

The Re-CAP

York County Coalition for Clean Waters bi-monthly newsletter about the implementation of the **C**ountywide **A**ction **P**lan for clean waters



IN THIS ISSUE:

Leadership Team Update – 1
 Statewide TeamWORK - 2
 CAP Coordinator Update - 3
 Action TeamWORK – 4
 Project Spotlight - 5
 CEG Ag Funding - 6
 BMP Blast - 7
 Coalition Comeback - 8

LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team (LT) would like to thank everyone for their continued work on the CAP implementation. While our Leadership Team may be in flux due to the pandemic, work is still taking place despite the changes! Meetings may look different, but there are partnerships forming, grants being applied for, training being offered, projects being planned, and financial planning taking place. All of these things are happening because of the work of dedicated volunteers. If you are someone who likes clean, healthy water, and wants to be part of an organized solution to clean up York County's waters, continue reading and consider joining us!

Leadership Team Members

Lettice Brown- E&O Team
 Ruth Cassilly- PI Team
 Burt Curry- Rev Team
 Felicia Dell- Rev/YCPC
 Mark Flaharty- PI/YCCD
 Lindsay Gerner- E&O/YCPC
 Roy Livergood- DM/YCPC
 Emily Neideigh- E&O/YCCD
 Cindy Pizziketti- PI Team
 John Seitz- LPC/YCPC
 Pam Shellenberger-PI/YCPC
 Jodi Sulpizio- PI Team
 Rachel Stahlman - CC

Statewide TeamWORK

In describing Pennsylvania's effort to address Chesapeake Bay issues, acronyms, phrases, chemical symbols, computer models, laws, and policies usually lead to an extended, "round the horn," explanation of everything, except what's trying to be conveyed. We are going to stay away from more confusion and give a picture of York County's "piece" of Pennsylvania's "puzzle."

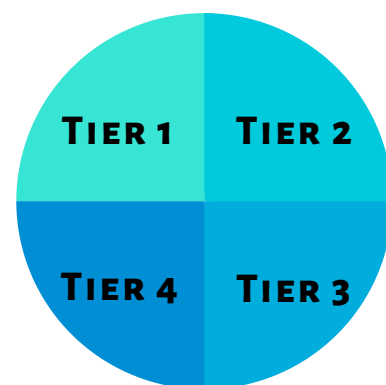
There are **43 counties** in Pennsylvania that have some amount of water draining to the Chesapeake Bay. This water contains pollutants that Pennsylvania needs to reduce. The State has asked these 43 counties to help with the pollutant reductions and has come up with an approach to assist them with the task. A State agency working with 43 different counties doesn't sound too complicated. But again, we are famous in Pennsylvania for using the "county" to oversimplify a very complex and potentially huge number of people, agencies, organizations, and leaders. So keep in mind, just getting 43 counties to volunteer was no small accomplishment, let alone designing a strategy to assist these counties develop and implement a plan to achieve pollutant reduction goals.

The 43 counties were divided into four (4) groups called tiers. Each tier represents 25% of the total amount of pollutants that PA is responsible to reduce.

What is the status of this strategy? York County has completed its Plan and is currently **implementing** its CAP along with three (3) other "pilot" counties: Lancaster, Franklin, and Adams.

The balance of the Tier 2 counties are currently in the planning phase **developing** their CAPs, with implementation slated to begin in the fall.

The balance of Tier 3 and Tier 4 counties will be starting the **planning** phase of their CAPs in the fall of 2020. Simply put, York County is only one piece of the puzzle. However, it is definitely one of the primary pieces!



Tier 1
Lancaster
York

Tier 2
Franklin
Lebanon
Cumberland
Centre
Bedford

Tier 4
Berks, Blair,
Cambria,
Cameron, Carbon,
Chester, Dauphin,
Elk, Indiana,
Jefferson,
Lackawanna,
Luzerne, McKean,
Montour, Potter,
Somerset, Sullivan,
Union, Wayne,
Wyoming

Tier 3
Adams, Bradford,
Clearfield,
Clinton,
Columbia, Fulton,
Huntingdon,
Juniata,
Lycoming, Mifflin,
Northumberland,
Perry, Schuylkill,
Snyder,
Susquehanna,
Tioga

~John Seitz,
Legislative & Programmatic Changes Team

CAP Coordinator's Corner

Collaboration and partnerships throughout these next years are going to be pivotal to the success of reaching our CAP pollutant reduction goals. Though we are still in the beginning stages of Implementation, several counties have been working together on important initiatives. I, as Coordinator, have been regularly involved in three (3) of these initiatives on a weekly basis.



Webinar Wednesday's happen each week and are an opportunity for the eight (8) counties currently involved in Planning and Implementation to get together and discuss issues, milestones, and next steps with each other and DEP. A lot of progress on several different fronts comes from these weekly conversations. A recent reportable progress that has come from Webinar Wednesday's is the formation of an **Education and Outreach Leadership Group**. Coordinators, Action Team Leaders, Partners, DEP, and Water Words That Work have been meeting to discuss messaging and marketing for use throughout all CAP counties. Our next meeting will be near the end of June.



Last, but certainly not least, is the **Data Tools Review Team** comprised of DEP, a Web Developer, Coordinators, and County Partners. We have been meeting weekly since April 2 to work together on the progress of FieldDoc. FieldDoc is the web-based platform where all currently unreported, non-agriculture best management practices will be reported and tracked to show further progression of implementation goals. FieldDoc is slated for a July release.

A lot of hard work has gone into and continues to go into these three (3) initiatives. We are entering an exciting time in our CAP implementation! For more information on any of these initiatives, please reach out to me at **rstahlman@ycpc.org**

~Rachel Stahlman, CAP Coordinator

Action TeamWORK

The York County Coalition for Clean Waters (YCC4CW) is always looking for new partners to help implement the York CAP. There are five (5) Action Teams all working together to help implement different aspects of the CAP.

Are you interested in spreading the word about why we need to clean up York's streams and how we can accomplish it? Check out the [Education & Outreach Action Team \(E&O\)](#)!

Are you a number cruncher and want to figure out ways to calculate our progress? Check out our [Data Management Action Team \(DM\)](#)!

Do you like to get your hands dirty and want to help put projects on the ground? Or have land to put in a project? Contact our [Project Implementation Action Team \(PI\)](#)!

Are you good with grant writing or collaborating with sponsors to find funds for project implementation? Contact our [Revenue Building Action Team \(RB\)](#)!

Are you interested in policy and legislative issues? Contact our [Legislative and Programmatic Changes Team \(L&P\)](#)!

JOIN US!
 Rachel Stahlman
 717-771-9870 x 1763
rstahlman@ycpc.org

The **RB Team** is soliciting budgeting data from the other action teams. Three (3) conceptual budget scenarios; aggressive, moderate, and conservative, will be developed. This information will be very helpful when looking for funding for project implementation.

The **DM Team** is busy learning the ins and outs of the FieldDocs Tool and the Clean Water Tool to determine what, where, who, and how. They are also looking for the best way to provide a Water Quality Monitoring report.

The **E&O Team** completed the budget ask from the Revenue Team. They are also waiting to see if YCPC is awarded a NFWF grant to develop an E&O strategy and brainstorming other ways for education and fundraising opportunities.



The **PI Team** has identified buffers as the top BMP to focus their efforts. Partnering agencies have applied for grants that will help make that happen. In addition, they are identifying and tracking other projects in the County.

The **L&P Changes Team** is collaborating with Lancaster County and DEP to possibly develop a watershed permit. To date, a rough draft concept was submitted to DEP and feedback was received. A coordination meeting with Lancaster County occurred and joint meetings between Lancaster County, York County, and DEP to discuss watershed permitting will be ongoing.

Project Spotlight

York County has been tasked to remove 4 million pounds of nitrogen from its waters by 2025. To help York County do its part in reducing this pollution from entering the Chesapeake Bay, Master Watershed Stewards partnered with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay and Northeastern School District to plant a significant, 20-acre riparian buffer along Hartman Run on school district property. The project was fully funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). This project will not only help clean up our local waters, but will also provide an amazing outdoor classroom for the teachers and students. Opportunities for learning will be endless! Riparian buffers are the vegetated areas next to streams, rivers, lakes and other water bodies. These buffers are made up of grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees and are very effective at protecting the health of our waterways. Stormwater runoff carries pollutants, such as sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, road salts, and animal waste, from agricultural lands, construction sites, lawns, roadways, and other impervious surfaces to waterways. The vegetation in a riparian buffer intercepts the surface runoff and filters pollutants before entering streams or rivers.

On October 24, 2019, State leaders, students, school administrators, and conservation partners attended a kick-off celebration along Hartman Run, which meanders the landscape below Shallow Brook Intermediate School. DCNR Secretary Cindy Dunn planted the first tree. Hundreds of volunteers and students followed, planting trees and securing tree shelters in the first phase of the planting.



The following weekend, over 100 community members showed up, joined in on the fun, and planted the remaining trees. Together, about 800 trees were planted. Remaining acreage will be planted in 2020.



DCNR Secretary
Cindy Dunn

This project demonstrated the strength of cross-sector partnerships and the collaborative nature of modern conservation efforts. It also garnered community involvement and support. It will contribute to both York County's and Pennsylvania's sediment and nutrient reduction goals for local streams and rivers in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Additionally, it sets an example for other school districts and landowners, such as businesses, hospitals, college campuses, etc., who collectively own large amounts of land suitable for similar efforts. To help meet our clean water goals, plant more trees!

~Jodi Sulpizio, Project Implementation Team

The Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) Program is a new state funded program with the purpose of providing financial and technical assistance for the implementation of best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural operations. The State Conservation Commission (SCC) administers the program with assistance from county conservation districts delegated certain responsibilities and duties. These delegated responsibilities include reviewing, ranking, and approving applications for eligible projects and monitoring project completion.

Financial assistance is provided to program applicants through grants, loans, and tax credits, or a combination of all three (3). Priority will be given to applicants who propose utilizing all three (3) methods of funding. Tax credits will be facilitated through the REAP Program administered by the State Conservation Commission. Applicants may apply for funding of up to 100% of eligible project costs, not to exceed \$250,000 per applicant. Projects with total costs exceeding \$25,000 are subject to the requirements of the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act. Grant funding is available for small projects with costs totaling less than \$25,000.

Conservation Excellence Grant (CEG) Funding available for York County Agricultural Operations

For more information or for help completing an application, feel free to contact Mark Flaharty (mflaharty@yorkccd.org) or Stephen Miller (smiller@yorkccd.org) by email or call the Conservation District at (717) 840-7430.

The CEG Program funds are for proposed projects that implement planned BMPs from an Ag E&S Plan, Conservation Plan, Nutrient Management Plan, or a Manure Management Plan that has been developed for an agricultural operation. Priority will be given to proposed projects that already have planning, engineering, and design work completed. Priority practices include livestock exclusion fencing, off-stream livestock watering facilities, stream crossings, riparian buffers, barnyard and feedlot runoff abatement, waste storage facilities, streambank protection, cover crops, and planning BMPs (Ag E&S Plan, Conservation Plan, Nutrient Management Plan, Manure Management Plan).

Combining multiple priority practices improves application scoring. Other non-priority practices that are eligible for funding can be found in the REAP Program BMP list (examples include grass waterways, diversion and terraces, and pasture management practices). CEG Program applications will be available in the near future from the Conservation District. Applicants who wish to find out more details on eligibility, priority projects, and program guidelines and requirements for program participants can reference the Conservation District website at yorkccd.org.

~Mark Flaharty, Project Implementation Team

BMP Blast- Rain Gardens

How do you manage stormwater and beautify your neighborhood? A rain garden is one of my favorite answers for improving water quality in my neighborhood! Essentially a simple concept, a rain garden is a depressed area that collects rainwater from impervious surfaces like roofs or driveways. This area is planted with native grasses and flowering perennials and offers many added benefits over the same area planted in turf grass.



Bantz Park-Before



Bantz Park-After

By reducing stormwater runoff, rain gardens can be a valuable tool to help protect our water resources. While an individual rain garden may seem like a small thing, collectively they can result in substantial changes. If you are interested in installing a rain garden, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council has published directions: <https://pecpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Water-Resources-Create-Your-Rain-Garden.pdf>

Benefits of a Rain Garden:

Create habitat for butterflies, beneficial pollinators, songbirds, and other wildlife.

Turf grass is the largest crop in the United States, but unless you have a herd of cows or sheep on your lawn, it is not offering food for the animals who share our world.

Filter out pollutants. Many lawns use pesticides and fertilizers to maintain their pristine green appearance – but native perennials do not need these additives to flourish.

Improve water quality. Turf grass has a minimal root system and cannot offer the pollutant filtering benefits that flowering perennials, sedges, and trees provide with their extensive root system. They will use nitrogen and phosphorus from stormwater for growth.

Decrease stormwater runoff allowing for recharge of aquifers. A rain garden allows for 30% more water infiltration compared to traditional lawn of the same size.

Beautify yards, neighborhoods, and parks.

This spring I have been delighted to watch the rain gardens installed by Penn State Master Watershed Stewards in parks around the County come into bloom.

No place for a rain garden on your property? You can spread the word to others. Perhaps you know of a school, park, church, or homeowner's association with a grass filled retention basin – share the word of the benefits of rain gardens

~Cindy Pizziketti, Project Implementation Team

Coalition COMEBACK

**WE POSE
QUESTIONS, YOU
GIVE INPUT!**

The next YCC4CW meeting is scheduled for **July 17th** from 1:00-3:00. Location TBD (but probably zoom)

Who will you bring to the next YCC4CW Meeting?

Read:

<https://www.depgis.state.pa.us/chesapeakebaywatershed/index.html>

Questions and **Answers** from last issue

1. Thoughts on the Organizational Chart? **Looks good!**
2. Are by-laws needed for the YCC4CW? **Guidelines are being developed**
3. Should the YCC4CW meet quarterly or bi-monthly? **Bi-monthly**
4. Who else needs to be invited to the table? **Lots of great ideas: key business leaders, SEO's, Lancaster Conservancy, municipal reps, ag consultants, farmers, WWTP operators, construction groups**
5. Suggestions for a File Sharing Platform so Action Teams can share notes? **Still working on this one but Microsoft Teams is in the lead**

The York County Coalition for Clean Waters (YCC4CW) is a group of volunteer stakeholders interested in improving local water ways for the betterment of the County and to meet clean water goals. If you would like to get involved, please contact Rachel Stahlman at rstahlman@ycpc.org