

Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Annual Progress Update and Two-Year Milestones Report – Lackawanna County										Initiative Completed		
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 Highlight changes for 2024-2025 milestone period												
Action # Green Yellow Red	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 + 2022+2023+2024+2025) *add new 2025 progress above the existing 2024 progress. Date each entry	Reason for Change to Action Item (2024-2025 milestone period)
							Technical	Financial	Technical	Financial		
Priority Initiative 1: Agriculture												
1.1	Implement Nutrient Management Analysis Program to Agricultural Landowners	Assist producers in obtaining nutrient management planning (including soil samples, manure analysis, and agronomy assistance). BMP’s will include Nutrient Core N and Nutrient Core P, Rate, Placement, and Timing. 25 Sites per year	PSU Extension, LCCD, Consultant	County Agricultural properties	2022-2027	Funding for program creation, Producer Participation, and understanding of importance	Local agency educational materials and sampling kits Consultant assistance	EQIP	Contracted Source for NMP analysis/recom mendations List of recommended contacts for analysis completion	Dedicated funding to assist in this program \$15 per soil sample kit \$40 per manure testing kit \$60,000 per year	2025 - Nutrient management and soil sampling have been offered to landowners when developing new or updated MMP's and CNMP's. Additional County landowners request kits for nutrient analysis in lawn/garden/farm planting and maintenance. In 2025 the District analyzed 102 soil samples (as of 11/1/25) for landowners that requested the service from the District. 100 additional soil test kits have been purchased to continue to provide this resource to landowners. 2024 - In 2024 the District analyzed soils samples for landowners that requested the service from the District, to provide assistance in nutrient management planning, though no specific program currently exists. 2023 - Nutrient management and soil sampling have been offered to landowners when developing new or updated MMP's and CNMP's. 100 soil test kits have been purchased to continue to provide this resource to landowners. Over 10 operations have been worked with to develop nutrient management plans, conservation plans, and Engineering I&E's. 2022 - Nutrient management analysis has been offered through the district to provide 50+ soil sampling kits and manure analysis assistance. Designated funded is required to increase soil sampling and manure testing availability to more landowners each year and expand the existing program.	
1.2*	Reporting and Verification of Existing BMPs	Collect data using landowner reporting forms and verify existing BMPs on agricultural operations. Report and verify 50 operations per year	DEP, LCCD, NRCS	County Agricultural properties	2021-2027	Time Capacity, Data Entry, Release of Records, producer participation and resistance	Existing BMPs funded through Government programs are already known	Agency verification	Dedicated staff or contracted staff to complete entry and inspections	Dedicated funding to this position. \$40,000 per year for staff salary (1/2 FTE)	2025 - Reporting and verification has not been completed in 2025 due to staffing, but is of interest in the future with LCD staffing. 2024 - Reporting was completed in 2024, with reporting continuing into the beginning of 2025. BMP's included a contour buffer, diversion, grassed waterway, six (6) watering facilities, three (3) animal trails and walkways, three (3) heavy use area protection, a water storage facility, and five (5) prescribed grazing. The District plans to continue BMP verification and reporting through 2025, as long as funding exists. 2023 - BMP verification and reporting was completed this year and verified over 300 BMP sites for resource improvement practices. Farm operation BMP implementations are currently being verified and reported throughout the county by the qualified individuals to receive nutrient reduction credits. 2022 - BMP verification and reporting is being completed through BMP verification funding and is on schedule. \$30,000.00 Grant funding through the Bay Office is being utilized to support the BMP Verification effort through the Conservation District and LDG. LDG is identifying BMPs on Aerial imagery and BMP verification is occurring through LCCD.	

1.3*	Existing BMP Maintenance and Installation Program	<p>Assist producers with maintenance of existing BMPs to keep them functioning, through education and funding resources.</p> <p>10 projects per year</p>	LCCD, NRCS, PSU Extension	County Agricultural communities targeting impaired watersheds	2022-2027	Lack of existing funds for maintenance, farmer resistance to project completion	Design, inspection, support, specifications and details	Private funds	<p>Design, permitting, engineering, and construction</p> <p>Prioritization of BMPs in need of maintenance</p>	<p>Funds to complete maintenance activities, including design, permitting, and construction</p> <p>\$250,000 per year</p>	<p>2025 - This is being accomplished through LCD through ACAP and CAP project. This has resulted in 5 projects completed in 2025, with 7 project applications received for 2026.</p> <p>2024 - The collection of existing BMPs has occurred over the summer months to continue and track the ongoing efforts that landowners are doing throughout the County. Maintenance occurred to existing gutter systems, and Heavy Use Areas that needed improved due to end of lifespan. A fencing project is underway with the completion in 2024-2025. The maintenance efforts are expected to continue through 2025.</p> <p>2023 - The BMP maintenance program implemented various projects this year such as stream crossings and roofs for manure structures. Additional projects are approved for funding this year including stream exclusion fencing, rotational grazing, watering systems, roof runoff systems, spring development, and stabilized animal walkways.</p> <p>2022- BMP maintenance and upgrades are being addressed when presented to keep them functioning at a high level. A program to evaluate BMP maintenance projects and expand available project upgrades is under planning.</p>	
1.4	Farmland Preservation	<p>Assist in the preservation and conservation of Farmland.</p> <p>Maintain 250 preserved acres per year.</p>	LCCD, Farmland Preservation Board	County farmlands	2021-2027	Financial assistance and participation in preservation	Reviews and applications of existing preservation sites	Final application and site payments	Educational materials on farmland preservation importance	<p>Funding for farmland preservation costs</p> <p>\$500,000 per year</p>	<p>2025 - Program received \$85,000 from County and \$553,063.53 from state for easement purchases in 2025. There has been 26.69 acres preserved in 2025 by LCCD. Two additional farms will be preserved in early 2026.</p> <p>2024 - Farmland preservation is occurring with the funding available within Lackawanna, in addition the District leverages additional funding from the County to purchase easements or utilized to leverage matching funds for state grants. In 2024, 3 parcels were preserved resulting in 156 acres. The District has plans to continue these efforts into 2025 with \$85,000 secured.</p> <p>2023 - Farmland preservation is ongoing throughout the county with the funding available. Lackawanna CCD has secured an additional \$25,000/yr. from the county to purchase easements. These funds plan to be leveraged to increase state matching grant funds.</p> <p>2022 - program applications for Farmland Preservation were received and are in process. 4 parcels are totaling ~208 acres (pending final surveys) are being purchased using existing State/County funds.</p> <p>Additional program funding has been secured through a cooperative agreement with the NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE) to allow for the purchase of additional acreage. 3 farms have been approved through ACEP-ALE totaling 248.91 acres in Lackawanna County.</p>	
1.5	AMD and AML Restoration	<p>Utilize excess manure to treat abandoned mine lands to improve available nutrients for vegetative cover. Promote new growth on mine lands to reduce runoff and protect currently established growth. Restoring AML impacted areas and treating AMD discharges to restore water quality. Operation and maintenance on existing reclamation and restoration sites.</p>	EPCAMR, LCCD; NRCS, Earth Conservancy, DEP, BAMR	County agricultural lands and AML areas	2022-2027	Farmer and Landowner Participation, extensive coordination effort, BAMR's modification of existing reclamation practices, Availability of excess manure	Historic programs	N/A	Feasibility study, Develop/coordinate program	<p>Funding to complete a study to identify program utilization.</p> <p>\$50,000 for feasibility study \$250,000 per year if program is determined as feasible</p>	<p>2025 - LCCD wants to look into PA American byproduct from water filtration to see if this could benefit this initiative.</p> <p>2024 - Brainstorming has occurred in 2024 between the District and County-wide partners, such as the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority and the Director of Parks & Recreation. A proposed location has been established, but there is more brainstorming needed to come up with a plan for this location.</p> <p>2023 - This project is still under discussion now that the BAMR funding has been released.</p> <p>2022- This program is still important and is looking for a dedicated funding source to complete this initiative. It is planned to utilize BAMR, OMR, or infrastructure bill funds to help secure this program.</p>	

1.6	Crop Management	Promote crop management by increasing no-till and cover cropping through education and outreach. Increase existing Crop management by 250 acres a year	LCCD, NRCS, SCC, Farm Bureau, PSU Extension	Agricultural community	2021-2027	Participation and eagerness to change existing practices.	Educational materials, planting recommendations	Funds for crop management	Agricultural planning, education and outreach	Funding for seed and implementation \$50,000 per year	2025- Equipment available to rent within the County includes a Lime Spreader, no-till seeder, and a no-till corn planter. The lime spreader was used by 4 landowners, 2 landowners used the corn planter on 38 acres, and 17 landowners used the no-till seeder on 354.7 acres (as of 11/1/25) in 2025. This equipment is utilized by landowners to implement crop management practices that reduce erosion and promote soil health. Use of this equipment will continue into 2026. 2024 - Equipment available to rent within the County includes a Lime Spreader, no-till seeder, and a no-till corn planter. The lime spreader was used by 8 landowners, 4 landowners used the corn planter on 62 acres, and 22 landowners used the no-till on 429.7 acres to date in 2024. This equipment is utilized by landowners to implement crop management practices that reduce erosion and promote soil health. Use of this equipment will continue into 2025. 2023 - The no-till planter was highly utilized this year and was increased due to the access of more rental equipment by the residents. 2022- A no-till corn planter was purchased and supplied for rental this year to increase no-till implementation. A no-till reimbursement rental program was also employed to boost participation. 375.8 acres of no-till planting was implemented this year with the conservation district equipment.	
Priority Initiative 2: Urban and Developed Stormwater												
2.1	MS4 Community Partnership Projects	Partner with MS4 Communities to assist with sediment and nutrient removal projects.	LCCD, County Planning	MS4 Communities	2021- 2027	Cost of implementation and development of partnership.	Program Guidance, project design	Cost of implementations	Provide input and identify possible cooperative efforts for project implementation and enhancement	Dedicated and sustainable funding source for district staff position and implementation of projects \$20,000 per year for staff (1/4 FTE) \$150,000 per year	2025 - There has not been an completed projects within 2025, but LCCD has been in contact with the City of Carbondale about a potential project. 2024 - In 2024 municipalities have reached out to the District for assistance, but qualifying projects are still under discussion and brainstorm proposed project ideas for installation is occurring. 2023 - MS4 community partnerships are still under development to identify projects and possible nutrient removal sites. 2022- MS4 community partnerships are under development to identify projects to work together and improve nutrient removal processes.	
2.1a*	Collecting existing and planned PRPs from MS4 Permittees	Meet with MS4s within Lackawanna to collect existing and planned PRP's to quantify data.	Municipalities, LCCD, PennDOT, County Planning	MS4 Communities	2021- 2027	Staffing to collect and report existing pollution reduction plans.	Knowledge of existing MS4 permits	N/A	Dedicated staff to compile existing data and complete outreach to MS4 permittees, and data entry.	Dedicated and sustainable funding source for district staff position \$40,000 per year for staff person (1/2 FTE)	2025 - LCCD is investigating where reporting for this initiative should be occurring, as the CD receives permits but does not record them. 2024 - This data is to be shared and recorded as it is completed to be included in the Chesapeake Bay Model. The District is working on confirming that the MS4 communities, existing and planned PRPs, are being tracked and reported on by the MS4. 2023 - This action item is still being discussed for the collection and sharing of this data. 2022- This initiative is under development and is working through the collection of existing PRP's. There is potential to verify and collect this data through BMP verification methods.	

2.2*	Existing and New Stormwater BMP retrofit and maintenance Program	Upgrade and maintain existing basins and drainage systems to improve function. Design and Retrofit PCSM on older developments with subdivision basins released to municipalities. 5 projects per year	Municipalities, LCCD, School Districts, Landowners	Existing sites within the County Recreational and Industrial Properties, Landfill	2022-2027	Funding; identifying suitable facilities	Example projects, Guidance documents, development of planting specs, landowner project coordination	Municipal/authority funds	Site data collection; Design development, landowner outreach, and permitting	Dedicated and sustainable funding source for staff position(s) and implementation funds \$20,000 per year for staff (1/4 FTE) \$750,000 per year	2025 - There has been interest in rain gardens and municipality education, but no projects have been completed in 2025. LCCD hopes to expand projects and education within this initiative in 2026 and 2027. 2024 - Stormwater maintenance has occurred at the new Conservation District building to promote stormwater education tools. This retrofit included the installation of pervious pavement, rain gutters, rain barrels, and rain garden infrastructure. Additional sites are being proposed to implement stormwater retrofits to other potential infrastructure. Discussions are ongoing with municipalities for potential projects in the future. 2023 - Some maintenance activities are occurring to stormwater BMPs that need assistance although a program has not been developed to address these projects. 2022 - Existing stormwater BMP retrofit, and maintenance projects are under planning phases to find existing sites in need and potential owners interested in participating.	
2.3*	Roadway Stormwater Management	Implement new BMP guide for Supervisors and PennDOT to reduce runoff from roadways and minimize nutrient carrying capacity. Assess 15 miles per year	LCCD, DCNR, PGC, Planning Department, Municipalities	County Roadways, PennDOT, Municipalities	2021-2027	Follow through on protocol and lack of updates with new techniques.	Training design manuals	BMP implementations on roadways	Technical guide and reference material, Additional project identification, design, permitting, and implementation	Cost associated with additional BMP implementation and project identification \$300,000 per year	2025 - Projects are occurring through the DGLVR program, and educational links exist on the CD website. Project completed in 2025 were Scranton, Carbondale, Waverly, and Glenn Burn. 2024 - Through the Districts Dirt & Gravel Roads Program technical assistance is provided. There has been discussion with the District and Municipalities for potential projects in the future. 2023 - This action item is still a priority, and dedicated funding is needed to develop these materials for the county. 2022 - This program is still under discussion and of high importance. Dedicated funding is needed to create and develop these materials for increased assessment each year.	

2.4	Residential Stormwater Management and Rain Barrel Program	Develop Educational outreach and material Program for residential and small commercial properties. BMPs include: Bioretention/Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels 2 workshops per year	LCCD, PSU Extension MWS	County	2022-2027	Funding for materials; resistance to participation; maintaining use	Existing example programs and educational materials	Cost of project implementation	Rain barrels, Rain gardens, and associated small rain mitigation project materials, educational programs	Funding for materials \$50,000 per year	2025 - There were no programs completed in 2025, but there are 1-2 programs planned for 2026 including a rain barrel or rain garden workshop. 2024 - The completion of the Environmental Education Grant provided residential stormwater management upgrades as well as multiple educational events and educational signage that will provide a resource to the community for years to come. The implementation of green stormwater infrastructure at the District building will provide a learning tool to landowners and developers as potentials for stormwater regulation in their communities. The District had a rain barrel workshop, that brought in approximately 15 attendees. The District plans to have at least one rain barrel workshop for 2025. 2023 - Residential stormwater management programs were applied for funding through the Environmental Education Grant and was awarded. This grant is being utilized to provide stormwater BMP outreach opportunities to local residents, students, and municipal leaders and engineers through 2024. It will also fund the implementation of permanent, public stormwater BMP displays, including permeable pavement parking lot, rain barrels, and rain gardens to provide long-term BMP learning opportunities. 2022 - Educational and outreach events are under discussion for this residential stormwater management initiative. A dedicated funding source is being identified to host the educational events and provide materials to landowners. An EE Grant is being submitted to provide stormwater management education through an interpretive trail at the District Office featuring porous pavement, rain barrels, and green infrastructure.	
2.5	Turf Grass Conversion to Native Meadows	Implement Native meadow Conversion within the County. Achieve 15 planned acres per year	LCCD, PSU Extension, NRCS	County Turf Grass Areas, Fallow Ag fields	2024 -2027	Reporting and lack of participation. Guidance, regulations	Guidance documents	N/A	Example plans, outreach, Enforcement	Dedicate funds to launch the program and implement BMPs \$200,000 per year	2025 - There were 4 projects approved by the CD board for 2025. These projects are funded through CAP and will result in 5+ acres of turff grass to meadow conversion. 2024 - Lawn Conversion at McDade park is planned for 2025. The District plans to continue with more lawn conversion. 2023 - This project is still of high importance and is being discussed for appropriate funding and timing of implementation. 2022 - This program is still of high importance and project locations are being identified and discussed to gain interest and availability for project sites once the program is kicked off.	
Priority Initiative 3: Watershed Health												
3.1*	Stream Channel Restoration and Protection	Provide bank protection, instream habitat and riparian buffers on streams in developed areas. 500 linear feet per year, with additional possible based on funding, design and permitting conditions	LCCD, municipalities, Trout Unlimited, Watershed associations	Urban/ developed	2022-2027	Lack of available land for stream restoration, landowner participation	Standard stream design guidance,	Public lands in urban areas (parks, trails, etc.)	Design services for restoration, construction, permitting	Design and construction funding for restoration and protection project implementation \$800,000 per year	2025 - There were 4 EWP projects completed within the county, and there are more planned for 2026. 2024 - Stream restoration projects have not directly occurred this year, although the replanting of the former Glenburn Pond area has resulted in riparian restoration along a new channel that is developing in that area. Projects have been proposed for installation although funding was not secured to complete them. There are 4 projects proposed for 2025 through EWP, with an additional project proposed for 2025 under 2025 CAP funds which could result in approximately 1,000 ft of restoration if funded. 2023 - Multiple stream channel restoration projects have been implemented this year in addition to the restoration of two historical dam locations. 2022 - Stream restoration and protection projects have been implemented and planned throughout the year. Additional project locations are being discussed for completion. A NFWF Small Watershed Grant was applied to for stream restoration, bank stabilization, and riparian plantings along Roaring Brook within Lackawanna County although was not funded. This project has been applied for funding through 2023 CAP Implementation funds	

3.2*	Stream Bank Stabilization	Protecting stream banks and securing for stabilization. 500 linear feet per year, with additional possible based on funding, design and permitting conditions	LCCD, watershed associations, Trout Unlimited	At risk streams in Environmental Justice areas	2022-2027	Landowner cooperation, volunteers for planting and installation	Standard guidance, education/ outreach materials	Plantings and materials	Coordinators, outreach for volunteer support Materials and design	Funding for coordinator positions, materials, design, and implementation \$800,000 per year	<p>2025 - One Streambank stabilization project was completed in 2025, resulting in 325 feet of protected streambank.</p> <p>2024- The District proposed a growing greener grant but match funding was not acquired, the proposed project is ready for completion if match funding becomes available. There are 4 projects proposed for 2025 through EWP funding.</p> <p>2023- Stream bank stabilization occurred this year in partnership with riparian buffer planting projects to increase stream stabilization within the county.</p> <p>2022- A NFWF Small Watershed Grant was applied to for stream restoration, bank stabilization, and riparian plantings along Roaring Brook within Lackawanna County although was not funded. This project has been applied for funding through 2023 CAP Implementation funds.</p> <p>Additional project sites have also received stream bank stabilization this year and future projects are being planned.</p>	
3.2a	Riparian Buffer Development	Protect and plant trees along critical stream sections. Increase Riparian buffers and tree plantings within urban settings. Implement and verify 15 acres per year	LCCD, watershed associations, Trout Unlimited	At risk streams in Environmental Justice areas	2022-2027	Landowner cooperation/willingness to enter into long-term agreements (DCNR program), volunteers for planting, limited availability of certain tree species	Development of planting specs, coordinating projects with landowners, Standard guidance, education/outreach materials	Plantings and materials, Existing Grant Programs	Coordinators, outreach for volunteer support, example planting plans	Dedicated and sustainable funding source for district staff positions & implementation of buffer projects \$250,000 per year	<p>2025 - 10 acres of riparian buffer development have been implemented. Additional acres are planned for 2026.</p> <p>2024 - Multiple riparian buffer sites have been installed in 2024, including Glenburn Pond (14 acres), Marleys Mission, and the Miller property. This resulted in 15.2 acres planted in 2024. Additional sites are proposed for 2025 installation. DCNR is aware of one planting that was does that resulted in about 50 trees.</p> <p>2023 - Multiple riparian buffers were planted this year including stream buffers as well as at the two dam restoration sites. Over 17 acres of tree plantings have occurred this year.</p> <p>2022- A NFWF Small Watershed Grant was applied to for stream restoration, bank stabilization, and riparian plantings along Roaring Brook within Lackawanna County although wasn't funded. This project has been applied for funding through 2023 CAP Implementation funds.</p> <p>Additional project sites have also received riparian buffer implementation this year and future buffers are planned.</p>	
3.3a	Mine Pool Water Treatment for Irrigation	Treating mine pool water to remove heavy metals to be used for irrigation on golf courses and other Turf grass areas. This will increase irrigation and reduce nutrient application on these areas. 1 site per year	LCCD, EPCAMR, BAMR, SRBC, Golf Course Superintendents	Pine Hills Golf Course, other Golf Courses and Entities using mine pool water for irrigation	2023-2027	Existing regulation on water withdraws, high cost treatment facilities	Technical guidance for treatment design and permitting	Funding to complete Design Permitting and Construction of project	Support to alter existing water withdraw permits and complete permitting and design	Costs associated with the project, include design, permitting and construction \$750,000 per project	<p>2025 - There has not been much progress on this initiative and LCCD is looking into other funding sources, due to projects having a high price point.</p> <p>2024 - This project is still under planning as the feasibility of installation depends on the cost of the facility for treatment and the benefits that the project will provide to the landowner.</p> <p>2023 - The golf course treatment facility is still under planning with multiple site meetings and water testing occurring. This project will be applied for through the BAMR Subgrants awards.</p> <p>2022- Mine pool water treatment and irrigation are being discussed for site feasibility and planning measures at a specific golf course. This initiative is planned to apply for funding through the BAMR, OSM, and infrastructure bill funds in the upcoming years for completion.</p>	

3.4	Forest Land Conservation and Management	Preserve Quality Forest Land Surrounding Quality Resources through conservation easements, deed restrictions, land conservancies.	LCCD, NRCS, DCNR, Landowners, PGC	Forest lands near quality resources	2022-2027	Funding for conserved lands and landowner participation	Conservation efforts, existing land conservancy programs	Conservation and management	Addition outreach and support	Cost associated with conservation, planning, and management \$150,000 per year	2025 - There have not been projects for this initiative through LCCD, but this is still of importance to the County. DCNR continues this effort throughout the county. 2024 - The 2024 Forestry Education Symposium has concluded with the partnership of 8 Conservations Districts to provide education about forest land conservation and management techniques. The District is open to get involved with events, training, field work, etc. in the future. DCNR has confirmed that there was 37 landowner visits within the 2024 year. 2023 - Lackawanna has been included in the 2023 grant application for the Forestry Education Symposium and this grant was awarded. The first event will be this September with a second occurring next spring. 2022 - Forest land conservation efforts have been discussed and excess funding needs allocated to increase these efforts. A Forestry education day has been proposed to increase overall forestry management and conservation measures. Lackawanna County was invited to participate in the Forestry Education Symposium EE Grant currently held by Bradford, Susquehanna, and Wyoming County to increase forestry education within the county	
3.4a	Forestry Harvest ED and Outreach	Educating private forest landowners on the importance of proper harvesting and selecting a qualified timber harvester. 2 programs per year	DCNR, NRCS, LCCD	Private forest landowners	2023 -2027	Participation from landowners and interest and technical assistance	Educational materials	N/A	Outreach events, education programs, county specific harvest information	Costs associated with in person events, county specific materials, and outreach. Dedicated Funding for part time staff to coordinate program. ½ FTE, \$40,000 per year.	2025 - LCCD would like to see this initiative continue and are looking into other options with connections with Northern Tier Hardwoods and other organizations. 2024 - The 2024 Forestry Education Symposium has concluded with the partnership of 8 Conservations Districts to provide education about forest land conservation and management techniques. Walk in Penn's Woods hosted a Walk in 2024 in Lackawanna County with the local DCNR service forester, which included forestry education for the public. DCNR hosted 9 events with roughly 250 people reached in 2024. 2023 - Lackawanna has been included in the 2023 grant application for the Forestry Education Symposium and this grant was awarded. The first event will be this September with a second occurring next spring. 2022 - A Forestry education day has been proposed to increase overall forestry management and conservation measures. Lackawanna County was invited to participate in the Forestry Education Symposium EE Grant currently held by Bradford, Susquehanna, and Wyoming County to increase forestry education within the county.	