

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 that will 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 and PA respectively.
- 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 [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 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.
- Identify funding opportunities appropriate for the needs of the communities.
- 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.
- Summarize findings of outreach efforts and report back to CWIP leadership team on a regular basis.

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