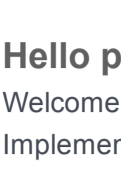




## PHASE 3 WIP NEWS

*Pennsylvania. Partnership. Progress*



TOM WOLF, GOVERNOR • PATRICK MCDONNELL, SECRETARY

### Hello partners for water quality!

Welcome to the second issue of *Phase 3 WIP News*, covering the state Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and Countywide Action Plans (CAPs) to improve water quality in Pennsylvania's share of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. We have news on grant funding programs now open, groundbreaking on a CAP Implementation Grant funded project, and more. Please share this newsletter or the [subscribe page](#) with others who may be interested to help spread the word on the progress we're making together in Pennsylvania. For more information on the Phase 3 WIP, visit [dep.pa.gov/chesapeakebay/phase3](http://dep.pa.gov/chesapeakebay/phase3). — *DEP Chesapeake Bay Office*

### Phase 3 WIP State Team

#### Next Meeting: July 20

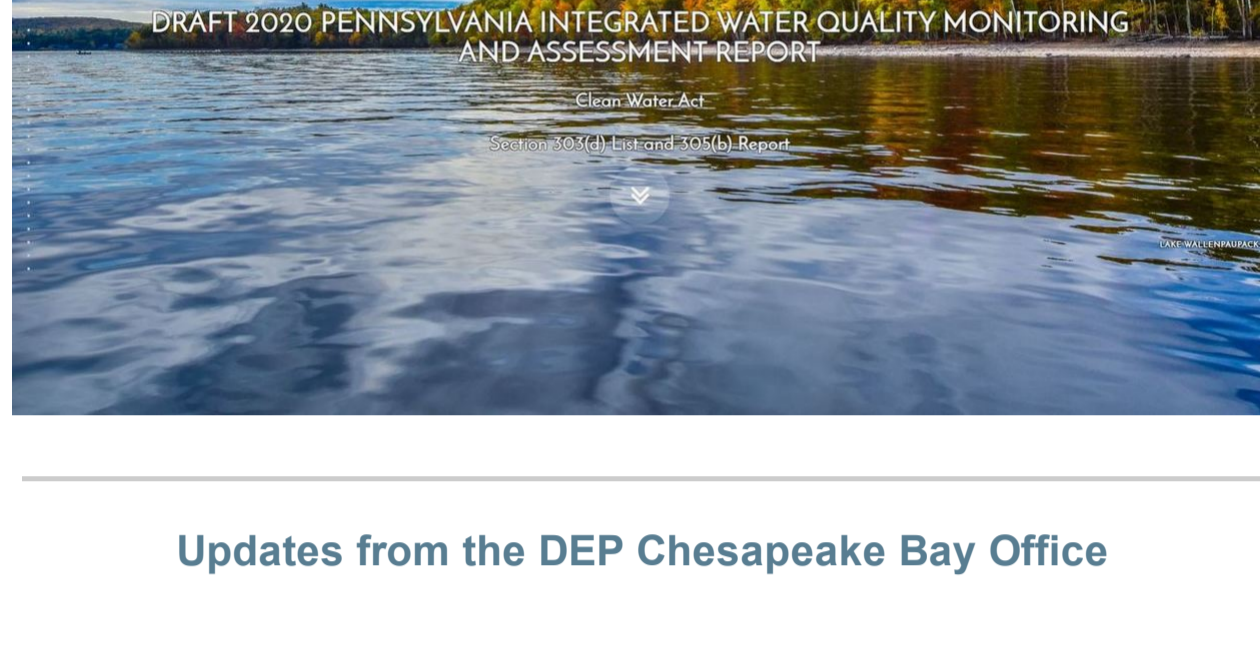
Please plan to participate in the next Phase 3 WIP State Team meeting, Monday, July 20, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. The meeting is online only. [Please register here](#). The purpose of the meeting will be to provide progress updates, news, and partners' activities, outline next steps and timeline for success. Spotlights will be provided on water quality monitoring, communication and engagement, and local countywide action planning. The [State Team](#) guides Pennsylvania's Phase 3 WIP implementation, supports countywide implementation efforts, and reviews and revises state milestones and programmatic initiatives as needed. Meetings are open to the public.

### DEP News

#### DEP Releases Draft Report on Statewide Water Quality

[DEP has released the draft 2020 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report](#), detailing the health of Pennsylvania's 86,000 plus miles of streams and rivers and more than 160,000 acres of lakes. The draft report is open for public comment until August 11, 2020, and comments can be made through the DEP eComment system.

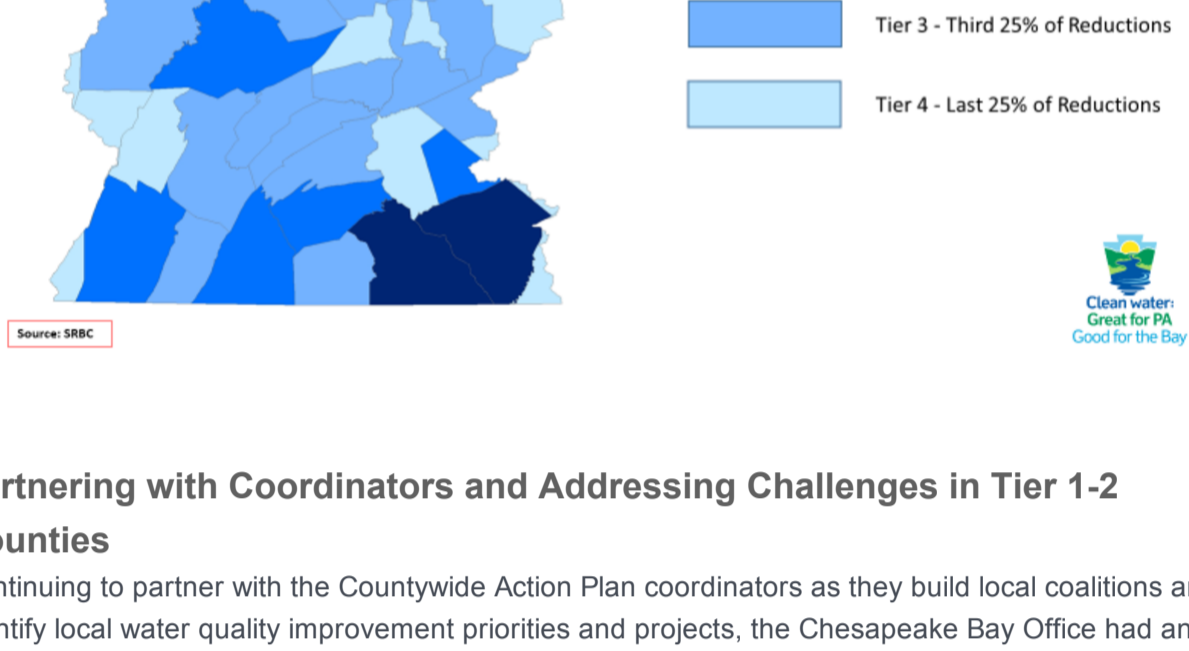
In addition to the fully online report, required every two years under the federal Clean Water Act, the [2020 Draft Integrated Water Report](#) also features a map viewer that allows users to zoom down to individual stream or river sections and export information. These tools can be useful for residents looking to learn more about their waters and for decision makers at the local level for planning purposes.



### Updates from the DEP Chesapeake Bay Office

#### Laying the Groundwork for Planning in Tier 3-4 Counties

Enlisting the DEP Southcentral, Northcentral and Northeast Regional Offices in outreach to the Tier 3-4 counties we've begun meeting with regional staff who will make up Countywide Action Plan Support Teams. By September, we plan to begin initial outreach to these counties.



#### Partnering with Coordinators and Addressing Challenges in Tier 1-2 Counties

Continuing to partner with the Countywide Action Plan coordinators as they build local coalitions and identify local water quality improvement priorities and projects, the Chesapeake Bay Office had an action-packed month that included:

- Providing outreach and education training: *Closing the Deal with Rural Landowners; Social Skills of Social Media; and Making the Most of Mass Media.*
- Developing additional courses for the "Healthy Waters, Healthy Communities: Communication, Education and Outreach" section of DEP Clean Water Academy, which will house tools and outreach materials for coordinators such as talking points, webinars, handouts, email templates, tips for success, and county-created items.
- Working with county partners, DEP staff, and EPA Chesapeake Bay Program staff to identify and explore potential solutions to address key challenges in data collection, best practices reporting, permit streamlining, and potential funding and resources.

### Funding News

#### DEP Agricultural Plan Reimbursement Program Extended for Fourth Year

The DEP [Ag Plan Reimbursement Program](#) has been extended through June 30, 2021. Approximately \$750,000 is available to farmers for cost-share for development of manure management, nutrient management, erosion and sediment control (Ag E&S), and conservation plans. Applications are being accepted now.

#### Conservation Excellence Grants Available Now Through Pennsylvania Farm Bill

The new [Conservation Excellence Grants \(CEG\) Program](#) opened July 1 and is accepting applications for funding and technical assistance for best management practices on agricultural operations in high-priority locations in the state. The CEG Program is part of Governor Wolf's first-ever Pennsylvania Farm Bill, a fiscal investment in Pennsylvania agriculture to grow opportunities and resources and inspire future generations of leaders within agriculture.

The State Conservation and York Commission has established an agreement with County Conservation Districts in Lancaster and York Counties on local program implementation in these two Tier 1 counties. Applicants may apply for a CEG Program grant at these County Conservation Districts.

Grants, loans, tax credits, or a combination of these are available. Grants up to \$250,000 are available for implementation of eligible BMP projects. Small grants are also available for any BMP project under \$25,000. Grants will be awarded based on priority criteria established by law and SCC guidelines.

#### Funds for Riparian Buffers Available from Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Organizations and businesses working to plant riparian forest buffers on private or public properties in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed are invited to apply for funding from DCNR and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Buffer plantings are funded at a flat per-acre rate meant to cover planning, planting, and post-planting establishment care. For information on how to access these funds, please contact Teddi Stark, DCNR Riparian Forest Buffer Coordinator, at [c-tstark@pa.gov](mailto:c-tstark@pa.gov).

#### Review of Proposals for Center for Water Quality Excellence Completed

PENNVEST has completed its review and ranking of proposals submitted for the Center for Water Quality Excellence and anticipates making a recommendation for the award to its Board of Directors for their consideration at the July 22 board meeting.

### County Progress

#### Adams (Pilot County - Implementation)

Following a delay due to COVID furloughs, Adams County's Planning Commission and its Conservation District are in the process of hiring their Community Clean Water Action Plan Coordinator. They are also using some of their funding to hire a consultant to assist their coordinator with coalition building, coordination efforts, and Countywide Action Plan (CAP) implementation needs.

#### Bedford (Tier 2 County - Planning)

Bedford County held their CAP steering committee kickoff meeting in mid-June. The committee is a small, diverse group of individuals with a broad range of expertise that has a pulse what is going on across the county and in specific priority watersheds. This will assist Bedford County in identifying priorities and needs as they build their CAP.

#### Centre (Tier 2 County - Planning)

Centre County's CAP coordinator has developed a monthly action report to the CBO. The county has a draft of the initial two CAP priorities: programmatic recommendations and reporting and tracking. The steering team will be a combination of stakeholder and organizational leaders that will develop details of the CAP and move it into implementation. This team will work on matching specific pieces of the plan with members to develop a draft.

#### Cumberland (Tier 2 County - Planning)

Cumberland County CAP information gathering is approximately 90 percent complete. As part of the CAP coordination team, Lancaster Farmland Trust has been identifying willing landowners during the planning process and will begin contacting farmers to ask their opinion and feedback on the direction the Cumberland County CAP is taking. That feedback will inform the agriculture goals established in the CAP.

#### Franklin (Pilot County - Implementation)

Franklin County broke ground on their Countywide Action Plan Implementation Grant-funded project at the end of June. A section of Conodoguinet Creek that runs through properties of Lurgan Township Lions Club and other landowners is being restored to address severe erosion, reduce flooding and sediment, ensure that popular fishing and community activities will continue, and improve aquatic habitat. All systems are go for completion at the end of July.

In addition, the CAP implementation steering committee invitation has been submitted, with a good response rate. The CAP coordinator is following up with a survey to identify participants' interest, background, and availability. Franklin County is developing a continuously updated project spreadsheet to match with a funding spreadsheet. The next Conservation District newsletter will include an article about the CAP process.



Left to right: Chip Kolb, Lurgan Township and Lions Club; Caitlin Lucas, Franklin County CAP coordinator; Tammy Piper, Franklin County Conservation District; and Larry Brannaka, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on site of their CAP Implementation Grant funded stream restoration project.

#### Lancaster (Pilot County - Implementation)

Lancaster County's coordination team is developing their annual report on action items and practices. They've created a monthly status report that's shared with DEP during regular meetings. The county action teams met in May to evaluate COVID-19 challenges and are identifying items that can and cannot be accomplished by the end of the year. The action teams are also identifying and combining their priorities and matching them with BMPs that will work going forward.

The coordination team is working with county action teams and DEP to develop a watershed permitting concept with the goal of bringing a project to DEP to test the concept. DEP has invited Lancaster and York counties to weekly pre-application meetings to further these discussions. Lancaster County is working on pulling watershed planning projects together and focusing on getting data analysis completed on their watershed mapping tool and ensuring all the information is uploaded consistently.

#### Lebanon (Tier 2 County - Planning)

Lebanon County is moving forward with a focused emphasis on individual watersheds and planning in those watersheds. Many groups in the county have a strong understanding of the watersheds, and the CAP coordination team is looking to complement and collaborate. They held a kickoff meeting in mid-June to further this effort. The county has identified some challenges with 319 plan approval in the Quittapahilla Creek because of point and nonpoint source coordination between MS4s and watershed groups.

#### York (Pilot County - Implementation)

York County held a virtual coordination meeting this month and approved the meeting schedule and organizational chart. The county has created a CAP website, social media presence, and newsletter to reach stakeholders. The Revenue Building action team is developing a financial action plan to fund CAP activities and projects being identified by other action teams. They're also looking at how the CAP will be funded over time through 2025, staffing capacity and resources, as well as a more conservative timeline.

Action teams are facing some challenges due to furloughs. Leaders of the Data Management team and Education and Outreach team were furloughed. The CAP coordinator is co-leading in the interim. York County is also working with Lancaster County and DEP on the watershed permit concept.



Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101



Share this email:

