

Improving the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia Rivers: Our Progress and Path Forward

*VIRGINIA'S DRAFT PHASE III WATERSHED
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN*



Virginia Major Basin Planning Targets

Geography	Planning Target	
Major Basin	Nitrogen	Phosphorus
Eastern Shore	1.43	0.164
Potomac	16.00	1.892
Rappahannock	6.85	0.849
York	5.52	0.556
James (Does not include ChIA)	25.92	2.731
VA	55.73	6.192

VIRGINIA'S GOALS FOR THE PHASE III WATERSHED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- ✓ Restore the Chesapeake Bay.
- ✓ Achieve state basin planning targets for the Potomac, Rappahannock, York, and James Rivers and the Eastern Shore.
- ✓ Achieve our goals no later than December 31, 2025.
- ✓ Tackle additional pollution expected from growth.
- ✓ Tackle the impacts of climate change.
- ✓ Continue to engage partners, including local governments, planning district/regional commissions, and soil and water conservation districts.
- ✓ Develop a plan that is practical and cost effective.
- ✓ Maximize the potential for co-benefits.
- ✓ Meet the Environmental Protection Agency's expectations.

Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources

Chesapeake Bay Stakeholders Advisory Group

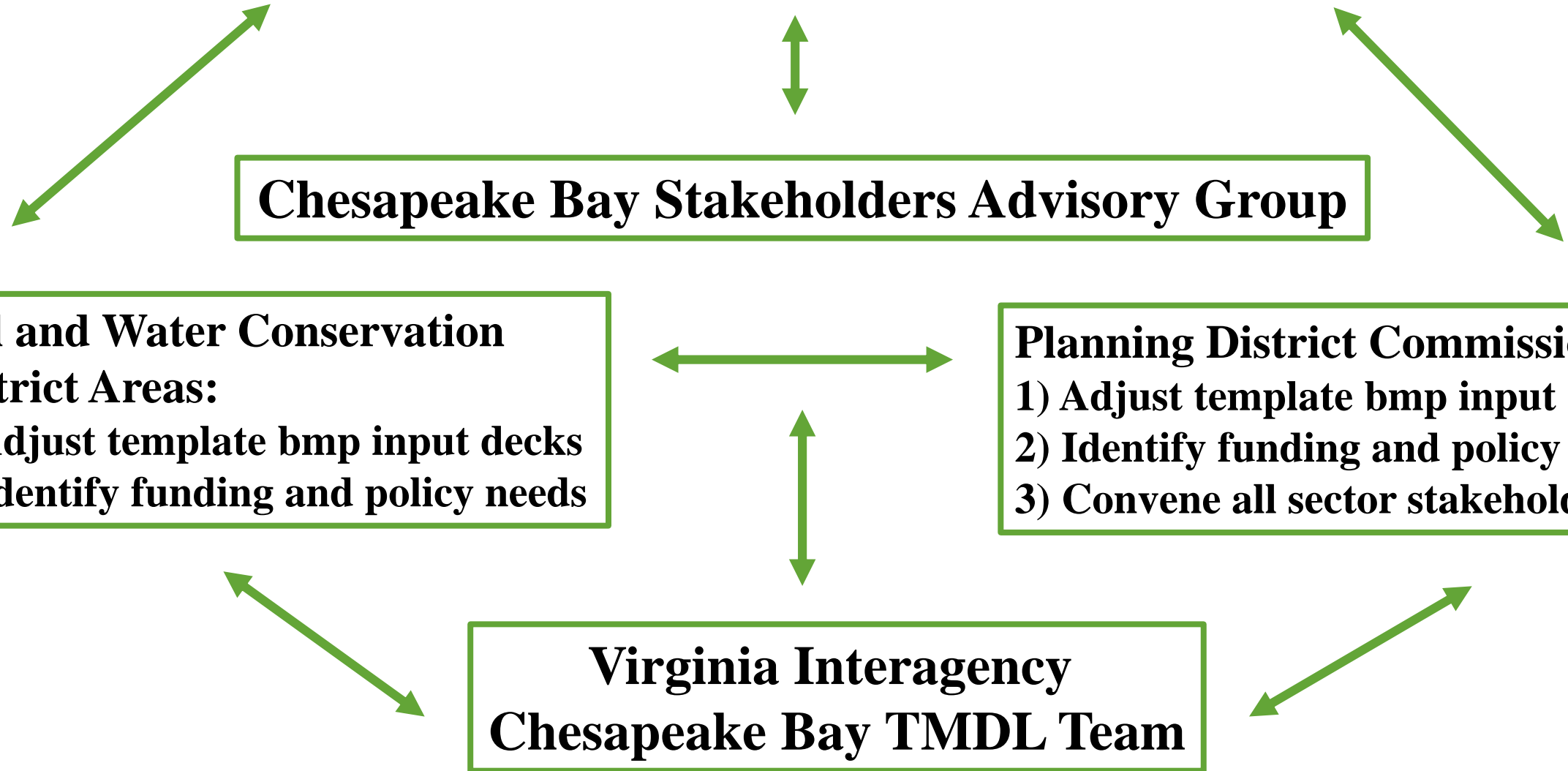
**Soil and Water Conservation
District Areas:**

- 1) Adjust template bmp input decks
- 2) Identify funding and policy needs

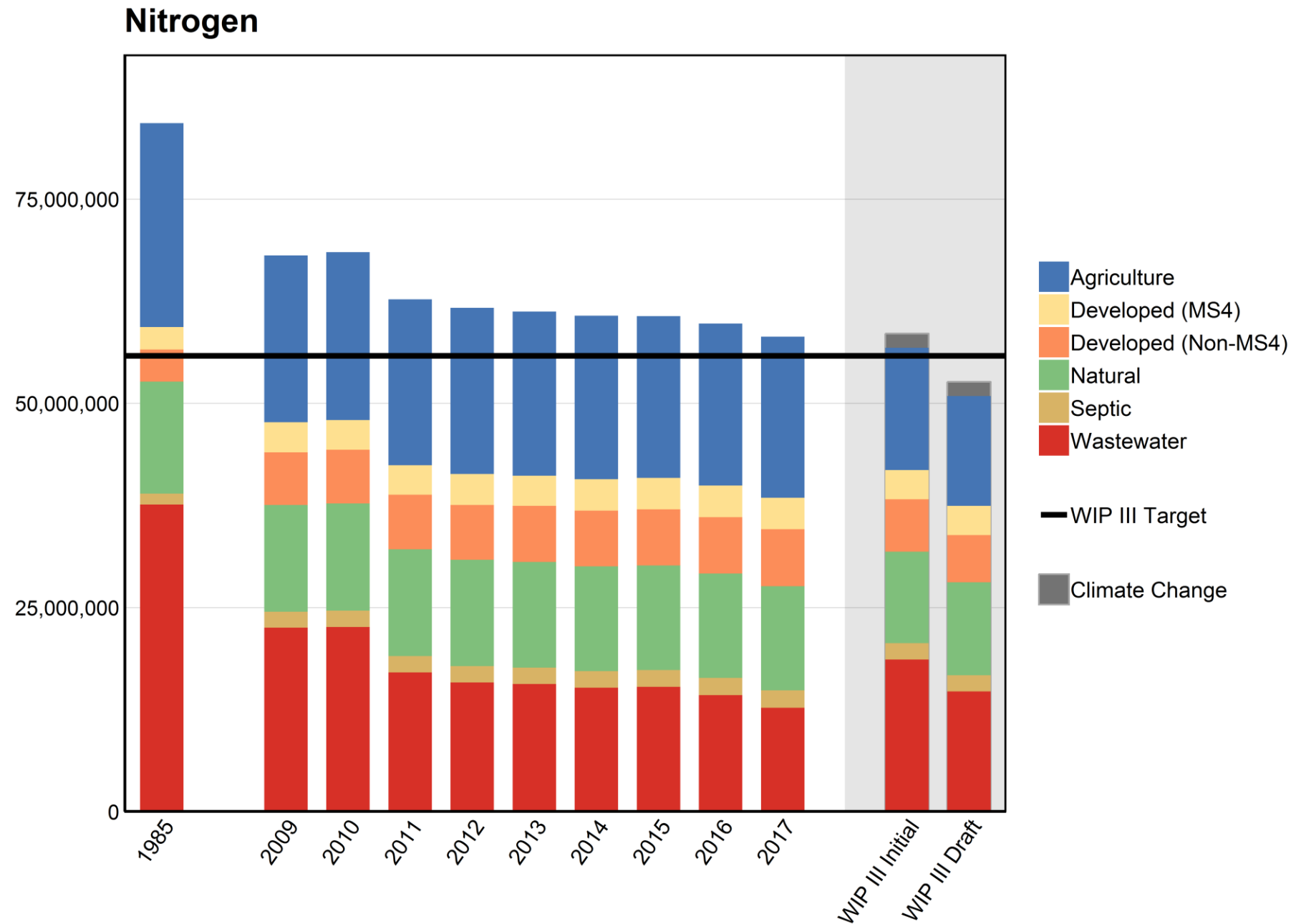
Planning District Commissions:

- 1) Adjust template bmp input decks
- 2) Identify funding and policy needs
- 3) Convene all sector stakeholders

**Virginia Interagency
Chesapeake Bay TMDL Team**



Virginia's Progress and Draft Phase III WIP Source Sector Reductions (Nitrogen)



The Draft Phase III WIP – Priority Best Management Practices

Agricultural and Urban Nutrient Management

Cover Crops

Forest Buffers, Tree Canopy, Forest Retention

Livestock Stream Exclusion and Pasture Management

Shoreline Management

Stormwater Management BMPs

Wastewater Treatment Technologies



The Draft Phase III WIP – Overview of New State Initiatives

Agriculture

Wastewater

Developed Lands

Septic Systems

Multiple Sectors

- ☐ Update and Fully Fund the **Virginia Agricultural BMP Cost Share Program**; Cost Share and Technical Assistance
- ☐ Enhance Funding Opportunities through the Agricultural BMP Loan Program and Tax Credits
- ☐ Develop Long-Term Marketing Plan for the **Resource Management Plan Program**;
- ☐ **Enhance Coordination Among State and Federal Agencies Assisting Farmers**
- ☐ **Seek 85 % Implementation of NMPs** on Cropland Through Cost Share, Improved Documentation and Reporting, and Increased NMP Certifications
- ☐ **Seek Livestock Stream Exclusion** on Perennial Streams
- ☐ Promote Adequate Land Area for Horses Consistent with VCE Recommendations and Provide Cost Share
- ☐ Increase Grass and Forest Buffers through CREP, VEE, and other sources

The Draft Phase III WIP – Overview of New State Initiatives

Agriculture

Wastewater

Developed Lands

Septic Systems

Multiple Sectors

☐ **Achieve Additional Reductions from Significant Municipal WWTPs.**

☐ Adequate funding for the Water Quality Improvement Fund.

☐ Implement basin exchanges.

The Draft Phase III WIP – Overview of New State Initiatives

Agriculture
Wastewater
Developed Lands
Septic Systems
Multiple Sectors

- ☐ Enhance Reporting of BMP Implementation
- ☐ **Fund VCAP; Fund SLAF; Define SLAF Needs**
- ☐ **Establish Long-Term Partnership with PDCs**
- ☐ Expand Healthy Virginia Lawns Program
- ☐ Pilot Urban NMP for Virginia Youth
- ☐ **Enhance the existing VDACS Certified Fertilizer Applicator Program**
- ☐ **Promote Proper Use of Lawn Fertilizer**
- ☐ Enhance DOF Presence in Urban Centers with Focus on Canopy Goals, Riparian Plantings and Community Engagement

The Draft Phase III WIP – Overview of New State Initiatives

Agriculture
Wastewater
Developed Lands
Septic Systems
Multiple Sectors

- ☐ Request Reporting of Sewer Connections by Wastewater Utilities
- ☐ Establish Wastewater Infrastructure Work Group
- ☐ **Pilot Shifting Oversight of Septic Maintenance from Local Governments to Virginia Department of Health**
- ☐ Designate VDH as a State Certifying Authority and Provide State Tax Exemptions
- ☐ Extend Nitrogen Limits to Large Conventional Onsite Septic Systems

Drafting the Commonwealth's Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan

Questions

A solid green horizontal bar at the bottom of the slide.