Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Clean Water

City/County/Organization Name

Best Management Practices for Clean Water

- Best management practices (BMPs) are conservation and technological practices that reduce the amount of nonpoint source pollution entering our local waters.
- Proper BMP installation and function is essential for successful pollution control.

Picking the Right BMPs

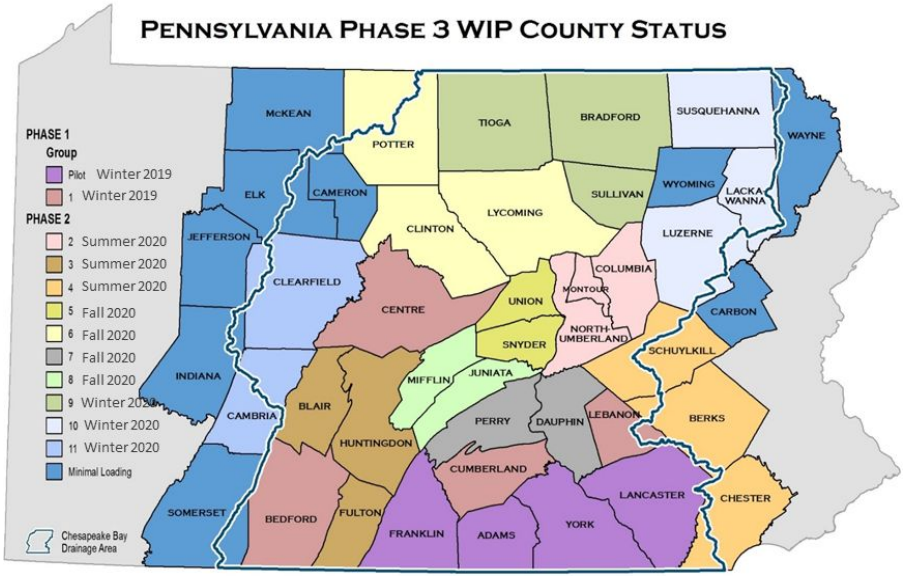
- The types of non-point source pollution affecting a given waterbody are influenced by the land uses in that watershed.
- Different BMPs are available to target pollution from specific sectors, such as:
  - Urban stormwater.
  - Agriculture.
  - Forestry.

No till agricultural practices reduce soil erosion and help keep fertilizer and pesticides out of local waters.

Using BMPs to Reach Clean Water Goals

There are 43 counties in PA taking steps to clean up shared waters:

- Each county will develop a Countywide Action Plan
- The plans will include use of approved BMPs to help meet their water quality goals
- Tracking and reporting of BMPs is key to maintaining function and ensuring local clean water goals are met.



Counties in the Susquehanna watershed.

How do BMPs Help County/Community?

- Reduce the amount of nutrients and sediment entering water bodies.
- Reduce local flooding by preventing rapid stormwater runoff into water bodies.
- Protect recreational resource waters (swimming, boating).
- Provide additional benefits by creating wildlife habitat, providing shade and improving aesthetics.
- Prevent erosion and streambank collapse.
- Protect economically important fisheries.
- Protect drinking water sources.

Specific BMP Examples and Benefits

Establishing forest buffers along water bodies:

- Provides a natural vegetated area that filters polluted stormwater.
- Adds shade, which keeps water temperatures down.
- Dissipates flood energy.
- Reduces erosion potential.

Rain gardens:

- Slow and filter stormwater runoff.
- Provide wildlife habitat.
- Offer aesthetic benefits.

Specific BMP Examples and Benefits

Restoring wetlands can protect water quality. Wetlands:

- Function as filters that remove pollutants and toxins from water.
- Act as a buffer zone, protecting infrastructure from sea level rise or flooding.
- Provide habitat for wildlife and recreational opportunities for people.

Planting cover crops on agricultural lands:

- Helps maintain soil health.
- Reduces erosion.
- Prevents nutrient runoff from fields.

Ensuring Effectiveness of BMPs for Clean Water

Our county/community must be rigorous in tracking the progress we make towards our goals for cleaner waters.

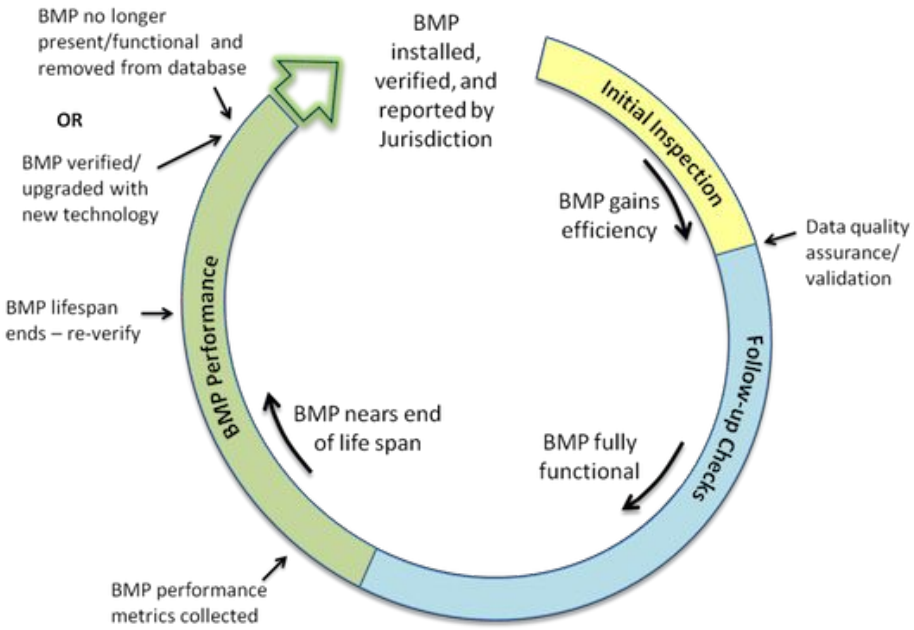
We must verify that the BMPs we and our partners install are:

- Being implemented/installed correctly.
- Are effectively reducing nutrient and sediment pollution as expected.

BMP Verification in county/community

BMP verification process:

- Step 1. Confirm BMP is in place.
- Step 2. Confirm that BMP continues to operate correctly.
- Step 3. Collect BMP performance data.



Many Partners Help Verify Our BMPs

Many partners are involved in efforts to verify BMPs:

- County, local, regional and federal agencies.
- Soil and water conservation districts.
- Nongovernment organizations.
- Farmers.
- Homeowners.
- Businesses.

Importance of Verifying County/community BMPs

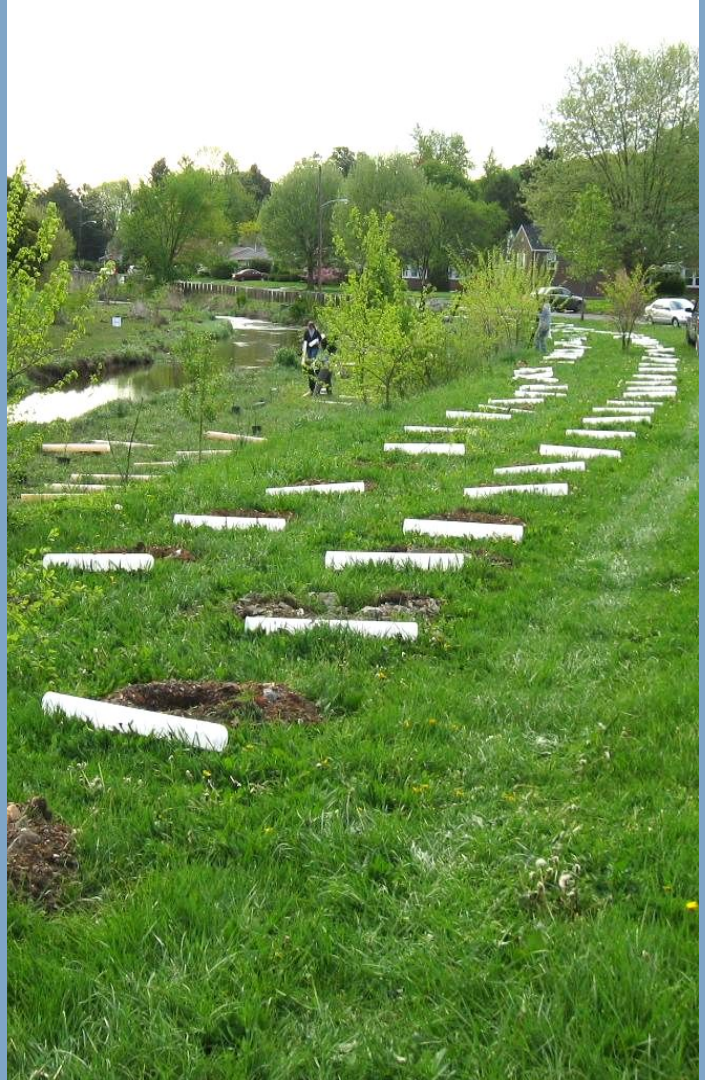
BMP verification helps County/community:

- Measure success.
- Identify whether we need to adjust BMP implementation and maintenance approaches.
- Ensure that BMPs are working as intended and are effective.

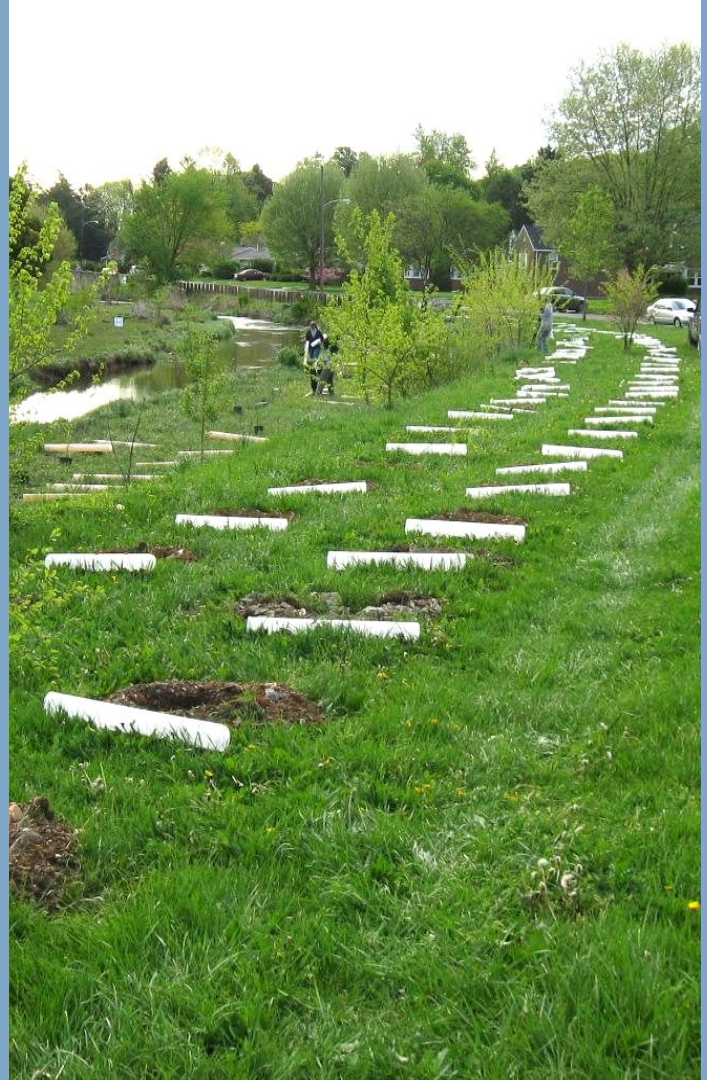
County/Community BMPs

- XXX BMPs are on the ground in county/community
- XXX new BMPs are planned

Using targeted BMPs is helping county/community meet our clean water goals!



Questions?



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