

CONOWINGO WIP: CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAMMATIC TWO-YEAR MILESTONES COMMITMENTS

JANUARY 1, 2026-DECEMBER 31, 2027

Narrative Summary:

The Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP) identifies the need to reduce nitrogen delivered to the Chesapeake Bay by 6.7-million pounds per year. The CWIP implementation is a collaborative, multi-jurisdictional, innovative, and phased approach. The CWIP Steering Committee has developed consensus-based milestones that focus on building implementation capacity, expanding partnerships, and fostering innovations intended to complement jurisdictional WIPs and accelerate Chesapeake Bay restoration overall.

SECTOR/CATEGORY/OBJECTIVE

Narrative Summary:

The CWIP jurisdictions of Pennsylvania, Maryland and New York are in the implementation phase and are actively designing and constructing practices to achieve the CWIP nutrient reduction goals. Objectives include implementing and verifying BMPs, building technical capacity, and pursuing innovative best management practices.

CORE SECTOR ACTIVITIES

Milestone Number	Lead Agency	Actions & Deliverables	Target Date	Outcomes (e.g., lbs of pollutants reduced, # of people engaged)	Funding Source
1	PA DEP and PENNVEST	Implement best management practices solicited through the PA Clean Water Procurement Program administered by PENNVEST.	December 2027	Reduction of 77,200 pounds of total nitrogen annually and 13,500 pounds of total phosphorus annually per the estimates based on contracts awarded as represented in the 2025 Conowingo Reductions Summary (link).	PA DEP
2	MDE and SRBC	Implement best management practices solicited through the MD Verified Nutrient Reductions program administered by SRBC.	December 2027	Reduction of 165,600 pounds of total nitrogen annually per the estimate based on the contract awarded as represented in the 2025 Conowingo Reductions Summary (link).	MDE
3	NY DEC and USC	Implement best management practices through projects administered by USC.	December 2027	Reduction of 2,500 pounds of total nitrogen annually and 220 pounds of total phosphorus annually per the estimate based on contract awarded as represented in the 2025 Conowingo Reductions Summary (link).	NY DEC

SECTOR INITIATIVES (I.E., INNOVATIVE ACTIONS)

Milestone Number	Lead Agency	Actions & Deliverables	Target Date	Outcomes (e.g., lbs of pollutants reduced, # of people engaged)	Funding Source
4	SRBC	Employ and facilitate the role of the Susquehanna Watershed Coordinator to build capacity and provide technical assistance for project implementation across the watershed including directly to producers.	December 2027	Engage with 30 partners including Conservation Districts and landowners to facilitate implementation of 10 projects. Coordinate dialog with Pay for Performance programs across the Chesapeake Bay watershed to look for collaboration and learning opportunities.	NFWF INSR
5	Chester County Conservation District	Employ and facilitate the role of the Octoraro Watershed Coordinator position to assist with prioritizing projects, connecting community with funding opportunities, and providing technical assistance.	December 2027	Engage with 30 partners and landowners to facilitate implementation of 8 projects within small agricultural watersheds of the Octoraro Watershed. Coordination of the Knight Run Advanced Restoration Plan (ARP). Documentation and outreach about data monitoring efforts and local water quality improvement.	PA Local Government Impact (LGI) funds
6	MDE and US Army Corps	Build upon the Conowingo Sediment Characterization and Innovative and Beneficial Reuse Pilot and evaluate whether dredging behind the Conowingo Dam is a viable and creditable BMP.	December 2027	Complete the Conowingo Reservoir Modeling Study which will develop a water quality modeling system to simulate current and future dredging and different climate scenarios and simulate future hydraulic climate scenarios.	MDE and U.S. ACE

Milestone Number	Lead Agency	Actions & Deliverables	Target Date	Outcomes (e.g., lbs of pollutants reduced, # of people engaged)	Funding Source
7	SRBC	Evaluate freshwater mussel restoration as a viable and creditable BMP.	December 2027	Partnership with SRBC and continued participation in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Region Freshwater Mussel Partnership, as well as the Chesapeake Bay Program in support of revised Watershed Agreement freshwater mussel target. Engage with 10 regional partners (state/federal agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, facilities) for freshwater mussel monitoring, propagation, restoration, and applied research activities. Completion and sharing of summary products (literature review and technical recommendations) in follow up to 2020 STAC report (link). Documentation of at least 3 active freshwater mussel restoration or applied research efforts, including projects using propagated mussels and facilities expanding propagation capacity, to inform prioritization and readiness for future restoration implementation and tracking.	SRBC EPA/PA DEP (funds pending)
8	PA DEP	Evaluate manure treatment technologies as a viable and creditable BMP.	December 2027	Partnership with EPA on manure treatment technology crediting opportunities, investigate thermochemical applicability, and increase reporting of existing MTTs. Coordination with PA DEP agencies.	PA DEP
9	PA DEP and STAC	Evaluate Acid Mine Drainage as a viable and creditable BMP.	December 2027	Pursue recommendation of the 2025 Chesapeake Bay Program Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) report (link). Coordination with PA DEP agencies. Increase data sharing and quantify reductions of ongoing AMD treatment within PA.	PA DEP

Milestone Number	Lead Agency	Actions & Deliverables	Target Date	Outcomes (e.g., lbs of pollutants reduced, # of people engaged)	Funding Source
10	SRBC	Coordinate Plain Sect Outreach position that interfaces directly with Plain Sect community producers	December 2027	Host workshops for Manure Management, Well Water Testing and BMPs to engage with at least 20 Plain Sect community producers. Work with at least 5 farms as technical service providers to assist with Manure Management Plans and Erosion & Sediment Controls Plans.	SRBC Consumptive Use Funds