

Conowingo WIP Update

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5/17/2022 PSC Meeting

Agenda

- ▶ Recent History Recap
- ▶ Recent Accomplishments and MD Funding
- ▶ Near-term Needs/Next Steps

Recent History Recap

- ✓ January 13, 2022 - 2022/2023 Milestones Submitted to EPA
- ✓ January 25, 2022 - Received EPA Evaluation letter on no confidence w/o funding commitments
- ✓ March 21, 2022 - CWIP SC Commitments letter (MD \$25-million funding letter attached) stating:
 - ▶ Commitment to CWIP implementation, SC participation and in-kind services,
 - ▶ Continued contribution (except DE) of CBRAP Conowingo monies,
 - ▶ Continue CWIP collaboration to 2025 and then reevaluate based on progress and in consideration of adaptive management strategies; and,
 - ▶ Need for federal funding commitment.

Recent History Recap. Continued

- ✓ March 25, 2022 - PA, NY, and SRBC Letters identifying State funding sources and requesting federal funding
- ✓ April/May 2022 - EPA and MD meetings on CWIP path forward

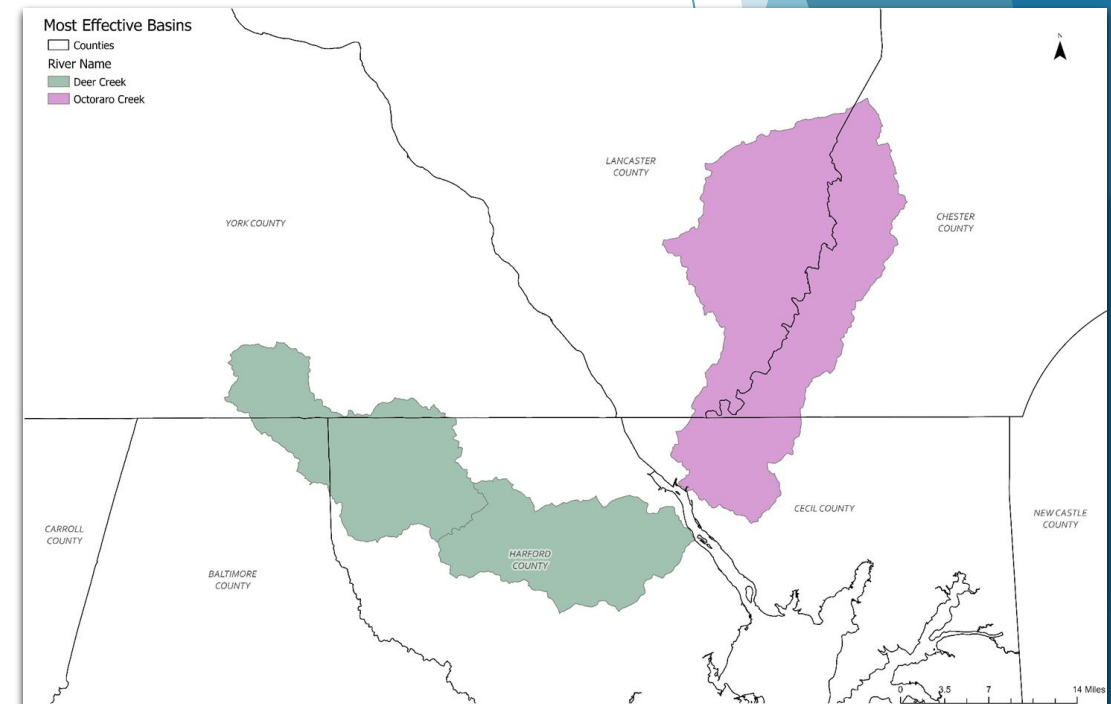
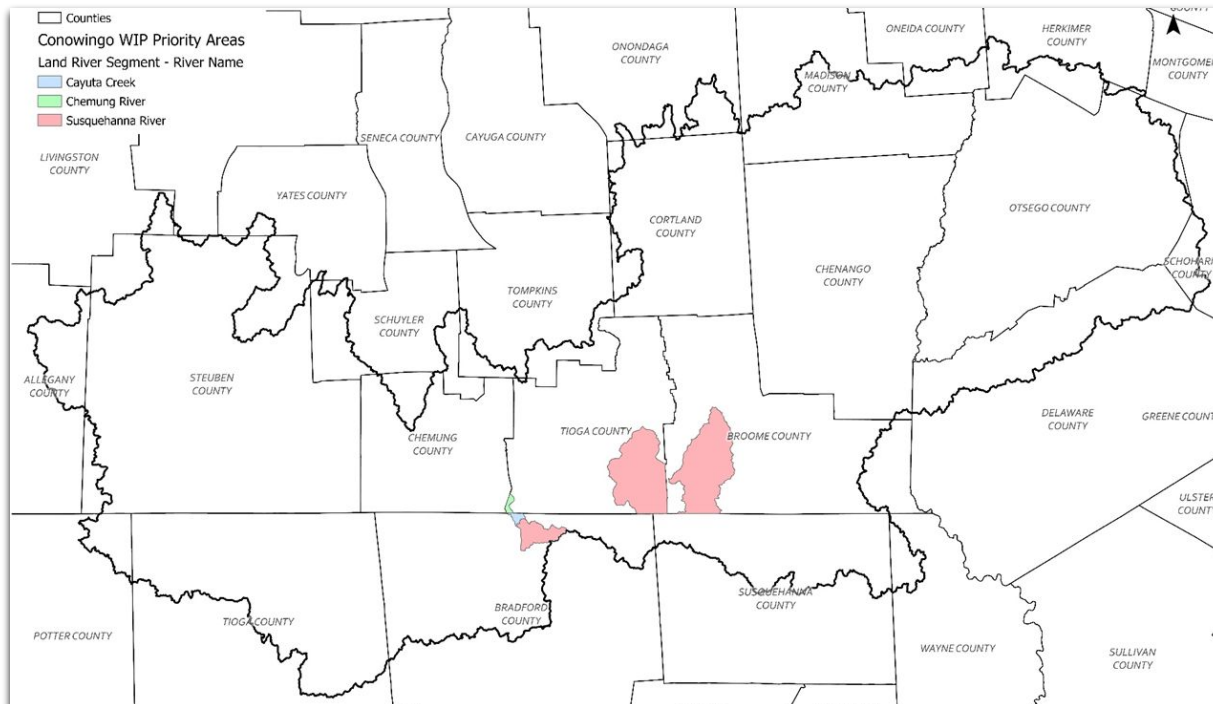
Maryland Funding Summary

Governor Hogan put a total of \$31-million dollars in MD's FY23 budget for Conowingo Pollution solutions, including:

- ✓ 1 - \$25-million targeted for implementation of the collaborative [Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan](#). These monies will go through the Susquehanna River Basin Commission for pay-for-performance projects that help reduce nutrient loads to Chesapeake Bay from Conowingo Pond filling with sediment. Maryland and other participating jurisdictions would oversee and provide policy direction to the SRBC. This money will be targeted to Conowingo WIP projects that provide water quality and climate cobenefits (e.g., natural filters forest buffers, grass buffers, wetlands) and agricultural practices (e.g., nutrient management, soil and water conservation plans) that help with ocean acidification and reducing drinking water nitrates.
- ✓ 2 - \$6-million will go to Maryland Environmental Service to complete preliminary work needed for a larger environmental dredging project behind Conowingo Dam. This work would include project permitting, design, outreach, coordination with the property owner(s), Right of Entry Agreements, coordination with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and application for non-project use of Exelon's FERC license, field studies and coordination required by FERC, and the search and purchase or lease of a project staging area.

Recent CWIP Accomplishments

- ✓ MD, PA and NY worked collaboratively to identify cross border watersheds for targeting the first round of implementation. Used NY's BMP opportunity analysis in combination with the Chesapeake Conservancy.



Recent Accomplishments

- ✓ April 13, 2022 - NFWF held Mussel Workshop
- ✓ May 3, 2022 - formally submitted Exelon model documentation to the Partnership for review/next steps in dredging expert panel process
- ✓ Milestones Tracker - developed for efficient tracking of milestone commitments and outputs

Near-Term Needs/Next Steps

- EPA response to March 21, SC/PSC Letter regarding Conowingo WIP expectations
- Core Implementation Team (MD, PA, NY, SRBC, NRCS, Grantees) refinement of implementation areas using BMP opportunity analysis
- Launch Financing Authority and transition to SRBC
 - Maryland - Negotiating with SRBC on funding MOU and pay for performance structure; developing ranking system
 - Pennsylvania - Determining scope of work and form of agreement for funding/ranking, agency involvement, and distribution of grants
- Apply for NFWF - INSR grant this year
- Complete MD's IRBU Pilot and resolve path forward for dredging expert panel process
- Begin STAC Technical Review for Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) treatment and water quality benefit
- Review Cooperative Agreements and related CBRAP/CBIG funding with EPA