



PHASE 3 WIP NEWS

Pennsylvania. Partnership. Progress



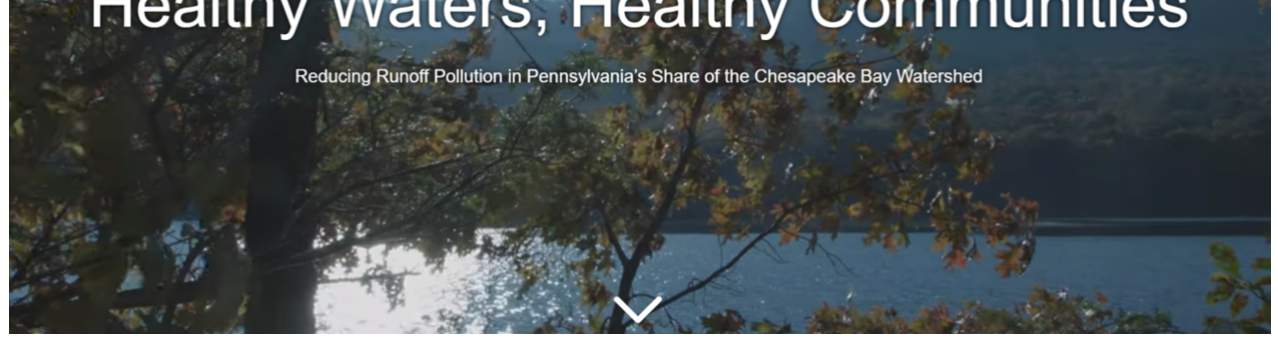
TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR • PATRICK MCDONNELL, SECRETARY

Welcome, partners for water quality!

Welcome to the first issue of *Phase 3 WIP News*, our newsletter on the state Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan and local Countywide Action Plans to improve water quality in Pennsylvania's share of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. With the WIP partnership making exciting progress, we hope to be a welcome arrival in your inbox. We'll provide news from the DEP Chesapeake Bay Office, partnering counties and agencies, and the State Team Action Leaders each month, and occasionally other times as needed. We'll also announce developments in reporting and data tools, grants and other funding, and more.

We invite you to share this newsletter or the [subscribe page](#) with others who may be interested. For comprehensive information on the Phase 3 WIP, visit dep.pa.gov/chesapeakebay/phase3. — DEP Chesapeake Bay Office

DEP News



New story map showcases the watershed

The DEP Communications Office has launched a multimedia story map, [Healthy Waters, Healthy Communities](#), in celebration of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Awareness Week. The story map educates Pennsylvanians on the watershed, the many ways it benefits them, and steps they can take—including joining their Countywide Action Plan—to help reduce nutrient and sediment runoff pollution in our local waters.

Check it out for tips, printable handouts, and “deep dives” on trees, water quality monitoring, the recreation and agriculture economies, and other topics. And there are great stories on Pennsylvanians who are making a difference, from the York County homeowner who turned his one-acre suburban yard into a bioswale and raingarden, to the 11 Blair County municipalities partnering on stormwater management, to the Lycoming County farmer whose livestock benefited from stream bank buffers. Please share the website with your organizations and communities and on social media: dep.pa.gov/chesapeakebaywatershed.

Updates from the DEP Chesapeake Bay Office

Training the first crew of county coordinators

Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinators have been hired or contracted by partners in all eight pilot and Tier 2 counties, with the exception of Adams County. These positions are funded by Pennsylvania's Environmental Stewardship Fund. The DEP Chesapeake Bay Office is working closely with the coordinators:

- Conducting live training sessions for the coordinators and county lead partners (Conservation District and Planning Commission) on county action planning and implementation.
- Building an online Clean Water Academy of these sessions and other tools and resources for the coordinators and future partners. Trainings in May included: *Grants 101*, *Better Online Meetings*, and *Closing the Deal with Rural Landowners*.
- Holding weekly meetings with the coordinators to share information and updates. Evaluation has shown positive results.
- Sharing via weekly emails information on grants and resources, useful training opportunities and webinars, and other helpful items from DEP and other entities.
- Sharing tools to optimize the coordinators' communication, education, and outreach.

Reporting and Data

DEP submitted the final 2020-2021 Phase 3 WIP programmatic and numeric milestones to the Environmental Protection Agency by the deadline of June 1. The DEP Chesapeake Bay Office and Susquehanna River Basin Commission staff are developing Community Clean Water Guides and Technical Toolboxes for counties in Tiers 3 and 4. The tools will be completed this fall.

CBO staff are leading a Data Tools Review Team, collaborating with county partners in building, enhancing, and improving data reporting systems to ensure that Pennsylvania receives credit for all the work that is going on. County partners will use these tools to report progress.

- The team includes Tier 1 and 2 county coordinators and select members from Data Action Teams in counties that have these teams.
- To date, the team has reviewed and provided recommendations on specific steps in the data entry process and the online FieldDoc reporting tool.
- The review process is intended to conclude in the summer of 2020, with roll-out of FieldDoc to follow. Work also continues on the PA Clean Water Tool.

Funding

Pennsylvania Gets New Federal Funding for Agricultural Best Management Practices

In May [EPA announced federal funding for implementation of agricultural best management practices](#) in “most effective basins,” with Pennsylvania receiving the largest allocation: \$3.6 million.

Chesapeake Bay Funds Directed to State Conservation Commission

The DEP Chesapeake Bay Office also has been working with the State Conservation Commission and EPA in directing Bay funds in the amount of just over \$3.8 million to the SCC to further augment their efforts on agriculture BMP implementation.

Pilot Countywide Action Plan Implementation Grants: Working on Extension

Countywide Action Plan Implementation Grants were awarded early this year to Franklin (\$199,512), Lancaster (\$799,488), and York (\$237,000) counties for implementation of nutrient-reducing projects. DEP is actively working with EPA to obtain an extension for these funds due to COVID-related delays in construction.

County Progress

Adams (Pilot County - Implementation)

As of May, Adams County's Planning Commission and Conservation District had a hiring freeze in place due to COVID-19. As a result, a Community Clean Water Action Plan (CAP) coordinator hasn't yet been hired to assist with implementing the Countywide Action Plan (CAP), and implementation efforts have been on hold since March. When hired, the county coordinator will be a Conservation District employee.

Bedford (Tier 2 County - Planning)

The Bedford County Conservation District has contracted their CAP coordinator position with LandStudies, Inc. and decided to move forward with a limited engagement approach due to Covid19 restrictions. They are reaching out to a small group of local champions from across multiple sectors, with the understanding that their CAP development will be done with limited engagement on the front end, and greater engagement and adaptations going forward, as the plan is implemented. Half of their CAP steering committee is established and will meet in June. They're evaluating the role of acid mine drainage and abandoned mine land reclamation in their CAP. They're on schedule to have a working CAP document created by the end of September.

Centre (Tier 2 County - Planning)

The Centre County Planning Commission, in coordination with the County Conservation District, has contracted their CAP outreach approach due to Covid19. They're conducting individual outreach to stakeholders and building action teams based on a geographic watershed basis. They plan to take a holistic, cross-sector approach that looks at skill sets in watersheds across a diverse group of stakeholders.

Cumberland (Tier 2 County - Planning)

Cumberland County held an in-person CAP kickoff meeting with a large and diverse group of interested stakeholders in February. The County Planning Commission has contracted their CAP coordinator position with Herby, Rowland & Grubic and Lancaster Farmland Trust. Due to Covid19 and staff furloughs, the county is pivoting from a large stakeholder outreach effort to focus on a smaller stakeholder group with a holistic, cross-sector, watershed-based approach. The county will begin working with DEP's technical team on BMP scenarios in June, as it begins building its CAP.

Franklin (Pilot County - Implementation)

Franklin County's CAP Coordinator was hired in February and is an employee of the Conservation District. Their CAP Implementation Grant is on hold, pending the contractor beginning work, and they're exploring options for this funding. They've requested an extension to these funds, and DEP is working with EPA to obtain this. The Conservation District and Planning Commission are partnering to implement their CAP, and the commission is considering including the CAP in the County Comprehensive Plan that's currently in development. The CAP Coordinator is considering creating a smaller steering committee for CAP implementation, and has reported that efforts are on hold with in-person and farmer participation during the busy spring season. The coordinator is developing materials and considering doing smaller group online meetings and emailing people. She is also working on spreadsheets for funding opportunities and potential partners and projects.

Lancaster (Pilot County - Implementation)

Lancaster County has contracted its CAP coordinator position with Land Studies and Lancaster Farmland Trust, while also continuing to fund its Lancaster Clean Water Partners (LCWP) coordinator and hiring a communications and program manager for their team. The county is taking an integrated watershed-based approach to planning, prioritizing and implementing projects. The LCWP are discussing watershed permitting with DEP and have begun cross-county collaboration with York and Lebanon Counties. The DEP Southcentral Regional Office has scheduled weekly pre-application meetings with the county to facilitate and expedite the permitting process for their CAP projects. In addition, the county has seven CAP Implementation Grant projects in process, and is also concerned about the Covid19 impact on completion due dates. The coordinator is reviewing the long-term BMP verification process, identifying who, what, where, and how these verifications are going to occur.

Lebanon (Tier 2 County - Planning)

Lebanon County Conservation District, in coordination with its Planning Commission, has contracted their CAP coordinator position with Land Studies and has decided to move forward with a limited engagement approach due to COVID restrictions. They have reached out to a small group of key stakeholders from across multiple sectors, with the understanding that their CAP development will be done with limited engagement on the front end, and greater engagement and adaptations going forward as the plan is implemented. Their CAP steering committee is established and will meet in June to identify priority initiatives and document roadblocks. They're integrating existing groups rather than create new groups and will create a second tier of teams to support implementation efforts. They're on schedule to have a working CAP document developed by the end of September.

York (Pilot County - Implementation)

York County's CAP Coordinator was hired in February and is an employee of the Planning Commission. With the resumption of construction activities on May 1, the stormwater consortium has continued designing and planning, and stream restoration projects will resume soon. The DEP Southcentral Regional Office has scheduled weekly pre-application meetings with York County to facilitate and expedite the permitting process for CAP projects. The CAP coordinator has been presenting on York CAP progress at the conservation district Board meetings, and the York County Coalition and action team meetings have continued virtually. They've developed a bimonthly newsletter showcasing what the CAP Action Teams are working on, successes, and challenges, and are building a budget to determine funds needed for implementing their CAP. They are also working on building a social media presence. The CAP coordinator has submitted one National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant, in the planning and technical assistance category.

Legislation Update

Fertilizer bill moves to the House

State Senate Bill 915 (the “Fertilizer Bill”) was voted 49-1 out of the Senate on May 27 and sent to the House. On May 28, the Speaker referred it to the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, where it awaits further consideration. The Bill would set standards for the application of fertilizer to turf, providing for labels and labeling and the disposition of funds. The bill will also require all professional fertilizer applicators to be certified in proper application techniques and best management practices. This legislation is specifically focused on residential lawns and turf.



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