



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION



Bureau of Watershed Restoration
and Nonpoint Source Management

DEP Update: Focus on Funding and Technical Assistance

April 6, 2023

Josh Shapiro, Governor

Rich Negrin, Acting Secretary

Agenda

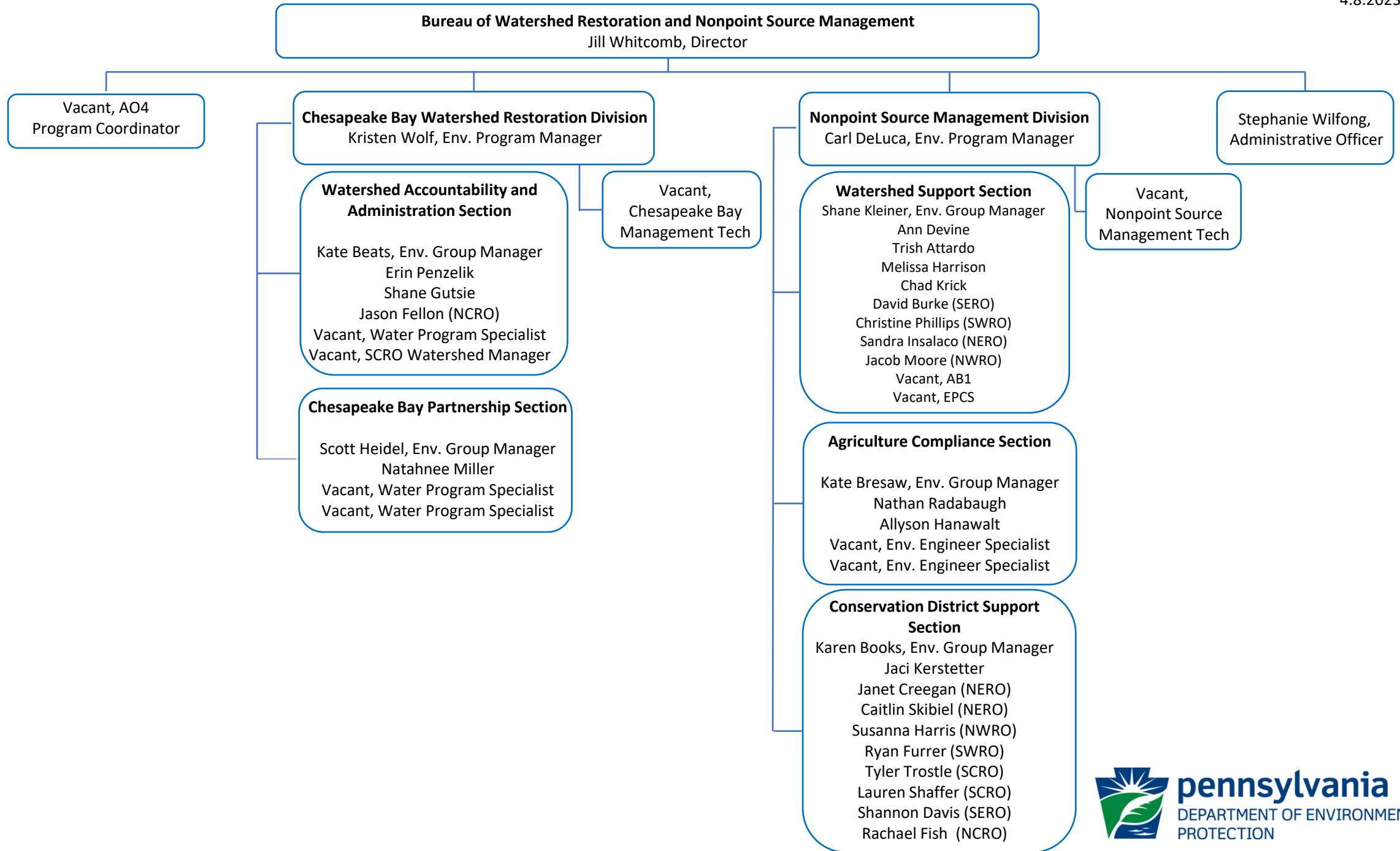
- Organizational Structure
- Investments in Conservation Districts
- Investments in Projects
- Future Program Improvements

Purpose

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



Organizational Structure



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 in helping farmers meet regulatory requirements and mentions the "Nutrient Management Mapping Module".

The screenshot shows the Pennsylvania Clean Water Academy website. It features a navigation bar with "HOME", "FIND LEARNING", and "RESOURCES". A large banner image of a river is overlaid with the academy's logo and a "View Course Catalog" button. The footer contains three main 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.
 - More than \$4.3 million directed to agriculture project implementation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
 - Renaissance Watershed Initiative
 - More than \$653,000 was awarded to “Rapid Stream Delisting – Phase 1” projects in multiple northcentral and southcentral counties
 - BMP Verification and Cataloguing
 - More than \$809,000 was awarded to Foundation for PA Watersheds to support BMP verification efforts in six southcentral counties

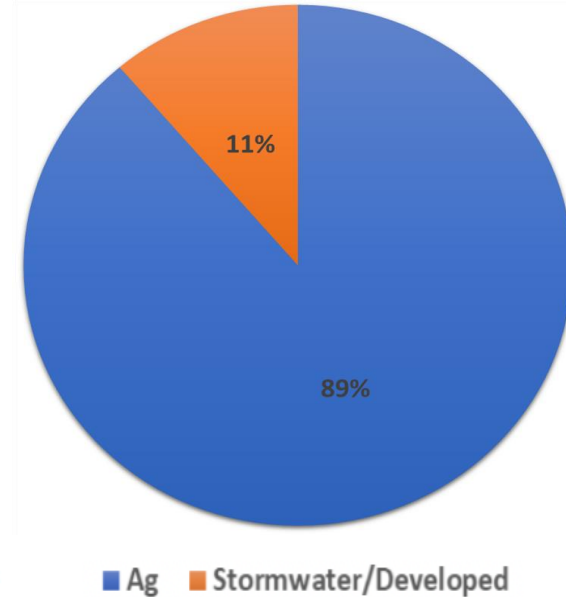
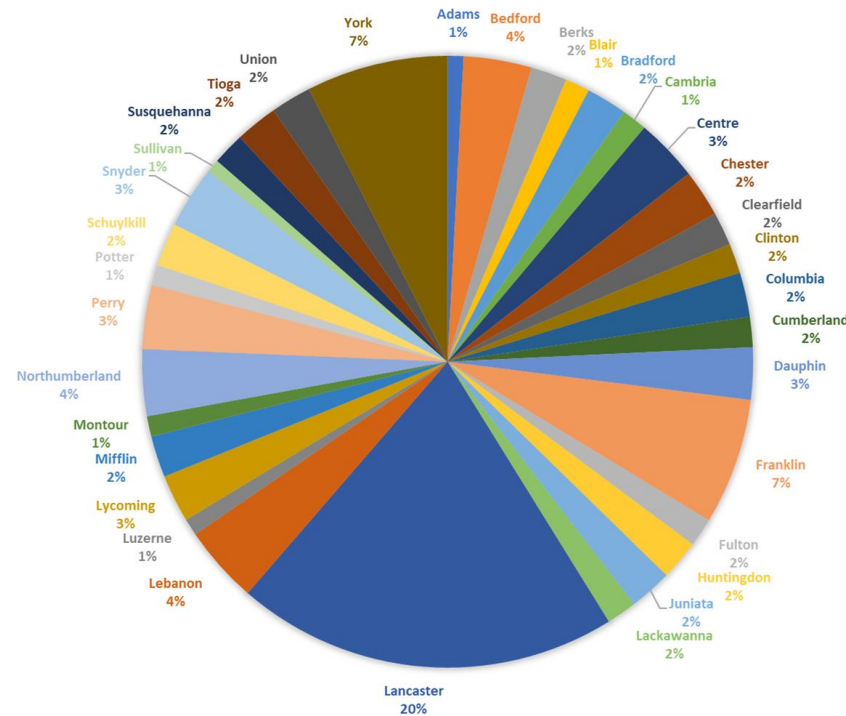
Investments in Projects

- 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

- Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Community Clean Water Coordinator and Implementation Grants – Flexible allocation-based “Block Grant” Program
 - Block grant program began in Fall 2019
 - Application period is October 1 – 31, with awards provided in early December.
 - More than \$17 million awarded in 2022
 - More than \$12 million awarded in 2023

2022 Snapshot – % funding by county



Investments in Projects

- **BMP Verification Program Expansion**

- Funding for BMP Verification - \$30,000 available through CBRAP per county had to be spent by March 31, 2023
 - PA submitted 1,989 BMPs from PracticeKeeper that were re-verified using these funds. This BMP verification effort utilized established Agriculture BMP inspections and reporting protocol to PracticeKeeper that is detailed in the 2022 QAPP
- Funding for BMP Verification - \$10,000 available through CBRAP to be added to Chesapeake Bay Technician Agreements in FY22
 - Due to the success of the pilot program, local-level BMP Verification funding is included in the Bay Technician Scopes of Work and helped to justify increased funding beginning in FY2022
- Supporting New and Innovative Ideas
 - Facilitating meetings and discussions with EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office and Technical Workgroups to gain Partnership approval and acceptance of new methods, like remote sensing and desktop analysis to identify potential BMPs for re-verification
 - Supporting public-private partnerships between conservation districts and contracted coordinators and nonprofits

Investments in Projects



Centre Conservation District
Halfmoon Creek Farm and Hall Farm, installation of roofed heavy use areas, manure stacking, and fencing. (Growing Greener, CAP Implementation Grant, and Conservation Excellence Grant)



Chester Conservation District
Manure storage facility with safety fencing and scrape in (90' diameter x 12' depth) in Knight Run Watershed, Octoraro Creek Reservoir (Growing Greener in partnership with NRCS)



Susquehanna Conservation District
Beef cattle exclusion fencing (1,850 linear feet), newly protected and planted riparian forest buffer 50 feet width in Hop Bottom Creek watershed. (CAP Implementation Grant and Keystone 10 Million Trees Program)

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

Investments in Projects

TOTAL FY2023 Federal Chesapeake Bay Funding directed to DEP = \$13,632,707

- Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG) - \$2,015,700
 - Funds Program Administration, Chesapeake Bay Engineer Specialists / Assistants, Community Clean Water Coordinators, Water Quality Monitoring and TMDL Development
- Chesapeake Bay Regulatory Accountability Program (CBRAP) - \$3,411,446
 - Funds Permitting, Compliance and Enforcement personnel, Chesapeake Bay Technicians, Nutrient Management Technicians, WIP / CAP Support, BMP Verification, NPDES e-Reporting and PracticeKeeper program enhancements
- Local Government Implementation (LGI) Grant - \$1,190,544
 - Beginning in 2023, DEP will receive approximately \$1.2 million to administer LGI through our CAP Implementation Grant program.
 - NFWF has administered the LGI Grant for Pennsylvania in the last few years.
- EPA Most Effective Basin (MEB) Annual Appropriation - \$1,682,324
 - [NFWF Most Effective Basin Agriculture \(MEB Ag\)](#) will receive more than \$3.2 million to award to PA projects
- EPA Chesapeake Bay Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Most Effective Basin (MEB) - \$5,332,693

Investments in Projects

- EPA State Capacity Grant – Requested \$308,000 – Notification TBD
 - On January 18, 2023, DEP submitted a request to EPA to fund Local Contractor Assistance toward Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Implementation in eight southcentral counties. Notification forthcoming.
- EPA Advancement of Partnership Forest Buffer, Urban Tree Canopy, and Wetlands Goals – Requested \$900,000 – Notification TBD
 - On March 31, 2023, DEP submitted four (4) proposals to EPA for wetland restoration projects in alignment with the Chesapeake Bay Program [Wetlands Strategic Action Plan](#). Notification forthcoming.



Future Program Improvements

Future Program Improvements

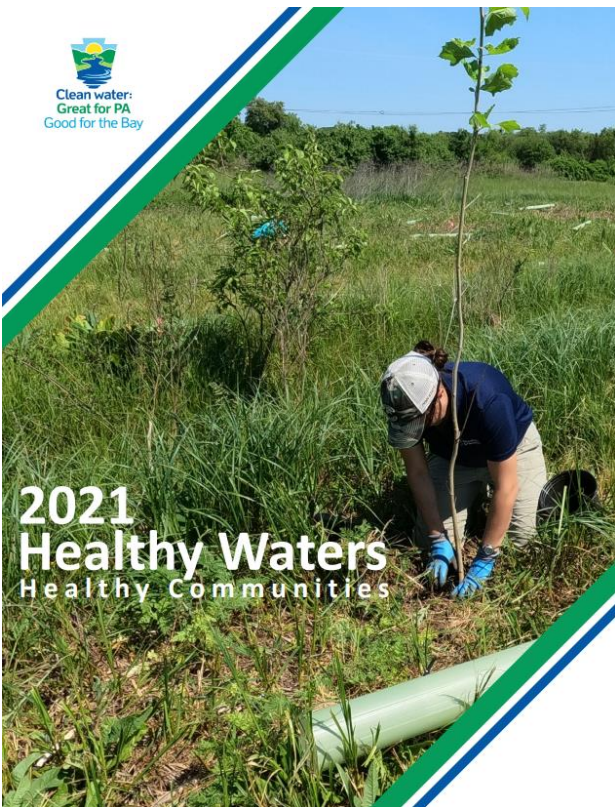
- Funding:
 - The Bureau reclassified two existing technical positions to serve as Management Technicians to more efficiently track and administer funding
 - Evaluate the potential to increase the Conservation District Watershed Specialist rate per Full Time Equivalent (FTE)
 - Continue to look for opportunities 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.

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

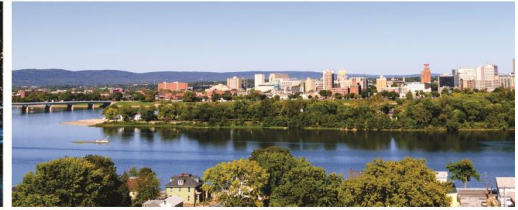
Vision Statement
Pennsylvania's NPS Management Plan will help guide the water resource protection and restoration efforts of Pennsylvania's environmental protection partnership. This plan outlines watershed restoration and protection goals for the purpose of guiding and documenting partnership efforts 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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