

## CONOWINGO WIP: CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAMMATIC TWO-YEAR MILESTONES COMMITMENTS

JANUARY 1, 2026-DECEMBER 31, 2027

### **Narrative Summary:**

The Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP) identifies the need to reduce nitrogen delivered to the Chesapeake Bay by 6.7-million pounds per year. The CWIP implementation is a collaborative, multi-jurisdictional, innovative, and phased approach. The CWIP Steering Committee has developed consensus-based milestones that focus on building implementation capacity, expanding partnerships, and fostering innovations intended to complement jurisdictional WIPs and accelerate Chesapeake Bay restoration overall.

Partner agency abbreviations:

- EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
- MDE: Maryland Department of the Environment
- NY DEC: New York Department of Environmental Conservation
- PA DEP: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- PENNVEST: Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority
- SRBC: Susquehanna River Basin Commission
- USACE: United States Army Corps of Engineers
- USC: Upper Susquehanna Coalition

## SECTOR/CATEGORY/OBJECTIVE

### **Narrative Summary:**

The CWIP jurisdictions of Pennsylvania, Maryland and New York are in the implementation phase and are actively designing and constructing practices to achieve the CWIP nutrient reduction goals. Key objectives include implementing and verifying Best Management Practices (BMPs), building technical capacity, and advancing innovative BMP approaches.

The Core Sector activities represent the programs currently being implemented by the CWIP jurisdictions (Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New York), including the partner agencies responsible for BMP implementation. The outcomes are based on existing projects in various stages of implementation.

The Sector Initiatives focus on capacity building and technical assistance throughout the Susquehanna Watershed, with targeted outreach efforts in the Octoraro Watershed and Plain Sect communities. Sector Initiatives also include evaluating innovative BMPs for potential crediting opportunities, including dredging, freshwater mussel restoration, manure treatment technologies, and acid mine drainage treatment. In addition, the Sector Initiatives include evaluating alternative funding sources for implementation, including water quality mitigation funds.

CORE SECTOR ACTIVITIES

| Milestone Number | Lead Agency         | Actions & Deliverables  | Target Date   | Outcomes (e.g., lbs of pollutants reduced, # of people engaged)  | Funding Source |
|------------------|---------------------|---|---------------|--|----------------|
| 1                | PA DEP and PENNVEST | Implement best management practices solicited through the PA Clean Water Procurement Program administered by PENNVEST.  | December 2027 | Reduction of 77,200 pounds of total nitrogen annually and 13,500 pounds of total phosphorus annually per the estimates based on contracts awarded as represented in the <a href="#">Conowingo Reductions Summary</a> (link). | PA DEP         |
| 2                | MDE and SRBC        | Implement best management practices solicited through the MD Verified Nutrient Reductions program administered by SRBC. | December 2027 | Reduction of 164,550 pounds of total nitrogen annually per the estimate based on the contract awarded as represented in the <a href="#">Conowingo Reductions Summary</a> (link).   | MDE            |
| 3                | NY DEC and USC      | Implement best management practices through projects administered by USC.   | December 2027 | Reduction of 2,500 pounds of total nitrogen annually and 220 pounds of total phosphorus annually per the estimate based on contract awarded as represented in the <a href="#">Conowingo Reductions Summary</a> (link).       | NY DEC         |

SECTOR INITIATIVES (I.E., INNOVATIVE ACTIONS)

| Milestone Number | Lead Agency | Actions & Deliverables  | Target Date   | Outcomes (e.g., lbs of pollutants reduced, # of people engaged)  | Funding Source |
|------------------|-------------|---|---------------|--|----------------|
| 4                | SRBC        | Employ and facilitate the role of the Susquehanna Watershed Coordinator to build capacity and provide technical assistance for project implementation across the watershed including directly to producers. | December 2027 | Engage with 30 partners including Conservation Districts and landowners to facilitate implementation of 10 projects. Coordinate dialog with Pay for Performance programs across the Chesapeake Bay watershed to look for collaboration and learning opportunities. | NFWF INSR      |

| Milestone Number | Lead Agency                          | Actions & Deliverables   | Target Date   | Outcomes (e.g., lbs of pollutants reduced, # of people engaged)   | Funding Source                               |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------|---|--|
| 5                | Chester County Conservation District | Employ and facilitate the role of the Octoraro Watershed Coordinator position to assist with prioritizing projects, connecting community with funding opportunities, and providing technical assistance. | December 2027 | Engage with 30 partners and landowners to facilitate implementation of 8 projects within small agricultural watersheds of the Octoraro Watershed. Coordination of the Knight Run Advanced Restoration Plan. Documentation and outreach about data monitoring efforts and local water quality improvement.   | PA Local Government Impact (LGI) funds       |
| 6                | MDE and USACE                        | Build upon the Conowingo Sediment Characterization and Innovative and Beneficial Reuse Pilot and evaluate whether dredging behind the Conowingo Dam is a viable and creditable BMP.                      | December 2027 | Complete the Conowingo Reservoir Modeling Study which will develop a water quality modeling system to simulate current and future climate scenarios and different dredging scenarios . Coordinate technical guidance with the EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office.  | MDE and USACE                                |
| 7                | SRBC                                 | Evaluate freshwater mussel restoration as a viable and creditable BMP.   | December 2027 | Partnership with SRBC and continued participation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Region Freshwater Mussel Partnership, as well as the Chesapeake Bay Program in support of revised Watershed Agreement freshwater mussel target. Engage with 10 regional partners (state/federal agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, facilities) for freshwater mussel monitoring, propagation, restoration, and applied research activities. Completion and sharing of summary products (literature review and technical recommendations) in follow up to 2020 Chesapeake Bay Program Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) <a href="#">report</a> (link). Documentation of at least 3 active freshwater mussel restoration or applied research efforts, | SRBC<br>EPA/PA DEP<br><i>(funds pending)</i> |

| Milestone Number | Lead Agency     | Actions & Deliverables  | Target Date   | Outcomes (e.g., lbs of pollutants reduced, # of people engaged)  | Funding Source                |
|------------------|-----------------|---|---------------|--|-------------------------------|
|                  |                 |   |               | including projects using propagated mussels and facilities expanding propagation capacity, to inform prioritization and readiness for future restoration implementation and tracking.  |                               |
| 8                | PA DEP          | Evaluate manure treatment technologies (MTT) as a viable and creditable BMP.  | December 2027 | Partnership with EPA on manure treatment technology crediting opportunities, investigate thermochemical applicability, and increase reporting of existing MTTs. Coordination with PA DEP agencies.   | PA DEP                        |
| 9                | PA DEP and STAC | Evaluate Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) as a viable and creditable BMP.   | December 2027 | Pursue recommendation of the 2025 STAC <a href="#">report</a> (link). Coordination with PA DEP agencies. Increase data sharing and quantify reductions of ongoing AMD treatment within PA.   | PA DEP                        |
| 10               | SRBC            | Coordinate Plain Sect Outreach position that interfaces directly with Plain Sect community producers.   | December 2027 | Host workshops for Manure Management, Well Water Testing and BMPs to engage with at least 20 Plain Sect community producers. Work with at least 5 farms as technical service providers to assist with Manure Management Plans and Erosion & Sediment Controls Plans. | SRBC<br>Consumptive Use Funds |
| 11               | MDE             | Evaluate possible uses of the water quality mitigation fund established in the settlement agreement as part of the Water Quality Certification for Constellation Energy's operation of the Conowingo Dam. | December 2027 | Continued partnership with SRBC to implement Maryland's Pay for Success program if additional funds become available.  | MDE                           |