Conowingo WIP Field Trip October 2025

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Field Trip Overview

Objective: Highlight the Conowingo WIP multi-jurisdictional efforts to drive measurable results through innovative funding mechanisms and partnerships.

- Day consisted of tours of three active project sites, engagement with implementing partners, and observation of restoration efforts representing pre-, during-, and post-construction conditions in PA

- 25+ attendees representing jurisdictions, local government, RES, non-profit, federal government, private industry, and more!

Partnership with RES

- Funding through PENNVEST Clean Water Procurement Program (CWPP), supporting four separate wetland restoration projects in three counties of Pennsylvania

- Total nitrogen reductions for projects exceed 20,000 pounds per year in some cases, with cascading ecosystem benefits observed post-construction

- PA DEP works with PENNVEST to certify/verify the reductions from the projects applying for the CWPP using the Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Tracking Tool (CBNTT) as well as scoring and ranking the projects

Partnership with Rosetree Consulting

- Funding through Maryland's Pay-for-Success Program, led by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) - made possible by Maryland's decision to provide funding for implementation in Pennsylvania and New York's portions of the Susquehanna River Watershed as part of the Conowingo WIP

- Rosetree has been engaging with farms across seven counties in Pennsylvania, to encourage them to reduce use of commercial fertilizer in favor of biological products derived from microbes, plants or other living organisms

- Cost-efficient practices produce nitrogen reductions as low as $6 per pound

- Initial CAST results show the project exceeding its nutrient reduction target by reducing an additional 26,000 pounds

Site Tour #1: Sinking Springs Farm (York County, PA) - RES and Rosetree Consulting Projects

Private parcel owned by the Northeastern York County Sewer Authority and leased to a local farmer for land application of biosolids

RES Project

- Constructed in December 2024, this project connected a wetland to an additional 1.29 acres within the degraded stream corridor, connecting all restored phases and providing treatment for stormwater being conveyed across Interstate-83

Rosetree Consulting Project

- Nutrient management project showcasing a reduction in commercial nitrogen fertilizer rates where PivotBio's ProveN40 product is applied.

Site Tour #2: TNT Cattle Farm Pollutant Reduction - RES Project

- Located in Pine Run in Windsor and Chanceford Townships of York County
- This site features approximately 7.5 acres of wetland restoration using a floodplain restoration approach, reconnecting the stream to the floodplain for wetland generation and maximizing sediment reduction potential
- Constructed October 2025

Site #3: Green Hill Farm (Peach Bottom, PA) -RES Project

- Small privately-owned farm in Lancaster County, PA
- Features large-scale wetland and riparian grass buffer restoration on Conowingo Creek and its tributaries, which flow through active agriculture on the Green Hill Farm
- BMP Types: Stream restoration, cattle exclusion, riparian buffers
- Construction ongoing

Post-Field Trip Communications and Resources

Chesapeake Bay Program Blog Post

Written by Marisa Baldine, Outreach Specialist

"States Join Forces for Restoration in the Susquehanna Watershed"

LinkedIn Post

Matt Rowe, Co-Chair posted about this field trip, highlighting this partnership in action.

Check out the post here!

Additional Materials

(Posted on today's Calendar Page)

Rosetree CWIP Project- One pager

RES CWIP Project Sites Overview

Coming Soon!

Video from MDE Videographer

Thank you!

- Thank you to all partners who were able to join us on this day!
- We look forward to future opportunities to showcase Pay for Success/Performance projects in action!