

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



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LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team (LT) would like to thank everyone for their continued work on the CAP implementation. As a year of collaboration is approaching, we are proud of the work that has been accomplished. From Best Management Practices implemented to Water Quality Monitoring Stations installed, the five Action Teams, the YCC4CW, and countless partnering agencies have shown up and done the work! While the pandemic might have thrown a monkey wrench in the mix, the Teams have risen to the occasion! 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 - CAP Coord.

Opportunities for our Ag Partners

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. Cover crops are one of the many BMPs that are eligible for funding through the CEG Program.

CEG is intended to provide incentives for the use of cover crops by farmers who are new to the practice, or for the use of cover crops on fields where they have not been planted in the past. Cover crops provide a variety of benefits to a farm, and they can pay for themselves over time by reducing input costs and improving soil health. But, the upfront cost to get started planting cover crops can deter some farmers from utilizing them.

CEG Program flat-payment rates for cover crops are \$30 per acre for single species and \$40 per acre for multi-species mixes with a 200 acre per year cap per participant. Only fields with no past history of cover crops are eligible for single species payments. Fields with a history of single species cover crop use are still eligible for funding for multi-species mixes. Applicants can apply for one or two years of cover crop funding on one Program application. CEG Program applications must be approved before the cover crops are planted. For fall 2020 cover crop funding, Program applications should be submitted to the York County Conservation District by October 16. Other guidelines and specifications apply.

CEG Program applications are available now from the York County Conservation District (see website or contact the District). Applicants can also find more details on the York County Conservation District website at yorkccd.org. Feel free to contact Mark Flaharty (mflaharty@yorkccd.org) or Stephen Miller (smiller@yorkccd.org) by email or call the York County Conservation District at (717) 840-7430.

Are your Agricultural E&S Plans, Nutrient Management Plans, Manure Management Plans completed and up-to-date?
If not, the **Agricultural Planning Reimbursement Program** can cover your costs for getting them done!

How does it work?

- Contact your regional coordinator for program details
- Submit a registration form to your regional coordinator
- Send a completed plan or approval letter to the regional coordinator within 90 days of submitting registration form
- Submit plan reimbursement form and invoice from consultant
- Receive funding for your plan!

Eligible Plans:

- Manure Management Plans (Chapter 91)
- Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Plans (Chapter 102)
- Act 38 Nutrient Management Plans
- Act 38 Nutrient Balance Sheets
- Conservation Plans (must meet Chapter 102 requirements)
- Crop year updates

Key Deadlines:

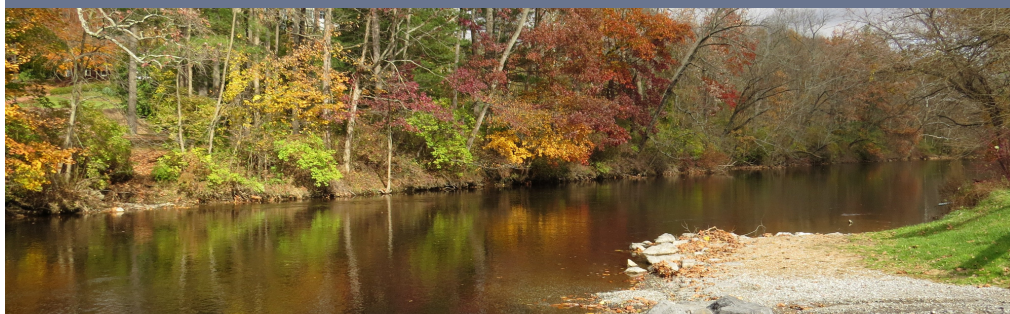
- All registration forms must be received by April 1, 2021
- All plans must be received by May 31, 2021
- This program will end June 30, 2021

REGIONAL COORDINATOR CONTACT:
Amy Zerbe, TeamAg Inc.
amyz@teamaginc.com
570-888-0538

CAP Coordinator's Corner

The end of year one of CAP Implementation is approaching. This month, the Annual Report is due. When the CAP was written, we identified 3 Priority Initiatives with a total of 55 Actions. For a year now, the 5 Action Teams, Leadership Team, YCC4CW, and our many partnering agencies have been working extremely hard to make progress across these 55 Actions. Updating the progress of these Priority Initiatives and Actions gives us the opportunity to illustrate to DEP and EPA all of the hard work we have been doing. We finished the year strong, and although we are just ending year 1, many of the 55 Actions had reportable progress. In other words, we are on our way!

The end of the CAP reportable year also brings the end of the calendar year, and winter. This is the time for us to get planning for those 2021 projects! The Action Teams are following several leads for Spring and Summer 2021 but we need more projects "on the books." Please, reach out with any ideas!



Lastly, we have been working to make our Social Media presence more impactful. Have you followed the YCC4CW account on Instagram and the York County Coalition for Clean Waters Facebook Page? What about our partners? Search these groups on Facebook and Instagram, give some likes/follows/shares!

- Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association
- Watershed Alliance of York
- Penn State Master Watershed Stewards, York County
- York County Conservation District
- York County Planning Commission



York County Coalition for
Clean Waters



YCC4CW



<https://www.ycpc.org/459/York-Countywide-Action-Plan-for-Clean-Wa>



As always, keep spreading the word of the efforts we are undertaking! Tell all your friends! Bring someone new to our next meeting! THANK YOU for your continued support and for all your hard work!

~Rachel Stahlman, CAP Coordinator
rstahlman@ycpc.org

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 **DM Team** is busy learning the ins and outs of the FieldDocs Tool and looking for the best way to provide a Water Quality Monitoring report. A WQM tour was given to the DM team and can be viewed on WAY's Facebook.

YCPC received the NFWF grant to develop a marketing strategy and tools. The **E&O Team** will be starting work on that soon. Last month was Watershed Week, you can still do the self-guided BMP tour found on our website. In addition, the team is looking at applying for DEPs EE grant, installing a rain garden in Memorial park, and participating in many volunteer opportunities.

The **PI Team** has identified buffers as the top BMP to focus their efforts. They are partnering with the RB Team to identify greatest needs for funding and projects. The CEG Program and the Lawn Conversion Program are seeking applicants. In addition, the PI Team is partnering willing landowners with appropriate agencies to get BMPs installed.

The **RB Team** is continuing their work on the Funding Map Spreadsheet. They are analyzing the highest yielding nutrient reducing BMPs and analyzing existing program funding as it pertains to BMPs in the CAP. They are doing this in conjunction with the PI team

The **L&P Changes Team** continues to collaborate with Lancaster County and DEP to come up with Watershed permitting ideas. The Team is seeking a project to go through the pre-app meeting process established between DEP, Lancaster, and York Counties. Several project sponsors have expressed a willingness to participate in the process once the permitting stage is reached.

Event Spotlight: 1st Annual Great Plastic Purge of the Lower Susquehanna



**October 31st &
November 7th
8am-2pm**

Registration Required
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1st-annual-great-plastic-purge-of-the-lower-susquehanna-tickets-121017479539>

**2 Locations in
Wrightsville, York
County:**
**Lock 2 Boat Launch
or
Susquehanna Boat
Works**

Did someone say Clean Up Collaboration?? Yes they did! The Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association and partners, including the Penn State Master Watershed Stewards of York, Lancaster, Lebanon, and Dauphin Counties, Watershed Alliance of York, and York County Coalition for Clean Waters will be hosting the 1st Annual Plastic Purge of the Lower Susquehanna. This large scale cleanup will take place around Lake Clarke on both sides of the Susquehanna River and everywhere in between. Lake Clarke is a 10 mile reservoir or "Lake" formed by the hydroelectric Safe Harbor Dam. Plastics, tires, litter, and other debris continue to get flushed into the Susquehanna River. Join us to help protect our aquatic, avian, and downstream neighbors. We will have registration tables and trash containers at the Lock 2 Lower Boat Ramp and at Susquehanna Boat Works.

Need to Know Information:

- Pick a boat launch: Lock 2 Lower Boat Ramp - Fishing Creek Road Wrightsville, PA 17368 OR Susquehanna Boat Works - 516 Boathouse Road Wrightsville, PA 17368.
- You can walk and clean up along the banks and/or you may launch your motorized boat, canoe, or kayak at any public access given on the side of river you registered on.
- Please bring your own Personal Flotation Device (PFD), water bottle, gloves, mask when necessary, and dress for the weather. All volunteers must wear a PFD during the cleanup if you are on the River.
- Tools will be supplied for the cleanup, including extended pickers to reach out of grasp items, trash bags, and gloves if you don't have any. Lake Clarke River Rescue, PA Fish & Boat Commission Staff, US Coast Guard, and Emergency Medical Services will be participating
- Questions? Call Ted at 717-478-1780 or email lawsusriver@hotmail.com OR call Jeff at 717-495-2015 or email jdmiller89@gmail.com

Exelon Habitat Improvement Program

In 2014, the Department of Environmental Protection issued a water quality certification for the continued operation and maintenance of Exelon's Muddy Run Pumped Storage Project. A condition of the certification requires that \$4 million be provided by Exelon to fund a variety of water improvement projects through 2030. The York County Conservation District is encouraging landowners to implement priority Habitat Improvement Projects. Priority funding will be given to projects that include forested stream buffers of at least 50 feet in width and wetlands creation projects. In addition, projects that provide long term protection and/or maintenance (through deed restrictions, conservation easement, or other maintenance protection) are preferred. The District will seek to leverage the Exelon HIP Funds with other funding sources and will work with government and non-government organizations to implement habitat improvement projects.

For more information about ag-related BMPs, contact Mark Flaharty, Ag Resource Conservationist at 717-840-7430 or e-mail mflaharty@yorkccd.org. For more information about habitat improvement BMPs, contact Emily Neideigh, Watershed Specialist, at 717-840-7430 or e-mail eneideigh@yorkccd.org

General Guidelines:

- \$71,250 is the maximum project funding. A project may include multiple practices.
- A pre-application meeting must be held onsite with a representative from the District prior to submittal of the application.
- Applications for funding must be approved by the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP).
- The application and contract agreement will be approved by the District Board.
- The most current Federal W-9 form must be completed and submitted with the signed agreement.
- All necessary local, state, and federal permits and approvals must be obtained before the installation of practices may begin. Payment will be in the form of an incentive payment based on the units of practice installed.
- Payment will be in the form of an incentive payment based on the units of practice installed.
- Practice implementation should occur within 6-12 months of contract approval.
- The practices must be maintained for five years after their completion.

Priority Ag BMPS

- Forested stream buffers • Wetlands creation • Barnyard BMPs • Pasture BMPs • Field BMPs • Stream restoration • Other water quality improvements

Priority Habitat Improvement BMPs

- Forested stream buffer plantings • Wetlands creation • Riparian buffer maintenance • Stream restoration and maintenance • In-stream habitat improvement and maintenance



BMP Blast: Diversion Swales

When I became the owner of an abandoned 21-acre farm, I considered the water that fell on my land to be both my responsibility and my opportunity. To determine how best to capture and manage this water, I spent time observing how water flowed through my parcel following several intense storms. In doing so, I saw runoff collecting on the unimproved, badly eroded, washed out driveway, rushing the stormwater, and the pollutants traveling with it, into the nearby spring-fed trout stream. I committed myself to putting some best management practices (BMPs) into place that could reduce the ecological and property damage from stormwater runoff and add attractive property features, such as rain gardens and ponds, to the farm.

To get started, I sought out the advice of the professionals at The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), located in York County. NRCS prepared a Soil Conservation Plan for my farm, which recommended a number of practices to reduce runoff. This expert technical advice was available free-of-charge. (While I did not make use of it, cost sharing for BMPs also is often available). The NRCS technical experts identified the diversion BMP as the most important practice and designed the diversion as the first project to be completed on my property.

A diversion is defined as an earthen embankment, channel, or combination of ridge and channel, which is constructed across a slope to catch, slow, and direct runoff. A diversion typically can be built on any farmland which contains a slope over some distance. With my diversion, which was 55 feet in width, I seeded the back slope, which serves as a filter strip, with a grass seed mixture, and the berm with a mixture of wildflowers and native tall grasses.

In addition to the diversion BMP, other BMPs were later put into place to manage water flow on the property. These included: rain gardens, grassed waterways, cover crops, and contour strips across fields. On any property, the first intervention should be selected and designed with future projects in mind, considering how, collectively, they might work together to manage runoff.

As a conservation-minded property owner, I have been pleased to see that very little runoff from my farm now enters directly into the nearby tributary. Enabling the stormwater to percolate into the soil raises the local groundwater table, improving both the year-round flow from seeps and springs, and, thereby, the flow and quality of the water in the receiving stream. Doing my part to maintain this ecologically important cycle has enabled me to contribute to a clean water supply in the local watershed and across the region, all while enabling me to enjoy clean water, beautiful spaces, and productive agriculture on my own land.

With weather forecasters predicting an increase in the number and intensity of storm events, stormwater volume is likely to increase. For owners of properties containing sloped areas, diversions are one of the many simple yet highly effective, tools available for controlling stormwater flow. Landowners who are concerned about stormwater flow and how it may affect their properties and the environment would be well advised to seek advice on stormwater BMPs they can put into place on their land.

~Paul Solomon

Paul J. Solomon is a retired Shrewsbury Township Supervisor, in York County, PA, a private forest landowner, and a Pennsylvania Forest Steward and Master Watershed Steward volunteer. He resides in Shrewsbury Township, York County, PA.



Coalition COMEBACK

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

The next YCC4CW
Zoom meeting is
scheduled for
November 20th from
1:00-3:00.

- Register for the Great Plastic Purge of the Lower Susquehanna
- Share this Newsletter
- Follow us on Instagram
- Like us on Facebook



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