

Conowingo WIP Update

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Agenda

- Background
- Implementation Progress
- Future Considerations
- Questions

Background

- PSC Approved a [Phased Implementation Approach](#)
- “Two-Pronged Approach” to implementing the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP)
 - ✓ Statewide Pay-for-Performance programs in PA and MD
 - ✓ Federal, state, and local partnerships in targeted watersheds (e.g., USC, Octoraro)
- Innovations in Best Management Practices:
 - MD is executing the final modeling contract with USACE Conowingo dredge modeling.
 - Freshwater Mussels Workgroups and Acid Mine Drainage efforts

Pay for Success Implementation Progress

- Pennsylvania's Clean Water Procurement Program
 - First Round Announced February 2024
 - BMPs included: Animal Waste Storage Facilities, Animal Heavy Use Area Protection and Barnyard Runoff Controls, Streambank Fencing, Animal Walkways, Wetland Restoration, Grass and Forest Buffers and Pasture Fencing
 - Counties where projects are located: Lancaster, York, Adams, Snyder
 - Contractors: Chesapeake Conservancy, Herbert Rowland and Grubic, Inc., HGS, LLC (RES)
 - Second Round Opened in March and closed in April 2024
 - Contract awards to be announced

Pay for Success Implementation Progress

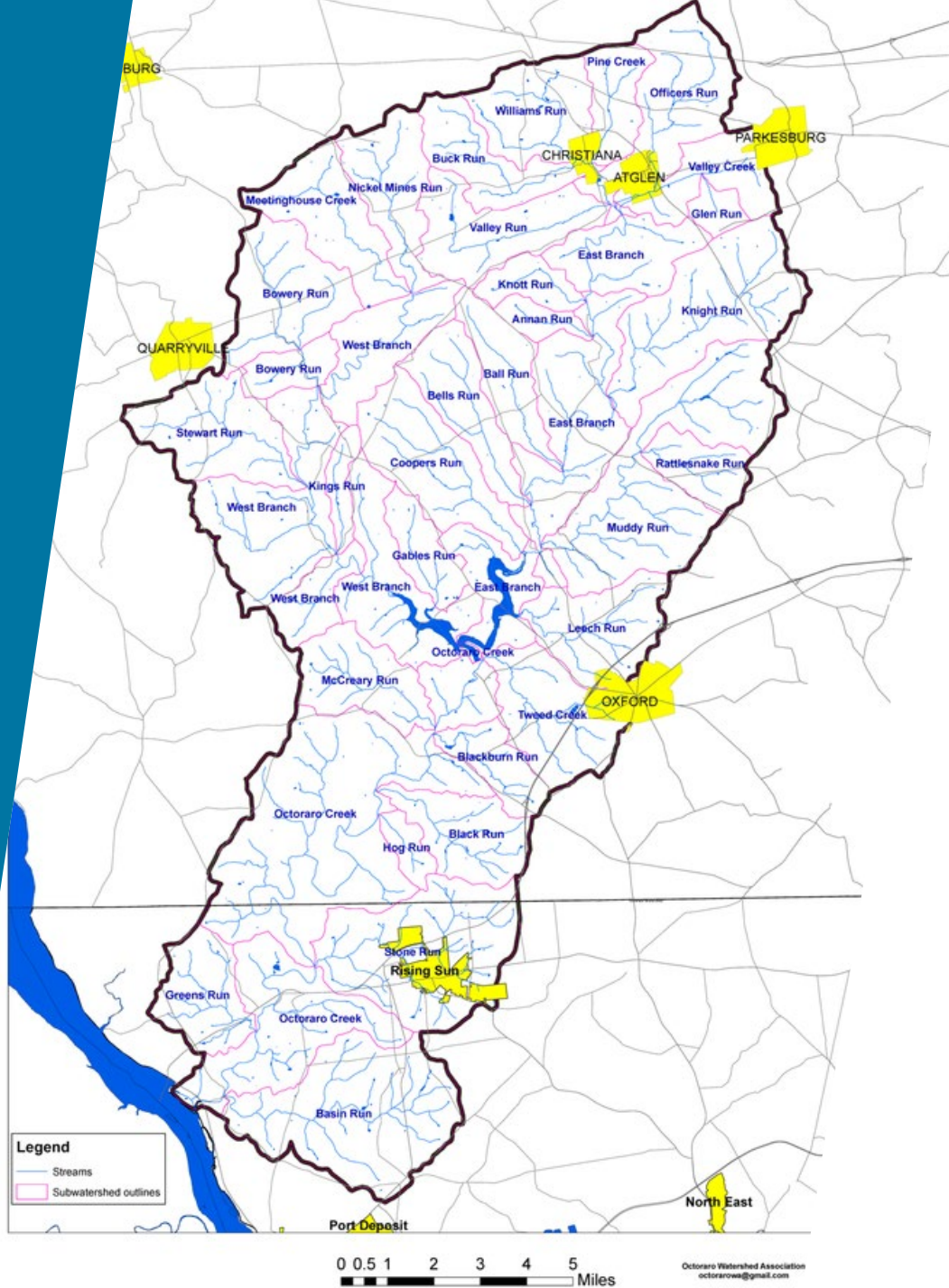
- Maryland's Pay For Success Program
 - Projects have been selected for awards
 - Mix of restoration approaches (stream restoration, nutrient management, and riparian buffers)
 - Approximately \$11 million in awards
 - Total estimated nitrogen reduction of 330,000 lbs (13 years avg.)
- Finalizing funds transfer in advance of announcing awards
- Will execute a second round in the Fall 2023 timeframe

Targeted Watersheds Implementation Progress

- New York's Most Effective Basin Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Approximately \$500,000 annually
- Partnership with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition –
 - 22 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (18 in NY and 4 in PA)
 - Headwaters of the Susquehanna River Basin

Targeted Watersheds Implementation Progress

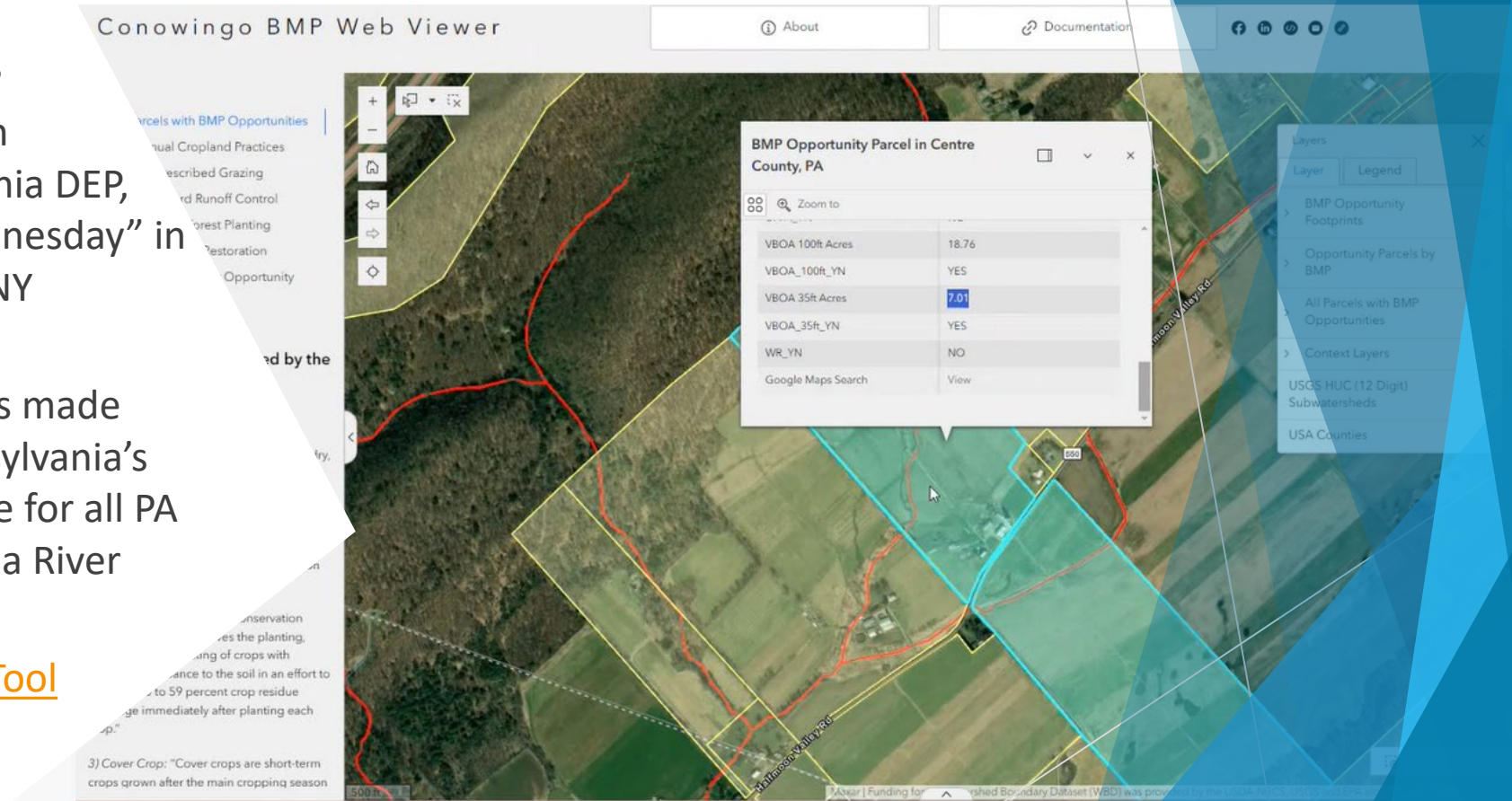
- Octoraro Watershed
 - Pennsylvania DEP directed federal Local Government Implementation (LGI) funds to Chester County Conservation District to implement CWIP projects in their share of the Octoraro Watershed.
 - Funds were allocated in January 2024, and agriculture projects are currently being implemented.
 - EPA also provided additional funds to Pennsylvania DEP through the Section 319 Program to support Capacity Building in the Octoraro Source Water Collaborative.
 - Funds were announced and currently going through contract approval and execution.
 - SRBC contract with the Alliance for Chesapeake Bay Amish Liaison Program



Targeting Tools

BMP Opportunity Analysis

- Chesapeake Conservancy, in partnership with Pennsylvania DEP, conducted a “Webinar Wednesday” in May 2024 for PA, MD, and NY Chesapeake Bay counties.
- BMP Opportunity Analysis is made available as a layer in Pennsylvania’s PracticeKeeper geodatabase for all PA counties in the Susquehanna River Basin.
- [BMP Opportunity Analysis Tool](#)



BMP Innovations Progress

- Dredging:
 - Maryland Pilot Project is complete and working with the US Army Corps to finalize monitoring contract
- Freshwater Mussels Partnership with SRBC:
 - Developing a network of experts and practitioners to advance and promote conservation and restoration and evaluating water quality value of freshwater mussels
- Acid Mine Drainage (AMD):
 - Pennsylvania DEP submitted an AMD workshop proposal to the Chesapeake Bay Program Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). STAC Technical Review report has been under development for several months.
 - SRBC scientists, in conjunction with Mansfield University researchers, will initiate a study in 2024 for initial characterization of nitrogen and phosphorus conditions in the Lower Tioga River and Tioga Reservoir to study effects on nutrient availability before and after AMD treatment

Future Considerations

- Beyond 2025
- Financing Solutions
- Leverage the CWIP as a “Sandbox”