



## Conowingo WIP Steering Committee Meeting

March 9, 2026

1:00-3:00 PM

[Visit the meeting webpage for meeting materials and additional information.](#)

**Purpose:** To inform the CWIP SC of recent events, provide updates relating to ongoing projects and Pay for Performance programs, and discuss new leadership.

### Meeting Minutes

#### I. Introductions & Announcements

Lead: Jill Whitcomb, PA DEP/ CWIP SC Co-Chair

Jill Whitcomb, PA DEP/ CWIP SC Co-Chair, provided introductory remarks, requested approval of the September 2025 actions and decisions, and made announcements on the following:

- Clean Water Procurement Program Opening
- Upcoming PSC Meeting April 7

#### Decisions:

1. The CWIP SC approved the September 8th, 2025, Actions and Decisions.

#### Actions:

1. Matt Rowe and Jill Whitcomb will provide the Principals' Staff Committee (PSC) with a presentation on recent CWIP efforts, milestone submissions, and changes in CWIP SC leadership at the April 7th PSC meeting. Those interested in attending can find related materials including the virtual meeting link [here](#).

#### II. Update on Milestone Submissions

Lead: Amanda Pollack, CWP

Amanda Pollack provided the group with an update on the 2026-2027 Milestone and 2024-2025 Progress Report submissions, due to EPA in February 2026.

#### Actions:

1. The 2026-2027 Milestone and 2024-2025 Progress Report submissions were sent to the EPA in February 2026. No additional edits were received via email from Steering Committee members prior to the requested deadline. Final submissions can be accessed on the [Steering Committee Webpage](#) and are currently being reviewed by the EPA.

### III. Conowingo Modeling Update

Lead: Christina Lyerly, MDE

Following the overview provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the last Conowingo WIP Steering Committee meeting, Christina Lyerly provided the group with an update on the Conowingo Reservoir Modeling Study and walked the group through the updated timeline.

#### Actions:

1. The Conowingo Reservoir Modeling Study is underway. An associated [timeline](#) through 2027 was presented to the group. If you have additional questions on the ongoing study, please contact Christina Lyerly ([christina.lyerly@maryland.gov](mailto:christina.lyerly@maryland.gov)).

### IV. EPIC Pay for Success Report Overview

Lead: Harry Huntley, EPIC

In the Fall of 2025, the Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) released a report evaluating Pay for Success Programs in the Chesapeake Bay titled “Chesapeake Pay for Success is a Success: How state water quality program design can drive cost-effectiveness”. Harry Huntley provided an overview of this report and next steps, and time was made for discussion with the Steering Committee.

#### Actions:

1. CWIP SC members with questions on the findings and recommendations from the report [Chesapeake Pay for Success is a Success: How state water quality program design can drive cost-effectiveness](#) should contact Harry Huntley ([hhuntley@policyinnovation.org](mailto:hhuntley@policyinnovation.org)).

### V. October 2025 Field Trip Follow-Up

Lead: Ashley Hullinger, PA DEP

In October 2025, a field trip was convened among CWIP stakeholders to highlight projects funded under various Pay for Performance programs and to showcase cross-jurisdiction collaboration towards achieving the Conowingo WIP. Ashley Hullinger provided an overview of this field trip, sharing information on site visits and follow-up materials.

### VI. Pay for Performance Program Updates

Lead: Tyler Shenk, SRBC; Robert Boos, PENNVEST

The CWIP SC heard an update from SRBC and PENNVEST on the various Pay for Performance/Success programs supporting efforts towards the Conowingo WIP.

#### Actions:

1. The CWIP SC will continue to be informed and updated on future/past rounds of the Maryland SRBC Pay for Performance and PENNVEST Clean Water Procurement Programs. The deadline to apply for Round 4 of the [Clean Water Procurement Program](#) is April 22, 2026.

### VII. INSR Coordinator Position Updates

Lead: Tyler Shenk, SRBC

Tyler Shenk, SRBC, informed the CWIP SC of the current status of the NFWF INSR proposal for a Susquehanna Coordinator and additional updates related to the work plan, funding parameters, and timeline since the last Steering Committee meeting.

**Actions:**

1. The CWIP SC will remain engaged in and informed of developments related to the INSR award received for a CWIP Coordinator position as the workplan, RFP, and hiring process take shape over the next 3-6 months.

**VIII. Conowingo Settlement Briefing**

Lead: Matt Rowe, MDE/ Co-Chair

Matt Rowe provided a brief overview of a recent [settlement](#) between Constellation Energy and the State of Maryland, providing additional funding for Bay Restoration efforts.

*Note: This item was moved to be later in the agenda due to an unforeseen schedule change.*

**Actions:**

1. Matt Rowe will follow up on the question posed by Bo Williams, EPA, regarding the timeline for the expected funding allocations from the recent settlement between Constellation Energy and MDE.

**Post Meeting Note:** MDE is awaiting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to incorporate the settlement into its license, which is expected to happen this year. It is anticipated that the settlement money will be released once FERC has made this approval.

**IX. Chesapeake Conservancy Outreach on the BMP Opportunity Analysis Tool**

Lead: Carly Dean, Chesapeake Conservancy

Carly Dean provided an overview of recent rapid de-listing outreach efforts related to the [Conowingo WIP BMP Opportunity Analysis Viewer](#).

**Actions:**

1. CWIP SC members and interested parties with questions on the Conowingo WIP BMP Opportunity Analysis Tool and the recent outreach done by the Chesapeake Conservancy on this tool should reach out to Carly Dean ([cdean@chesapeakeconservancy.org](mailto:cdean@chesapeakeconservancy.org)). Additional follow-up will take place on the future of the BMP Opportunity Analysis Tool as the contracted period for this tool concludes in June 2026.

**X. New Chairs for the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee**

Lead: Matt Rowe and Jill Whitcomb, Co-Chairs; Christina Lyerly, MDE; Ashley Hullinger, PA DEP

Matt Rowe and Jill Whitcomb introduced Christina Lyerly and Ashley Hullinger as nominees for new chairs for the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee. The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee voted on the approval of these nominees. The list of CWIP SC members is listed on the CWIP SC website and linked [here](#).

**Decisions:**

The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee approved Ashley Hullinger, PA DEP, and Christina Lyerly, MDE, as the new chairs for the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee.

**XI. Wrap-Up**

Lead: Caroline Kleis, CRC

**XII. Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** September 14, 2026 from 1:00PM-3:00PM

**Attendees:**

Jill Whitcomb, PA DEP

Matt Rowe, MDE

Caroline Kleis, CRC

Christina Lyerly, MDE

Robert Boos, PENNVEST

Amanda Pollack, CWP

Ashley Hullinger, PA DEP

Beth Uhler, CWP

Eric Buehl, UMD

Tyler Shenk, SRBC

Patrick Thompson, Energy Works

Marjorie Zeff, AECOM

Paige Buzard, CWP

Carly Dean, CC

Eugenia Hart, Tetra Tech

Maggie Woodward, CBC

Auston Smith, EPA

Bo Williams, EPA

Ellen Egen, Aqua Law

Ray Fenstermacher, Octoraro Watershed

Restoration Coordinator

Sushanth Gupta, MWCOG

Harry Huntley, EPIC

Elizabeth McKercher, VA DEQ

Holly Walker, DNREC

Andrew Dehoff, SRBC