

July 8, 2011

Dear Chesapeake Bay Stakeholder:

Thank you for your continued interest in Pennsylvania's efforts in achieving nutrient and sediment reductions, improving water quality in Pennsylvania's streams, and helping to improve the overall quality of the Chesapeake Bay. As shown during the development of the Phase 1 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP), the Commonwealth is committed to helping to restore the Chesapeake Bay through a workable, cost-effective plan that will achieve the necessary nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment reduction goals. The intent of this letter is to update you on current efforts and to invite you to an important meeting on August 3, 2011.

Pennsylvania made a concerted effort to gather as much public input as possible during the development of the Phase 1 Chesapeake Bay WIP (Phase 1 WIP). The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) engaged stakeholders in a process similar to that undertaken in 2006 to refine our Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy. A WIP Management Team was convened and supported by three workgroups focused on wastewater, agriculture and urban/suburban/rural topics. Stakeholders include representatives from wastewater treatment facilities, agriculture, land development, municipal officials, environmental and conservation groups, and the Legislature.

On November 29, 2010, DEP sent to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Pennsylvania's Phase 1 WIP which outlined the state's plan to address nutrient and sediment loadings that drain to the Chesapeake Bay. The Phase 1 WIP was prepared following EPA's November 4, 2009 guidance that outlined their expectations for WIPs, and was revised based on public comments, workgroup input and comments received from EPA. Pennsylvania's Phase 1 WIP was prepared to address EPA's expectations for the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) that was published on December 29, 2010.

EPA is expected to announce on August 1, 2011 revised nutrient and sediment allocations for the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. The allocations are the result of EPA's development of a revised Watershed Model. Using the revised allocations, EPA expects the states to develop a Phase 2 Chesapeake Bay WIP (Phase 2 WIP) which will further subdivide the loads by local area (county). These will not be regulatory allocations to the county. Rather, they are to inform local implementers (e.g. municipal elected officials and planning agency personnel, county conservation districts and planning commissions) of the nutrient and sediment loads generated by their geographical area so they can help implement or plan appropriate actions to reduce the target loads. Local implementation efforts should focus on compliance with existing rules and regulations, as well as seeking opportunities for additional management actions.

EPA has established a December 1, 2011 deadline for submission of the Draft Phase 2 WIP, and a March 30, 2012 deadline for the final plan. EPA expects the Phase 2 WIP to contain greater detail about the first stage of implementation, which will last from when EPA established the Chesapeake Bay TMDL in December 2010 until 2017.

We would like to invite you to engage in the beginning discussions on Pennsylvania's Phase 2 WIP. A Pennsylvania Phase 2 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan Summit (Summit) will be held on August 3, 2011, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Keystone Conference Center, Farm Show Complex & Expo Center, 2300 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA 17110. For this Summit, EPA plans to discuss the revised Chesapeake Bay TMDL allocations and Phase 2 WIP expectations for the states; DEP will then describe

Pennsylvania's proposed process for developing the Phase 2 WIP at the county level; Pennsylvania project implementers will share their success stories; and the meeting will close with a round table discussion with members of the Chesapeake Bay Funders Network. A copy of the draft agenda has been enclosed for your review.

Penn State Cooperative Extension will host a broadcast of the Summit through a webinar so if you cannot make it in person, please join us on-line at: <https://meeting.psu.edu/agenvpartnership>. To attend via webinar, please follow these guidelines:

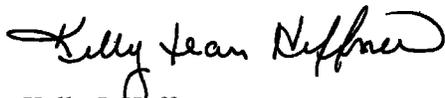
- Use a computer with high speed internet access (not dial up). If you do not have access to high speed internet at your home or office, consider visiting the local library or contact your county's Conservation District Office or Extension Office.
- Obtain a Friends of Penn State (FPS) account. You can sign up for a FPS account by going to <https://breeze.psu.edu/AgEnvPartnership>. At this location, you will be directed to a site where you can register for the free FPS account. Please record your user name and password - as it will be required for each entry to the webinar location.
- A few minutes prior to the start-time on August 3, go to <http://breeze.psu.edu/AgEnvPartnership> and type in your user ID and password. This will bring you to the meeting "web" location. To ensure that you have audio, go to the "Meeting" tab at the top left and choose "Manage My Settings". Then choose "Audio Setup Wizard" and test your sound input by clicking on "Test".
- There is no need to have a microphone for this session. If you have questions, you can type them into the chat box and the program moderator will ensure that the speakers receive them.

This webinar will be recorded and following the Summit can be accessed by going to <http://extension.psu.edu/aec>.

For more information on EPA's Chesapeake Bay TMDL or the requirements for Phase 2 WIPs, please visit www.epa.gov/chesapeakebaytmdl/. To view Pennsylvania's Phase 1 WIP, please visit www.depweb.state.pa.us, "DEP Programs A-Z" and click "Chesapeake Bay".

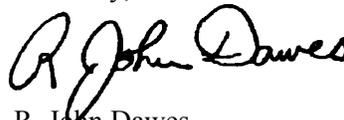
We hope that your schedule will permit you to participate. Please confirm your attendance by contacting Karen Price of the Water Planning Office by e-mail at kprice@state.pa.us or by telephone at 717.772.4785. We appreciate the opportunity to update you on our efforts and look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,



Kelly J. Heffner
Deputy Secretary
Office of Water Management

Sincerely,



R. John Dawes
Executive Director
Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds

Enclosure

**Pennsylvania Phase 2 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan Summit
Inviting Implementers and Funders to the Table**

August 3, 2011

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Keystone Conference Center, PA Farm Show Complex and Expo Center
2300 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA 17110**

Goals and Expectations for the Meeting: Purpose of the meeting is to “kick-off” the development of Pennsylvania’s Phase 2 Chesapeake Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). EPA will discuss the revised allocations for the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and expectations for Phase 2 WIPs. DEP will describe the proposed process for developing the Phase 2 WIPs at the County level. Pennsylvania project implementers will highlight their success stories. Chesapeake Bay Funders Network (CBFN) members will convene a roundtable discussion regarding how private philanthropies can help support priority activities.

1:00 – 1:45

Introductions

Kelly Heffner, DEP Deputy Secretary for Water Management

Federal Lay of the Land: EPA announcement of revised TMDL allocations for Nutrients and Sediment and Basic Phase II Expectations of States

Jim Edward, Acting Director, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office

Questions from the Audience

State Lay of the Land: Proposed Pennsylvania process for developing the Phase 2 WIPs at the County level

John Hines, DEP Executive Deputy Secretary for Programs

Questions from the Audience

1:45 – 2:00

Conservation in Action: PA Natural Resources and Conservation Service (USDA)

Denise Coleman, State Conservationist, PA NRCS

2:00 – 3:15

Pennsylvania Success Stories

- Lancaster City Stormwater (invited)
- EnergyWorks, BioPower, LLC (invited)
- Warwick Township Conservation Partnerships (invited)
- No Till Farmer-to-Farmer Mentoring, Lebanon County (invited)

3:15 – 4:00

Roundtable Panel

John Dawes or Skip Wieder, Degenstein Foundation will moderate the roundtable discussion that will include: EPA, DEP, PA NRCS, PA WIP Management Team Workgroup Chairs, Chesapeake Bay Funders Network representative and Chesapeake Bay Foundation.