



## Conowingo WIP Steering Committee Meeting

September 14, 2026  
1:00-3:00PM

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

**Purpose:** This was the bi-annual meeting of the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee. Agenda items included relevant announcements, a status update on CWIP support and contracting, an overview of the EPA Milestones evaluation and upcoming PSC discussion, updates from the Freshwater Mussel Partnership and Pay for Success Program leads, and a brief update on the Conowingo Modeling study currently underway.

### Summary of Actions & Decisions

**Decision:** The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee approved the March 2026 meeting minutes.

**Action:** Please review the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee [distribution list](#) (containing members and interested parties) and reach out to Ashley Hullinger ([ahullinger@pa.gov](mailto:ahullinger@pa.gov)) and Christina Lyerly ([christina.lyerly@maryland.gov](mailto:christina.lyerly@maryland.gov)) with any edits to this list.

**Action:** Caroline Kleis, current Conowingo WIP Steering Committee staffer, will be transitioning away from this role and the group will not have a staffer after September 30th. Please direct all CWIP related needs to Ashley Hullinger and Christina Lyerly, Co-Chairs, moving forward.

**Action:** Ashley Hullinger and Christina Lyerly, Co-Chairs, will be reaching out to schedule one on one meetings over the next 6 months with Conowingo WIP Steering Committee members, as part of ongoing strategic planning efforts.

**Action:** At the September 21<sup>st</sup> PSC meeting, the EPA will recommend that the CWIP continue through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027 and be reevaluated in 2028. Discussion on this recommendation and the future of the CWIP will continue at the September 21<sup>st</sup> PSC meeting. Conowingo WIP Steering Committee members interested in joining in on this discussion are encouraged to attend the upcoming PSC meeting.

**Post Meeting Note:** This meeting has concluded. You can view associated materials on the [September 21<sup>st</sup> PSC meeting page](#).

**Action:** The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee will continue to be updated on various rounds of Pay for Success Programs and any reporting that supports efforts towards the Conowingo WIP. The associated reductions infographic and spreadsheet will be updated accordingly.

**Action:** The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee will continue to engage with the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Region Freshwater Mussel Partnership and the Thriving Habitat, Fisheries & Wildlife Goal Team, as work progresses on the Freshwater Mussel Target. CWIP SC members are encouraged to participate in upcoming meetings with this group as it is of interest to them.

# Meeting Minutes

## I. Introductions & Announcements

Lead: Ashley Hullinger, Co-Chair

Ashley Hullinger, Co-Chair, opened the meeting and provided introductory remarks and announcements. Announcements included:

- Approval of [Actions & Decisions from the March 2026 meeting](#)
  - There were no requested edits to the actions and decisions from the March 2026 meeting.
- INSR Coordinator Position update
  - Ashley informed the group that SRBC received an executed contract from NFWF for an INSR Coordinator Position for the Susquehanna Watershed. The recruitment process for this three year grant funded position is about to begin, with some involvement from the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee leadership. This position will be focused on increasing technical support for implementation of BMP projects.
- Requested additions to the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee distribution list
  - Ashley requested that the group review the [distribution list](#) and reach out to CWIP SC leadership with any edits or requests for additional emails to be added or removed. Those on the distribution list will receive calendar invites, newsletters, and CWIP SC related communications.

### Decisions:

1. The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee approved the March 2026 meeting minutes.

### Actions:

1. Please review the Conowingo WIP Steering Committee [distribution list](#) (containing members and interested parties) and reach out to Ashley Hullinger ([ahullinger@pa.gov](mailto:ahullinger@pa.gov)) and Christina Lyerly ([christina.lyerly@maryland.gov](mailto:christina.lyerly@maryland.gov)) with any edits to this list.

## II. Status of CWIP Support and Contracting

Lead: Bo Williams, EPA and Ashley Hullinger PA DEP

Bo Williams, EPA, provided the group with an update on various aspects of CWIP staffing and support. Ashley Hullinger, Co-Chair, then provided a status update on CWIP coordination and long-term initiatives of the CWIP SC leadership/planning team.

### Actions:

1. Caroline Kleis, current Conowingo WIP Steering Committee staffer, will be transitioning away from this role and the group will not have a staffer after September 30th. Please direct all CWIP related needs to Ashley Hullinger and Christina Lyerly, Co-Chairs, moving forward.
2. Ashley Hullinger and Christina Lyerly, Co-Chairs, will be reaching out to schedule one on one meetings over the next 6 months with Conowingo WIP Steering Committee members, as part of ongoing strategic planning efforts.

## III. Milestones Evaluation and Upcoming PSC Discussion

Lead: Christina Lyerly, Co-Chair and Bo Williams, EPA

Christina Lyerly, Co-Chair, summarized the EPA Milestone Evaluation for the most recent round of Milestones and noted the 2028 decision point on the future of the CWIP. Bo Williams, EPA, followed this summary with additional information and context regarding the upcoming CWIP-related PSC discussion on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

**Actions:**

1. At the September 21<sup>st</sup> PSC meeting, the EPA will recommend that the CWIP continue through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2027 and be reevaluated in 2028. Discussion on this recommendation and the future of the CWIP will continue at the September 21<sup>st</sup> PSC meeting. Conowingo WIP Steering Committee members interested in joining in on this discussion are encouraged to attend the upcoming PSC meeting.
  - a. Post Meeting Note: This meeting has concluded. You can view associated materials on the [September 21<sup>st</sup> PSC meeting page](#).

**IV. Pay for Success Program Updates**

Lead: Andy Gavin, SRBC, and Ashley Hullinger, Co-Chair

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

**Actions:**

1. The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee will continue to be updated on various rounds of Pay for Success Programs and any reporting that supports efforts towards the Conowingo WIP. The associated reductions infographic and spreadsheet will be updated accordingly.

**V. Brief Conowingo Modeling Update**

Lead: Christina Lyerly, MDE

Christina Lyerly, Co-Chair, provided the group with an update on the Conowingo Reservoir Modeling Study and discussed next steps on this study.

**VI. Freshwater Mussel Updates**

Lead: Becky Gwynn, VA Dept. Of Wildlife Resources/ Thriving Habitat, Fisheries & Wildlife Goal Team Co-Chair

Becky Gwynn, DWR/THFW Co-Chair, provided an update on ongoing coordination efforts among the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Region Freshwater Mussel Partnership and the Thriving Habitat, Fisheries, & Wildlife Goal Team.

**Actions:**

1. The Conowingo WIP Steering Committee will continue to engage with the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Region Freshwater Mussel Partnership and the Thriving Habitat, Fisheries & Wildlife Goal Team, as work progresses on the Freshwater Mussel Target. CWIP SC members are encouraged to participate in upcoming meetings with this group as it is of interest to them.

**VII. Wrap-Up**

Lead: Caroline Kleis, CRC

**VIII. Adjourn**

**Next Meeting:** March 1, 2027, from 1:00-3:00 PM

**Attendees:**

Ashley Hullinger, PA DEP  
Christina Lyerly, MDE  
Caroline Kleis, CRC  
Andy Gavin, SRBC  
Holly Walker, DNREC  
Benjamin Wojcicki, VA DEQ  
Andrew Dehoff, SRBC  
Ray Fenstermacher, Octoraro Watershed  
Restoration Coordinator  
Maggie Woodward, CBC  
Suzanne Trevena, EPA  
Sushanth Gupta, MWCOG

Cassie Davis, NYSDEC  
Bo Williams, EPA  
Eugenia Hart, Tetra Tech  
Auston Smith, EPA  
Eric Hughes, EPA  
Marjorie Zeff, AECOM  
Chuck Hegberg, RES  
Marel King, CBC  
Claire Cambardella, UMD Sea Grant Extension  
Becky Gwynn, VA DWR  
Adam Willis, The Banner