

Position Title: Octoraro Watershed Restoration Coordinator

Position Description:

This position will provide technical and administrative assistance to stakeholders (e.g., county conservation districts, NGOs, local governments) in the Octoraro watershed to accelerate Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) progress. The Conowingo WIP is a partnership among the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York that takes a two-tiered approach to implementation:

- The first tier consists of state-wide pay-for-success programs in MD and PA to implement the most cost-effective restoration projects in the Susquehanna Basin .
- The second tier uses a more traditional technical assistance and grant application approach in targeted interjurisdictional watersheds (e.g., Octoraro Creek, Deer Creek, NY/PA upper Susquehanna River watershed).

The Octoraro Watershed Restoration Coordinator will work closely with stakeholders in the Octoraro watershed to connect them to additional resources and eliminate technical and administrative barriers to implementation. To learn more about the Octoraro Watershed, visit the [State of the Octoraro Creek Watershed](#) story map.

This position will build capacity in the Conowingo WIP targeted watersheds tier in partnership with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, PA, MD, and NY by canvassing key stakeholder groups, with a particular focus on communities with environmental justice concerns, in cross-jurisdictional subwatersheds to identify priority capacity and technical assistance needs. This position will use Environmental Protection Agency's most-effective basins and disadvantaged communities tools (see Octoraro [story map](#)) and [mapping applications](#) to screen candidate communities/geographies, work with the jurisdictions and local partners to ground-truth and refine, and conduct listening sessions with priority stakeholders to assess capacity and technical assistance needs and barriers to implementation.

Essential Job Functions

- Partner with local watershed groups to help identify communities that are experiencing heightened environmental impacts related to water quality impairments, flooding, and other environmental hazards. This position would:
 - Attend and contribute to collaboratives and work groups, e.g., Octoraro Source Water Collaborative.
 - Identify and define technical and administrative challenges and work with stakeholders to recommend solutions.
- Identify funding opportunities appropriate for the needs of the communities and develop grant applications to submit to eligible funding
- Identify and engage with communities that are historically underserved and have environmental justice concerns.
- Engage with underrepresented groups and watershed stakeholders to expand partnerships and input on needs and challenges.

- Conduct outreach to local leaders, soil and water conservation districts, and others who have existing connections to communities to begin building relationships.
- Conduct listening sessions with local communities to help identify what their greatest capacity and technical assistance needs are.
- Conduct educational workshops to provide information on grant opportunities and provide grant writing assistance to those interested in pursuing funding for capacity building, additional technical assistance, and water quality project implementation.
 - [Plain sect farmer education](#): while it can be a slow process, working with PSU and pesticide credit meetings is a good way to engage with plain sect farmers that would benefit from continued support, along with the OSWC Ag Liaison program, keeping in mind that any single farmer may be interested but not willing to commit in front of peers.
- Summarize findings of outreach efforts and report back to CWIP leadership team on a regular basis.
- Track progress and resources (staff, funding, informational, coordination, etc.).

Preferred Qualifications

A qualified candidate should have advanced experience building coalitions and tracking resources, including:

- Comfortable when speaking with diverse stakeholders, including farmers
- Knowledgeable of farm conservation to encourage farmers to engage in the process with other organizations.
- Skilled in organizational strategy and stakeholder management to connect the dots with NGOs, while also having a good understanding of the current work across the watershed (agricultural and otherwise).

Resources

[State of the Octoraro Creek Watershed](#)

[Octoraro Source Water Collaborative Strategic Plan](#)

[Conowingo WIP Steering Committee \(chesapeakebay.net\)](#)

[Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan \(revised November 2023\)](#)

[January 2024 Progress Summary](#)

[CWIP 2024-2025 Milestones](#)

[Conowingo Dam Impacts \(maryland.gov\)](#)

[Maryland's Conowingo Pay for Success Program](#)

[PSC Conowingo WIP Update](#)