

Conowingo WIP Restore Clean Water Action Items

January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023 Conowingo WIP Programmatic and Numeric Two-Year Milestones

The Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan identifies the need to reduce nitrogen delivered to the Chesapeake Bay by 6.7-million pounds per year by 2025. This document outlines the initial two-year milestones established to achieve that goal. It is understood that the financing components are currently under development, and these milestones reflect the ongoing work to establish those processes and other tools to assist with implementation of practices beyond this two-year period.

Action Item	Target Date	Milestone (WIP page reference)*	Deliverable	Lead Agency	Comments/Status Updates
Capacity Building					
- Finance					
1	December 2021	Draft plan for the CWIP financing authority submitted to SC. (p.32)	Draft plan	Act 2	Draft plan for SC review and feedback. This plan will be an extension of the financing system business plan and will focus on institutional structure.
2	Spring 2022	Complete financing system implementation, enable course adjustments and establish the permanent Conowingo financing system (p.30)		Act 2	
3	Mid 2022	Begin to deliver implementation funding		Act 2	The Activity 1, 2, and 3 teams are working to identify and outline the processes by which funding will be delivered and incorporate that information into future milestones.
4	July 2022 – July 2023	Launch implementation of financing authority and restoration investments. (p.32)		Act 2	Once the authority leadership, staffing, and institutional structures are in place, financing activities will begin.

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- Technical					
5	December 2021	Updated QAPP detailing how BMP data will be collected and submitted annually to the CBP officer, assurance that the data is valued, and how the data will be interpreted for further use. (p.47)	Updated QAPP	Act 3	The inclusion of a Verification Program Plan will extend beyond this date and require another revision to the QAPP in the next cycle. Conversations about this need to involve representatives from EPA/CBPO and each involved jurisdiction.
6	Winter 2021/Spring 2022	Roll out of the BMP Opportunity Analysis with support to local stakeholders on the data tools produced to support planning of projects to implement the CWIP. (p.21)	Web-map with report generator. Written and recorded tutorial.	Act 3	Virtual meetings have been held with implementing jurisdictions, including a brief presentation to the PA CAP Coordinators to introduce the tool and obtain feedback.
7	March 2022	Updated draft of Audit Framework to SC for review and comment. The Audit Framework is the development guide for tracking and validating data through FieldDoc. It will be used to ensure that projects being tracked towards the Conowingo WIP are being implemented as reported and do not overlap with other BMPs being tracked for jurisdictions' WIPs. This framework will help CBP staff and CWIP steering committee members understand how an automated and semi-automated series of audit steps can increase accountability and lower verification costs, as they will		Act 3	SC Review and Comment

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		be compatible with existing CBP validation requirements. It will also align with BMP Verification programs through state offices/EPA. (p.47)			
8	Early 2022	Establish CWIP tracking and monitoring process; ensure coordination with jurisdictions' WIP 3 tracking processes. (p.47)	CWIP Project tracking module in FieldDoc; reporting alignment with NEIEN in place.	Act 3	Requires support from jurisdictional and CBP technical teams involved with NEIEN.
9	Summer/Fall 2022	Implementation of new features/services necessary for Audit Framework in FieldDoc.		Act 3	
Fostering Innovation					
10	Ongoing	Explore financial innovations, including pay-for-performance options and private-public partnerships. (p.45)		Act 2	
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.
Identifying and Building Partnerships					
12	Ongoing	Forming, tracking, and developing cooperative or informal agreements with partners in the Susquehanna River watershed to further CWIP goals and implementation. (p.13)		SC, Act 1,2,3	<i>Includes mussel collaboration.</i>

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Pilot Project Development and Implementation					
13	Fall 2022	Identify and scope/ one or more implementation pilot projects to achieve numeric CWIP goals.		Act 1, 2, 3	This includes refined implementation targeting in cooperation with the SC and the BMP Opportunity Analysis tool to narrow targeting within the most-effective basins, as identified in the CWIP, to identify locations where a pilot project may be implemented and necessary funding/resources pursued.
Securing CWIP Funding					
14	Ongoing	Identify and secure one or more funding sources for CWIP implementation over the 2-year milestone period, as well as continuing current partnership CBRAP support of CWIP.		Act 2	<i>SC WQGIT application option IJA and CWIP</i>
Outreach/Engagement					
15	Spring 2022	Providing support to stakeholders to support implementation and the tracking verification and reporting. (p. 22)	Up to 12 training sessions. Written and recorded tutorial.	Act 1, 3	These training sessions will be scheduled to occur virtually and, when possible, in person across the Susquehanna River watershed. Invitees may include, but are not limited to, CAP coordinators in PA, Agency staff from the three implementing jurisdictions, and members of the Financing Authority (or proxy).
16	Fall 2022	Annual progress report, due to EPA on January 15, 2023. (p. 48)	Annual progress report	Act 1, 3	

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17	Summer/Fall 2023	Reconvene stakeholders to evaluate progress and make recommendations on the next set of two-year milestones due January 15, 2024. (p. 22)	Up to 12 stakeholder meetings	Act 1, 3	Specific engagement strategies guided by SC members from each jurisdiction involved with implementation.
Numeric Milestones					
18	December 2023	Implement practices sufficient to reduce at least 25% of the nitrogen reductions identified in the CWIP, or 1.675-million pounds.		CWIP	

* 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.