</p> <p>2023 Update: Revisions to the Manure Management Manual Technical Guidance Document were published as Draft in August 2023. DEP is working to respond to public comments. The final guidance is scheduled to be published in Summer 2024.</p> <p>2024 Update: Revisions to the Manure Management Manual Technical Guidance Document were published final in April 2024. This milestone is complete.</p>

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									A coordinated approach to education, outreach, and technical support began ahead of publication and continues.
2.5.8A	Revise and approve five-year Nutrient and Manure Management Delegation Agreement with the conservation districts to include additional Manure Management Required Output Measures (ROMs)	2022-2023 Update: DEP and SCC will revise and update the five-year Nutrient and Manure Management Delegation Agreement to include Manure Management Planning and/or status review metrics for the Manure Management component. This agreement also includes a prioritization of identification of Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs).	DEP/SCC	Chesapeake Bay/Statewide	July 2022				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. Delegation agreements were approved at the July 2022 SCC meeting and will be in place from July 1, 2022 June 30, 2027.</p> <p>2023 Update: This milestone was implemented in the new delegation agreements.</p> <p>2024 Update: Currently in year three of the delegation agreement.</p>
2.5.9A	Hire 1 Water Program Specialist to support agricultural permitting and compliance activities	2022-2023 Update: Environmental Engineer / Environmental Engineer Specialist will provide additional support and oversight for CAFO permitting and conservation district technical assistance	DEP	Chesapeake Bay/ Statewide	February 2023				<p>2022 Update: This position is vacant and currently being reclassified and reposted.</p> <p>2023 Update: The position was reclassified and posted as a Water Program Specialist due to lack of success in filling the position in the Engineer classification. Interview and hiring process will commence in early 2024.</p> <p>2024 Update: This position was filled. Ag compliance is now at full staff.</p>
2.5.10A	Hire 2 Water Program Specialists to support agricultural compliance,	2022-2023 Update: Water Program Specialists will provide additional support and oversight for non-	DEP	Chesapeake Bay/ Statewide	February 2023				<p>2022 Update: One water program specialist is hired and supporting agriculture compliance, inspection and enforcement activities. One position is currently vacant. Selection is in-process as of December 2022.</p> <p>2023 Update:</p>

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	inspection, and enforcement activities, to include Nutrient and Manure Management, Erosion and Sediment Control for Agriculture, Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Inspection Program (CBAIP) and CAFO Program	CAFO and CAFO compliance, inspection, and enforcement							The second Water Program Specialist was hired in February 2023. 2024 Update: Both Water Program Specialists funded by CBRAP continue their work for the Agriculture Compliance Section.
2.5.11A	Hire 1 Water Quality Specialist (WQS) to conduct inspections on CAFO and non-CAFO agricultural operations	2022-2023 Update: The Northeast Regional Office will hire a Water Quality Specialist to conduct CAFO and non-CAFO inspections	DEP	Northeast Counties	December 2023				2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023. Communication with the Regional Office is ongoing. 2023 Update: Communication with the Regional Office and efforts to secure a position is ongoing. 2024 Update: Through 2024, the hiring process continued and was officially hired on January 6, 2025.
2.5.12A	Nutrient Management Implementation – during compliance inspections, DEP staff will continue to promote the benefits of implementation of Nutrient and Manure Management	2022-2023 Update: DEP Water Quality Specialists conduct inspections on CAFO and non-CAFO agricultural operations. All agricultural operations that land apply manure, regardless of animal type, are regulated under 25 Pa. Code §91.36	DEP	Chesapeake Bay/Statewide	Ongoing through December 2025				2022 Update: DEP’s regional offices complete this activity on an ongoing basis. 2023 Update: DEP’s regional offices complete this activity on an ongoing basis. 2024 Update: DEP’s regional offices complete this activity on an ongoing basis.

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	Plans, which include planned rates for land application of manure and nutrients, manure application setbacks and buffers, and generally include animal waste management systems (AWMS), animal concentration area management and barnyard runoff controls, pasture management, etc. DEP staff will provide contact information, as needed, for certified Nutrient Management Plan specialists								
2.5.13A	Erosion and Sediment Control - during compliance inspections, DEP staff will continue to promote the benefits of implementation of erosion and sediment control plans, which	2022-2023 Update: DEP Water Quality Specialists conduct inspections on CAFO and non-CAFO agricultural operations. All agricultural operations with plowable/tillable land or animal heavy use areas (AHUAs) are	DEP	Chesapeake Bay/ Statewide	Ongoing through December 2025				<p>2022 Update: DEP’s regional offices complete this activity on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP’s regional offices complete this activity on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP’s regional offices complete this activity on an ongoing basis.</p>

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	generally include conservation tillage and/or no-till practices, cover crop, contour farming, strip cropping, field borders, terraces, diversions, grassed/natural/rock-lined waterways, barnyard runoff controls and animal heavy use area (AHUA) protection, etc. DEP staff will provide contact information, as needed, for local conservation district or private consultant technical assistance.	regulated under 25 Pa. Code §102.4(a) .							
2.5.1S	Complete the Pollutant Reduction or Total Maximum Daily Load Plan Reviews for the 2018 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits	Complete technical review and issue permits 2022-2023 Update: this Action Number will be merged with 2.4.3S	DEP, MS4 permittees	Statewide	2020	MS4s not addressing DEP review comments, staff shortages			<p>2020 Update: DEP has reviewed and approved the majority of PRPs and TMDL Plans submitted in 2017. There are a few complicated cases, including cases under litigation, that have delayed completion of reviews.</p> <p>2021 Update: The majority of MS4 permittees within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed have approved PRP plans and are working on BMP implementation to meet the pollutant load reduction obligations of their MS4 permits. There are currently 43 permittees in the Bay Watershed without approved PRPs. DEP is working with these permittees to resolve the technical deficiencies with their PRPs to that they can be approved.</p> <p>2022 Update: While the majority of permittees in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed have approved PRPs, DEP continues to struggle to get the remaining permittees without approved</p>

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									<p>PRPs to respond to technical deficiency letters and provide the information needed to generate a PRP that can be approved. EPA offered technical assistance to DEP to address this issue. EPA and DEP are working together to determine a path forward to get permittees to the point where their PRPs can be approved.</p> <p>2023 Update: The majority of the MS4s in Chesapeake Bay Watershed have approved PRPs and are implementing their plans. DEP continues to work with the few remaining permittees that do not yet have approved PRPs.</p> <p>2024 Update: While the majority of permittees in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed have approved PRPs, DEP continues to struggle to get the remaining permittees without approved PRPs to respond to technical deficiency letters and provide the information needed to generate a PRP that can be approved. EPA has provided enforcement assistance in multiple cases.</p>
2.5.2S	Develop the NPDES MS4 Permit	In the development of this permit, provide opportunities for input from stakeholders, including but not limited to the Phase 3 WIP Stormwater Workgroup, as part of the normal public participation process.	DEP	Statewide	Beginning 2019				<p>2020 Update: DEP has prepared conceptual plans for the next permit term and has solicited and received input from the regulated community and other stakeholders.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP is continuing to work on next permit and is accepting comments from interested parties through the MS4 resource account (RA-EPPAMS4@pa.gov).</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP is coordinating with EPA on the development of the next permit term. It is anticipated that an announcement on the timeline for the future permit term will be made soon.</p> <p>DEP has extended the MS4 General Permit (PAG-13) to March 15, 2025 and has formed a workgroup that includes EPA staff. The workgroup will meet at least 8 times from November 2022 to March 2023 and will help inform DEP’s development of the reissued PAG-13.</p> <p>2023 Update: The PAG-13 workgroup met 8 times from November 2022 to March 2023 and provided valuable feedback. DEP has prepared pre-draft PAG-13 documents that have been shared with EPA. EPA has conducted a preliminary review and has shared comments. It is anticipated that a draft PAG-13 General Permit will be published in 2024 for public comment.</p> <p>2024 Update:</p>

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									The draft PAG-13 is expected to be published on January 18, 2025 for a 60-day public comment period. Many of the proposed changes to PAG-13 were the result of the PAG-13 workgroup feedback.
2.5.3S	Continue to implement the NPDES Municipal Stormwater Program Delegation, to include permitting, compliance, inspection, and enforcement.	Inspection metrics and results are provided to EPA annually per the required Compliance Monitoring Strategy. EPA also requires NPDES permitting and compliance information to be provided by DEP for ICIS database inclusion.	DEP	Statewide	Ongoing				<p>2020 Update: An end of year CMS report has been submitted, and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2021 Update: An end of year CMS report will be submitted during the Fall of 2021 for FFY 2021, and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2022 Update: An end of year CMS report was submitted during the Fall of 2022 for FFY 2022, and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2023 Update: An end of the year CMS report was submitted to EPA for FY 2023, and DEP continued to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2024 Update: An end of the year CMS report was submitted to EPA for FY 2024, and DEP continued to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p>
2.5.4S	Develop the NPDES Industrial Stormwater Permit	2022-2023 Update: Renew the PAG-03 general permit.	DEP	Statewide	2019 through 2021				<p>2020 Update: A draft of the PAG-03 general permit for reissuance has been developed and is under legal review.</p> <p>2021 Update: The current PAG-03 has been administratively extended for one year. The draft PAG-03 is under review.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP published an initial draft of PAG-03 on January 22, 2022. EPA objected to PAG-03 on February 22, 2022. DEP resolved EPA's objection on June 3, 2022. DEP published a second draft permit on August 20, 2022. The final PAG-03 was published in the PA Bulletin on December 24, 2022 and will become effective on March 24, 2023.</p> <p>2023 Update: This milestone was completed with the reissuance of PAG-03 in December 2022.</p>
2.5.5S	Continue to implement the NPDES Industrial	Inspection metrics and results are provided to EPA	DEP	Statewide	Ongoing				<p>2020 Update: An end of year CMS report has been submitted and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p>

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	Stormwater Program Delegation, to include permitting, compliance, inspection, and enforcement.	annually per the required Compliance Monitoring Strategy. EPA also requires NPDES permitting and compliance information to be provided by DEP for ICIS database inclusion.							<p>2021 Update: An end of year CMS report has been submitted and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2022 Update: An end of year CMS report was submitted during the Fall of 2022 for FFY 2022, and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2023 Update: An end of the year CMS report was submitted to EPA for FY 2023, and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2024 Update: An end of the year CMS report was submitted to EPA for FY 2024, and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p>
2.5.6S	Continue to implement the NPDES Construction Stormwater Program Delegation, to include permitting, compliance, inspection, and enforcement.	Pennsylvania’s Chapter 102 requires NPDES permitting for an acre or more of earth disturbance related to construction activities. The requirements also include post-construction stormwater management on all permitted sites. Inspection metrics and results are provided to EPA annually per the required Compliance Monitoring Strategy. EPA also requires NPDES information to be provided by DEP for	DEP	Statewide	Ongoing				<p>2020 Update: DEP continues to implement the NPDES program under Chapter 102 with the assistance of delegated conservation districts. An end of year CMS report has been submitted and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP continues to implement the NPDES program under Chapter 102 with the assistance of delegated conservation districts. An end of year CMS report has been submitted and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2022 Update: DEP continues to implement the NPDES program under Chapter 102 with the assistance of delegated conservation districts. An end of year CMS report has been submitted and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP continues to implement the NPDES program under Chapter 102 with the assistance of delegated conservation districts. An end of year CMS report was submitted to EPA and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2024 Update:</p>

Action #	Description	Performance Target(s) and	Responsible Party(ies) and Partnerships	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline	Potential Implementation Challenges or Recommendations	Resources Available Technical and Financial	Resources Needed Technical and Financial	Progress to Date (2020 – 2021 – 2022 – 2023 - 2024)
		ICIS database inclusion.							DEP continues to implement the NPDES program under Chapter 102 with the assistance of delegated conservation districts. An end of year CMS report was submitted to EPA and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS. The PAG-02 General Permit was reissued for a new 5-year term and became effective on December 8, 2024.
2.5.7S	Continue water quality demonstration requirements for post-construction stormwater management	Beginning in 2019, DEP's Ch 102 program overhauled the water quality approach and started to require every applicant to perform a quantitative demonstration that their project will not cause post-construction TSS and nutrient loads in excess of pre-construction loads. Prior to this requirement, there was a presumption that if volume management was met water quality requirements would also be met.	DEP	Statewide	Ongoing				<p>2022 Update: This is a new milestone for 2022-2023.</p> <p>DEP continues to require Chapter 102 NPDES permittees to demonstrate that their projects will not cause post-construction total suspended sediment (TSS) and nutrient loads in excess of pre-construction loads using DEP-approved calculations.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP continues to require Chapter 102 NPDES permittees to demonstrate that their projects do not cause post-construction total suspended sediment (TSS) and nutrient loads in excess of pre-construction loads using DEP-approved calculations. The water quality demonstration has been memorialized in DEP's Draft PCSM Manual.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP continues to require Chapter 102 NPDES permittees to demonstrate that their projects do not cause post-construction total suspended sediment (TSS) and nutrient loads in excess of pre-construction loads using DEP-approved calculations. The water quality demonstration has been memorialized in DEP's Draft PCSM Manual.</p>
2.5.1W	Continue to implement the NPDES Sewage and Industrial Waste Program Delegation, to include permitting, compliance, inspection, and enforcement	Inspection metrics and results are provided to EPA annually per the required Compliance Monitoring Strategy. EPA also requires NPDES permitting and compliance	DEP	Statewide	Ongoing				<p>2020 Update: DEP continues to implement the NPDES program. An end of year CMS report has been submitted and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2021 Update: DEP continues to implement the NPDES program. An end of year CMS report has been submitted and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2022 Update:</p>

Action #	Description	Performance Target(s) and	Responsible Party(ies) and Partnerships	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline	Potential Implementation Challenges or Recommendations	Resources Available Technical and Financial	Resources Needed Technical and Financial	Progress to Date (2020 – 2021 – 2022 – 2023 - 2024)
		information to be provided by DEP for ICIS database inclusion.							<p>DEP continues to implement the NPDES program. An end of year CMS report has been submitted and DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2023 Update: DEP continued to implement the NPDES program. The end of year CMS report was submitted to EPA for FY 2023. DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p> <p>2024 Update: DEP continued to implement the NPDES program. The end of year CMS report was submitted to EPA for FY 2024. DEP will continue to provide permit and compliance information to ICIS.</p>

Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Reporting Template

1. Inputs – These are both existing and needed resources, public and private, to implement the identified priority initiative. These include both technical and financial resources, such as personnel, supplies, equipment, and funding.
2. Process – what is each partner able to do where and by when. These are the action items listed under each priority initiative.
3. Outputs and outcomes – both short and long-term. The performance targets are the intermediate indicators that will measure progress.
4. Implementation challenges – any potential issues or roadblocks to implementation that could impede outputs and outcomes.

For each Priority Initiative or Program Element: Use the fields, as defined below, to identify the inputs and the process that will be followed to achieve each priority initiative. This is the “who, what, where, when and how” of the plan:

Description = What. This may include programs that address prevention, education, or as specific as planned BMP installations that will address the Priority Initiative. A programmatic or policy effort will require some ability to quantify the anticipated benefits which will allow calculation of the associated nutrient reductions.

Performance Target = How. This is an extension of the Description above. The Performance Target details the unique BMPs that will result from implementation of the Priority Initiative and serves as a benchmark to track progress in addressing the Priority Initiative. Performance Targets may be spread across multiple Responsible Parties, Geographies, and Timelines based on the specifics of the Initiative.

Responsible Party(ies) = Who. This is/are the key partner(s) who will implement the action items through outreach, assistance or funding, and who will be responsible for delivering the identified programs or practices.

Geographic Location = Where. This field identifies the geographic range of the planned implementation. This could extend to the entire county or down to a small watershed, based on the scale of the Priority Initiative, range of the Responsible Party, or planned funding/resources.

Expected Timeline = When. Provide the expected completion date for the planned activity. This should be a reasonable expectation, based on knowledge and experience, that will aid in tracking progress toward addressing the Priority Initiative.

Resources Available: Technical & Funding = This field will note technical and financial resources secured/available to implement the program (Description).

Resources Needed: Technical & Funding = This field will note technical and financial resources needed/outstanding to implement the program (Description).

Potential Implementation Challenges/Issues = This field will note challenges and issues that may delay program implementation (Description).