

Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP)

Progress Summary – January 2024

The Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP) will reduce nitrogen delivered to the Chesapeake Bay by 6.7-million pounds per year. The CWIP was approved by the Principals Staff Committee in September 2021. In July 2022, the Principals Staff Committee reached consensus to a phased approach for the CWIP. Phase I includes meeting specific nutrient reduction goals by December 2025. The CWIP document and supporting information can be found on the [CWIP Steering Committee website](#) (link).

Milestones

- CWIP Steering Committee issued new [Two-Year Milestones](#) (link) for 2024/2025 in January 2024. New Milestones includes:
 - Reporting of load reduction progress annually by December 1st.
 - Targeting implementation of practices to achieve 25% of the nitrogen and phosphorus reductions by December 2025.
 - Developing a plan for programmatic capacity and technical assistance needs to achieve the CWIP goals.
- The Milestones document includes the 2022/2023 Progress Report.

Fostering Innovation

- Continuing to foster innovations and support ongoing initiatives on Conowingo dam dredging, Acid Mine Drainage, freshwater mussel restoration, and manure treatment technologies as viable and creditable BMPs.

Financing

- **New York:** \$1,000,000 over two years allocated to the Upper Susquehanna Coalition for project implementation.
- **Pennsylvania:** \$22,000,000 allocated to PENNVEST for pay for performance projects. The first project solicitation issued in 2023 with projects awarded in the first quarter of 2024. A second solicitation will be issued in 2024.
- **Maryland:** \$25,000,000 allocated to SRBC for pay for success projects. The first solicitation for projects was issued in 2023 with a proposal opening date in January 2024. Projects will be awarded in the second quarter of 2024.

Pilot Project Development

CWIP [Implementation Framework](#) (link) establishes a two-tiered implementation process:

- Smaller-Scale targeting watersheds in the Most Effective Basins using traditional grant programs
- Broader Scale State-wide pay-for-success implementation efforts

Pay-For-Success programs include:

- Selecting projects located in most effective basins based on lowest cost reduction per pound of nitrogen
- Establishing Performance Metrics to measure quantity and quality of environmental outcomes
- Developing a verification process that defines who, how, and when performance is assessed
- Outcome-Based Payment Terms



Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program

Strengthening Partnerships

- MDE maintaining a Conowingo website: [Conowingo Dam Impacts \(maryland.gov\)](#) (link)
- Held a webinar to target PA Counties and provide CWIP implementation information: [CWIP PA DEP Webinar Wednesday](#) (link).
- Distributed information on current funding opportunities on the CWIP Steering Committee website.
- SRBC developed a story map for the [State of the Octoraro Creek Watershed](#) (link)
- PA awarded the Local Government Implementation (LGI) grant to Chester County Conservation District for \$1,190,000 to Octoraro CWIP implementation.