

January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025 Conowingo WIP Programmatic and Numeric Two-Year Milestones

The Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP) identifies the need to reduce nitrogen delivered to the Chesapeake Bay by 6.7-million pounds per year by 2025. The final CWIP was approved by the Principals Staff Committee in September 2021 and this document outlines the initial two-year milestones established to implement that plan. Understanding that CWIP development and implementation is a collaborative, innovative and phased approach with the financing on a separate track and still in a pilot phase, the CWIP Steering Committee has developed consensus-based milestones that focus on building implementation capacity, continuing to expand partnerships, and fostering innovations intended to complement jurisdictional WIPs and accelerate Chesapeake Bay restoration overall. A numeric milestone is also included that sets an ambitious trajectory towards achieving the 6.7-million pounds of nitrogen reduction while recognizing that current implementation efforts are focused on programmatic actions that build the implementation capacity to increase numeric implementation commitments in future 2-year milestones. The CWIP Steering Committee agrees that this approach is consistent with EPA and the Chesapeake Bay Partnership’s Adaptive Management and Accountability frameworks that underpin all jurisdictional WIPs.

Action Item	Target Date	Revised Date (placeholder)	2024-2025 Milestone	Deliverable	Lead Agency	Comments	Progress Report (placeholder)
Capacity Building - Technical							
8A	Annually on December 1 st starting in 2024		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.	
Outreach / Engagement							
15A	December 2024		Identification of specific target audiences for local, regional, and federal engagement in the CWIP and milestone implementation process where BMP implementation is expected to occur.			Develop target audience interested parties contact information lists and develop 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.	
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 Implementation Framework (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	

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						targeting with watershed groups and traditional grant programs.	
16A	Annually on January 15 th		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.	
17A	Fall 2024		Reconvene stakeholders to evaluate progress on previous milestones and make recommendations for the 2026-2027 milestones due January 15, 2025. (pg. 49)	Milestone report	Act 1	Provide updated milestones to reflect the phased implementation approach and progress to date.	
Numeric Milestones							
18A	December 2025		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.	
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 percent 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.	
20	December 2024		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 percent 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.	

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.