

What's New?

In **November 2024**, SRBC convened the Fresh Water Mussels Partnership Steering Committee on a monthly basis to prioritize and develop strategies for the following goal areas: Bay watershed-wide conservation & restoration priorities; Technical resource sharing; Nutrient & sediment load reduction crediting in the Chesapeake Bay Partnership framework; Education & outreach; and Access to and availability of funding. The FWM Partnership Steering Committee also developed and offered the comment letter for consideration by the Beyond 2025 Steering Committee to recognize freshwater mussels as a keystone species and species of concern. Additional information can be found in the first issue of the [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Freshwater Mussel Partnership Newsletter](#).

In **June 2024**, the CWIP submitted their [2024-2025 milestones](#) to the EPA. The [June 2024 CWIP Progress Summary](#) outlines financing and pilot project development and illustrates the efforts and commitments to strengthen partnerships and foster innovation. The report also explores technical developments through links to the BMP Opportunity Analysis and its training video and instructions.

In **May 2024**, PA DEP held a webinar on the [BMP Opportunity Analysis](#), a web viewer developed by the Chesapeake Conservancy to support implementation of the Conowingo WIP. The webinar gave an overview of how to explore a suite of mapped BMP opportunity areas, download summary statistic tables, and print maps. These data are available for the entire Susquehanna River watershed, with the aim to provide the restoration community with the information needed to build more compelling proposals when applying to a new Conowingo WIP funding program available through the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. View the [webinar recording](#) and ["How To" documentation](#) for more information.

In **January 2024**, the CWIP Steering Committee submitted their 2023/2024 milestones for CWIP implementation to EPA highlighting 2023 activities (see document below, under the "Tracking CWIP Progress" heading). Our **January 2024 [Progress Summary](#)** highlights progress made towards the Conowingo WIP through financing, pilot project development, fostering innovation, and more.

In addition, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) recently created an interactive story map showing the state of the Octoraro Creek Watershed, a small watershed in both Maryland and Pennsylvania. As established in the CWIP and our Implementation Framework, Octoraro Creek is one of the Conowingo's priority areas for smaller-scale watershed targeting. The story map uses video, images, maps, charts and more to tell the watershed's tale through water quality monitoring data the Commission has collected over decades. [View the story map](#) to learn more about the implementation and monitoring efforts in the Octoraro.

On **October 23rd, 2023**, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) held a [webinar](#) on the upcoming RFP for verified nutrient reductions and the pay for success program.

On **September 6th, 2023**, PA DEP held a webinar focused on the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP). The presentation provided a brief overview of the CWIP, an update on the progress made toward the implementation milestones since the approval of the CWIP by the Principals Staff Committee in September 2021, and an overview of state-wide payfor-performance financing efforts from MD and PA and other innovative initiatives. The recording and presentation slides are linked below:

- [Webinar Wednesday-20230906_100107-Meeting Recording.mp4 \(sharepoint.com\)](#) • [CWIP Webinar Presentation Slides \(09.06.2023\)](#)

The PENNVEST [Clean Water Procurement Program](#), funded by the 2022-2023 Clean Streams Fund, is now closed as of **September 1, 2023**. The program will improve water quality in the Commonwealth through the purchase of verified nutrient (nitrogen/phosphorus) or sediment reduction resulting from the installation of Best Management Practices determined to be effective and practical to manage nutrient and sediment to protect surface water and groundwater.

In **2023**, the [SRBC Chesapeake Bay Watershed Region Freshwater Mussel Partnership](#), a voluntary affiliation of [stakeholders](#) drawn by our interest in freshwater mussels, was created to:

- Advance and promote Conservation & Restoration; and,
- Evaluate Water Quality best management practices (BMPs) to lessen excess [nutrients and sediment](#) in tributaries to the Bay.

In **December 2022**, the Steering Committee issued a Phase 1 [Implementation Framework](#) which shows the parties responsible for implementation of both the smaller-scale watershed implementation and the broader-scale state-wide implementation.

For more information about upcoming CWIP implementation funding opportunities, see the following handouts:

- [CWIP Funding Handout for Project Implementors](#)
- [CWIP Funding Handout for Property Owners, Farmers, Producers \(03-31-2023\)](#)