

Summary and Response to Comments on the Draft Conowingo Implementation Plan (CWIP) Milestones

Prepared in support of
U.S. EPA Cooperative Agreement 96366901

November 8, 2021

**Summary and Response to Comments on the
Draft Conowingo Implementation Plan (CWIP) Milestones**

Contents

Outreach..... 3

Comments Summary..... 3

Outreach

Targeted outreach was conducted in Maryland, New York, and Pennsylvania to review proposed programmatic milestones in October and November 2021. Numeric milestones will be developed for the 2023-2024 calendar year to allow for finalization of a financing institution and funding commitments. Outreach was conducted virtually via online webinars to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the draft programmatic milestones for the 2022-2023 period. The table below provides a summary of those outreach webinars.

Webinar Date	Outreach Target for Webinar
October 27, 2021	Pennsylvania CAP Coordinators Webinar Wednesday
November 2, 2021	Cecil County, Maryland
November 3, 2021	New York
November 5, 2021	Harford County, Maryland

Comments Summary

The team collected comments from outreach webinar participants and has summarized them below.

Comment	CIT Response
An update from the Activity 2 team regarding financing was requested.	Comment acknowledged.
The BMP Opportunity Analysis tool is greatly anticipated and is seen as a new tool to further water quality implementation.	Comment acknowledged.
Financing needs to accommodate additional staff, particularly where local implementation coordination is necessary (e.g., ag practices and associated outreach), to achieve the goals in both WIP III and CWIP.	The CWIP Financing Strategy considers holistic costs related to CWIP implementation, which includes additional staffing capacity. Additional detail on funding availability and distribution will be developed through mid-2022.
Local implementers would like to be able to consider large awards over longer timeframes (e.g. greater than \$1M over 1 – 3 years).	Comment acknowledged.
A checklist for CWIP implementation prioritizing CAP and WIP III projects in coordination with CWIP projects will help further progress and extend investment dollars.	The CWIP Financing Strategy will include a means by which CWIP implementation projects will consider and prioritize projects that enhance and/or compliment WIP III projects.
Ongoing coordination with state and federal agencies will be key to	The CIT will conduct ongoing outreach related to CWIP implementation,

Comment	CIT Response
ensuring existing programs and initiatives allow for including CWIP initiatives (e.g., time allowance, prioritization, etc.)	including BMP Opportunity Analysis tools, technical assistance, and funding throughout implementation.
There are concerns regarding competition for funding, particularly with regard to NFWF. It was suggested that RCPP be considered for CWIP implementation.	The financing strategy includes identifying and leveraging bonds, loans, and public-private partnerships to fund implementation of the CWIP.