

2025 Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Report – MIFFLIN COUNTY

Green - action has been completed or is moving forward as planned Yellow - action has encountered minor obstacles Red - action has not been taken or has encountered a serious barrier

Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party(is) and Partnerships	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline	Potential Implementation Challenges or Recommendations	Resources Available		Resources Needed		Annual Progress to Date (2021 to 2025)	Reason for Change to Action Item (2023-2025 milestone period)
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Priority Initiative 1: County Programmatic Initiatives												
1.1A	Implement County Comprehensive Plan policies and actions	<p>Ensure that growth activities address existing water quality impairments through stormwater BMP implementation already required by local ordinance</p> <p>Revise existing model stormwater ordinance where needed. Look to incentivize additional protections for streams</p> <p>Preservation of environmentally sensitive Land Use (protect these sensitive areas through ordinances and natural resource protection) – Conserve 2,300 acres of forest.</p> <p>Preserve existing exception value wetland areas and enhance restorable wetlands in proximity</p>	MCPC, growth boundary municipalities, Act 167	Countywide	Ongoing	Educating municipalities, Updating local plans and ordinances, Growth areas not consistent with Census Urbanized Areas	Education, outreach	N/A	1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Planning Commission	\$130,000 per year \$2,000 per acre of forest easement à \$4.6 M total	<p>2025: The Mifflin County Comprehensive plan will be finalized in October and will be sent to the County Commissioners in November for approval.</p> <p>2024: The County is a third of the way into a revising the County's Comprehensive Plan. The CAP and other plans' are being considered for the goals of the revised Comprehensive plan for implementation.</p> <p>2023: Due to multiple changes in MCPD leadership in 2023, this goal is on hold. Mifflin County Planning has prioritized revising the County's comprehensive plan in 2024.</p> <p>2022: No progress at this time. Aiming to begin investigation in 2023.</p>	
1.1B	Implement the Source Water Protection Plan	<p>Assist municipalities with wellhead protection regulations, follow safe drinking water regulations</p> <p>Protecting Mifflin County's surface water and groundwater as a viable resource is critical to preserving water quality and healthy communities. Develop new source water protection plans where feasible.</p>	Multi-township, DEP Safe Drinking Water Program	Multi-township	2022 – outreach with municipalities to determine implementation needs of existing plans and desire to draft new plans in key source areas	Reinforcing the municipal role in coordinating with the water authorities to perform education and outreach and connecting landowners with water quality needs with available resources.	Coordination of meetings and continued education.	N/A	1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Planning Commission Source Water Protection Plan development	\$130,000 per year \$100,000	<p>2025: No progress at this time.</p> <p>2024: HRG is looking into Municipal Source Water areas for potential projects to promote higher water quality in these areas for future project implementation.</p> <p>2023: Due to multiple changes in MCPD leadership in 2023, this goal is on hold.</p> <p>2022: No progress at this time.</p>	2025: Action item changed to yellow.
1.1C*	Evaluate areas to establish riparian buffers to stabilize stream banks and limit encroachment	<p>Identify landowners willing to participate and work with the following partners to identify (5) buffer opportunities</p> <p>Leverage municipal parks along creeks for education, BMP work, habitat value, etc.</p> <p>Utilize river access points for public education – events, signage</p>	Municipalities, Conservation District, CBF, Pheasants Forever, National Trout Unlimited	Countywide Bender Park, Reedsville, Kish Park, Derry Twp Park, Lewistown Victory Park	5-10 years	<p>Adopting ordinances, may require a pilot project in a willing municipality to demonstrate success.</p> <p>Lack of technical assistance to support implementation goals for forest buffers.</p> <p>Buffer funding programs must include 5-10-year minimum maintenance plan, incentive money for landowners, along with volunteers to establish the buffer.</p>	landowner outreach; on the ground riparian project execution	N/A	1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Planning Commission 1 – Additional Watershed Specialist for Conservation District	\$130,000 per year \$130,000 per year Expand Buffer Bonus Program to provide \$10,000 per acre of buffer installed to include 5-year maintenance contract @ \$500,000 total	<p>2025: MCCD will be following up with plantings at several stream projects in 2026. The MCCD has also identified other potential projects for planting in the future.</p> <p>2024: MCCD has completed or will complete buffer plantings at the majority of stream restoration projects including native seed mixes and trees/shrubs. (See 3.11)</p> <p>2023: MCCD has been focused on other goals in the CAP. There is plenty of datasets to identify projects, but in 2023, MCCD is focused on implementing other priority projects.</p> <p>2022: MCCD used PALTA Riparian Buffer Prioritization data (2019), Chesapeake Conservancy Land Cover data, and DCNR Prime Prospects (2019) to identify local projects for buffer implementation. The MCCD overlaid PALTA and Chesapeake Conservancy data with local GIS datasets to identify public land parcels to prioritize for buffer installation. The MCCD installed several acres of forested riparian buffer from 2019-2020. The MCCD hopes to complete several additional buffers on public lands in the near future through NFWF grant funding.</p> <p>Completed Projects in 2022: Bender Park, Reedsville Playground, Kish Park Potential Projects: Rec Park, Victory Park</p>	

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1.2*	Mifflin County Public Sewer Plan	<p>Update Act 537 plan to be consistent with local planning</p> <p>Require sewer extensions and or capped sewers</p> <p>Amend local ordinances to allow for secondary or backup systems</p> <p>Establish a Countywide sewer authority</p> <p>Consider developing regional sewer management authority with Mifflin County Municipalities</p>	MCPC, Boroughs, Townships, municipal engineers	<p>Countywide</p> <p>Riverside camp along Juniata River improvements : Septic connections needed, flood mitigation, trail network</p>	2022-2025	<p>Enforce and compliance with local ordinances and Act 537</p> <p>Lack of funding to support Act 537 planning</p> <p>Municipalities have many other challenges to tackle and this may not be a priority</p>			<p>1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Planning Commission</p> <p>Borough of Lewistown-\$1,000,000</p> <p>Bratton Township-\$5.4 Mil</p> <p>\$130,000 per year</p> <p>\$150,000 startup funding to complete a countywide/regional sewer authority feasibility study</p>	<p>2025: Although Mifflin County does not have an Act 537 plan County-wide, certain Municipalities and Boroughs do and are actively implementing them. The Hawestone area of Granville Township's project was completed in 2025. The project connected the houses to public sewer.</p> <p>The Borough of Lewistown has an active LSA grant for storm line cleaning and televising. The Borough of Lewistown also applied for another LSA grant for sewer line repair (\$1 million). As well as another Sewage Facilities Grant for hydraulic modeling study on sewer interceptor line (\$100K). A third grant through PA Small Water and Sewer to clean and rehab digesters (\$500K). Bratton Township has an active PennVEST grant for wastewater treatment plant repairs which will commence in August of 2025. Bratton Township also applied for an LSA grant for small water and sewer act for 3 pump station rehab.</p> <p>2024: Although Mifflin County does not have an Act 537 plan County-wide, certain Municipalities and Boroughs do and are actively implementing them.. One major project is nearing completion in 2024 in the Hawestone area of Granville Township. This project will connect the houses to public sewer.</p> <p>2023: Multiple municipalities are updating plants and upgrading and expanding multiple lines, however the Act 537 plan has not been updated in 2023.</p> <p>2022: No progress at this time.</p>		
1.3	Implement the Mifflin County Hazard Mitigation Plan (published 2019)	<p>Encourage municipalities to participate in FEMA programs</p> <p>Adopt and enforce PA DCED Model Floodplain Ordinance</p> <p>Provide Open Space Preservation in flood plain areas</p> <p>Implement Drainage system management ordinances</p>	Municipalities, County and local emergency services, PEMA, FEMA, Comprehensive Plan, ACT 167 Plan	Countywide – floodplains	2022 – review highest priority projects in plan for implementation steps and interest of home municipality to pursue projects	Timely adoption by municipalities, funding for large scale projects of meaningful result with small storm water quality benefit	Plan implementation team	TBD	<p>1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Planning Commission</p> <p>\$130,000 per year</p>	<p>2025: FEMA approved the final draft in 2025. The HMP will be reviewed for potential CAP aligned projects.</p> <p>2024: The final draft of the updated HMP was approved by PEMA and is under review by FEMA. Anticipated final approval is in 2025.</p> <p>2023: Due to multiple changes in MCPD leadership in 2023, this goal is on hold.</p> <p>2022: Applied for funding to update the plan. Awaiting award response.</p> <p>Plan update scheduled for completion in 2024.</p> <p>Include CAP related projects for implementation moving forward.</p>		

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1.4	Juniata River Watershed Management Plan Look to identify a rapid delisting watershed in Mifflin County as part of the plan.	WPC applied for DCNR C2P2 grant to update the Juniata River Watershed Management Plan. CAP can help leverage funding for the Juniata River Watershed Management Plan. Work with the Chesapeake Conservancy to rapidly delist an agreed upon number of watersheds within the Juniata River Watershed Plan.	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Chesapeake Conservancy, watershed groups	Juniata River Watershed (Blair, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Mifflin, Perry)	2021 – Conservancy Exploring options 2022 – outreach 2023 implementation	Performance Target Continued: Our goal is basically to update the existing plan with work that has been done since the original plan, do some more in-depth GIS analysis, and get public and municipal input into what they see are the issues in the watershed. I think the GIS analysis will be a big part of the process. We're planning on using the new 1-meter resolution data set, incorporating some of the buffer gap analysis work from Chesapeake Conservancy, etc.	Watershed Specialist	WPC applied for \$37,785 with \$37,286 match	1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Planning Commission 1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Conservation District	\$130,000 per year \$130,000 per year Rapid Delisting Approach Project and Program Budget \$1,000,000	2025: The Juniata River Forward: Building on 25 Years of Conservation, an update of the Juniata River Watershed Management Plan is now completed. Future plans include HRG potentially developing a StoryMap to highlight the update to the Plan in a user-friendly manner to give the public a snapshot of the plan contents. 2024: The draft of Juniata Forward: Building on 25 Years of Conservation, an update to the Juniata Watershed Management Plan, is complete and will be available for public comment starting October 1, 2024 and lasting for 30 days. Each municipality will be emailed with a link to the plan to provide comments. WPC will also put out a press release and social media posts to garner comments. Comments will be detailed in the final version of the plan. The final plan will be completed by the end of 2024. 2023: Update from WPC: Developed a public survey to garner input from constituents in the watershed. So far, 67 people have filled out the survey. Survey was advertised on social media by WPC and all members of the steering committee. A flyer was made with a QR code for advertising. WTAJ also featured a snippet on television and their website advertising the public meeting and the survey. A few signs featuring the QR code were developed and set up at Nature Works Park and the Blair County Conservation District. Developed a municipal survey to get specific input from municipal officials. 35 municipalities have participated. Held 3 public meetings with 29 people. Public meetings were held in Blair, Bedford, and Juniata Counties. Gathered input about issues and concerns in the watershed, as well as	
1.5	Advance the Implementation Strategy outlined in the Mifflin County Greenway, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan	Complete Mifflin and Juniata County Peer Studies Undertake projects that boost tourism and fish habitat, wetland restoration/conservation, educational signage (outdoor recreation, trails planning and development) – BMP goal: 25 acres forest buffers, 3000 feet stream restoration (portion of BMP goal cited in Initiative 3.9) Strategize the development of three additional public access points along the Upper Section of the Juniata River Water Trail. Determine if 50 acres of additional parkland per year is a feasible goal compared to level of recommended service by DCNR	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, PA Fish and Boat, Allegheny Ridge Corporation, Derry Township, all municipalities.	3-5 municipalities to pilot advancing projects or planning, as applicable	2022 – seek DCNR funding for pilot studies 2023 – obtain funding and develop plan 2024 – identify municipalities and pursue feasibility study/master plans 2025 – see funding for design/construction of projects 2026-2030 – project execution	Goals will support Stream Restoration and Buffer Goals			1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Planning Commission 1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Conservation District	\$130,000 per year \$130,000 per year	2025: After Phase 2 was completed, the County looked at options to continue that segment of the trail westward along the Juniata River. Due to lack of landowner cooperation, the County is relooking at the feasibility study of connecting Victory Park to Stone Arch Bridge and out to Kish Park and Reedsville. As these investigations proceed, potential stormwater mitigation projects may be developed for CAP implementation. 2024: Phase 2 of the Juniata River Trail was completed in 2024 bringing the total trail length to 3 miles. MCPD is looking for funding to update the Plan, either jointly with Juniata or on its own. 2023: The Mifflin Moves plan was completed in 2023 in service to this goal. 2022: MCP&D and MCCD are working on a Multiuse Trail Study that will connect Victory Park and Stone Arch Bridge Park, building off an earlier feasibility study by YSM. Derry Twp has completed a master site plan for Kishacoquillas Park and has applied for implementation funding.	

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1.6*	Watershed Restoration Bundling Pilot	Bundle stream restoration design, trails, ag BMPs, fish habitat, signage, and construction activities in one design contract and one construction contract to more cost effectively enhance implementation success	Municipalities, watershed organizations, MCCD, MCPC	Countywide	2022-2025	Municipality acceptance of approach, technical capacity of private sector to handle glut of stream restoration projects toward end of MS4 permit cycle, opportunity for more efficient permitting reviews rather than one application package per project			1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Conservation District Engineering/construction	\$130,000 per year Assume \$2,000,000 project budget scale	2025: MCCD continues to pursue comprehensive projects that incorporates multiple BMPs. MCCD is working with the MCPD, DLI, LCC, and municipalities to develop and implement comprehensive projects. 2024: MCCD continues to pursue comprehensive projects that incorporates multiple BMPs. 2023: MCCD continues to pursue comprehensive projects that incorporates multiple BMPs. 2022: See 1.5 above. MCCD has been following this methodology with current Ag BMP projects (bundling Ag BMPs, riparian buffers, and fish habitat/bank stabilization) as well as with projects at public parks (bundling riparian buffers, fish habitat/bank stabilization, and public meetings/signage) since the early 2000's. Derry Township is currently working on dredging the duck pond at the park. They have applied for DCNR grants, while this project is more centered on park infrastructure as opposed to water quality.	
1.7*	Implement County Farmland Preservation Program with farmland preservation program incentives enhancement	Total farmland preservation (26 farms in program currently – 2,838 acres) Look to fund 1-2 additional farms per year (100-150 acres) in preservation program. – 2,600 acres of farmland conservation Utilize conservation easements to protect and preserve agriculture land Develop agricultural preservation zoning ordinance	Lancaster Farmland Trust and Agricultural Preservation Coordinator, NRCS, MCCD, Farm Bureau, County Comprehensive Plan, ACT 167	Ag land use area that fits farmland preservation criteria	2022-2025 – explore incentive opportunities	O&M partnership for buffers, ag plans, BMP verification, provide more incentive based on the implementation of BMPs on site (beyond baseline compliance), would be a means of getting farms preserved with all the required BMPs in place simultaneously. Preserved farms are required to have an NRCS Conservation Plan, work with farmers to ensure Conservation Plan is reported in PracticeKeeper. Recommend making this a program requirement statewide. Sharing NRCS data is challenging, must comply with 1619 form	Priority recommendation, easement revision recommendation, supplemental BMP funding research		Ag Land Preservation Staff Administrator 1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Conservation District	\$130,000 per year \$130,000 per year \$250,000 per farm funded, total of 8 farms -> \$2M	2025: One additional farm was preserved in 2024. Three farms are currently in the process of being preserved. Mifflin County has preserved 32 farms totaling 3,485 acres, cost \$3,943,767. 2024: Three farms are currently going through the process of being preserved in 2024. 2023: One farm has been approved for preservation. Another farm is slated to be preserved by the end of 2023. Three farms are lined up to be preserved in 2024. 2022: One farm has been approved for preservation. Depending on funding levels, there may be the ability to preserve an additional farm this year.	

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1.8*	Establish funding/staff support to assist the Agricultural community (day to day support) 711 farms exist in Mifflin County	Approximately 200 farms have their plans in Mifflin County, goal is to complete 600 by 2025. ~100 plans per year completed Work with private consultants to document plans. To communicate effectively with the farming community one on one farmer outreach must be conducted. The most effective way to capture and report BMPs is through one-on-one farm visits. Farmers do not participate in surveys or other methods. Work with agricultural community to implement BMPs consistent with E&S regulations	MPCP, MCCD, Contracted planners, Mifflin County Farm Bureau, ACT 38 farms, Preserved Farms, County Comprehensive Plan	Countywide AG Land	2022-2025	Limited compliance activities by DEP. Lack of Technical assistance to support the farming community. Private sector Ag plans are not required to be shared with District staff. Work with ACT 38, Preserved farms and organic farms to report AG E&S and NRCS Conservation Plans. These operations are required to have them, but no requirement to report the plans. It is recommended state agencies make changes to ACT 38 and Persevered Farm programs to require PracticeKeeper reporting.	63 Inspections performed per year, NRCS 40 plans per year Field verification, troubleshooting	N/A	6 – additional Ag Planners to provide technical assistance and ag planning 3 – FTE Design, Engineer, Permit 3 – FTE Inspector Construction Services 1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Conservation District 1 – Administrative Assistant	\$780,000 per year \$420,000 per year \$315,000 per year \$130,000 per year \$75,000 per year	2025: See 1.10b below. 2024: The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds finalized their Growing Greener grant agreement and set up contracts with HRG, Lancaster Farmland Trust, and Clearwater Conservancy for outreach and technical assistance. Work orders for ag I&Es, permits, and full designs are underway for the regional service area. 2023: The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds was awarded a Growing Greener grant for \$800,000 that will support 12 counties, including Mifflin, with farm outreach, planning, permitting, and project design. Outreach is planned to begin in the fall of 2023. MCCD hired a Clean water Coordinator to assist in 102, ACAP projects, and lawn conversion projects. Another Ag Tech will be hired in 2024. 2022: The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds applied for a Growing Greener grant totaling \$1.6 million to support additional ag engineering needs along with increased farm visits. In 2022 the Lancaster Farmland Trust (LFT) will completed 30 farm visits across the county. LFT also completed 20 farm visits in 2021. Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) was announced in the Pennsylvania State Budget in July of 2022. This program will provide all counties in Pennsylvania with funding totaling \$154 million over the next 3-years to support Ag project implementation and technical assistance needs. The Mifflin County Conservation District applied the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Small Watershed Grant for increased technical assistance to support Ag and	
1.9	Local University Partnership - Implementation	Develop undergraduate and graduate students so that they can effectively engage in landowner outreach during implementation years.	Juniata College, Penn State, Susquehanna University, Bucknell University	319 Priority Watershed Riparian properties Preserved farms Priority Corridor Watersheds	2022-2025	Continued undergraduate/graduate engagement as students graduate through program, implementation funding Lack of technical assistance professionals to mentor students and develop workforce development. Lack of competitive paying job opportunities that ensure long term sustainable for recently graduated students	Ag staff		5 – Student Internships to Support CAP Implementation	\$50,000 per year	2025: MCCD and MCPD did not host university interns this year but have active communication with local colleges and are open to hosting interns in the future. The MCCD plans to host interns in 2026. 2024:MCCD and MCPD did not host university interns this year but have active communication with local colleges and are open to hosting interns in the future. 2023: MCCD hosted an intern from Penn State. The intern logged project information into PK from current and recently completed projects. They compiled a list of expiring BMPs for future verification. Organized data into excel for streamlined access. Coordinated with PK to ensure data was entered correctly. Assisted around the office. 2022: The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds applied for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Most Effective Basins grant to continue phase 2 of BMP verification. If awarded Mifflin County would have an intern for the summer of 2023 and 2024 to support with PracticeKeeper. The interns would be provided through a program with Susquehanna University. The grant was not awarded. MCCD hosted an intern from Penn State Mont Alto in Spring of 2022. The intern logged project information into PK from current and recently completed projects. They compiled	

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1.10A	Develop a Mifflin County Water quality communication plan, leveraging existing documents and covering topics including Comprehensive Plan, Mifflin County Greenway, Open Space and Rural Recreation Plan, ACT 167 Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, Watershed Implementation Plans	Develop messages and audience; execute plan and distribute messaging through staff and partners Leverage Water 4Ag work, elevate to suburban community Utilize the DPJM County Countywide Action Plan (arcgis.com) ArcGIS website as a source of consistent communication; tie it to Water and Agriculture in Mifflin County Story Map	CBF, Penn's Creek, Chesapeake Conservancy, NRCS, MCCD, Mifflin County PA Clean ways, Penn's Creek Chapter TU, Water4Ag, MCPC, Municipalities	Countywide	2022 – develop local content, timing, identify responsible staff	Simplifying the resources that are available Sharing staff resources across the 4-county region	ArcGIS Hub Website 1 – lead county contact		Website development and continued maintenance 1 – FTE Marketing and Outreach Coordinator 1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Planning Commission	\$10,000 per year \$130,000 per year \$130,000 per year	2025: MCCD continues to utilize social media, its website, and outreach at local fairs and events to communicate to the public. 2024: MCCD continues to utilize social media, its website, and outreach at local fairs to communicate to the public. MCCD would still like to hire a FTE Marketing and Outreach Coordinator but spreads those responsibilities across other staff. 2023: MCCD utilizes social media, its website, and outreach at local fairs to communicate to the public. MCCD would still like to hire a FTE Marketing and Outreach Coordinator but spreads those responsibilities across other staff. 2022: The DPJM Countywide Action Plan website listed in the Performance Targets has been updated to include information about implementation of the Countywide Action Plans. Additionally, a GIS tracking data base has been added to capture the location of potential projects.	
1.10B	Agricultural Communication Strategy	One on one farm outreach is the best way to communicate with farmers in addition to reporting practices. Develop a plan to complete more one on one farm visits. Work to develop a communication plan to engage integrators. Partner with external ag partners to present CAP goals at meeting. Utilize Farm Bureau Newsletter for announcements	CD, County Farm Bureau, Integrators, Ag Land Preservation, PSU Extension, NRCS Currently, there are several Farm Bureau meetings that occur each year, a 3rd grade Ag tour, Mifflin County Youth Fair, and annual Union Mills Meeting. Water4Ag	Countywide	2022-2025 2022 – work with Mifflin County Local Leadership Committee to advance the findings of the Water4Ag project report findings, producers/households survey results	Funding to support the technical assistance required to complete one on one farm outreach Outreach to integrators is a challenge due to the number of integrators and multiple country boundaries they serve. It is recommended DEP/PDA/SCC communicate with integrators on a frequent basis to reduce mixed messages.		6 – additional Ag Planners to provide technical assistance and ag planning 1 – FTE Marketing and Outreach Coordinator 1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Conservation District	\$780,000 per year \$130,000 per year \$130,000 per year See 1.10A for website costs. Costs for meeting attendance and administration may be covered through other funding requests.	2025: 46 General Conservation Farm visits are proposed for Mifflin County to scope out the BMP needs and Agricultural plans already developed for these operations and their willingness to work with local County Governments to implement BMPs. 40 visits have already been completed in the Milroy area with an additional 6 visits still waiting to be completed near Town Run. 2024: LFT plans to conduct 15 site visits in Mifflin County to propose BMPs on farms and gather preliminary information for Inventory and Evaluations (I&Es). 2023: 25 LFT farm visits are planned for the year, in addition to the FPW Growing Greener grant. 2022: Farm visits have been utilized to conduct outreach to farmers about the Countywide Action Plan. In 2021 20 farm visits were conducted and in 2022 an additional 30 visits are scoped. The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds submitted a Growing Greener grant titled 12-County Investment to Catalyze Agricultural Project Readiness that would support rapid scaling up of farm visits within Mifflin County. Scaling up of farm visits would allow for additional outreach to occur. Chesapeake Bay Program: The MCCD participates in the Chesapeake Bay Program completing 63 inspections per year and assisting landowners to obtain the proper Ag E&S and Nutrient Management/Manure Management Plans. CAP 2022: Lancaster Farmland Trust completed 27 visits in Mifflin County in the spring of 2022 to discuss agricultural plans, resource concerns, and ag BMPs.		

Priority Initiative 2: Reporting and Tracking

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2.1*	Existing BMP cataloguing (quantity and location) for select BMPs, expanding on general recommendations provided in QAPP BMPs = forest buffers, urban forest buffers, grass buffers, urban grass buffers, wet ponds and wetlands, fencing, cover crop and tillage management	Expand use of existing buffer layer with urban hydrology layer R&D into distinguishing ag, pasture, and turf covers from grassed buffers Manual digitizing where leaf-off <1 ft resolution imagery is available Back check with staff field views where required Add data to Practice Keeper or another batch upload option Use Spreadsheets of existing BMPs at MCCD	Lead - Chesapeake Conservancy Stakeholder peer review – local university, USGS, Farm Bureau, PDA, EPA	Countywide	2022 – cataloguing 2023 – Practice Keeper batch upload processing and field views	EPA acceptance of the approach, further refine guidance in QAPP so that counties can accomplish this or so that the state can take the burden off of counties, utilize the approach to catalogue existing BMPs and do on the ground verification where required for reporting purposes, this is an accelerated BMP catch up approach while we continue to provide support to farmers on planning and BMP installs, reduce the amount of interruption of government entities to compliant farm operations.	Precision Conservation Tools General methodology outline BMP field backcheck	N/A	Further GIS and data processing/method refinement 2 staff people to follow up on BMP verification annually (staffers are a part of the identified 6 – ag planners identified elsewhere) 5 – Student Internships to Support CAP Implementation	\$46,000 (2022 only) \$260,000 per year	2025: Ag staff are completing Chesapeake Bay inspections log undocumented or verified BMPs into PracticeKeeper as part of the CBP Implementation Program/contract with PA DEP. Newly implemented BMPs are recorded in Practice Keeper or Field Doc. 2024: Ag staff completing Chesapeake Bay inspections log undocumented or verified BMPs into PracticeKeeper as part of the CBP implementation program/contract with PA DEP. Newly implemented BMPs are recorded in Practice Keeper or Field Doc. 2023: MCCD's intern logged project information into PK from current and recently completed projects. Other staff have worked to verify existing, unknown BMPs. MCCD worked with HRG to streamline PK reporting. If funding is available, remote sensing of the rest of the County would be a useful tool for this goal. 2022: In December of 2021, Mifflin County was awarded \$30,000 to conduct BMP verification. Mifflin County elected to use some of the money on a remote sensing analysis focusing on five priority BMPs including: Barnyard Runoff Controls, Animal Waste Management Systems, Forest Buffers, Grassed Waterways, and Streambank Exclusion Fencing. Remote sensing data analysis performed by the Chesapeake Conservancy is being finalized in August of 2022 and results are provided in an online ARC Gis Portal. Qualified 3rd party staff will begin field verification efforts to verify the remotely identified practices. A BMP Verification Quick Guide is being developed by HRG to assist with field verification efforts. In April of 2022, the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds applied for a NFWF Most Effective Basins grant to support Phase 2 of the BMP verification analysis in the MEB in Mifflin County. Initial results from Phase 1 look excellent in providing opportunities to take credit for practices on the ground that are not currently reported.	
2.2*	Identify future ag/urban project opportunities using automated means	BMP opportunity analysis – ag conservation, land retirement, alternative crop, forest conservation, stream restoration Back check with staff field views Batch upload to FieldDoc to calculate credit opportunity	Lead – Chesapeake Conservancy Stakeholder peer review – USGS, Farm Bureau, PDA, interested municipalities	Countywide	2022 – cataloguing 2023 – batch upload processing and field views 2024 – 2025 – implementation focus	Different data set scales/precision	Precision Conservation Tools Batch upload processing BMP Field backcheck	N/A	Further GIS and data processing/method refinement 5 – Student Internships to Support CAP Implementation	\$46,000 (2022 only) \$50,000 per year	2025: No progress to date. 2024: No progress to date. 2023: As a part of the Chesapeake Conservancy's Cooperative Agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Program, the CIC has been working to adapt the USDA Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) toolbox and produce its related GIS conservation practice opportunity outputs for the entire watershed. The toolbox outputs a suite of NRCS agricultural practice opportunities at the field scale -- some have direct equivalents to Bay Program BMPs, while others do not. Since there are many assumptions made to produce these opportunity footprints across the entire watershed, they are not intended to be ground truth and should only serve as a high level reference for helping to plan efforts in combination with expert on-the-ground input. The outputs are expected to be publicly available after June 2024. 2022: No progress to date.	2025: Recommend removing from CAP due to lack progress for this action item.
2.3*	Develop a local system to capture data collection on urban structural and non-structural practices	Add development related BMPs to CAST/FieldDoc so that as land use data sets are updated, there are accompanying BMPs Use Chapter 102 Permit Closeout Milestone to report BMPs	Municipal engineers, Chesapeake Conservancy	Urban/suburban landscape	2023	Currently municipalities are not collecting BMP data because it is not required in non-MS4 communities. Must incentivize communities to report, no existing system in place.	Reporting platform	N/A	Training 5 – Student Internships to Support CAP Implementation 1 – Municipal Planner	N/A \$50,000 per year \$130,000 per year	2025: No progress to date. 2024: No progress to date. 2023: No progress to date. 2022: The Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds applied for a NFWF Most Effective Basins grant in April of 2022 to support Phase 2 of BMP verification remote sensing analysis. Phase 2 will include analyzing wet ponds and detention basins in urban areas across Mifflin County. PA DEP has updated FieldDoc to allow for additional reporting of urban practices.	2025: Recommend removing from CAP due to lack progress for this action item.

2025 Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Report – MIFFLIN COUNTY

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2.4*	Implement a documentation program for commercial and homeowner nutrient applications in developed lands Support current legislation for fertilizer bill.	Support fertilizer legislation where legislation requires reporting, be the data clearinghouse Legislation will support the implementation of Urban Nutrient Management—1,600 acres	PSU Extension	Countywide	TBD	Education of responsible parties, receiving timely information, training on reporting system, will need direction from State on what's expected and any reporting system that's developed.	TBD based on fertilizer legislation if passed	TBD based on fertilizer legislation if passed	1 FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Planning Commission Urban Nutrient Management \$10 per acre → \$16,000	2022: On July 11, Governor Wolf signed SB 251, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Senator Gene Yaw (R) and Senator Carolyn Comitta (D), into law. Pennsylvania now has a law governing turfgrass fertilizer application dates, practices, rates, and type of fertilizer used. We are uncertain on how documentation and crediting will occur with the new bill.	2023: DEP is recognizing conservation landscaping through reporting in FieldDoc. Awaiting DEP's direction on the future of Urban Nutrient Management Plans.	
2.5*	Improve Agricultural BMP reporting utilizing PracticeKeeper, Capital RC&D Transect Survey, PSU Survey, Manure Transport Reporting and Remote Sensing	Increase reporting of agriculture plans into PracticeKeeper Work with Capital RC&D to improve current transect survey routes to be more inclusive Work with PSU to produce better response rate to the PSU survey for Mifflin County Work with PDA/DEP to improve manure reporting	DEP, MCCD, NRCS, PDA, NRCS, Mifflin County Farm Bureau, Capital RC&D, Chesapeake Conservancy, PSU Survey, Manure Brokers	Countywide	2022-2025	Private sector ag planners do not have access to PracticeKeeper. Ag planners do not have time to report into PK. Current Capital RC&D routes are not all inclusive and could be improved. Current response rates are low and miss a large demographic of Mifflin County farmers. Manure brokers are not required to report data annually. Data is not inclusive.			5 – Summer interns for reporting and verification \$50,000 – per year See 3.7 for funding needs to improve cover crop reporting for Capital RC&D	2025: HRG continues to provide technical support where needed with the PracticeKeeper 3rd party entry module. See 2.1 above. 2024: See 2.1 above 2023: See 2.1 above. 2022: In the Spring of 2022 HRG participated in a beta testing group for the PracticeKeeper 3rd Party Module. PADEP initially released the module in June of 2022 before recalling the system for additional bug fixes. Phase 2 of the BMP verification grant submitted by the Foundation for PA Watersheds includes budget for interns from Susquehanna University to enter BMPs into PracticeKeeper. See 2.1 above.		
2.6*	Standardized Reporting for Dairy Precision Feeding	County would like to utilize the dairy precision feeding BMP. However, current reporting guidelines do not allow for clear reporting standards on feed reduction amounts, how to report, and who is qualified to report.	Chesapeake Bay Program, Penn State Extension, Dairy co-ops	Countywide	2022	It is recommended that milk urea nitrogen (MUN) be an acceptable standard for reporting dairy precision feeding. Guidelines need to be posted on acceptable MUN rates and work with dairy integrators to receive MUN data to report to DEP.	N/A	N/A	Reporting protocol N/A	2023: No progress to date. 2022: No progress to date, reporting standards still remain an issue to utilize the BMP.	2023: Recommend removal from CAP due to the lack of advancement of reporting standards for dairy precision feeding. Implementing a DPF program also requires sometimes significant equipment upgrades and management changes for the farmer, and these changes/upgrades lack funding sources for implementation.	

Priority Initiative 3: Achieve New Pollutant Reductions

2025 Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Report – MIFFLIN COUNTY

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3.1	Implementation of the Upper Kish 319 Watershed Plan (February 2020 and beyond)	In 2020 grant received to install 2 HUAs, stream bank fencing and 2 livestock crossing, implementation with start 2021 Scope next round of projects and apply for funding following implementation of 2020 grant award.	MCCD, NRCS, DEP	Upper Kish Creek Watershed	Grant received in 2020 and construction set to begin spring of 2021 Scoping - 2022	Funding, landowner interest in BMPs, implementation partner coordination. Reverification of existing farm BMPs within the 319 watershed. Technical assistance to support BMP implementation on Farms.	Technical assistance	\$2.9 million received to date for restoration	1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Conservation District 1 – new FTE environmental specialist	\$130,000 per year \$100,000 per year \$500,000 to fund new projects beyond 2022	2025: The MCCD completed an amendment to a current 319 grant for Ag. BMP implementation. This amendment, if accepted by EPA, will allow funding for an additional Ag project in cooperation with USDA/NRCS. This project will include the installation of a HUA, stream fenceings, crossing, and associated BMP's. Additionally, streambank fencing and a crossing were installed on another farm in the Upper Kish as part of a stream restoration project (See 3.9). MCCD completed the 12th year of surface water assessment in the Upper Kish in 2025 (see 4.1). 2024: MCCD finished work on one farm in 2023 (as mentioned below in 2023 comments). An additional 319 grant was awarded to the MCCD in the fall of 2023. Inventory and evaluations are currently being completed on several farms in the Upper Kish watershed. Additionally, two stream projects were completed in 2024 in the Upper Kish (See 3.11 below). Buffer plantings will be completed this fall. Another year of surface water monitoring was also completed in 2024 (See 4.1 below) 2023: An additional project was completed that included streambank fencing, ag crossing, exclusion fencing, and the decommissioning of an earthen manure storage pit. 1 roofed HUA with manure stacking facility and barnyard runoff controls will be installed in the Fall of 2023. This project will be funded through 319 and ACAP funds. 2022: The MCCD continued to install AG BMPs in the Upper Kish watershed through several 319 grants. Project 1716: In 2021 the District installed 1 Roofed HUA with manure stacking facility	
3.2	Implementation of the Hungry Run 319 Watershed Plan	24 farms within Hungry Run Watershed Many BMPs implemented prior to 2010, reverification will be a necessity for Hungry Run Watershed Work with churches to implement stream restoration and buffers. Work with DEP to reassess stream segment	MCCD, landowners	Hungry Run Watershed Ranked farms based on prioritization ranking	2007 plan development Ongoing Implementation and verification	Lack of technical assistance and funding to reverifying exiting practices and implement new practices. Need to revisit the plan to see what BMPs are outstanding.	Technical assistance	\$1.4 million received to date for restoration	1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Conservation District	\$130,000 per year \$25,000 additional water quality monitoring and reassessment \$500,000 further implementation and reverification	2025: One stream restoration project was completed in Hungry Run (see 3.11 below). MCCD completed the 12th year of surface water assessment in Hungry Run in 2025 (See 4.1). 2024: One stream restoration project was completed in the Hungry Run watershed (see 3.11 below). Buffer planting will be completed this fall. One turf conversion project was also planted in the Hungry Run watershed in 2024 (see 3.16 below). DEP and MCCD continue to completed surface water monitoring. DEP completed a multi-year assessment on Hungry Run in 2024 to see if impairment still exists. 2023: DEP and MCCD continues to sample. Two projects are occurring in the watershed. One is a stream restoration including fish habitat and buffer planting. There is also a conservation landscaping project being installed in Burnham Borough. 2022: Provided BMP information (2008-2022) and water quality sampling data (2014-2021) to PA DEP for follow-up modeling and a Hungry Run success story. PA DEP is scheduled to revisit this watershed and complete surface water quality sampling in the winter of 2022.	
3.3	Implement the Tea-Creek Conservation Plan	Look to identify a few additional Ag-projects in the Tea-Creek Watershed. Most of the work has already been completed in the early 2000's. A few opportunities may still exist. Develop a community awareness day for education.	MCCD Look to realign a local watershed group to focus in the Tea-Creek Watershed	Tea-Creek Watershed Brown-Township Rothrock State Forest	Ongoing	Look into PA Adopt a Stream to help support implementation. Lack of technical assistance and volunteer support to support the implementation of the Tea-Creek Conservation Plan.			1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Planning Commission 1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Conservation District	\$130,000 per year \$130,000 per year \$500,000 project implementation	2025: No progress to date. 2024: No progress to date. 2023: No progress to date. 2022: The MCCD discussed ag BMP installation at the Mifflin County Youth Park with the Mifflin County Fair Board. The MCCD hopes to complete a future I&E for Ag BMPs and secure designs for stream/floodplain restoration.	2025: Recommend removing from CAP due to lack progress for this action item.

2025 Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Report – MIFFLIN COUNTY

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3.4	Implement the Kishacoquillas Alternative Restoration Plan (ARP)	Implement Phase 1 of ARP: All farmers meet regulatory compliance with their Conservation and Nutrient Management Plans Phase 2: focus on satisfying restoration goals of each sub-watershed of Kish Creek Look to identify 1-2 projects per year in the sub watersheds	DEP Bureau of Clean Water, MCCD,	Kishacoquillas Creek Watershed Sub-watersheds include Upper Kish Creek, Hungry run, other unnamed tributaries	Phase 1 complete by 2022 Phase 2 complete by 2027	NRCS is supporting funding to the upper KISH as part of their NWQI Focus Watersheds Lack of technical assistance and volunteer support to support the implementation of the KISH ARP		319 Funding	1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Planning Commission 1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Conservation District	\$130,000 per year \$130,000 per year \$500,000 project implementation	See action 3.1 & 3.2 above and action point 3.11 below	
3.5*	Help farmers and operators to be in compliance with state and federal Conservation and Nutrient Management Plans	Soil and Water Quality Conservation Plans (Ag E&S) 20,000 31,000 acres Nutrient Management (Manure Management) 29,000 25,000 acres of Core N and 10,000 27,000 acres of Core P NRCS 40 plans per year, CD 63 plans per year through inspection program (100 plans per year) Work with Act 38 operators, Preserved Farms, and certified organics to document plans already required	4R Alliance, MCCD, Mifflin County Farm Bureau, NRCS, Private Sector Agriculture Farm Visits, Integrators, ACT 38 farms, Preserved Farms, Organic Farms	Countywide Ag Land	2022-2025	Lack of DEP inspections. Reporting and verification of Ag Plans, NRCS plans expire and do not get reverified, private plans are never entered. Lack of Technical assistance to support agriculture planning and implementation, one on one farm outreach is best way to capture existing plans. Act 38 and Preserved Farms not required to enter plans in PK, Recommendations to require programs to enter plans into PK State agencies must work with integrators to ensure they are requiring compliance by farmers. Some integrators require compliance, but not all, great way to communicate with farmers as well.	63 farms inspected in 2021 – all inspected farms now have plans		6 – additional Ag Planners to work with farmers to develop required plans	\$780,000 per year \$15 per acre for a total cost of \$300,000 \$15 per acre for a total cost of \$435,000	2025: As part of the CBP Implementation Program, MCCD helped to write 14 MM plans covering 2,175 acres and 23 Ag E&S plans covering 2,044 acres in 2025. MCCD also participated in the PACD Ag. Participated in the Plan Reimbursement program and submitted applications for 11 farms covering 1,525 acres in 2025. 2024: As part of the CBP, MCCD helped to write 4 MM plans covering 295 acres and 3 Ag E&S plans covering 352 acres in 2024. MCCD also participated in the PACD Ag. Plan Reimbursement program and submitted applications for 4 farms covering 220 + acres in 2024. 2023: As part of the CBP the MCCD wrote 8 MM plans covering 1,233.83 acres and 13 Ag E&S plans covering 743.51 acres. The MCCD also participated in the PACD Ag. Plan Reimbursement program and submitted applications for 2 farms so far covering 690 + acres. 2022: PACD recently announced their Growing Greener grant for Ag Plan Reimbursement. Farmers in Mifflin County will be able to take advantage of this opportunity to produce Ag E&S and Manure Management Plans. HRG will be attending the rollout of this program to maximize opportunities to get farmers additional plans. From 2020 to 2021 progress scenario in CAST Mifflin County has increased Soil and Water Quality Conservation Plan reporting by over 2,400 acres. Additionally, Nutrient Management Core N and Core P have increased by over 9,500 acres. See Action # 1.10B Chesapeake Bay Program & CAP 2022	2023: Goals were increased to reflect number of acres already being treated, or decreased to reflect of lack of progress of action item.
3.6	Advanced Nutrient Management (4R) Practice Education and Implementation	Transition manure management plans (MMP) to nutrient management plans and incentivize implementation Increase reporting of supplemental nutrient management BMPs through existing programs and initiatives. Increase existing 4R practice (N Rate by 5,600 5,000 acres, P Rate by 6,600 5,000 acres, N Timing by 9,300 5,000 acres, P Timing by 6,600 5,000 acres, N Placement by 8,300 5,000 acres and P Placement by 6,600 5,000 acres) Create a small workgroup working with early innovators Explore the idea of increasing PSNT or Chlorophyll testing to district program	4R Alliance, MCCD, Mifflin County Farm Bureau, NRCS, Private Sector Agriculture Farm Visits	Countywide AG Land	2022-2025	Landowner interest, BMP verification (annual) Lack of Technical assistance to support agriculture planning and implementation Additional funding to support soil testing. Soil testing is key to meeting the recommendations of supplemental BMPs. Machine-dependent for most farming operations Cost of fertilizer is self-regulating farmers to use less fertilizer; therefore, lower rates result. The challenge is documenting this each year.	Educational support 63 farms inspected in 2021		6 – additional Ag Planners to work with farmers to meet 4R standards	\$780,000 per year \$10 per acre of advanced nutrient management planning per type--> total cost for all is \$430,000	2025: No progress to date. 2024: No progress to date. 2023: HRG has worked with the counties on methods to integrate supplement NM reporting into current workflows in the Chesapeake bay Contract, Nutrient Management Contract, current PSNT programs, and equipment rental programs. HRG also provided outreach at several events to increase adoption of 4R practices within the region. 2022: No progress to date.	2025: Action item changed to yellow. 2023: Action Number Performance Target verbiage updated for the 2023 Milestone. Goals were decreased to reflect of lack of progress to date.

2025 Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Report – MIFFLIN COUNTY

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3.7*	Implement Practice to improve soil health and sustainability (Tillage Management and Cover Crops)	Determine feasibility of having a county/state cost share program to enhance adoption of the annual practice, pay incentive payment per acre Implement tillage management and cover crops on an annual rate of 21,000 acres High Residue, 6,300-6,900 acres Conservation Tillage, 2,600-3,700 acres Low Residue, 6,000-12,400 acres of cover crops and 8,400 acres of cover crops with fall nutrients	MCCD, Mifflin County Farm Bureau, NRCS, Private Sector Agriculture Farm Visits	Countywide Ag Land	2022 – investigation 2023 – next steps	Capacity to manage the program, landowner interest Lack of technical assistance and farm planners to work with farmers to transition to High Residue Tillage Current verification methods do not accurately capture implemented amounts – Capital RC&D survey needs revised Farmers are harvesting cover crops for forage, need accurate efficiency crediting for commodity cover crops Organic farmers are using tillage to manage weeds and vertical tillage is becoming more popular among farmers, younger generation is “trving” tillage for	Transect survey Landowner education	Refer to REAP and NRCS	6 – additional Ag Planners to transition farmers to high residue County MCCD – staff to administer the program Capital RC&D Transect Survey	\$780,000 per year \$90 per acre traditional per year ☐ \$540K for a 5-year total of \$2.7M (incentive payment, administration, Capital RC&D reporting) \$50 per acre fall nutrients per year ☐ \$420K for 5-year total of \$2.1M \$50,000	2025: MCCD assisted Capital RC&D in their 2025 Fall Cover Crop Survey and 2025 Spring Tillage Survey. MCCD has assisted farmers in applying for REAP credits for cover crops and no-till equipment. 2024: MCCD assisted Capital RC&D in their 2024 fall Cover Crop Survey and 2024 Spring Tillage Survey 2023: MCCD assisted Capital RC&D in their 2023 fall Cover Crop Survey and 2023 Spring Tillage Survey 2022: MCCD assisted Capital RC&D in their 2021 fall Cover Crop Survey and 2022 Spring Tillage Survey	2025: Increased the goal for High Residue and Conservation Tillage based on reporting trends. Overall goal increased to 31,600 acres. Action item changed from yellow to green. 2023: Overall acres of cover crops was not changed.
3.8	Implement more pasture management BMPs	Pasture Alternative Watering – 250-4,200 acres Forest buffers on fenced pasture corridor – 80 acres Grass buffers on fenced pasture corridor – 80 acres Land Retirement to Ag Open Space – 250-1,000 Acres	MCCD, Mifflin County Farm Bureau, NRCS, Private Sector Agriculture Farm Visits	Countywide ag lands – landowners who raise horses, dairy, beef and other pasture grazing animals Upper Kish WIP priority BMPs	2025	Landowner education, BMP funding for non-buffer work, plan updates, data gathering Lack of Technical assistance to support agriculture planning and implementation Old NRCS plans need to be updated to comply with prescribed grazing definition – difficult to get landowner buy-in – fund alternative watering and fencing; most pastures are streamside Increasing construction costs are resulting in canceled NRCS contracts	Landowner education Data gathering through Bay Tech visits		6 – additional Ag Planners to provide technical assistance and ag planning 3 – additional FTE environmental technician	\$780,000 per year \$390,000 per year Off stream Watering \$500 per acre ☐ \$125K total FB Buffer W/ Exclusion \$10,500 per acre ☐ \$840K total GB Buffer W/ Exclusion \$2,750 per acre ☐ \$220K total Land Retirement \$500 per acre ☐ \$125K total	2025: See 2.1 & 3.1 above. 2024: See 2.1 above. 2023: BMP verification efforts continued utilizing Chesapeake Conservancy remote sensing data to identify pasture management BMPs. Previously undocumented BMPs will be entered into the PracticeKeeper database. 900' of livestock exclusion fencing also installed in Upper Kish. Additional pasture fencing and watering facilities to be installed in fall of 2023. See Action # 3.1. 2022: Phase 1 of BMP verification identified 331 potential hits for streambank exclusion fencing. This data set will allow for increased reporting of buffered acres with exclusion fencing. This allow for future project identification. See Action # 3.1 above.	2023: Goal was increased to reflect number of acres already treated.

2025 Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Report – MIFFLIN COUNTY

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							Technical	Financial	Technical	Financial		
3.9*	Riparian buffer and re-forestation BMPs	<p>314 riparian forest buffer acres, (274) acres lost since 2017 need reverified</p> <p>44 riparian grass buffer acres – (24) acres lost since 2017 need reverified</p> <p>26 100 acres – Agriculture Tree Planting</p> <p>10 acres – urban forest buffer</p> <p>2 acres – urban tree canopy</p> <p>5 2 acres – urban forest planting</p> <p>Forest Harvesting Practices – 75 acres</p>	CBF, Penn's Creek Chesapeake Conservancy, NRCS, MCCD, Mifflin County PA Cleanways, Penn's Creek Chapter TU, Water4Ag	Countywide	<p>2022 – line up landowners, develop and install educational signage for the urban stream restoration that occurred at buyout site</p> <p>2023-2025 – implementation</p>	<p>Landowner partnerships, landowner education, volunteer acceptance of buffer plantings, buffer maintenance guide for farmers, routine site visits to confirm buffers are thriving, invasive species removal during establishment</p> <p>Flash grazing must be allowed with buffer installation</p> <p>Funding program must include a 5-10-year maintenance program to establish buffers along with incentive program \$4K minimum per acre payment</p> <p>MCCD would like more buffer management equipment to utilize and lend to landowners and watershed groups. Already have trailer with small hand tools. Could use mower but need more storage space and equipment funding!</p>	<p>Materials</p> <p>Mapping</p> <p>DCNR Prime Prospects Data Exists</p>	<p>Budget available to be determined</p>	<p>6 – additional Ag Planners to provide technical assistance and ag planning</p> <p>3 – additional FTE environmental technician</p>	<p>\$780,000 per year</p> <p>\$390,000 per year</p> <p>Forest Buffer \$10,000 per acre ☐ \$500K</p> <p>Grass Buffer \$2,500 per acre ☐ \$50K</p> <p>Tree Canopy \$5,000 per acre ☐ \$11K</p> <p>Tree/Forest Planting \$10,000 per acre ☐ \$310K</p> <p>Forest Harvesting Practices \$60 per acre ☐ \$4,500</p>	<p>2025: A small planting occurred at the Lewistown Country Club in 2025. Additional planting is planned at the LCC in 2026 (See 1.1).</p> <p>2024: Riparian buffers will be planted at 3 projects in the fall of 2024. Live staking and supplemental/mortality plantings were completed at several projects in the spring of 2024. Maintenance and invasive control were also completed on several existing projects in 2024.</p> <p>2023: Riparian buffers planted at 2 farms in the Upper Kish in the fall of 2022 totaling approximately 3.77 acres. 1 acre of riparian buffer to be planted in the fall of 2023 in the Upper Kish. See Action #3.1.</p> <p>MCCD has also been assisting landowners with buffer management. MCCD purchased new buffer management equipment in the fall of 2022 and has so far assisted landowners in maintaining over 20 acres of riparian buffer. Management activities include mowing, invasive control, re-planting, re-seeding, Live staking, and tree tube removal/repair.</p> <p>2022: Phase 1 of BMP verification will identify potential hits for grassed waterways and forest buffers implemented in the past 10 years. These potential BMPs will need field verified but provide a great opportunity to identify BMPs not currently reported.</p> <p>MCCD hired an intern in May of 2022 to log BMP data into PracticeKeeper from current, recent, and past projects. The intern also identified practices that were nearing their expiration date and need to be reverified...see Action# 2.1</p> <p>Installed streambank fencing in 2021... see Action# 3.1</p> <p>MCCD requested 300 trees through K10 Million Trees to distribute to landowners interested in planting riparian forest buffers in the fall of 2022.</p> <p>The MCCD piloted a Riparian Rangers Training with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay in the</p>	<p>2023: Goals were increased to reflect number of acres already being treated, or decreased to reflect of lack of progress of action item.</p>
3.10	Wetland restoration implementation on marginal production ag land	27 100 acres of Wetland Restoration	CBF, NRCS, MCCD, Mifflin County PA Cleanways, Penn's Creek Chapter TU, Water4Ag	Countywide	2022 –2025	<p>Willing landowner; appropriate siting, design, and construction for successful restoration result.</p> <p>Lack of technical assistance for landowner outreach and agriculture planning to identify potential site locations.</p> <p>Lead time it takes to secure projects can take years.</p>	Landowner outreach		<p>3 – additional FTE environmental technician x</p> <p>2 – stream biologist</p>	<p>\$390,000 per year</p> <p>\$280,000 per year</p> <p>Wetland Restoration \$30,000 per acre--> \$810K</p>	<p>2025: MCCD has continued to pursue wetland restoration projects. The MCCD applied for two grants to fund wetland restoration in the Upper Kish watershed. The MCCD also has applied for additional funding in the Town Run watershed through the CAP implementation grants for wetland restoration. Ongoing discussions are also occurring with the Mifflin County Planning Department and Downtown Lewistown Inc. on trails and greenways with associated stormwater management and wetland restoration opportunities.</p> <p>2024:MCCD has identified several projects with wetland restoration potential. Wetland restoration is being pursued in the Upper Kish watershed (2 projects) and at the Lewistown Country Club. Other potential WRP sites have been identified and referred to USDA/NRCS. Ongoing discussion are also occurring with the Mifflin County Planning Department and Downtown Lewistown Inc. on trails and greenways with associated stormwater management and wetland restoration opportunities.</p> <p>HRG has been utilizing existing maps and outreach to determine potential locations for wetland restoration projects. From there HRG plans to develop a regional grant application for the SRBC Consumptive Use Grant.</p> <p>2023: No progress to date.</p> <p>2022: No progress to date.</p>	<p>2025: Goals were increased to reflect number of acres already with plans implemented.</p>

2025 Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Report – MIFFLIN COUNTY

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Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party(is) and Partnerships	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline	Potential Implementation Challenges or Recommendations	Resources Available		Resources Needed		Annual Progress to Date (2021 to 2025)	Reason for Change to Action Item (2023-2025 milestone period)
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3.11	Stream Restoration (Urban and Agriculture)	8,000 5,000 Linear feet (<1 miles) Urban Stream Restoration 10,000 24,000 Linear feet (1 mile) Agriculture Stream Restoration Identify Mill dam removal opportunities Pair fish habitat with stream restoration	CBF, NRCS, MCCD, Mifflin County PA Cleanways, Penn's Creek Chapter TU, Water4Ag, PFBC Stream Restoration Team	Rapid delisting areas top priority & Countywide	2022 – 2025	Design/permit/construction cycle seems to work in two-year increments, there is an assumption that eroded/degraded streams exist based upon 403(d) listing – should that not be the case in the field, adjust quantitative goal down and ensure buffers are in place. Lack of funding to cover engineering design.			Design, permit, construction services Assume urban \$900/LF - \$7.2M Assume rural \$400/LF -\$4M 2 – Municipal Engineers 3 – FTE Design, Engineering, Permit 2 – stream biologists	\$90,000 per year \$280,000 per year \$420,000 per year \$280,000 per year	2025: MCCD & PFBC completed 3 projects totaling over 4,475 feet in 2025. Projects were completed in the Town Run, Hungry Run and Upper Kish watersheds. Additional work is planned to be completed at the Lewistown Country Club in 2025. 2024: MCCD & PFBC completed 4 stream restoration projects totaling over 2,500 feet in 2024. Projects were completed in the Upper Kish, Hungry Run, and Honey Creek Watersheds. Additional projects are being designed and permitted at the Lewistown Country Club and in the Upper Kish watershed for 2025. 2023: MCCD continued installation of non-urban stream restoration completing a 500' stream restoration project in the Upper Kish (see Action 3.1) and a stream restoration project on Strodes Run totaling 1,785 feet. Designs have been completed for 3 additional projects. 2022: From 2020 to 2021 Mifflin County increased non-urban stream restoration by over 5,300 linear feet according to CAST. CAP Implementation Funding completed Jacks Creek Stream restoration with USFWS - 3,890' Completed Honey Creek Fish Habitat/Bank Stabilization with PFBC - 800' Completed Kishacoquillas Creek (Yoder and Bhalla Property) Fish Habitat/Bank Stabilization with PFBC - 1,350'	2023: Goals were increased to reflect number of LF already completed, or decreased to reflect of lack of progress of action item.
3.12	Implement more barnyard runoff control/loafing lot management	250 150 acres of barnyard runoff controls 2 4 acres loafing lot management 27 acres of agriculture drainage management	MCCD, Chesapeake Conservancy, NRCS, Mifflin County Farm Bureau	Countywide Farms	2022-2025	Mapping challenges, landowner buy-in and project development/funding. Lack of Technical assistance to support agriculture planning and implementation. Lack of funding to cover engineering design. Increasing construction costs are cancelling NRCS contracts. CAST has identified Mifflin County as 100% BMP implementation for barnyard runoff controls. This is not accurate.			6 – additional Ag Planners to provide technical assistance and ag planning 3 – FTE Design, Engineer, Permit 3 – FTE Inspector Construction Services	\$780,000 per year \$420,000 per year \$315,000 per year Barnyard Runoff Control \$175K per project, assume 1 acre per project \$1.925M in total Agriculture Stormwater Management \$10K per acre @ \$270K	2025: See 3.1 and 3.13 2024: See 3.13 2023: HUA structure to be installed in the Upper Kish during the fall of 2023. See Action 3.1. Also, 2 roofed HUAs planned for fall of 2023/2024 in partnership with NRCS in the Jacks Creek Watershed with partial funding through ACAP. 2022: Phase 1 of BMP verification will identify where barnyard clusters are located and determine if they are livestock operations or poultry operations. See Action# 3.1 above.	2025: Loafing lot goals were increased to reflect number of acres already with plans implemented 2023: Goals were decreased to reflect of lack of progress to date.

2025 Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Report – MIFFLIN COUNTY

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3.13	Animal waste management BMP implementation for livestock	3,500 16,700 new AUs of animal waste management systems 1,300 new AUs of livestock mortality composting	MCCD, Chesapeake Conservancy, NRCS, Mifflin County Farm Bureau	Livestock & Poultry farms	2022-2025	Current capacity through NRCS and MCCD implements about 5 farms projects per year; Time to get through planning, design, and construction; outreach to smaller farms that likely need the assistance; match cash value for small farms; readiness to plan/implement projects when outreach efforts yield willing landowners Lack of funding to cover engineering design	Project implementation – 4 – 5 farms a year		District/NRCS/Private Sector Farm Visits Private Sector/MCCD Private Sector/MCCD	\$780,000 per year \$420,000 per year \$315,000 per year Animal waste management system \$175,000 per project, assume 100 AUs per project \$6.125M in total Mortality composters \$3.3M budget	2025: A total of four Animal Heavy Use Areas with manure stacking and one Waste Storage Facility were completed in 2025 through ACAP. One additional project is underway through ACAP and another through the Upper Kish 319 grant (see 3.1). 2024: Animal heavy Use Areas were completed in fall of 2023 through 319 grants and ACAP. Additional ag. projects were designed and are currently being bid in 2024 through ACAP. Two projects are expected to start construction in the fall of 2024. 2023: Manure stacking structure to be installed in the fall of 2023 in Upper Kish. See Action 3.1. Also, 2 roofed HUAs planned for fall of 2023/2024 in partnership with NRCS in the Jacks Creek Watershed with partial funding through ACAP. 2022: BMP Verification Phase 1, shows the potential to report an additional 144 animal waste storage facilities currently not reported through PracticeKeeper. See Action# 3.1 above.	2023: Goal was increased to reflect number of acres already being treated, and an increase in available funding for related projects.
3.14*	Manure Transport out of Mifflin County	Transport 4,000 dry tons per year out of Mifflin County	MCCD, Chesapeake Conservancy, NRCS, Mifflin County Farm Bureau, Manure haulers and brokers	Countywide	2022-2025	Current reporting standards do not require manure brokers and haulers to report manure transported. New regulations must be developed to require haulers and brokers to submit information to DEP.		Surface Water Assessment (SWAP)	1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Conservation District	\$130,000 per year	2025: As part of the CBP Implementation Program, the MCCD has assisted landowners with the completion and review of MM plans. Also, as part of the Nutrient Management Program, the District reviews NMP plans. These plans require balance sheets for exported/imported manure. Transport amounts could be identified through current MMP and NMP plans in Practice Keeper. 2024: No progress to date. 2023: No progress to date. Reporting still remains an issue and is recommended state agencies work with haulers and brokers to accurately document manure transport. 2022: No progress to date. Reporting still remains an issue and is recommended state agencies work with haulers and brokers to accurately document manure transport.	2025: Action item changed from yellow to green.

2025 Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Report – MIFFLIN COUNTY

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3.15*	Urban Stormwater Management Non-Regulated Communities	Implement existing ordinances at local municipal level Catalogue existing BMPs that fit into this category and newly built ones Stormwater Treatment Standard – 5-80 acres treated (AT) Wet Ponds and Wetlands – 65 25 AT Advanced Grey Infrastructure IDDE – 45 0 AT Dry Ponds – 5 0 AT Infiltration Practices – 42 20 AT Filtering Practices – 10 0 AT Bioretention – 5 AT Bioswale – 5 AT Vegetated Open Channel – 1 AT Impervious Surface Disconnection – 2	MCCP, MCCD, developing municipalities	County-wide	Ongoing 2022-2025	Coordination/ training for municipal staff, FieldDoc batch opportunity, non-MS4 engagement (what’s in it for them?), difficulty obtaining past information (MS4s typically have databases from 2003-present) Performance Target Continued: Pleasant Acres West – HQ stream is now impaired à empties into Lower Kish; stormwater demonstration project; clean up water before it enters karst topography; monitoring needs	Reporting platform		5 Summer interns for reporting and verification 2 – Municipal Engineers 1 – municipal planner	\$67,725 per year \$50,000 – per year \$280,000 per year \$130,000 per year \$300,000 for all stormwater BMPs	2025: MCCD has an active DEP GG Grant with \$67,725.00 worth of funds for stormwater BMP design at the Lewistown Country Club. Designs are expected to be completed by the end of 2025. Ongoing discussions are occurring with the Mifflin County Planning Department and Downtown Lewistown Inc. on trails and greenways with associated stormwater management and wetland restoration opportunities. 2024: MCCD received a Growing Greener grant in 2024 to design stormwater BMP's at the Lewistown Country Club. Ongoing discussion are also occurring with the Mifflin County Planning Department and Downtown Lewistown Inc. on trails and greenways with associated stormwater management and wetland restoration opportunities. 2023: MCCD is partnered with Lewistown Country Club to develop a comprehensive concept plan for the Club's campus. Two grants were applied for advancement of the project. The plan includes conservation landscaping, bioretention's, bioswales, and other urban BMPs. The Multi-Use Trail continues to be a priority for MCCD and the District is looking for funding for implementation. 2022: Multi-use trail study includes potential stormwater BMP implementation/upgrades. The Mifflin County Conservation District applied to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Small Watershed Grant to implement Conservation Landscaping. As part of the grant application a new position within the Conservation District would be established to provide technical assistance similar to a watershed specialist. This grant also included funding for Green Stormwater Infrastructure projects. The grant was not	2023: Goals were increased to reflect number of acres already being treated, or decreased to reflect of lack of progress of action item.
3.16	Conservation Landscaping/Turf to Meadow Conversion	Promote new program and enable one large tract landowners' participation 40 new acres of Conservation Landscaping	CBF, NRCS, MCCD, Mifflin County PA Cleanways, Penn's Creek Chapter TU, Water4Ag, Municipalities, Native Creations	Developed areas in County municipalities Kish Park (3-4 acres) District Office	2022 - 2025	Landowner education and acceptance Existing mowing ordinances and weed ordinances can be a challenge to implementation	Planting plan assistance		1 – FTE Municipal Planner 3 – additional FTE environmental technician	\$130,000 per year \$130,000 per year \$2,500 per acre meadow--> \$100,000 budget	2025: Approximately 10 acres of turf conversion will be installed at the Lewistown Country Club in 2025. The District plans to install another 10 acres of turf conversion in 2026 at the Lewistown Country Club. Additionally, the MCCD plans to install one additional acre of TC this fall with a seed drill purchased in 2025. 2024: MCCD completed 2 turf conversion (TC) projects in 2024 at the MCCD office and Burnham Borough Park and are actively maintained existing TC projects. The District also hired a consultant to further design and contract 10+ acres of turf conversion at the Lewistown Country Club. The MCCD also presented at a Penn State Extension workshop educating local landowners about turf conversion. 2023: See #3.15 above. Projects have been identified for the MCCD Conservation Landscaping Program and will be installed in Fall of 2023. 2022: The Mifflin County Conservation District applied to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Small Watershed Grant to implement Conservation Landscaping. As part of the grant application a new position within the Conservation District would be established to provide technical assistance. The grant was not awarded. Two pilot projects were completed in the fall of 2022 equaling two acres of conversion.	

2025 Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Report – MIFFLIN COUNTY

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3.17*	Continue dirt and gravel road program	24 miles overall restored through past projects 25,000 feet of new projects Continue to implement the program annually	MCCD	Countywide	2025	Continue D&G Road program funding Expand Dirt and Gravel Road Program to include farm lanes	Education, technical assistance, project oversight	\$1.1 million since 1997	1 – FTE Clean E&S/ DGR Tech Dirt and Gravel Roads \$40 per foot TBD	\$130,000 per year	2025: MCCD continued to administer the DG&LVR Program - 7 projects approved for 2025. 2024: MCCD continued to administer the DG&LVR Program - 5 projects approved for 2024. 2023: Continued to administer DG&LVR program - 7 projects approved for 2023 2022: Continued to administer DG&LVR program - 8 projects approved for 2022 (4 DGR - 4 LVR)	
3.18*	Work with PennDOT and local municipalities to reduce frequency of mowing road ditches and along roadways	Educate local municipal leaders and work with PennDOT to address state-owned roads on the importance of keeping higher vegetation along roadways to prevent erosion and increase nutrient uptake.	Local Municipalities, DEP and PennDOT	Countywide	2023	PennDOT's and Municipal willingness to cut back on mowing programs. DEP Chesapeake Bay Program will need to assist in the education of PennDOT.			1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Planning Commission 1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Conservation District	\$130,000 per year \$130,000 per year	2023: No progress to date. 2022: No progress to date.	2023: Consistent lack of progress and lack of coordination/buy in from PennDOT through State partners
3.19	Private Funding & Grant Administration	Identify some private funding sources that may be able to supplement public funding sources/existing sources utilized for stakeholders, continue to work with partners to facilitate additional funding	Existing project implementer networks	Countywide	2022-2023	Need to expand network, educational aspect of less common funders, logistics of utilizing unproven funding sources (or lesser known). Grant administration is a challenge due to limited staff and time-consuming nature of grant reporting and administration.	Financial services		1 – FTE Conservation District Grant Manager 1 – FTE Planning Commission Grant Manager 2 – staff accountants	\$130,000per year \$130,000 per year \$140,000 per year	2025: No progress to date. 2024:No progress to date. 2023: Two projects have been identified for PennVEST funding. FFAR and Walton Family Foundation opportunities did not proceed. No progress to report from County-led activities. 2022: HRG and LFT are exploring potential opportunities to apply to the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR) and the Walton Family Foundation's new program, Achieving Conservation through Targeting Information, Outreach and Networking (ACTION) to support innovative research that increases adoption of conservation practices. A potential grant application would bolster farm visits in Mifflin County to increase the adoption of Conservation Practices.	

Priority Initiative 4: Research, Education, and Training

2025 Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Report – MIFFLIN COUNTY

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							Technical	Financial	Technical	Financial		
4.1*	Continue to implement Mifflin County Surface Water Assessment (SWAP). Explore options to identify additional monitoring sites.	Location identification, financial and volunteer budget analysis, and initial landowner communication by end of 2022. Continue to implement SWAP program and explore feasibility to retrofit USGS monitoring stations. Submit data to Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative.	ALLARM, Keystone Water Resources Center, Juniata College, Penn's Creek Watershed Association PADEP, consultants	To be determined	2022	Land access, expanded volunteer need, equipment/materials budget, Consistent data collection, QAQC continuation	Temp Loggers, YSI Multimeter		Volunteers for Water quality monitoring New monitoring equipment Retrofit USGS monitoring 3 – additional FTE environmental technician 2 – stream biologist/environmental scientist	N/A \$10,000 Locations \$50,000 per monitoring site \$130,000 per year \$280,000 per year	2025: MCCD along with PA DEP sampled 30 sites in the Upper Kish, Hungry Run, Town Run, and Jack's Creek watershed. This is the 12th year of sampling in the Upper Kish and Hungry Run watersheds. The Jacks Creek and Town Run sites were added to collect pre and post project water quality data. Monitoring data is available through the MCCD website and has been updated through 2025. 2024: MCCD along with PA DEP sampled over 30 sites in the Upper Kish, Hungry Run, Town Run, and Jack's Creek watershed. This is the 11th year of sampling in the Upper Kish and Hungry Run watersheds. The Jacks Creek and Town Run sites were added to collect pre and post project water quality data. 2023: The SWAP was completed in Spring of 2023. With this being the tenth year of the dataset, MCCD is reevaluating how best to proceed in future years. Capacity changes with the Coordinator and Conservation Districts has pushed the convening of the Watershed Specialists. We will reevaluate in 2024 if this should be a priority at the County level or if it should be scaled to the State or Federal level. 2022: "In the fall of 2022, HRG will convene the Watershed Specialist to identify the largest ""gaps"" of water quality monitoring data, develop strategies to comprehensively incorporate new data to support CAP efforts. ALLARM is in the process of developing citizen scientist monitoring data collection protocols to assist with stream health data collection. Should the protocol be approved, it will be shared with all Counties."	
4.2	Look to create new or enhance the capacity of local watershed associations for short-term success and long-term sustainability, Explore the feasibility of establishing watershed association in Mifflin County	Develop new or reestablish existing watershed associations to support with CAP implementation. Watershed organizations can support with outreach, engagement, new project identification and implementation	Penn's Creek Watershed Association, Trout Unlimited, National Trout Unlimited,	Countywide	Ongoing	Willing volunteers and leaders to establish and run watershed organizations to be successful and support with implementation Enhance the capacity of local watershed associations for short-term success and long-term sustainability	Social media shares Project development support		1 – FTE Clean Water Coordinator for Planning Commission 1 – FTE Clean Watershed Specialist	\$130,000 per year \$130,000 per year \$5000 per organization to produce promotional materials (hats, shirts, stickers) for members à \$10,000 per year	2025: MCCD continues to collaborate with the local Trout Unlimited chapter and MCSD on tree plantings and environmental events such as Eco Day, Trout in the Classroom, the 3rd grade Ag. Tour, and PA Envirothon. 2024: MCCD continues to collaborate with the local Trout Unlimited chapter and MCSD on tree plantings and environmental events such as Eco Day, Trout in the Classroom, the 3rd grade Ag. Tour, and PA Envirothon. 2023: MCCD will host another Riparian Rangers training in Fall of 2023. MCCD partnered with Trout Unlimited and the Mifflin County Junior High Conservation Club to plant riparian buffers twice in 2023. 2022: Piloted Riparian Rangers Training with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay Attended PSU Watershed Stewards Webinar	