

Conowingo WIP Update

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Agenda

- ▶ Overview of EPA 2022-2023 Milestone Evaluation
- ▶ CWIP 2022-2023 Programmatic Progress Highlights
- ▶ Next Steps
- ▶ Progress Summary

Overview of EPA's CWIP Evaluation

- 2022-2023 Milestone Commitments were submitted to EPA on January 13, 2022
- EPA Evaluation of Milestone Commitments published on October 4, 2022
- 2022-2023 Milestone Strengths:
 - ❖ Commitment to deliver funding to Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) for implementation of the CWIP
 - ❖ Commitment to complete the Best Management Practice (BMP) Opportunity analysis and audit framework
 - ❖ Holding training session across the Susquehanna River Basin
 - ❖ Plan to reconvene stakeholder groups to evaluate progress
 - ❖ Progressing initiatives to close science gaps and potentially credit freshwater mussel restoration and dredging as approved BMPs

Overview of EPA's CWIP Evaluation

- Key Areas to Address in 2022-2023 Milestone Period:
 - ❖ Current lack of detail on which practices will be targeted for implementation and the specific geography or stakeholders to achieve at least 25% of the CWIP nitrogen reductions
 - ❖ No funding in place to support BMP implementation to achieve 25% of nitrogen reductions within the milestone period
 - ❖ More detail requested to describe:
 - ✓ How specific restoration investments will be identified by SRBC
 - ✓ The process by which SRBC will manage funding
 - ✓ Whether pilot projects will achieve 25% nitrogen reductions
 - ✓ How financial innovation will be explored, and which private-public partnerships will be targeted for engagement

CWIP 2022-2023 Milestone Progress

- 2022 Programmatic Progress Report due to EPA on January 17, 2023
 - ❖ Building Implementation Capacity
 - ❖ Financing Strategies (Activity 2) is complete
 - ❖ BMP Opportunity Analysis model refinements have been completed with latest land use and land cover data
 - ❖ Development of tracking and monitoring process and tools
 - ❖ Fostering Innovation
 - ❖ Implementing pay for performance procurement process
 - ❖ Ongoing efforts to move forward through Chesapeake Bay Program partnership processes (e.g. STAC, Expert Panel Exploratory Group, etc.) for evaluation of crediting of innovative BMPs
 - ❖ Identifying and Building Partnerships / Outreach and Engagement
 - ❖ Collaboration and outreach with groups in Octoraro Watershed, including Lancaster, Chester (PA), and Cecil (MD) and Upper Susquehanna Watershed (NY, PA)
 - ❖ Pilot Project Development and Implementation / Securing CWIP Funding
 - ❖ Developed implementation strategy and framework for future success
 - ❖ MDE and SRBC negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the financing authority for a \$25 Million investment in the Susquehanna Watershed
 - ❖ PA exploring the use of the Clean Water Procurement Program
 - ❖ Continued jurisdictional CBIG/CBRAP funding

Near-Term Next Steps

- MDE \$25 million award to SRBC
 - Finalization and release of the pay for performance Request for Proposal (RFP)
- EPA response to letter from CWIP Steering Committee, dated October 17, 2022, requesting
 - Use of CBRAP or CBIG funds for CWIP implementation;
 - Additional dedicated federal \$ support for CWIP implementation; and,
 - Guidance on expert panel funding.
- Expert Panel Exploratory Workgroup (EPEG) and USACE modeling for Conowingo dredging
- Follow-up efforts on Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) and freshwater mussels

Progress Summary

- Milestone progress developed in response to EPA's evaluation
- Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York continue to work together with SRBC and other federal, state, and local partners to implement the CWIP
- Financing strategy is in place with funds forthcoming through Maryland's Conowingo pay for performance program
- Expert Panel process in action to advance innovative practices
- Targeted watersheds have been engaged for pilot project implementation