

Conowingo WIP Programmatic and Numeric Two-Year Milestones – February 13, 2026 Progress Report

Progress on 2022-2023 Milestones:

Action Item	Target Date	Revised Date	2022-2023 Final Milestone (WIP page reference)*	Deliverable	Lead Agency	Comments/Status Updates (Original from 2022-2023 Milestones)	Progress Report dated January 15, 2026
Fostering Innovation							
11	Ongoing		Explore contingency plans and opportunities as needed. (p. 48)  Re-evaluate Tier II BMPs that are currently under expert review (p.26)	Annual report; re-running CAST scenarios as needed.	Act 1, CBPO	This includes current initiatives to close science gaps related to dredging behind the Conowingo dam, freshwater mussel restoration, and manure treatment technologies as viable and creditable BMPs.	<p>Partnership with SRBC and continued participation in the <a href="#">Chesapeake Bay Watershed Region Freshwater Mussel Partnership</a> (link). See the second <a href="#">FWM Partnership Newsletter</a> (link) issued in July 2025.</p> <p>Pennsylvania DEP submitted an Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) workshop proposal to the Chesapeake Bay Program Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). In 2025 the STAC published the Nutrient Reductions as Co-Benefit of Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) Treatment: Quantifying Nutrient Load Reductions for Restored Stream Segments in AMD-impacted Watersheds <a href="#">report</a> (link).</p> <p>Pennsylvania continues to work with EPA on manure treatment technology crediting opportunities, investigate thermochemical applicability, and increase reporting of existing MTTs.</p> <p>Maryland’s work with the US Army Corps to evaluate dredging as a BMP has continued. The Conowingo Reservoir Modeling Study is underway and will develop a water quality modeling system to simulate current and future dredging and different climate scenarios. The</p>

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							project is in the data acquisition and scenario development phase.
Numeric Milestones							
18	December 2025	See new 2026-2027 Milestones for revised outcome goals	Implement practices sufficient to reduce at least 25% of the nitrogen reductions identified in the CWIP, or 1.675-million pounds.		CWIP		<p>Practices are being implemented in NY, PA and MD as discussed herein. Additionally, the CWIP Steering Committee is tracking progress of projects across jurisdictions for projects that are in planning or design phases of implementation using this <a href="#">tracking spreadsheet</a> (link) and <a href="#">progress infographic</a> (link).</p> <p>Three rounds of the PA Clean Water Procurement Program administered by PENNVEST have been awarded as pay for performance contracts. In 2025, two implementation projects funded through the Clean Water Procurement were completed and provided an annual total nitrogen reduction of 1,156 pounds. There are four other projects in construction and once complete, will achieve annual total nitrogen reductions of 60,410 pounds. Two projects are currently in the design phase and will be implemented in 2026 to achieve annual total nitrogen reduction of 15,602 pounds.</p> <p>The fourth round of PENNVEST <a href="#">Clean Water Procurement Program</a> (link) funding was released and proposals are due in April 2026.</p> <p>One round of the MD Verified Nutrient Reductions program administered by</p>

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							<p>SRBC have been awarded as pay for success projects. Proposals for the second round of projects were received in 2025 and are under review. Several of the round 1 projects have been implemented and they will be reported in a future annual progress run.</p> <p>In NY, practices are being implemented through the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC). The practices include natural filters and sustainable farm practices.</p>

\* As part of the adaptive management process for achieving water quality goals, jurisdictions may submit programmatic milestones that modify, are in place of, or are in addition to milestones listed in their WIPs so long as the jurisdiction can demonstrate that they will be as effective toward meeting water quality goals.

Progress on 2024-2025 Milestones:

Action Item	Target Date	Revised Date	2024-2025 Milestone	Deliverable	Lead Agency	Comments	Progress Report dated January 15, 2026
Capacity Building - Technical							
8A	Annually on December 1 <sup>st</sup> starting in 2024	Ongoing	Annual Submission of BMP Progress and Verification Data	Reporting in NEIEN.	Jurisdictions	Each State will submit load reduction progress information for tracked, reported, and verified practices over the prior July 1 through June 30 period. Submit to EPA into the National Environmental Information Exchange Network (NEIEN). EPA will meet with jurisdictions to review the data across the Conowingo watershed.	There were no completed projects prior to the June 30, 2025 deadline for 2025 reporting, therefore no practices were entered in NEIEN. There will be projects from each state reported in 2026.
Outreach / Engagement							
15A	December 2024		Identification of specific target audiences for local, regional, and federal			Develop target audience interested parties contact information lists and develop	Complete. A current list of interested parties is saved on the shared CWIP

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			engagement in the CWIP and milestone implementation process where BMP implementation is expected to occur.			additional targeted outreach based on the projects identified through the pay for performance solicitations. Continue to build relationships with the CWIP Core Implementation team, which includes PA, MD, NY, NRCS, and SRBC. Continue to engage with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Octoraro Watershed Association, Octoraro Source Water Collaborative the Freshwater Mussels, Biodiversity and Clean Water workgroups, and the dredging expert panel group.	Teams folders. CWIP jurisdiction partners have continued to build upon the collaborations with SRBC, the Octoraro Source Water Collaborative and the Chester County Conservation District. The Octoraro Watershed Coordinator was hired in 2025 to increase local and regional engagement efforts, as discussed in the progress update in Milestone 20.
15B	December 2024		Description of the specific roles that local, regional, and federal partners will play in implementing programmatic and numeric commitments in each of the identified source sectors of the CWIP and two-year milestones between 2022-2025.		Act 1	Partner role descriptions will include tracking, verification, and reporting of programmatic and numeric commitments. The <a href="#">Implementation Framework</a> (link) will be adjusted and modified as necessary to reflect the private sector investment in the broader state-wide implementation efforts and the localized smaller-scale targeting with watershed groups and traditional grant programs.	Complete. See update in Milestone 20 regarding the two separate watershed coordinator positions to facilitate implementation of practices across the watershed.  The regional Susquehanna Watershed Coordinator will be responsible for tracking the broader state-wide implementation efforts.
16A	Annually on January 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ongoing	Annual progress report due to EPA.	Annual progress report	Act 1	Present draft progress report and receive feedback from Steering Committee prior to annual submission. Prepare a Progress Report informational handout and distribute on the Conowingo WIP website and to Steering Committee members to promote the CWIP achievements.	At the September 8, 2025 CWIP Steering Committee meeting, the draft progress report for the 2022-2023 and 2024-2025 Milestones was discussed. The annual progress report will be submitted by February 13, 2026.
17A	Biannually starting in Fall 2024	2026-2027 Milestone development in Fall 2025 and 2026-2027	Reconvene stakeholders to evaluate progress on previous milestones and make	Milestone report	Act 1	Provide updated milestones to reflect the phased implementation approach and progress to date.	At the September 8, 2025 CWIP Steering Committee meeting, the draft 2026-2027 Milestones were discussed. The Milestones were revised in January 2026

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		Milestones due to EPA February 13, 2026.	recommendations for the 2026-2027 milestones due January 15, 2025. (pg. 49)				based on the new EPA Expectations for Near-Term Milestones and were emailed to the Steering Committee for feedback in January 2027 and submitted by February 13, 2026.
Numeric Milestones							
18A	December 2025	See new 2026-2027 Milestones for revised outcome goals	Implement practices sufficient to reduce at least 25% of the phosphorus reductions identified in the CWIP		CWIP	Funding is in place to solicit projects through a pay-for-performance model to target the reduction of 25% of the phosphorus reductions identified in the CWIP.	See progress description under Milestone 18 in the 2022-2023 Milestones.
Programmatic Capacity							
19	December 2024		Develop plans for changes to existing programmatic capacity or development of new programmatic capacity to implement the necessary BMPs to achieve at least 25% of the CWIP nutrient target by 2025.		Jurisdictions	Include evaluation of which programs will be targeted (existing and new) and how to balance resource and technical assistance needs with the existing jurisdictions’ Phase III WIPs.	Complete. A subgroup of the CWIP Steering Committee meets monthly to review and discuss a detailed workplan to address the specific strategies and actions to achieve the milestones. The workplan is saved on the shared CWIP Teams folder. Capacity and technical assistance needs are being addressed by regional watershed coordinator positions as discussed in Milestone 15B.
20	December 2024	See new 2026-2027 Milestones for revised outcome goals	Identify the specific funding, financing, cost-share, technical assistance, voluntary, incentive, policy, programmatic, legislative, and regulatory actions needed to be taken to achieve at least 25%of the CWIP nutrient target by 2025.		Jurisdictions	Include increasing and/or sustaining financial cost share, technical assistance, regulatory oversight, and other incentives to deliver the necessary agricultural conservation practices as defined in the CWIP. Consider utilizing a Technical Assistance Circuit Rider to provide support across jurisdictions.	The Octoraro Watershed Coordinator was hired in April 2025 and is employed by the Chester County Conservation District. The key responsibilities of the role include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Connecting communities with funding opportunities and reducing technical and administrative barriers to project implementation.</li></ul>

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							<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identifying and prioritizing project locations in collaboration with local jurisdictions and partners.</li><li>Hosting listening sessions with stakeholders to understand community needs and implementation challenges.</li><li>Supporting grant writing and assisting applicants in securing funding for capacity building, technical support, and water quality improvement projects.</li><li>Conducting educational workshops on funding opportunities and project development.</li></ul> <p>In November 2024, a NFWF INSR application was submitted by SRBC to house the Susquehanna Watershed Coordinator. The application was seeking three years of funding to support the Technical Assistance position to provide support across jurisdictions. The programs will be sustained through additional grant applications. The funding award was announced on February 11, 2026.</p>

- Lead Agency Key:
- Act 1 is Activity 1: Facilitate Development and Implementation of the CWIP and Associated Two-Year Milestones: Center for Watershed Protection (lead grantee), Chesapeake Conservancy; University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension; Harry R. Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology.
  - Act 2 is Activity 2: Develop and Propose a Comprehensive CWIP Financing Strategy and Associated Implementation Plan: Chesapeake Bay Trust (lead grantee), Center for Global Sustainability/School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland; Throwe Environmental, LLC; others.
  - Act 3 is Activity 3: Tracking, Verifying, and Reporting Implementation of CWIP and Two-year Milestones: Chesapeake Conservancy (lead grantee), The Commons, Center for Watershed Protection.