

HEALTHY WATERS Pennsylvania Partnership Progress

TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR • PATRICK MCDONNELL, SECRETARY

February / March 2022

Hello partners for water quality!

We have much news to share on progress by state, local, and sector partners to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution and improve water quality in Pennsylvania's share of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

For the state leaders, complete plan document, and more details on the Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan, visit the Phase 3 WIP website. For a broader educational look at nutrient and sediment pollution in local streams, rivers, and lakes in the watershed, including tips and success stories, visit Healthy Waters Healthy Communities.

Please consider how you might join in or help support this work. Anyone interested in their county's Phase 3 WIP County Wide Action plan can sign up to get involved. And help spread the word! Share this newsletter or the Subscribe page.

DEP Chesapeake Bay Office

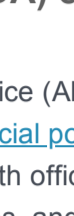
Programs and Projects by State Partners

DEP Awards roughly \$10.2 million for Watershed Restoration and Protection in Pennsylvania Portion of Chesapeake Bay Watershed
In December 2021, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) awarded approximately \$18.2 million for 65 total watershed restoration and protection projects across Pennsylvania through DEP's Growing Greener Plus Grants Program.



Growing Greener avardees help keep Pennsylvania clean. It is imperative that communities in Pennsylvania recieve the necessary funding to reduce pollutants in area waterways.

DEP SECRETARY PATRICK MCDONNELL



Pennsylvania Preserves 6,000th Farm: 600,000-Plus Prime Acres Now Protected
In February, Pennsylvania protected 1,969 acres on 26 farms in 12 counties from future development, investing more than \$6.4 million in state, county and township dollars.

Governor Wolf Builds on Commitment of a Lead-Free PA, Announces \$168 Million Investment in Water Infrastructure Projects in 13 Counties
In January, the PENNVEST Board of Directors approved funding for three drinking water and four sewer projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed totaling \$39,713,463 in low interest loans and \$12,974,826 in grants.

Thirty-four Projects Funded by the Non-point Source (NPS) Pollution Prevention Educational Mini-Grant Program
Pennsylvania's County Conservation Districts were awarded over \$60,000 through the NPS Pollution Prevention Educational Mini-Grant Program.

US Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirms highly pathogenic avian influenza
USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has confirmed the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in a commercial poultry flock in New Castle County, Delaware.

Agriculture Secretary Announces AgriStress Helpline, Free Mental Health Services Available to PA Farm Families
Agriculture professionals who work directly with Pennsylvania livestock producers are invited to attend any of six free mental health workshops happening statewide throughout March and April.

Funding Available Now!
NFWF Now Accepting Proposals for the 2022 Small Watershed Grants Program
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, is now soliciting proposals through the 2022 Small Watershed Grants (SWG) program.

NFWF accepting 2022 PA Most Effective Basins grants program applications
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with EPA and the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program partnership, is accepting proposals under the Pennsylvania Most Effective Basins (PA-MEB) grants program for projects that accelerate implementation of cost-effective agricultural best management practices (BMPs) in selected basins of the Chesapeake Bay watershed of Pennsylvania.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Announces Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities
USDA announced details of the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities opportunity on February 7, 2022. Through this new program, USDA will finance partnerships to support the production and marketing of climate-smart commodities via a set of pilot projects lasting one to five years.

Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) is Accepting Applications for Act 13 Watershed Restoration, Mine Reclamation, Sewage, Flood Mitigation, and Recreation Grants
The CFA will be accepting applications for grants funded by Act 13 drilling impact through May 31. These applications are for:

- Watershed Restoration: The overall goal of the Watershed Restoration and Protection Program is to restore, and maintain restored stream reaches impaired by the uncontrolled discharge of nonpoint source polluted runoff, and ultimately to remove these streams from DEP's Impaired Waters list.
Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement and Remediation: Projects that involve the remediation of Abandoned Mine Well(s), construction of a new AMD site, reconnection and repair of existing AMD project sites, operation and maintenance maintaining current AMD remediation sites, establishment of trust fund to ensure ongoing maintenance is achieved, and monitoring of water quality to track or continue to trace nonpoint source load reductions resulting from AMD remediation projects.
Orphan or Abandoned Well Plugging Program: Projects that involve the cleaning out and plugging of abandoned and orphan gas wells; stray gas mitigation systems; and well venting projects.
Baseline Water Quality Data: Projects that involve practices for water sample collection and analysis to document existing groundwater quality conditions on private water supplies.
Sewage Facilities Program: Costs associated with the planning work required under Act 537 Sewage Facilities Act.
Flood Mitigation: Projects authorized by a flood protection authority, DEP, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRS) or identified by a local government for flood mitigation are eligible for the program.
Greenways, Trails and Recreation Program: Projects that involve development, rehabilitation and improvements to public parks, recreation areas, greenways, and trails and river conservation.

Grant Funding Available to Improve York and Lancaster County Watersheds
The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) has announced that grant funding opportunities are available to address habitat improvement and sediment reduction projects in York and Lancaster counties.

PA American Water Accepting Applications For 2022 Environmental Grant Program
On February 1, 2022, PA American Water announced applications are now being accepted for the company's 2022 Environmental Grant Program. Applications must be postmarked by March 31.

Getting Credit for Our Work

DEP Chesapeake Bay Office continues to collaborate with Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC)
The DEP Chesapeake Bay Office technical team is collaborating with SRBC to provide technical support for Pennsylvania's Phase 3 WIP and evaluation of the draft CAST-21. SRBC is an integral partner with expertise in creating unique CAST modeling scenarios and reports.

DEP Chesapeake Bay Office

Chesapeake Bay Office's Bay Accountability Section Updates Roles and Responsibilities
Following the success of working with all 34 Bay counties and supporting local efforts in developing Countywide Action Plans (CAPs), the Chesapeake Bay Office Bay Accountability Team is continuing its work with counties to implement these plans with partners and projects.

CBO supporting counties in implementation
Moving into the new year, all 34 counties who have developed CAPs are gearing up for a year of implementation. The Chesapeake Bay Office and DEP Regional Office staff have been assisting the Tier 3 and 4 counties prepare for this new phase in the CAP process by holding workshops to develop implementation strategies.

Counties in Action
Adams County is Expanding Outreach
Adams County recently published a "Wrap on the CAP" newsletter that was sent to a variety of local conservation partners. The newsletter discussed ongoing projects such as the Advanced Nutrient Management Program and numerous stream restoration projects. The newsletter also reminded everyone that funding and other assistance is available.

Juniata County Plan Workshop
The Juniata County Conservation District is offering a free, one-day workshop to send producers home with the required manure or nutrient management plan. The workshop will take place on March 8, 2022, at the Juniata County USDA Ag Service Center. To register, please contact the Juniata County Conservation district at 717.436.8953 ext. 5 or email brent-leach@juniatatcod.org.

Lancaster County Project on Ephrata Cattle Farm Reduces Nutrient and Sediment Pollution
This month, an implementation project was completed on a cattle farm in Ephrata that will reduce nutrient and sediment pollution. The project used CAP Implementation grant funding to improve the heavy use area (HUA) and plant a six-acre stabilized forest buffer, both best management practices included in Lancaster's CAP. The expected reduction for the HUA of approximately 0.16 acres of area are 84.7 pounds/year of nitrogen, 3.6 pounds/year of phosphorus and 741.35 pounds/year of sediments. In the spring, the grading and seeding around the building will be finalized.



Before



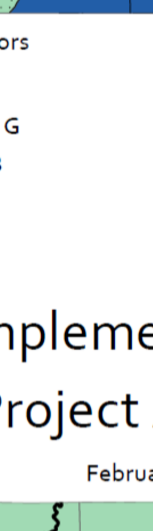
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Perry County is Renting No-till Drills
The Perry County Conservation District rents three 10-foot-wide John Deere 1590 no-till drills and one 6-foot wide Land Pride 606NT drill. The John Deere drills are suitable for planting small grains, soybeans, forages, cover crops, and large pastures. The Land Pride 606NT is commonly used for native grasses and smaller pastures as well as small grains, hay, soybeans, and cover crops.

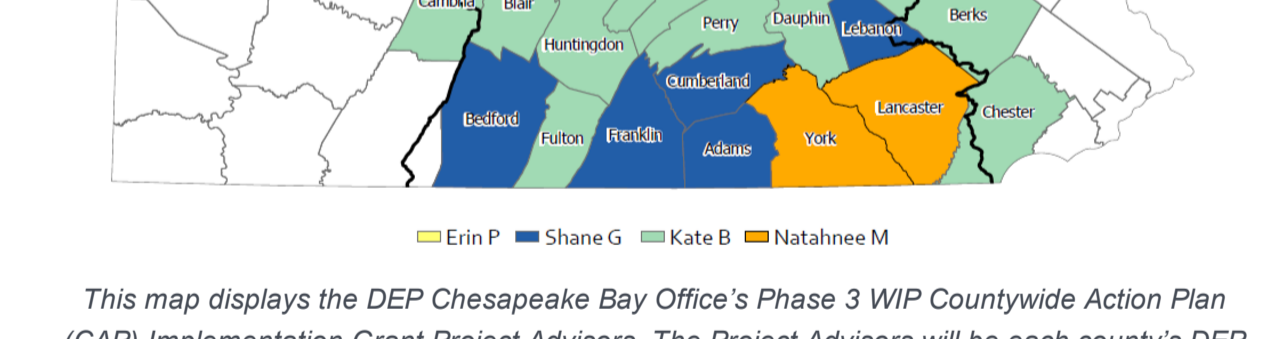
Snyder County to Host Manure Management Plan Workshops
The Snyder County Conservation District is hosting two Manure Management Plan (MMP) workshops on March 22, 2022, for farmers, livestock and horse owners, and crop farmers.

Tioga County Offers Cost-share Stream Protection Program
Shell Energy has provided a grant to the Tioga County Conservation District to help mitigate the cost of streambank stabilization projects. This grant allows the Conservation District to provide technical assistance and pay 50% of the total project cost. The conservation district has been working with Trout Unlimited, Northcentral Pennsylvania Conservancy, the PFBC, NFWF, DEP, and local groups to secure streambanks and prevent sediment pollution.

Pennsylvania is home to some of the most fertile, non-irrigated soil in the nation, and we have been the most successful of any state in at protecting our prime farmland.
- PA Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding as Pennsylvania Preserves 6,000th Farm



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