



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION



Bureau of Watershed Restoration  
and Nonpoint Source Management

# DEP Update: Focus on Funding and Technical Assistance

April 3, 2023

Josh Shapiro, Governor

Rich Negrin, Acting Secretary

# Agenda

- Organizational Structure
- Investments in Conservation Districts
- Investments in Projects
- Future Program Improvements

# Purpose

The focus of today's DEP Updates session is on investments in conservation districts' programs and projects.



# Organizational Structure

**Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management**  
Jill Whitcomb, Director

Vacant, AO4  
Program Coordinator

**Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Division**  
Kristen Wolf, Env. Program Manager

**Watershed Accountability and Administration Section**  
Kate Beats, Env. Group Manager  
Erin Penzelik  
Shane Gutsie  
Jason Fellon (NCRO)  
Vacant, Water Program Specialist  
Vacant, SCRO Watershed Manager

**Chesapeake Bay Partnership Section**  
Scott Heidel, Env. Group Manager  
Natahnee Miller  
Vacant, Water Program Specialist  
Vacant, Water Program Specialist

Vacant,  
Chesapeake Bay  
Management Tech

**Nonpoint Source Management Division**  
Carl DeLuca, Env. Program Manager

**Watershed Support Section**  
Shane Kleiner, Env. Group Manager  
Ann Devine  
Trish Attardo  
Melissa Harrison  
Chad Krick  
David Burke (SERO)  
Christine Phillips (SWRO)  
Sandra Insalaco (NERO)  
Jacob Moore (NWRO)  
Vacant, AB1  
Vacant, EPCS

**Agriculture Compliance Section**  
Kate Bresaw, Env. Group Manager  
Nathan Radabaugh  
Allyson Hanawalt  
Vacant, Env. Engineer Specialist  
Vacant, Env. Engineer Specialist

**Conservation District Support Section**  
Karen Books, Env. Group Manager  
Jaci Kerstetter  
Janet Creegan (NERO)  
Caitlin Skibiel (NERO)  
Susanna Harris (NWRO)  
Ryan Furrer (SWRO)  
Tyler Trostle (SCRO)  
Lauren Shaffer (SCRO)  
Shannon Davis (SERO)  
Rachael Fish (NCRO)

Vacant,  
Nonpoint Source  
Management Tech

Stephanie Wilfong,  
Administrative Officer



# Organizational Structure

- All eight Conservation District Field Representative positions have been filled to provide operational and liaison support to all conservation districts.
- Watershed Managers have been centralized in 2022 to ensure statewide consistency in job duties and responsibilities, to better support and guide Conservation District Watershed Specialists.
- The Agriculture Compliance Section has added two Environmental Engineer Specialist positions to better support and guide Conservation District Agriculture Technicians and engineering staff.



# Investments in Conservation Districts

# Investments in Conservation Districts

- DEP provides funding to support conservation district missions, delegated programs, and activities.
- In FY 2022-2023, DEP has allocated and administers almost \$27 million to conservation districts statewide through:
  - Nutrient Management / Manure Management
  - Watershed Specialist
  - Chesapeake Bay Technical Assistance Program
  - Conservation District Fund Allocation Program



# Investments in Conservation Districts

## Ag Focused Training and Technical Support:

- Agricultural Technical Training (SCC, DEP, NRCS and PACD)
- SCC and DEP funding/support of PAOneStop - Manure Management and Ag E&S Planning
- Clean Water Academy – Web-based Training
  - Ag E&S Manual Modules
  - Manure Management Modules
  - BMP Verification Modules
  - PracticeKeeper for Conservation Districts
  - PracticeKeeper for External Entities
  - Chesapeake Bay and Nutrient Management Quarterly Reporting
  - Recorded County Coordinator “Webinar Wednesdays”

The screenshot shows the PAOneStop website header with the Penn State Cooperative Extension logo. The main content area is titled "Welcome to PAOneStop!" and includes a "Start Mapping Now" button. A sidebar on the left lists "Site Links" such as "Begin Mapping", "PAOneStop Home", and "Download Fact Sheet". The main text describes the system's purpose and provides information about the first module, Nutrient Management Mapping.

The screenshot shows the Pennsylvania Clean Water Academy website. The header includes the academy's name and a "Log In" button. The main content area features a large image of a river with a "View Course Catalog" button. The footer contains three navigation buttons: "COURSE CATALOG", "MY COURSES", and "CONTACT".



# Investments in Projects

# Investments in Projects

- 2022 Section 319 Nonpoint Source grant program - more than \$730,000 was awarded to conservation districts statewide to implement projects.
- 2022 Growing Greener Plus grant program - more than \$3.9 million was awarded to conservation districts statewide to implement projects.
- DEP works directly with PACD, providing more than \$6 million in active grants to administer programs such as:
  - Growing Greener - PA Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (PA CREP)
  - Growing Greener - Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)
  - Growing Greener - Agriculture Plan Reimbursement Program (APRP)
  - Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management – Mini-Grant Program
  - Chesapeake Bay Abatement Fund – Chesapeake Bay Watershed Conservation Initiative (CBWCI)

# Investments in Projects



**McKean County Conservation District**  
Roofed heavy use area and manure  
stacking pad for beef operation along  
Annin Creek  
(Growing Greener)



**Wayne Conservation District**  
Nutrient Management Plan  
Reimbursement Program  
Partnering with NRCS, Monroe,  
Lackawanna, and Pike  
Conservation Districts  
(Growing Greener)



**Wyoming Conservation District**  
Installation of 5,100 feet of livestock  
fence and two stabilized heavy use areas  
(Growing Greener)

# Investments in Projects

2023 Growing Greener Plus and  
FY2024 Section 319 NPS Program Grants  
will open on  
April 21, 2023 through June 23, 2023

# Investments in Projects

- Growing Greener Plus – New This Year:
  - **New Priority Area – Technical Assistance Projects**
    - Featuring public-private partnerships and focus projects on multiple regions or statewide scale to expedite on-the-ground BMP implementation
  - **Stormwater Management Planning (Act 167) –**
    - Clean Streams Fund (COVID-ARPA)
    - Development or revision of Act 167 Plans by counties



# Future Program Improvements

# Future Program Improvements

- Funding:
  - The Bureau reclassified two existing technical positions to serve as Management Technicians to more efficiently track and administer funding
  - Evaluating the potential to increase the Conservation District Watershed Specialist rate per Full Time Equivalent (FTE)
  - Continue to look for opportunities to boost conservation district funding and provide additional flexibility in existing programs
- Reporting:
  - Leverage conservation district reporting to demonstrate success, demand for services, and funding need
  - Conservation district programs funded by the Bureau of Watershed Restoration and Nonpoint Source Management all use the centralized PracticeKeeper reporting system
  - Power BI data visualization tools are under development to highlight program outputs and outcomes associated with DEP delegated and contracted programs, with a focus on project implementation

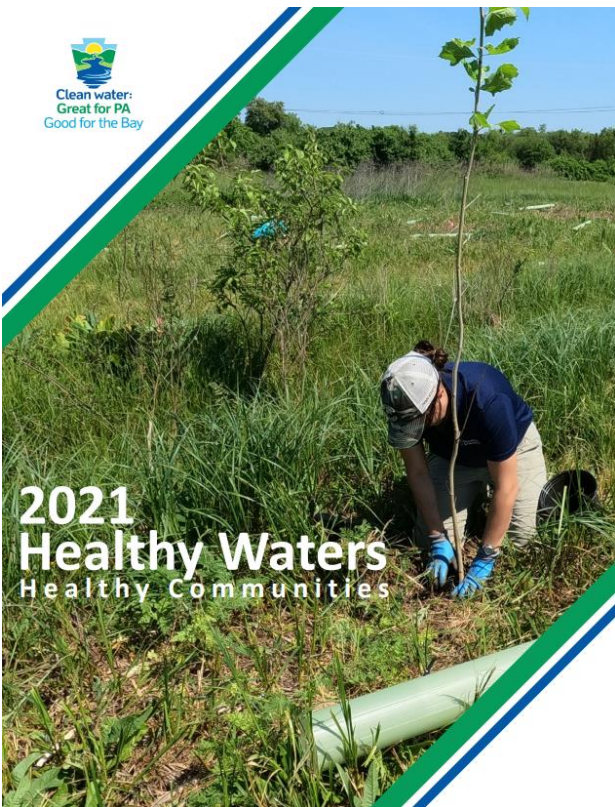


# Future Program Improvements

- Technical Assistance:
  - Will continue to fund conservation district technical assistance and support public-private partnerships
  - Added two new positions to provide guidance and support to conservation district Chesapeake Bay and Agriculture Conservation Technicians and engineers
  - Part of the team to develop and implement the Agriculture Conservation Assistance Program Technical Assistance Center
  - Serve on the PA In the Balance steering committee and meets with other state and federal agencies regularly to identify and discuss opportunities to provide additional funding through state and federal sources solely for administrative and technical assistance

# Additional Resources

## Healthy Waters Healthy Communities Annual Report



**PENNSYLVANIA'S 2021 PARTNERS IN PROGRESS**

100% of the counties in the Bay watershed that were asked to draft Countywide Action Plans (known as CAPs) have done so

2021 was a year of unprecedented on-the-ground progress, with projects and large-scale partnership accomplishments in Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay watershed. All thanks to people and organizations across the watershed coming together with a shared commitment to cleaner water for Pennsylvania.

<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>PA'S DEP</b> 20+ Staff committed to Chesapeake Bay efforts. 20+ Regional CAP Support Team Staff 15+ Bureaus of Clean Water and Waterways, Engineering and Wetlands Staff	<b>34 Counties</b> 1,200+ Local members of county-based CAP Implementation Teams 18 Community Clean Water CAP Coordinators	<b>State, Regional, Local Partners</b> 30+ Public and Private Statewide Action Leaders supporting WIP and CAP implementation 35+ Entities reporting data that counts towards PA's progress
	<b>FUNDING</b> \$137,364,529 In state funds invested in Chesapeake Bay restoration in 2021 from the following state agencies: 		
<b>PROJECTS</b>	Pennsylvania has preserved <b>2,370</b> acres of farmland on <b>26 farms</b> in <b>16 counties</b>	Farmers used high residue, no-till, and cover crop soil conservation practices on <b>1 Million+</b> acres of land. That equals 836,000 football fields!	<b>27,000+</b> acres of forest and grass buffers reported.
	<b>PROGRESS</b> Progress means nutrient and sediment reductions on the order of: <b>60,000</b> pounds of Phosphorus (3 full dump trucks) <b>2.48 Million</b> pounds of Nitrogen (31 full 18 wheeler trucks) <b>61 Million</b> pounds of Sediment (762 full 18 wheeler trucks)		

## Nonpoint Source Management Program Annual Report



**Overview**

More than ninety-seven percent (97.1%) of Pennsylvania's water quality-impaired waterways area are polluted from nonpoint source pollution, including abandoned mine drainage (AMD), urban and agricultural runoff, atmospheric deposition, on-lot sewage systems, earthmoving activities, stream hydromodification and timber harvesting. Pennsylvania's NPS Management Program established an overall strategy to implement watershed restoration and protection activities described in Pennsylvania's NPS Management Plan with the following vision and programmatic goals.

**Vision Statement**  
Pennsylvania's NPS Management Plan will help guide the water resource protection and restoration efforts of Pennsylvania's environmental protection partnership. This plan outlines watershed restoration and protection goals for the purpose of guiding and documenting partnership efforts in a way that will most effectively address nonpoint source pollution issues impacting Pennsylvania's water resource.

**NPS Management Program Goals**

- Goal 1: Improve and protect the waters of the Commonwealth from nonpoint source pollution associated with AMD and other energy resource extraction activities.
- Goal 2: Improve and protect the waters of the Commonwealth from nonpoint source pollution associated with agricultural activities.
- Goal 3: Improve and protect the waters of the Commonwealth from nonpoint source pollution associated with stormwater runoff, as well as streambank and shoreline degradation.
- Goal 4: Verify the efficacy of Pennsylvania's nonpoint source pollution management efforts through enhanced data collection.
- Goal 5: Demonstrate Pennsylvania's nonpoint source pollution management efforts through enhanced data dissemination efforts.
- Goal 6: Develop and update watershed plans leading to the improvement and protection of the waters of the Commonwealth from nonpoint source pollution.



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