Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Annual Progress Update and Two-Year Milestones Report – Potter 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 Highlight changes for 2024-2025 milestone period

Action # **Green** **Yellow** **Red**	Description	Performance Target(s)	Responsible Party(ies) and Partnerships	Geographic Location	Expected Timeline	Potential Implementation Challenges or Recommendations	Resources Available		Resources Needed		**Annual Progress to Date** (2021 + 2022+2023=2024) *add new 2023 progress above the existing 2021 and 2022 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	Create Program for farmers to apply for soil sampling, manure analysis, and agronomic assistance to allow for technical assistance and recommendations for nutrient management implementation.	PSU Extension, PCCD, Consultant Hunting Clubs: Tally Ho Camp, Packhorse Sportsman's Association, and Pig Sty Rod and Gun Club.	Agricultural and Hunting properties. Targeting Cowanesque Watershed: Headwater, North Fork, and Upper Cowanesque River, Cross Fork, Little Kettle Creek	2022 - Creation of program with evaluation in 2025.	Funding for initial 3 years of program, landowner participation, and understanding of data importance.	Local agency educational materials and sampling kits. Consultant assistance	Soil Sampling Kits ($15) Manure Test Kits ($40)	Contracted source for NMP analysis/recommendations List of recommended contacts for analysis completion.	Dedicated funding to assist in management and development of this program. $60,000 for 1.1 - 1.1a	2024- On going, Conservation District provided several soil samples to landowners throughout the County and highlighted on the Cowanesque Watershed, around 50-75 soil samples have been completed through the District. The District has been communicating with County planning to coordinate implementation of plans for landowners. 2023- This program has not been developed on a county wide scale although is being started through the completion for the Cowanesque	
1.1a	Soil Sampling Program	Develop Soil Sample Collection and Analysis Program - 25 Sites per year	PSU Extension, PCCD, Consultant	Agricultural and Hunting Properties. Targeting Cowanesque Watershed.	2022-2025		Education Materials, Soil Sampling			$30,000 per year	2024- On going, Conservation District provided several soil samples to landowners through out the County and highlighted on the Cowanesque Watershed, around 50-75 soil samples have been completed through the District. 2023 - Cowanesque Watershed NFWF Grant was awarded and will include soil sampling. The program will be started at the end of August. 2022- Soil sampling will be completed within the Cowanesque Watershed NFWF Grant as well as the Soil Health EE Grant and it is hoped to expand that program	
	Manure Testing Program	Develop Manure Testing and Analysis Program - 25 sites per year	PSU Extension, PCCD, Consultant	Agricultural and Hunting properties. Targeting Cowanesque Watershed.	2022-2025		Education Materials			$10,000 per year	2024- The District is providing manure samples to landowners that need them to update or create their appropriate agricultural plans, in addition to providing them to landowners in the Cowanesque Watershed for the NFWF Grant effort. The District has provided about 10 manure samples to landowners. 2023 - Cowanesque Watershed NFWF Grant was awarded and will include manure testing. The program will be started at the end of August. 2022- A manure testing program is included within the Cowanesque Watershed NFWF Grant and is hoped to be continued in the following years.	

	Agronomy Assistance/Analysis Program	Develop Agronomic Analysis Program - 25 sites per year	PSU Extension, PCCD, Consultant	Agricultural and Hunting properties. Targeting Cowanesque Watershed.	2022-2025		Education Materials, Analysis		Analysis	$20,000 per year	2024- This effort is offered by PSU Extension and NRCS as needed by landowner request. 2023 - This program has not been developed but is planned to be an expansion of the ongoing Soil Sampling and Manure Testing programs. 2022- Agronomy assistance has not been offered to date although after completion of the soil sampling and manure sampling programs, expansion into the agronomy analysis program is planned.	
1.2*	Increase Reporting and Verification of Existing BMP's	Collect data through use of landowner reporting forms and verify existing BMP's on Agricultural Operations.	DEP, PCCD, NRCS, PFB	County	2021-Ongoing	Time Capacity, Data Entry, Release of Records, producer participation and resistance.	BMPs and Plans that were funded through agencies and grants are already know.	Agency verification	One dedicated staff or contracted staff to complete entry and inspections.	Dedicated funding to this position. $80,000 per year	2024- BMP Verification efforts have been completed in 2023 with the continuation of practice and project data recording occurring throughout 2024. 2023- BMP verification has been completed and all practices have been entered into Practice Keeper. 2022- BMP verification and reporting is moving along well. Field verification has	
1.2a	Create a Farmer Survey	Create and deploy Farmer Survey to collect private landowner data on existing BMP's.	DEP, PCCD, NRCS, PFB	County	2021- Ongoing	Time Capacity, Data Entry, Release of Records, producer participation and resistance.	BMPs and Plans that were funded through agencies and grants are already know.	Agency verification	Refer to 1.2	Refer to 1.2	2024- Receiving a lot of feedback from landowners through the ACAP application updates and have utilized flood damage surveys from the recent flood event the area experienced to capture this data. The District is working with County Planning to start up a survey, which is planned to start in 2025. 2023 - The development of this survey has been under discussion but has not been created due to the amount of practices already identified across the County. 2022 - This survey has been discussed but is on hold due to the amount of BMPs the county was already able to collect.	
1.3	Enhance No-Till Use throughout County	Promote No-Till on operations through education, outreach events, and increased equipment availability.	PCCD, PSU Extension	Agricultural Landowners operations	2021-2025	Producer Participation and Resistance. Education on overall management change importance.	No-Till Equipment, Educational Materials, Farmer No-Till Survey	$12 per acre ($24 per acre if used on conventionally tilled ground)	Outreach support, event development, deliverables through existing publications.	Dedicated funding to this position, $30,000 per year.	2024- Implementation of no-till acreage is occurring throughout the County through the rental of the District no-till equipment. The installation of no-till acres is also occurring in the Cowanesque Watershed within the NFWF grant. 2023 - Cowanesque Watershed NFWF Grant is underway with the first educational event this August. These events will promote no-till use on operations throughout the Cowanesque Watershed in addition to the rest of the County. 2022- Continual discussions on how to promote No-Till have occurred. It is a hope to host a Soil Health initiatives will be implemented through the Cowanesque Watershed NFWF Grant as well as the Soil Health EE Grant. It is hoped to increase knowledge throughout the county beyond that watershed following those two projects completion.	

1.3a	Increase No-Till Equipment Availability	Expand use of the county owned No-Till equipment.	PCCD	Agricultural Landowners operations	2021-2025	Logistics and maintenance	No-Till Equipment	N/A	Rental Agreement	N/A	2024-No-till equipment continues to be highly utilized. Additional machinery is being proposed for future implementation, such as smaller machinery for pollinator habitat creation. 2023 - No-till equipment continues to be highly utilized.	
1.3b	No-Till Equipment Reimbursement Program	Reimbursement % for rental fee cost for filling out reporting form.	PCCD	Agricultural Landowners operations	2021-2025	Participation and eagerness to change existing practice.	Educational materials, programs	N/A	Consultant Education/outreach	Funding for reimbursement fee coverage	2024- NFWF Grants and other programs used to provide cost-share fees for landowners. 2023 - The No-Till reimbursement program was not provided this year due to funding allocation. 2022- The No-Till reimbursement program has been set up for partial rental fee coverage.	
1.4	Provide Alternative Species Cover Cropping Education Program	Program to promote cover cropping and education of species.	PCCD, NRCS, PSU Extension	Agricultural Communities	2022-ongoing	Participation and eagerness to change existing practice.	Educational materials, programs	N/A	Consultant Education/outreach	Funding sources to cover seed costs.	2024- This effort is ongoing through NRCS and landowners are coordinating with NRCS to receive this education and cover crop selection. PSU offers a cover crop workshops, and the District offers cover crop educational topics which are covered throughout various programs. 2023 - Funding to develop this program has not been secured, although the use of alternative cover cropping has been mentioned during other project implementation throughout CAP implementation and ACAP projects. 2022- Planning for this program has been under discussion. A cover cropping educational program would be beneficial	
1.4a	Increase Cover Cropping Species Availability	Increase cover cropping implementation by increasing species availability of Cover Crops specific to Potter County climate and producer's needs. 1550 acres per year	PCCD, NRCS, PSU Extension	Agricultural community	2022-ongoing	Availability/Funding for seed purchase	Educational manuals, Planting recommendations, case studies	N/A	Alternate species ID, cold climate crops	Seed/implementation costs	2024- Species availability has been increased by NRCS and landowners who are looking for this option have been contacting NRCS. The District is using ACAP funds to assist landowners with cover crop implementation. 2023- This program has not received a dedicated funding source to provide this throughout the county. 2022- Planning for this program has been under discussion. An alternative cover cropping program would be beneficial within Potter County although this	
1.5	Cost Share Liming Program	Provide a cost sharing program and education to increase liming practices and increase overall pH. Also, the purchase of a 5 Ton Lime Spreader to achieve liming program goals. 625 acres of farmland per year. Soil testing analysis to	PCCD, NRCS, PSU Extension, PA Dept. of Agriculture.	Agricultural Community and Hunting Clubs, Watersheds with low soil pH.	2022- Ongoing	Funding, Adoptees, Importance of Education, Logistics issues and maintenance, staffing.	Soil Sampling Kit ($15), New or used lime spreaders	Testing, Cost sharing, County Funds	Soil testing and recommendations, Staff to coordinate Rental Program, delivery.	Funding source for lime, lime spreader, and staffing.	2024- Program has been completed through the NFWF Small Watershed Grant and was highly utilized by landowners. 2023- The Cowanesque Watershed NFWF Grant is being implemented and this program is being executed through this grant. 2022- A cost share liming program is planned to be implemented through the Cowanesque Watershed NFWF Grant. It is hoped that this trial run will determine feasibility for program expansion to the rest of the county.	

1.6*	Existing BMP Maintenance Program	Assist producers with maintenance of existing BMPs to keep them functioning, through cost share labor funding. Achieve maintenance on 5 farms per year.	PCCD, NRCS, PSU Extension.	Agricultural Producers	2023-Ongoing	Funding and producer participation, identifying BMPs that need maintenance.	Technical Assistance	Existing Funding for maintenance	Maintenance	Grant Funding	2024- Projects for BMP maintenance have been identified through the County, but due to the size and nature of the projects, funding is being targeted to implement these projects. Grant funding such as, Penn Vest and the AG Innovation grant are being discussed as potential funding sources. 2023 - Funding was allocated for maintenance projects this year. Project site selection is ongoing. 2022- Discussions have been had on the best way to rank or prioritize BMP	
1.7*	Riparian Buffer and Stream Fencing	Implement Stream fencing and riparian buffer on crop and pasture lands. Implement or verify 200 acres per year.	PCCD, NRCS, PSU Extension	Streams on Agricultural Properties	2021-ongoing	Funding and Producer participation, importance of maintenance	Planting, design, educational materials, labor to plant and install	Trees and fencing cost-shares	Labor to plant/install	Funding Source, Stream fencing costs	2024-Project sites have been proposed although have not been tackled in 2024, but there are projects planned for completion in 2025. 2023- Riparian Buffer and Stream fencing projects have been installed as well as verified and entered into Practice Keeper. 2022- Riparian buffer and stream fencing projects have been completed as well as verified. 3,000 sq. ft of riparian buffer was installed this year.	

1.8	Aquaculture/Fish Hatchery Maintenance and Nutrient Planning	Complete Nutrient Management Planning and Upgrades to at least 2 hatcheries.	PCCD, PFBC	2 Existing Hatcheries	2024+	Funding and Participation Getting private hatcheries onboard.	Required maintenance and management	Operation and maintenance cost	Upgrades, design, Permitting, construction cost	Cost associated with upgrades	2024- The first project was completed in 2023 and was successful. Additional project sites are under discussion. 2023 - Final installation of the Fish Hatchery upgrades took place this year and were finalized. 2022- An Aquaculture/Fish Hatchery maintenance project has been completed for facility upgrades and treatment facility implementation.	
1.9*	Manure Injection Equipment Rental Program	Purchase Manure Injection Equipment and administer program to promote manure injection. 300 total acres	PCCD	1 farm (300 acres) in PC	2022-2025	Producer Participation and Resistance. Education on overall management change importance.	Educational materials	Manure Injection Equipment	Staff to coordinate Rental Program, delivery of Manure Injection Equipment	Dedicated funding to this position and equipment rental.	2024- This rental program is being evaluated due to the logistics of equipment purchase, although interest has been identified for a similar program during the manure injection reimbursement program. The District may have potential to provide this service with a contract with a custom hauler, for program completion. 2023- Manure injection equipment has not been purchased. The existing interest level does not provide backing for purchase, although the District has provided information and support to landowners who have made this transition this year. Interest seems to be increasing so implementation of this may be able to be rolled out shortly. 2022- Manure Injection discussions to raise interest and awareness of benefits are occurring. Need confirmed interest	
1.9 a	Manure Injection Equipment Reimbursement Program	Reimbursement % for rental fee cost for filling out reporting form.	PCCD	County	2021-2025	Participation	Similar Program Examples	N/A	Staff to approve forms and record data	Funding for reimbursement fee coverage	2024- The cost-share program was completed in the Cowanesque Watershed and was highly utilized. There is possibility for this program once 1.9 initiative logistics are completed. 2023 - Manure Injection reimbursement program is being discussed as there is interest in manure injection through ACAP Funding. 2022- Dependent on 1.9 completion and will be evaluated once initial program set-	
1.10*	Partnership- Potter/Tioga County Cowanesque Watershed Agricultural BMP Upgrades.	Implement Agricultural BMPs across Tioga and Potter County to assist the Cowanesque Watershed as a whole. 10 agriculture projects within the watershed a year.	TCCD, PCCD	Tioga and Potter County Cowanesque Watershed, Agricultural Properties.	2023-2025	Funding and farmer participation within the watershed.	Engineering assistance, Existing BMP programs.	Cost Sharing programs.	Planning, outreach, and implementation	Costs associated with design, permitting and construction of BMPs and programs.	2024- Project is on going and is planned to finish in 2025. Project implementation has been completed for 2024. The following metrics have been implemented through this partnership within the Cowanesque Watershed, soil health practices-4,632 acres, stream habitat restoration- 0.49 miles, in stream restoration-0.03 miles. 2023 - The NFWF Cowanesque Watershed grant was awarded and is being	

Priority Initiative 2: Stormwater												
2.1*	Update and Amend Act 167 Plan	Make all SWM Ordinances consistent with County Stormwater Management Plan and implement.	County Planning, Municipal Government	County	2023	Funding, Resistance, Local Enforcement, Education	Existing Plans, Stormwater BMP recommendations	Funding sources for implementation and amendments	Technical guidance	Funds to amend Act 167 Plan	2024- Phase 1 of the Act 167 update is ongoing and the grant application for the completion of Phase 2 was submitted. 2023 - The Act 167 Growing Greener Grant was awarded and is underway. 2022- Growing Greener Funding has been applied for to complete this action and is awaiting funding award.	
2.2	Update and Amend local SALDO	Update the local SALDO to include proven BMPs to be utilized in project to prevent increase stormwater and nutrient discharges.	County Planning, Municipal Government	County	2022	Enforcement, Resistance for townships and Developers, Coordination	Guidance Documents	N/A	Technical Guidance	Funds to amend existing SALDO	2024- Project complete. 2023 - SALDO updates have been implemented. 2022- SALDO updates for the County are underway and are planned for adoption on January 1st, 2023.	
2.3	Nutrient and Fertilizer Planning for Turf Grass	Develop and implement plans and guidance for Turf Grass. 175 acres per year of verified and implemented BMPs.	PCCD, PSU, Extension, NRCS	Large Turf Grass areas, such as golf courses, schools, parks, hospitals, colleges, large residential	2024+	Reporting and lack of participation, guidance, regulations	Guidance documents	N/A	Example plans, outreach, Enforcement	Dedicate funds to launch the program, and implement BMPs.	2024- This effort has not been completed, although PSU Extension provides training toward this. Potential to partner with County Planning to establish nutrient and fertilizer planning, during new construction events. Further discussion to establish protocol for this requirement is needed.	
2.4*	DGLVR and forestry roads Maintenance	Increase existing DGLVR program by 8 to 10 miles per year.	PCCD, SCC, DCNR, Local Municipalities, CDGR	County Sinnemahoning Creek Watershed	2022-2025	Participation	Guidance Documents	Funding, Grant Program	N/A	Additional funding to expand existing program implementation amounts.	2024- DGLVR projects are ongoing throughout the County with additional private lane maintenance being identified for inclusion in the CAP implementation grant for installation in 2025. DGLVR miles completed for 2024 was 3.64 miles. 2023 - Dirt and Gravel road maintenance has been ongoing for increased mileage establishment. 2022- Dirt and gravel roads and forestry road maintenance is being planned and underway.	
2.5	Residential Rainwater Maintenance	Provide Rainwater maintenance for Residential properties with large amounts of driveways and impervious areas. Example include rain barrels, rain gardens, stormwater runoff reductions, stormwater treatment, etc. 35 properties per year.	PCCD, County Planning, Local Municipalities, CDGR	Residential Areas targeting large impervious cover, i.e.. Driveways	2022-Ongoing	Lack of landowner participation and funds to complete these projects.	Workshops, Educational Materials	Private and government funds	Designs, plans, survey	Funding of design construction and materials	2024- On going. Conservation District and LDG are working to develop worksheets with basic calculations to be available to municipalities and landowners to identify stormwater needs. There was a stormwater infographic created for education of residential stormwater maintenance in 2024. There is communication with County Planning to establish logistics for private stormwater maintenance. 2023 - This program will be created when the Act 167 plan is implemented to assist landowners with roll out. 2022- This program has not been started but is under discussion of proper program	

Priority Initiative 3: Natural												
3.1	Forest Management Plans	Create Forest Management Plans for private landowners 20 Properties per year (2,000,2,500 acres)	PCCD, NRCS, Foresters, DCNR	Private Forest Lands	2022-Ongoing	Funding, capturing plans, plan writers, available lands	Writing/assistance	Plan writing costs	Plan writers	Funding for plans	2024- Forestry Management plans are being completed by NRCS as requested by landowners. The Forestry Education Symposium was completed again this year with the partnership of 8 Conservation Districts that allowed this education to take place. Potter County was awarded the PA Allegheny Plateau Habitat Restoration program to promote health and resilience of public and private forests, in partnership with 9 other counties within the Allegheny Forest region. The District plans to apply for RCPP funds through NRCS in 2025, to expand this effort. 2023 - Potter county is participating in the Forestry Education Symposium to hold events through 2024. There is hope this event will spark an increase in forestry management plan creation. 2022- A forestry health event is under discussion to boost education prior to the release of this program.	
3.2*	Non-Urban Stream Restoration	Restoring quality stream banks and channels within forested areas. 9,500 total feet	PCCD, NRCS, DCNR, Landowners	County Forest lands	2022-2025	Costs associated with design and construction and landowner participation.	Project design, details, and permitting support	Existing Grant Programs and private funds	Engineering Support	Dedicated funding source to continue establishing new projects	2024- Stream restoration projects are being identified around the County and the completion of the Teed Hollow bridge replacement and stream restoration and fish habitat installation occurred this year. In addition, a stream restoration project was completed on Pine Creek with additional projects planned for 2025. 2023 - Stream Restoration projects have been occurring and are being constructed. 2022- Assistance with forestry BMPs and planning implementation will occur in the on-going years in partnership with NRCS. Funding for maintenance to existing stream restoration projects has been applied for in CAP Implementation Funds.	
3.3	Forest Land Conservation Management	Integration of State Forest and Game Lands BMP to capture existing management plans. 265,000 total acres existing within Potter County	PGC, DCNR	State forest and Game lands within County	2022	Data Entry and Staffing	Technical assistance and data entry	N/A	Reporting and verification	Funding for added assistance/time	2024- Forest land is being conserved through the conservancies in the County and by landowner enrollment. The District is interested in reaching out to the timber companies to understand their management practices. Western Pennsylvania Conservancy is proactive in Potter County to expand conservation. 2023 - Project implementation is ongoing through NRCS and PCCD is still looking to create a program to capture existing plans. 2022- Funding has been secured by NRCS to implement forestry conservation	

Priority Initiative 4: Wastewater												
4.1	Upgrades and Maintenance on Public Sewer Treatment Facilities	Complete necessary upgrades on two WTP and Implement proper Maintenance on remaining. 2 treatment plants overall	County Planning, Local Authority, Pine Creek	County	2025+	Cost associated with upgrades	Sewer inspections, permit reviews	Funding for design permitting and construction	N/A	Cost associated with system upgrade Funding for design permitting and construction	2024- The Galeton system is under numerous upgrades and maintenance to their wastewater treatment plant and sewage system. 2023 - This project is on hold until a sustainable funding source is secured. 2022- This is a continual discussion to look at system upgrade opportunities and potential. The need for septic system and waste management system upgrades is being addressed when facilities express a need or concern, and funding is available.	