



Chesapeake Bay Program Office

# Pennsylvania's Progress on Water Quality

## Agricultural Advisory Board

March 18, 2021

Tom Wolf, Governor

Patrick McDonnell, Secretary

# Agenda

- **State partners' progress**
- **County teams' progress and plans for 2021**
- **2021 Vision**
- **Questions**

# Pennsylvania's Phase 3 WIP Implementation Strategy

## Chesapeake Bay Office

Statewide Leadership, Coordination & Support

**Implementation  
State Team & Action Leaders**



**Local Action**



**Reporting**



**Communication  
& Engagement**



**Programmatic  
Actions**



**Monitoring  
& Data Management**



# Phase 3 WIP Implementation Guidance

## State Team

- Co-chaired by: Secretaries of Environmental Protection, Agriculture, and Conservation and Natural Resources
- Members: Action leaders
- Provides overall direction; meets January and July; open to public

## Action Leaders

- State and federal agency and external partners
- Assess progress and address challenges
- Meet quarterly; invite-only

# DEP Chesapeake Bay Office

## **Reorganized internally for more efficient and effective policy development and execution:**

- 6 technical staff and 1 administrative staff -- Chesapeake Bay Watershed efforts: grants, reporting and data management, WIP oversight, and federal coordination
- 2 technical staff -- agricultural compliance activities statewide: Ag E&S, Manure Management, CAFO, and initiatives in agricultural BMP implementation and conservation district reporting
- 2 technical staff and 1 manager -- watershed support activities statewide: Section 319, Growing Greener, CREP, conservation district Watershed Specialist Agreements
- 5 technical staff -- conservation district support statewide

# DEP Chesapeake Bay Office

## Streamlining support for external partners:

- Weekly permitting pre-application meetings available to York and Lancaster Counties
  - Managed by DEP Southcentral Regional Office Waterways and Wetlands Program
- [The Pennsylvanian's Guide to Permitting for Watershed Improvement Projects](#) -- published in December



# Countywide Action Plans

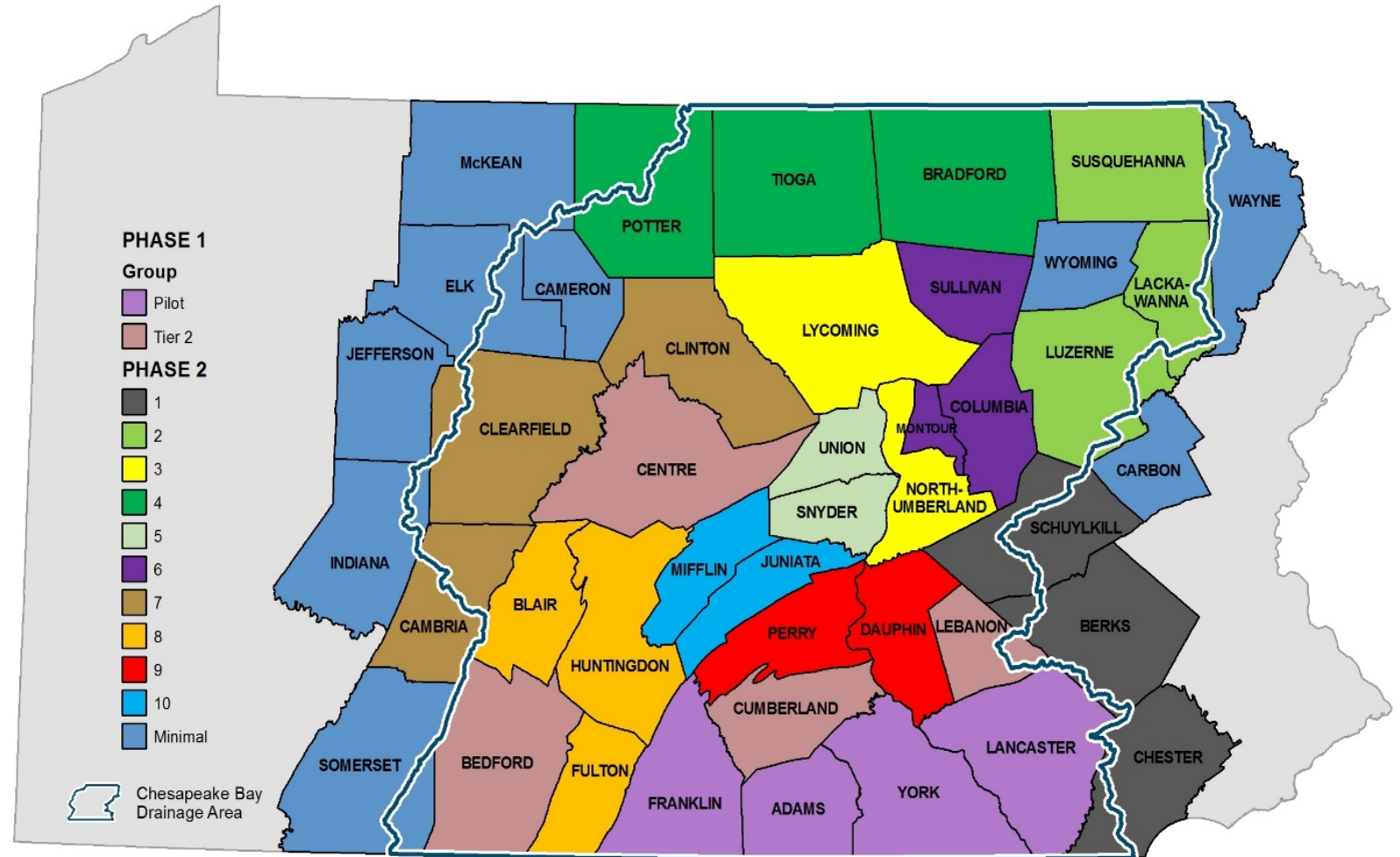
## CAP Completion Timeline

### Phase 1 (Individual Counties):

- Pilot – 2019
- Tier 2 – 2020

### Phase 2 (County Clusters):

- Tier 3 and 4 – 2021



# DEP: Accelerating Support for Countywide Action Plans

## DEP Regional Office support for Tier 3 and 4 CAP development

### Chesapeake Bay Office administered \$17+ million in state funds to Phase 1 Counties:

- October: Section 319 Grants awarded
  - Over \$1 million awarded to Section 319 projects in Phase 1 counties
- November: CAP Implementation and Coordinator Grants
  - Over \$6 million awarded in Phase 1 counties
- December: Growing Greener Plus Grants awarded
  - Over \$9 million awarded to watershed restoration project implementation in Phase 1 counties
  - Over \$16 million awarded in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in total
- January: Coordinator Grants awarded in Phase 2 counties
  - \$1 million available to Phase 2 counties for 10 coordinators



# Agriculture: Funding

## **Implementation funding:**

- Conservation Excellence Grant Program Expansion – includes funds for technical assistance
- REAP Expansion – Additional \$3 million
- DEP Phase 2 Inspection Program – includes funds for technical assistance
- DEP PA Ag Plan Reimbursement Program – approximately \$700,000 available for cost-share assistance

## **Conservation District funding – continued at same levels as prior year:**

- Chesapeake Bay Technicians and Engineer Specialists/Assistants (DEP and EPA)
- Nutrient Management Specialists (SCC, DEP, and EPA)
- Chesapeake Bay Watershed Conservation Initiative through PACD Agreement (DEP and NRCS)
- Conservation District Fund Allocation Program and Ag Conservation Technician Program (SCC and DEP)

# Agriculture: Reporting

- PracticeKeeper: ongoing enhancements
- 2020 Penn State Survey of Best Management Practice Implementation
- Agreement with NRCS and USGS to share data for analysis of reporting overlap (double-counting)
- Further credit practices through participation on CBP Ag Workgroup CAST-21 and BMP Verification Ad Hoc Committees
  - Examples:
    - PA NRCS 561 Heavy Use Area Protection reported as CBP Loafing Lot Management
    - Dairy Precision Feeding – evaluating the opportunity to use Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN) as a surrogate for nitrogen reductions through precision feeding

# Agriculture: Tools and Training

- Agricultural Technical Training, supported by State Conservation Commission, DEP, NRCS and PACD
- State Conservation Commission and DEP funding and support of PAOneStop - Manure Management and Ag Erosion and Sediment Control (Ag E&S) Planning
- Clean Water Academy – web-based training
  - Ag E&S Manual Training Modules
  - PracticeKeeper Training for Conservation Districts for added consistency and tracking
    - Ag Inspection Module Standard Operating Procedure and training
    - Chesapeake Bay Quarterly Reporting training
  - County Coordinator “Webinar Wednesdays” – ag-focused sessions, as provided by CBO, SCC, and other partners such as NRCS, Capital RC&D, 4R Nutrient Stewardship Alliance, EPA CBPO

# Forestry, Streams, and Wetlands

- Legacy sediment removal projects and CBP Protocol development
- Funding: C2P2 Grant Program, TreeVitalize, and on-demand funding for buffers with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
- Lawn Conservation and Riparian Forest Buffer Advisory Committees
- Partnership with Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Reporting buffer implementation through PracticeKeeper
  - Includes tree plantings from CBF Keystone 10 Million Tree Initiative

# Stormwater

- MS4 permit implementation and expanded flexibility
- Launched Urban Stormwater Basics Training Course
- Updated Pennsylvania Stormwater BMP Manual to be released in 2021
- Continued implementation of NPDES Stormwater Programs (Chapter 102, MS4, and industrial stormwater)

# Additional Partner Support

## **Fish and Boat Commission:**

- Expansion of the Northcentral Stream Restoration Model

## **PennDOT:**

- Reporting of almost 1,000 additional stormwater BMPs toward 2020 progress

## **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation:**

- Local Government Implementation grant administration on behalf of DEP
- Chesapeake Bay INSR and Small Watersheds grant funding



# Communication and Engagement: Increasing Transparency

- [Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Communities](#) story map: 3,000+ views
- Clean Water Academy: Web-based training modules
- Chesapeake Bay Phase 3 WIP Website updates
- Materials and training to support county teams' local outreach needs
- [Phase 3 WIP News](#) monthly e-newsletter: Increasing subscribers

# Reporting: Improving Process, Accuracy

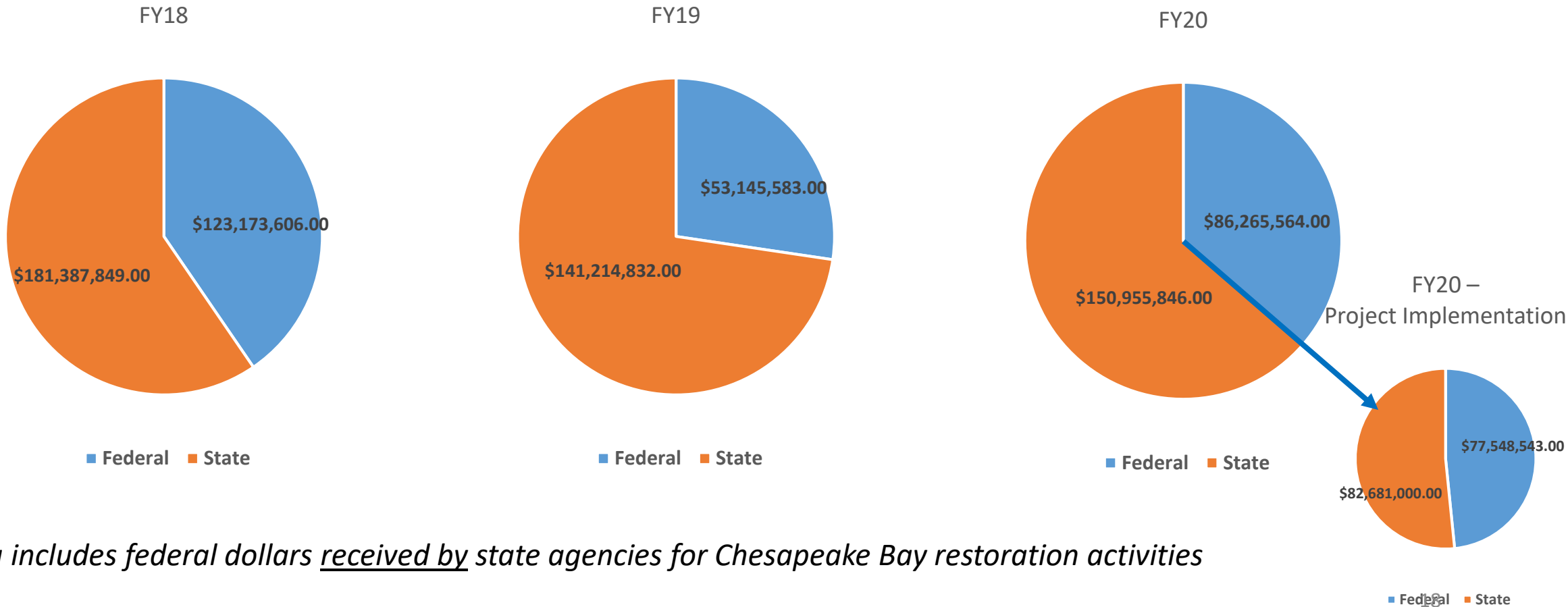
- Submitted 2020 Numeric Progress and Draft 2020 Programmatic Milestones Progress to EPA
  - Submitted revised Quality Assurance Program Plan and BMP Verification Program Plan
- FieldDoc and PracticeKeeper: Enhanced for more efficient, effective data collection
- New reporting programs: Oil and Gas, Septic, PennDOT, DCNR, and Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Collaborating with EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office and Partners to better account for practices
  - BMP Verification Ad-Hoc Committee membership
  - Streams and wetlands restored through compensatory mitigation
  - Urban and non-urban stream restoration
  - Agricultural BMPs such as: Dairy Precision Feeding, Animal Heavy Use Area Protection, Manure Treatment and Transport, Nutrient Management on full-season soybean acres, etc.

# Monitoring and Data Management

- Final 2020 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring Report accepted by EPA
- TMDL Plans Approved in 2020:
  - Peters Creek (Lancaster County)
  - Cisna Run (Perry County)
  - Susquehecka Creek (Snyder County)
  - Pleasant Valley Run (Bedford County)
  - Imlertown Run (Bedford County)
  - Sweitzers Run (Union County)
  - Little Fishing Creek (Centre County)
  - Mummasburg Run (Adams County)
- NRCS and USGS – Super Gauge Station in Chiques Creek Watershed, Lancaster County
- Ongoing monitoring at 77 water quality monitoring stations

# Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act

## Chesapeake Bay Accountability and Recovery Act State and Federal Funding Reporting Requirement



Reporting includes federal dollars received by state agencies for Chesapeake Bay restoration activities



# Local Action Progress and Plans for 2021

# Countywide Action Plans: Plans and Progress Reports

[DEP](#) > [Businesses](#) > [Water](#) > [Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay Program Office](#) > [PA's Phase 3 WIP](#)  
> [Get Involved](#) > [Countywide Action Plans](#)

- Pilot Counties – Lancaster, York, Adams, Franklin
  - 2020 Progress Reports
  - Updated Narratives
- Tier 2 Counties – Bedford, Centre, Cumberland, Lebanon
  - Finalized Countywide Action Plans
  - Narratives
  - Snapshots



Clean water:  
Great for PA  
Good for the Bay





# 2021 Vision

# 2021: Vision

- **Expand collaboration:** Continue working with multi-agency programs to increase efficiencies and outcomes.
- **Implement Best Management Practices:** Accelerate through additional and flexible funds for project implementation and staff.
- **Expand technical assistance:** Focus on-demand and necessary training for internal and external personnel.
- **Share success stories:** Work with state and county partners to share our progress.





# Questions





**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION



Chesapeake Bay Program Office

**Jill Whitcomb, Director**

**[jiwhitcomb@pa.gov](mailto:jiwhitcomb@pa.gov)**

***(717) 783-5205***