

Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP) Two-Year Milestones Progress Summary – January 2023

The Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP) will reduce nitrogen delivered to the Chesapeake Bay by 6.7-million pounds per year. The CWIP was approved by the Principals Staff Committee in September 2021. The CWIP Steering Committee developed 2022/2023 milestones for CWIP implementation in January 2022. The full Progress Report highlighting 2022 activities is located here:

[Conowingo WIP Steering Committee \(chesapeakebay.net\)](https://chesapeakebay.net)

Financing

- Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) is the financing authority
- Maryland approved \$25M for SRBC to administer a Pay-for-Success program
- Pennsylvania allocated funding for the Clean Water Procurement program through PENNVEST
- New York provided \$500,000 to the Upper Susquehanna Coalition

Pay-For-Success program will include:

- Selecting projects located in most effective basins based on lowest cost reduction per pound of nitrogen
- Establishing Performance Metrics to measure quantity and quality of environmental outcomes
- Developing a verification process that defines who, how, and when performance is assessed
- Outcome-Based Payment Terms

Fostering Innovation

- Ongoing initiatives on Conowingo dam dredging, freshwater mussel restoration, and manure treatment technologies as viable and creditable BMPs
- NFWF hosted a Freshwater Mussel Workshop
- Forming two committees – one focused on protecting/restoring mussel biodiversity and one exploring science needs around mussels as a pollution filter.
- Convening experts to oversee the modeling and science needs for evaluating Conowingo dredging and climate vulnerability
- Maryland completed the Conowingo sediment characterization and reuse pilot and has allocated \$3.3-million for additional planning/design for a larger dredging project



Will Parson, Chesapeake Bay Program

Pilot Project Development

CWIP [Implementation Framework](#) (see link)

establishes a two-tiered implementation process:

- Smaller-Scale targeting watersheds in the Most Effective Basins using traditional grant programs
- Broader Scale State-wide pay-for-success implementation efforts

Developing Partnerships & Outreach

- MDE launched new CWIP website: [Conowingo Dam Impacts \(maryland.gov\)](#)
- Implementation strategy meetings with the Octoraro Watershed Association, Octoraro Source Water Collaborative and other interested parties
- SRBC assisting PA and other partnering states by furthering opportunities for innovative solutions through the Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership like Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) and freshwater mussels for water quality

Technical

- Identifying focus areas for resource improvements using current land use and land cover data