

# PA Clean Water Gathering

## CLEAN WATER PROGRESS TEAMS:

### Funding and Multi-Grant Coordination

## Background

In October 2023, DEP's Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management (BWRNSM) hosted the first Clean Water Gathering of State Program Action Leaders and Countywide Action Planning (CAP) leaders. Over 80 partners, representing county, state, and federal organizations, came together to celebrate successes and discuss high level needs, issues, and challenges to continued progress on Pennsylvania's Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and Countywide Action Plan (CAP) clean water nutrient reduction goals.

The issues and challenges discussed in the meeting fell into three focused challenge areas:

- Technical and Administrative Assistance
- Staff Building/Staff Retention
- Funding and Multi-Grant Coordination

A team formed around each of these challenge areas to address issues at greater depth.



## Featured Team: Funding and Multi-Grant Coordination Progress Team

Following the Clean Water Gathering, BWRNSM's Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division team coordinated the formation of a collaborative team made up of volunteers drawing from county and state action leaders as well as other partners. The Funding and Multi-Grant Coordination Progress Team's objective was to address priority challenge areas related to funding and multi-grant coordination.

### Team Members

- Marel King (CB Commission)
- Carly Dean (CB Conservancy)
- Adrienne Hobbins (CB Conservancy)
- Lane Whigham (DCNR)
- Stacie Chornak (DCED)
- Devin Gray (DCED)
- Mary Matscavage (DCED)
- Stephen Schelander (DCED)
- Kate Beats (DEP) - Facilitator
- Carl DeLuca/Shane Kleiner (DEP)
- Natahnee Miller (DEP)
- Jim Spatz (DEP) - Facilitator
- Josh Clark (HRG/CAP Coordinator)
- Miranda McCleaf (Franklin Co. CD)
- Megan Blackmon (Lancaster Clean Water Partners)
- Teah Gray (Larson Design/CAP Coordinator)
- Stephanie Shirk (PDA)
- Matt Royer (Penn State University)
- Rob Boos (PENNVEST)
- Justin Challenger (SCC)
- Eric Cromer (SCC)
- Rachel Stahlman (York Co. PC)

### Additional Contributors

- Ben Alexandro (CB Conservancy)
- Dan Rosenberg (CODE)
- Annelise Smith (CODE)
- Mélanie Terrasse (CODE)
- Norman Bristol Colon (Chief Diversity Officer)
- Juan Serrat (DEP – Env. Justice)
- Autumn Rose (EPA)
- Freddy Lutz (PennBid)

At their first meeting, the team reviewed the multiple challenges raised at the October 2023 Clean Water Gathering and chose five actions to prioritize:

1. Create a central funding tool
2. Develop a common application/letter of intent concept
3. Connect projects and partners with funding sources
4. Leverage available funding sources more efficiently
5. Provide outreach and education about financing

### Addressing Priority Action Items

Progress Teams worked together to develop recommendations to address their Priority Action Items. These recommendations are known as “Strategies for Success” and are designed to be actionable and focused.

Each recommendation discusses what should be done to address the Priority Action Item including how steps could be taken to move forward, who should be engaged, and when that could occur.



## Funding and Multi-Grant Coordination Strategies for Success

### Create a Central Funding Spreadsheet

- Create a centralized publicly available funding decision support tool that uses AI and GIS to provide customized options for potential funding sources.

### Common Application/Letter of Intent Concept

- Develop a common set of core application questions to reduce redundancy.
- Create an application portal functional through the life of the grant--from application to reporting.

### Connecting Projects With Funding

- Develop two connected networks--a funding network and a partner network--to keep each group updated on funding needs and opportunities.

### Leverage Available Funding Sources More Efficiently

- Provide upfront cash for matching capital at low interest through the PENNVEST link deposit program.
- Educate sub awardees and subcontractors on funding requirements (federal and state).
- Survey funders on flexibility within their programs.

### Outreach and Education About Financing

- Improve communication about resources through existing structures and tools.
- Promote intentional peer to peer knowledge sharing.

### Next Steps

Once finalized, the Strategies for Success will be shared among a broader audience of partners and leaders at a second Clean Water Gathering in January 2025.



*"I think the key to success is learning to be okay with change...this is our opportunity to be more open to different suggestions, possibilities and ideas."*

- ERICA TOMLINSON, TIOGA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT MANAGER