

Conowingo WIP Capacity and Coordination Update

Christina Lyerly, MDE, Steering Committee Co-chair

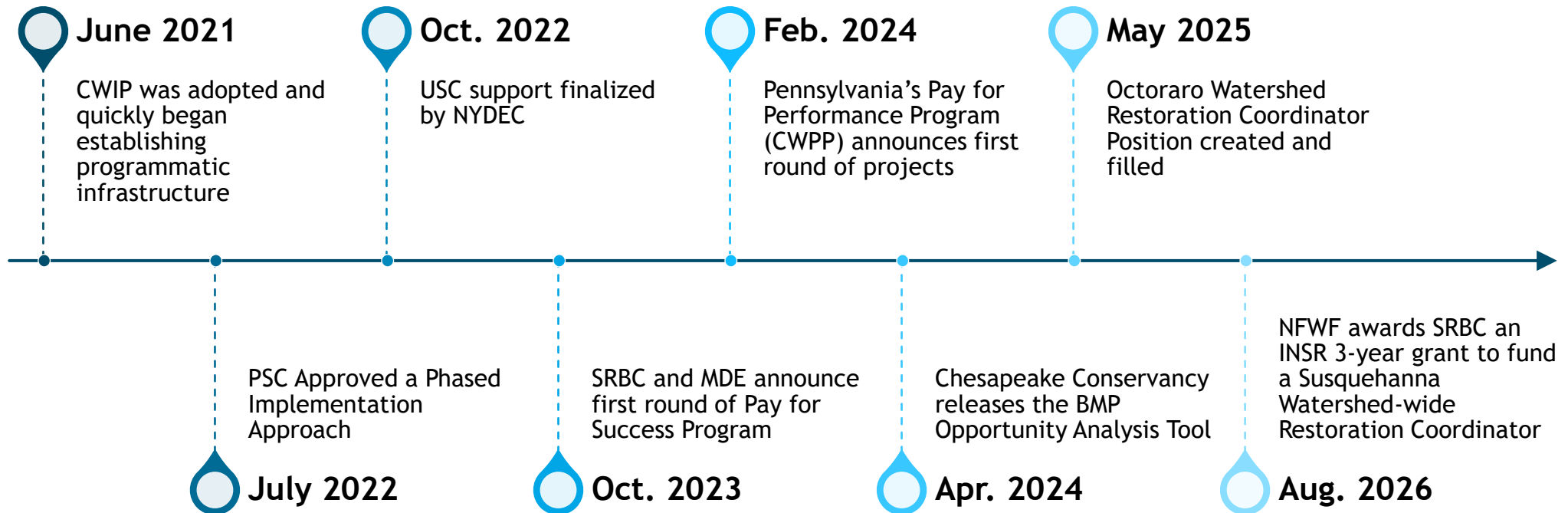
Ashley Hullinger, PA DEP, Steering Committee Co-Chair

CWIP has built implementation capacity through shared jurisdictional leadership, existing programs, and strategic partnerships

CWIP Capacity and Approach

- ▶ **Jurisdictional Leadership:** NY DEC, PA DEP, and MDE have dedicated staff time to overseeing the coordination of CWIP activities
- ▶ **Two-Pronged Implementation Approach:**
 - ▶ **Scale up implementation:** Statewide Pay-for-Performance programs in Pennsylvania and Maryland
 - ▶ **Target restoration:** Federal, state, and local partnerships in priority watersheds, including the Upper Susquehanna and Octoraro
- ▶ **Innovation and Emerging Opportunities**
 - ▶ Evaluate additional nutrient-reduction opportunities beyond traditional BMP implementation
 - ▶ Dredging studies
 - ▶ Freshwater mussel research
 - ▶ Acid mine drainage restoration efforts

Timeline of Programmatic Achievements



Transition and Outlook

EPA contractual support helped establish and coordinate the CWIP framework

- ▶ Supported interstate coordination, Steering Committee activities, strategic planning, and implementation support
- ▶ Center for Watershed Protection contract concluded in June
- ▶ Remaining staff support concludes September 2026

CWIP implementation continues through established jurisdictional and partner capacity

- ▶ NYDEC, PA DEP, and MDE continue to provide staff leadership
- ▶ Programs, funding mechanisms, reporting systems, and implementation partnerships established through CWIP remain in place
- ▶ Jurisdictions are assessing remaining coordination needs and opportunities to redistribute responsibilities

Looking Ahead

- ▶ New SRBC coordinator will add implementation capacity over the next three years
- ▶ Strategic planning will help identify priorities, remaining capacity gaps, and opportunities to strengthen implementation
- ▶ Steering Committee discussions will help inform the longer-term direction of CWIP

Increasing CWIP Implementation Capacity

Susquehanna Watershed Restoration Coordinator

- ▶ **New three-year capacity supported through NFWF's INSR Program**
 - ▶ ~\$488,000 awarded to SRBC; agreement signed August 31, 2026
 - ▶ Proposal developed on behalf of CWIP to strengthen watershed-wide implementation capacity
 - ▶ SRBC will competitively procure and manage the Coordinator
- ▶ **Coordinator Role**
 - ▶ Coordinate CWIP implementation across the Susquehanna watershed
 - ▶ Support jurisdictions, partners, and targeted watershed efforts
 - ▶ Help connect partners with implementation opportunities and resources
 - ▶ Serve as a public-facing point of contact for CWIP implementation