# Participants

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Gina Hunt, MDNR-CBP

Phil Miller, DNREC

Matthew Pennington, WV-Region 9

Kristin Reilly, CCWC

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Kathy Stecker, MDE

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# Welcome

# Setting the stage: The need for WIP engagement

# Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) are blueprints that explain how each jurisdiction will meet its pollution reduction targets under the Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The WIPs are now in their third phase.

# What’s new for the Phase III WIPs?

# Emphasis on engaging local governments in this round of WIPs

# New Phase 6 Watershed Model

# Hundreds of new best management practices (BMPs) available for credit

# Using 2025 population growth figures

# Increased monitoring trends—over 30 years-worth of information

# First-time inclusion of climate change through a narrative strategy.

* + The Chesapeake Bay Program has written blogs about these topics. Learn more about: [WIPs](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/why_should_you_care_about_a_watershed_implementation_plan) | [WIP Expectations](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/epa_sets_expectations_for_states_d.c._in_third_phase_of_bay_pollution_diet) | [Phase 6 model](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/updated_tools_help_address_pollution_and_plan_for_the_future) | [BMPs](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_best_ways_to_manage_pollution) | [2025 population growth](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_population_of_people_isnt_the_only_thing_growing_in_the_chesapeake_regi) | [Pollution targets](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/the_population_of_people_isnt_the_only_thing_growing_in_the_chesapeake_regi) | [Conowingo](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/who_is_responsible_for_the_conowingo_dam) | [TMDL midpoint assessment](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/halfway_to_2025_epa_releases_results_of_chesapeake_bay_pollution_diet_check)

# What role does your organization play with WIP engagement?

* + Pennsylvania
		- DEP is leading the WIP planning effort along with the PA Dept. of Ag and DCNR
		- DEP has a Chesapeake Bay Office with a steering committee and seven workgroups, two of which have been especially high profile: Local Area Goals Workgroup, which put together the Community Clean Water Toolbox that’s being piloted with four PA counties; and the Communications and Engagement Workgroup, which has created materials that can be used to reach out to other PA counties after the pilot
		- Learn more in Deb’s recent blog post: [Inside Pennsylvania’s strategy for healthier local streams in the Chesapeake Bay watershed](https://www.chesapeakebay.net/news/blog/inside_pennsylvanias_strategy_for_healthier_local_streams_in_the_chesapeake)
	+ Delaware
		- DNREC has quarterly WIP meetings and committees for each of the sectors. Phil Miller is the chair for the communications subcommittee. That group will start to meet monthly to devote more time to WIP development.
		- Coordinate Reclaim our River program: includes water quality workshops, events, recreation opportunities, etc.
		- Shares messaging through videos, website, social meeting, newsletters, etc.
		- New projects: SAV, similar to Grasses for the Masses
	+ West Virginia
		- Matt Pennington: Represents 12 local governments in the eastern part of the state
		- Keeping a similar strategy as Phase II
		- Kick-off meeting held June 1, followed by a series of local government meetings over the summer, now focusing on the commonalities and shared goals that came from those
		- WV Tributary Team with members from WVDA, Conservation Districts, the Cacapon Institute, WV DEP, and Matt (representing the local government voice) will get together to draft the WIP
		- Jennifer Greiner, USFWS/Habitat GIT: interested in the translation from the technical planning to the implementers; focus on incentivizing practices by connecting them to community values (e.g. incentivizing habitat restoration by focusing on benefits to bobwhite quail on Delmarva peninsula; focusing on livable communities rather than pollution diet). Linking water quality BMPs to what speaks to people.
	+ Virginia
		- Virginia is working with 14 different Planning District Commissions (PDCs) that each represent several different localities. VA awarded grants ($50,000) to the PDCs to coordinate an input deck of BMPs that each locality proposes for the WIP IIIs. Voluntary program – some localities opted out.
		- Each PDC will hold three meetings with localities. There will then be a fourth meeting between PDCs and soil and water conservation districts to combine everything.
		- DEQ is working with the PDCs focusing on urban, forest and septic; VA DCR is working with soil and water conservation districts focusing on agriculture.
		- DEQ is the lead for inputting everything into CAST to see if it will meet the targets and writing the final WIP
		- Tom Damm, EPA-R3: Are localities aware of all possible options and funding sources?
			* Matt Pennington: localities usually don’t know all the BMPs and funding, but they know who to talk to so they can find out
			* Gina Hunt, MDNR: they often don’t know who to talk to on the natural resources side – that could be one focus for a future meeting
	+ Maryland
	+ Phase III is an extension of Phase II: Maryland has maintained a Bay Workgroup and Bay Cabinet throughout, has revised stormwater/wastewater permits to comply with the WIP
	+ MDE is in charge of writing the WIP and making sure MD will meet 2025 targets
	+ MDA is running CAST real time at soil and water conservation district meetings so they know right then whether the district will be able to meet their targets

# Action Team expertise

# Deb: Communications, strategy, community engagement, media relations

# Kristin Reilly, CCWC: nonprofits can be valuable partners in community engagement. Have been working on an advocates expectations document for each jurisdiction to communicate where they currently are and where to focus in Phase III. Are focusing on increased and steady funding for projects across the watershed, particularly BMPs.

# Medessa Burian: The Municipal Online Stormwater Training (MOST) Center is able to help identify and meet needs in the stormwater sector. MOST offers online course development, case study development and communicating the cobenefits of stormwater management; also provide technical assistance on financing strategies

# Gina Hunt, MDNR/CBP Fish Habitat Coordinator: 12 outcome co-benefits fact sheets that could help localities choose BMPs that also benefit natural resources.

# Next steps

# Next call will dive deeper into needs and challenges, and we can start to brainstorm how the action team can support those needs

# Wrap Up

**Next meeting:** Scheduler will be coming out soon for the week of October 15