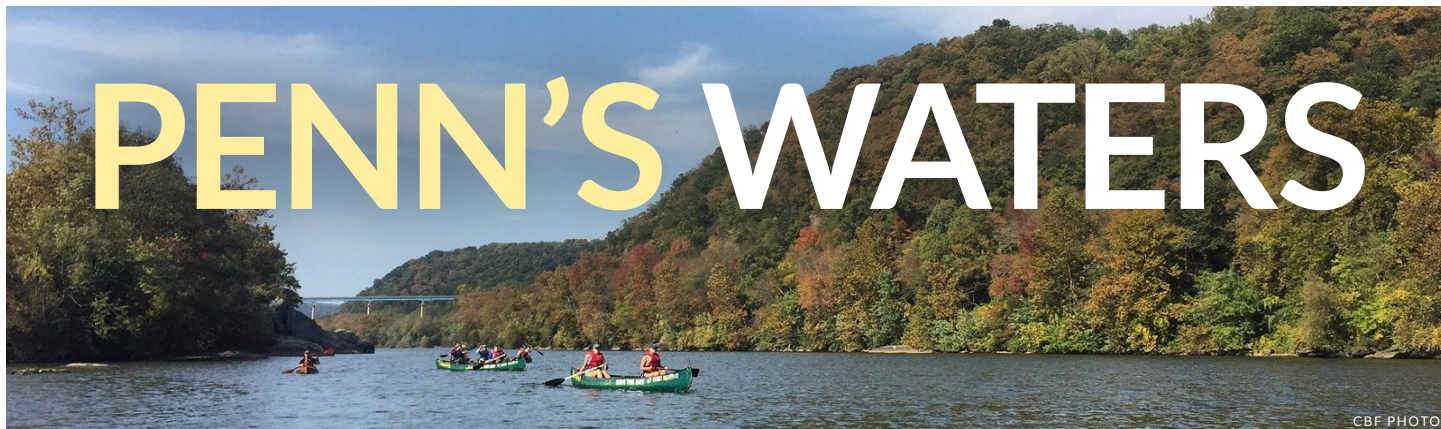


PENN'S WATERS



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News & Notes From the Pennsylvania Office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation

JULY 2019

PA Blueprint Getting a Final Update in the Homestretch to 2025 Deadline

The last update of Pennsylvania's Clean Water Blueprint, formally known as the Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), will be the Commonwealth's framework for restoring its rivers and streams and getting back on track toward meeting the pollution-reduction commitments it made.

Bay states must have 100 percent of pollution reduction measures in place by 2025. Pennsylvania's draft WIP brought together stakeholders from agriculture, forestry, stormwater, and wastewater sectors at the county level to do just that.

As the southcentral Pennsylvania counties of Adams, Franklin, Lancaster, and Franklin deliver some of the highest nitrogen loads to the Bay, they were the first of the 43 counties in the Bay watershed to develop local plans.

Unfortunately, the draft WIP plan contains two key shortcomings.

The draft plan does not achieve the nitrogen load reductions necessary to meet the Commonwealth's Blueprint obligations. The draft WIP would achieve roughly 22.7 million pounds of nitrogen reduction each year, or about 67 percent of the goal of achieving 34.1 million pounds.



CBF PHOTO

An updated Clean Water Blueprint can get Pennsylvania back on track toward meeting its clean-water commitments.

Also, the resources to implement the plan do not currently exist. Compared to existing resources there is a shortfall in annual funding of nearly \$257 million. Unfortunately, the state's General Fund budget for 2019-20 does not include additional investments to make up for the WIP's funding shortfall.

The success of Pennsylvania's Blueprint hinges on closing the nitrogen-reduction and funding gaps before it is finalized.

From the Desk of
Harry Campbell
PENNSYLVANIA
DIRECTOR



It is very clear that our state is the keystone to saving the Bay.

The state's new draft Clean Water Blueprint came from unprecedented collaboration by stakeholders and technical support by state and federal agencies.

The plan is better than previous ones. But success will require substantial new investments in processes, programs, and the people committed to reducing pollution. It is up to the legislature to provide adequate resources to meet its clean-water commitments.

Fortunately, there are many boots on the ground working hard to make a difference. County conservation districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, farmers, sportsmen and women, community and conservation groups, and others will continue to do all they can.

Clean and abundant water is critical to our economy, the health of our citizens, our heritage, and our quality of life.

The state's \$7.4 billion farm economy relies on healthy soils and clean water, as does Pennsylvania's \$27 billion outdoor recreation economy.

Pennsylvania can be a clean-water hero.

With a solid plan, resources to implement it, and partners, it will be.

Victory for Students and Salamanders

On April 23, Governor Tom Wolf signed Senate Bill 9, designating the Eastern hellbender as Pennsylvania's official state amphibian. Congratulations to CBF Student Leadership Council members, who initiated the effort in 2016. The Eastern hellbender is an indicator species of water quality. Senator Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming) introduced the bill.



CBF PHOTO

Governor Wolf, surrounded by CBF students, signs their bill designating the Eastern hellbender as Pennsylvania's official state amphibian.



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

Spring Plantings Move Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership Toward its Ambitious Goal

The Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership, coordinated by CBF, doubled its tree plantings from last spring and has taken big steps toward its ambitious goal of adding 10 million new trees by the end of 2025.

“This spring we had 16 planting partners. Staff planted over 60,000 trees. CBF field staff planted over half of these trees and shrubs,” said Partnership Manager Brenda Sieglitz. “All of the plants were native and each tree was sourced from a Pennsylvania supplier, which encourages economic growth and job development.”

The Partnership is a collaborative effort of national, regional, state, and local agencies; conservation organizations; watershed groups; conservancies; outdoors enthusiasts; businesses; and individuals.

Roughly 40 percent of Pennsylvania’s rivers and streams are impaired by polluted runoff and the legacy of coal mining.

Trees are the most cost-effective tools for cleaning and protecting rivers and streams by filtering and absorbing polluted runoff, stabilizing streambanks, and improving soil quality. Trees placed in parks, municipal properties, and other urban and suburban settings also absorb and clean stormwater, reduce flooding, and help restore abandoned mine land.



Recent spring plantings move the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership toward its lofty goal.

“It’s no small feat to find locations to plant trees, organize plantings, recruit volunteers, and to get the trees and supplies to the sites and planted properly,” Sieglitz added. “Our partners shined in their individual areas of expertise. I’m excited to see how we learn from the challenges we experienced this spring and how we continue to build upon the strong momentum to plant even more trees near streams.”

To learn more about the Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership visit TenMillionTrees.org.

CBF Adds New StAR to the Education Universe

CBF’s new environmental education program in Pennsylvania—Student Action and Restoration (StAR)—guides teachers and students in grades 6-12 from an initial awareness of water quality to taking action to improve local rivers and streams.

Concepts include land-use and agricultural impacts, watershed dynamics, stream ecology, water quality, soil health, native and invasive species, and more.

Land conservancies and conservation partners open their properties for student-centered learning and stewardship. More info can be found at cbf.org/pastar.



Through CBF’s Pennsylvania StAR program, students and teachers take action to improve local rivers and streams.

CBF in the Community

Partnerships Rock!

“This day was a fun-filled experience for everyone involved with many positive memories made. We thank CBF for making it happen.”

—Your Quality Solutions, Inc.,
after planting trees with the
Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership



PRIORITIES

Keystone Tree Fund Bills

Tell your state representative to support the Keystone Tree Fund bills. House Bill 374 and Senate Bill 108, currently in the Senate, would create a voluntary \$3 check-off box on Pennsylvania’s driver’s license and vehicle registration applications. Funds would purchase, plant and maintain more trees across the Commonwealth.

Fertilizer Application Bill

Senator Gene Yaw (R-Lycoming County) intends to introduce legislation to regulate the application of lawn fertilizer and to certify fertilizer applicators as a way to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution.

Ag Cost Share Program

Pennsylvania farmers want to reduce polluted runoff and need a state agriculture cost share program so they can add practices to do it, while maintaining farm profitability. CBF looks forward to working with the Department of Agriculture and other important farm-related organizations, on a framework to get farmers the investments they need.

COMMUNITY

Veterans on the Susquehanna

Saturday, August 24
1:00–7:30 p.m.
Shank’s Mare Outfitters
2092 Long Level Road, Wrightsville
Celebrate our veterans and enjoy the beauty of the mighty Susquehanna River. Join CBF and Heroes on the Water for a fun day of kayaking and fly-fishing followed by a reception. Register at cbf.org/veterans.



CHESAPEAKE BAY
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10 MILLION
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