Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Programmatic Recommendations Template

Action #	Description	Performance Target(s)	Expected Timeline	Potential Implementation Challenges	Potential Recommendations on Improvement	Resources Needed				Review Checklist Comments
						Technical	Suggested Source	Financial	Suggested Source	
Programmatic Recommendation 1:										
1.1* (AG 1.4, 1.6, 1.8)	Change program standards for Chesapeake Bay Program Technician	Allow additional conservation districts to participate in the CB Technician Program by restoring the ability for district boards to establish local priorities while achieving more water quality benefits within the CB Watershed.	2023	Potential unwillingness of DEP CBO to revise the program requirements	This program improvement could be accomplished by providing optional levels of participation by conservation districts to receive funding for CB Technicians that would include technical assistance and BMP project coordination without requiring farm inspections or other regulatory aspects of the program.	DEP CBO willingness to allow adjustment to existing program	DEP CBO	N/A	N/A	
1.2	Access to DEP, EPA, DCNR, NRCS data on existing project locations and amounts	This effort would improve coordination and assist in identifying areas that need work within the county and improve efficiency and understanding of what is already being recorded and where gaps exist	2022	Push back from regulatory agencies and release of information.	Remove barriers to sharing knowledge of current and existing projects to capture and plan for areas that still need assistance	Database creation	Agency coordination' LCD Additional outreach staff member	Dedicated and sustainable funding source for staff position	DEP CBO	
1.2a	Create a dashboard on Practice Keeper so different entities can see other BMP entries from other agencies.	Allow all entities the ability to see existing projects and locations that were previously entered by another agency into the Practice Keeper Dashboard.	2022	Release of information	Knowledge of current and existing projects to capture and plan for areas that still need assistance	Dashboard creation	DEP	N/A	N/A	
1.3	Increasing the prevailing wage thresholds for conservation BMP projects, including DGLVR projects.	Prevailing wage requirements cause increased project costs and reduce the amount of already-limited funds available for conservation projects. Increasing the thresholds for conservation projects would significantly increase the amount of BMPs implemented.	2023	Lack of political will to change the prevailing wage legislation, , opposition from labor unions	Address an increase to prevailing wage thresholds for conservation projects separate from the consideration of changes to the thresholds for other publicly funded bricks-and-mortar projects, as was done with certain public transportation projects when Act 89 of 2013 was passed.	Legislative expertise	DEP, PA General Assembly	N/A	N/A	
1.4	Education and outreach position for water quality efforts	State funds allocated to conservation districts to provide outreach and education to	2022	Identifying dedicated funds	DEP Grants Program could modify the current Environmental Education Grants or allocate CBO	Dedicated staff to develop/implement outreach program	LCD	Dedicated and sustainable	DEP	

to public and municipalities.	municipalities and the general public on suburban/urban water quality, stormwater management, and sustainable land use			funds to provide dedicated funding to conservation districts for such a position.				funding source for staff position		
1.5* (WH 4.6, AG 1.2)	Dedicated non-regulatory staff from DEP or Conservation District to Verify and Report BMPs	Dedicated non-regulatory staff member at district level or state level to verify and report BMP's implemented within the county into Practice Keeper.	2022	Funding to implement position		Staffing	LCD or DEP	Dedicated and sustainable funding source for staff position	State Funds	
1.6	Reduce Burdensome Requirements for Large-scale State Grant Projects	Revise the Growing Greener & DCNR Riparian Buffer grant requirements to remove the obstacle of expensive match requirements for high-cost projects, which would allow for the implementation of more high priority conservation projects. Also remove long-term land agreement obligations on DCNR buffer grant program.	2022	Potential unwillingness of DEP and DCNR to revise the program requirements	These recommendations could be implemented by amending the grant program requirements to reduce or eliminate match requirements for high impact conservation projects or by retaining the match requirements but placing a cap on the amount required (e.g., 15% GG match required up to a maximum of $20,000) and by removing the 25-year easement requirement for buffer grant projects.	DEP & DCNR willingness to allow adjustment to existing program	DEP & DCNR	N/A	N/A	
1.7* (AG 1.8)	New program to provide cost-share funding for implementation of Agricultural and Residential Stormwater BMPs	Gain support from all sectors and pass legislation to provide much needed funding. (e.g. support of PA Senate Bill 465)	2021	Finding additional funds within the state budget	Support from state environmental agencies	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
1.8	Streamline Permitting Process for Conservation Related projects	Conservation specific permitting that is less rigid with faster turnaround time to approval	2021	Defining a Conservation related project and potential resistance for developers	Allowing for quicker permit review on conservation projects to increase implementation during funding timeframe, changes in DEP's current permitting structure. Model permit after BAMR permit.	Review period alterations	Review agencies and DEP	N/A	N/A	

Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) Planning and Progress Template

Each county-based local area will use this template to identify:

1. **Inputs** – The statewide and/or federal policies, regulations, initiatives, programs, funding and resources that will help your county meet its goal.

2. **Process** – What are the changes that need to occur for the county to be successful in the process? These are the action items listed under each priority recommendation.

3. **Outputs and outcomes** – Both short and long-term. These are the programmatic recommendations identified by each county.   Performance targets identify your county's needed change in order to meet your county goal.

4. **Implementation challenges** – Any potential issues or roadblocks to implementation that could impede outputs and outcomes.

Asterisk: Place an asterisk next to the action number(s) for action items that appear in both the County Planning and Progress Template and the Programmatic Recommendations Template.

For each Programmatic Recommendation: Use the fields, as defined below, to identify the inputs and the process that will be followed to achieve each priority initiative. This is the "what, when and how" of the plan:

Description = What. This may include programs that address prevention, education, or changes to the current policy and regulation. A programmatic or policy effort will allow for the completion of cation items listed in the Planning and Progress Template.

Performance Target = How. This is an extension of the Description above. The performance target details the programmatic change that will enable you to complete the action items identified in the Planning and Progress Template. This can be a further description of the challenge to implementation from the Planning and Progress Template.

Expected Timeline = When. Provide the needed completion date for the programmatic recommendation that will assist your county in meeting its goal. This should be a reasonable expectation, based on knowledge and experience, that will aid in tracking progress toward addressing the Priority Initiative.

Potential Implementation Challenges = This field will note challenges and issues that may delay program implementation (Description). Potential challenges may relate to your county Planning and Progress Template.

Potential Recommendations on Improvement = This field will note recommendations on how to change or improve the program (Description).

Resources Needed: Technical & Funding = This field will note technical and financial resources needed/outstanding to implement the program (Description).