2026 Management Summit
DEP Partner Updates

October 29, 2026

Pennsylvania
Department of
Environmental Protection

Agenda

- County Conservation District-Provided Discussion Topics
- DEP Support for CCDs
- Data Tracking and Reporting
- Questions
- Contact Us

CCD-Provided Discussion Topics

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Data Collection Relating to Ag Plans

Question

At the All Ag meeting on September 14 during the "Why AWESOME Data Matters" there was a presentation slide that showed only 20% of the plan data entered into PracticeKeeper is getting counted in the CAST model. Please provide some clarification/further explanation. Is that accurate? Why is 80% of the data currently collected not being counted?

Response

- **This was miscommunication.**
- **We have sufficient information to report Core N, Core P, Supplemental, and Ag. E&S to CAST through our normal processes if all required elements are reported.**
- 80% of plan records did not have pdfs of the plans attached to the PK record.

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Program Workgroups/Committees

Question

- What workgroups are currently active and how often do they meet?
- How can districts obtain a list of these workgroups along with who is currently serving on them?
- How are members selected? Especially district representatives.

Response

- Delegation workgroups have sunset.
- Chesapeake Bay Positions Focus Group
  - Contact Krista Crone if you would like to serve

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DEP Conservation District Field Representatives

Question: A few years ago, District Managers tried, through PACD, to initiate a discussion with BWRNSM staff on how Field Reps could be better utilized. Nothing ever materialized and we would like to renew this discussion.

Services that can be provided under the CDFR Job Specification

- Attend board and special meetings of the district, provide DEP/SCC Report
- Serve as a first point of contact for the CCD and maintain regular communication
- Assist with DEP & SCC program evaluations
- Provide New Employee and New Director Trainings
- Assist with interviews
- Assist with Director nomination process
- Review Chesapeake Bay Program reimbursements
- Coordinate regional CD Roundtables, compliance check-ins & other regional trainings
- Serve on DEP and SCC committees and workgroups
- Provide guidance on applicable laws(Act 217, Sunshine, RTK, Ethics Act, etc.)

Services that are outside the CDFR Job Specification

- Complete reports for districts
- Enter Data into reporting systems
- Process Permits/Complete Inspections
- Make hiring decisions
- Lobbying

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Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) Statement of Policy

Question

During the SCC meeting at the 2024 JAC, managers identified and requested, as the top priority, to increase the efficiency of administering CDFAP funding. To date there has been little progress. Can anything be done within the existing CDFAP Statement of Policy? If so, what? If not, what is the process and will the Department support revising the Statement of Policy? What will it take to move the needle?

Response

- Work continues on the Statement of Policy during CDAC meetings, and DEP fully supports revising the statement of policy.
- Timeline of the new statement of policy should coincide with modernization efforts across the Commonwealth.
    - CDFAP has been nominated for Wave 1, which means, if accepted, the technological solutions could be ready by **next fiscal year (2027-2028)**.

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Joint Annual Conference (JAC)

Question

- The CDFAP Special project funds were allocated to support increased district attendance at the JAC. The funding approval was obtained too late for any clear results and as such will not be completely utilized. How can these unused funds be utilized to still support the JAC? Can they be applied to the support the 2027 JAC?
- If feasible, would the Department support combing the JAC with another conference such as the Summit as well as support a CDFAP special project funding request.

Response

- If the SCC voted to allocate 2027 CDFAP funds to support CCD attendance at the JAC as a special project again, then it would come out of 2027-2028 CDFAP funds.
- Yes, DEP would support combining the JAC with the Management Summit if that is direction recommended by the respective planning committees. The PACD portion of the meeting should paid with PACD funds.

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Base Delegation: Including 102, 105, Mushroom, and Biosolids

Question

- Is a signature line for the SCC Executive Secretary included?

Response

- The draft is currently undergoing legal review. Whatever draft is approved by legal will be a discussion item at an SCC meeting and open for CCD comment for 45 days.
- Regardless of if the final version of the delegation has a signature line for the Executive Secretary, it will be approved by the State Conservation Commission and include a date of approval.

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Base Delegation: Including 102, 105, Mushroom, and Biosolids

Question

- Since the Required Output Measures can include items other than those specifically required by the law or regulations, to allow Districts more time to review, can/will the proposed ROMs be provided to Districts before the delegation legal review is complete?

Response

- The open comment period will be after legal's review and following a webinar which will be open to all CCDs.
- Program staff is working on the 102 & 105 portions of the delegation agreements concurrently with the Base delegation. Due to this all portions of the document will be released at the same time.

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Base Delegation: Including 102, 105, Mushroom, and Biosolids

Question

- What circumstances prompted the consideration of adding Ag 102/105 inspections to the delegation agreement?

Clarification & Response

- Expectations for 105 inspections have not changed.
- There is not a requirement for the CCD to conduct Ag inspections in the 102 delegation.
  - If a CCD does not want to conduct Ag inspections, they may choose to write Ag E&S Plans.

The "why" is about data:

To understand the magnitude of our mission

To have an informed plan to achieve our mission.

To demonstrate progress and success.

To position ourselves to receive federal resources when they become available.

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Delegation Agreement Timelines

Base Delegation: Including 102, 105, Mushroom, and Biosolids

- A webinar will be scheduled which will begin or be during a 45-day open comment period for the CCDs.
- *Tentatively* - It will go before the SCC as an information item in November or January.
- *Tentatively* – Final will go before the SCC for approval in early 2027. Districts will be given adequate time to take to boards for approval. Our goal to have all delegations fully executed by July 1, 2027

Nutrient and Manure Management

- Work group completed work on ROMs in spring 2026
- Went out for district comment April – May 2026
- Currently with legal and staff are developing the eGrants application
- Information item to be on the SCC agenda by January 2027, approval by March 2027.
- Districts will have April 1-May 15, 2027, to sign and return packet.
- **All agreements must be approved by June 30, 2027.**

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Watershed Specialist Mini-Grants

Question

- Since both the mini-grants and the Watershed Specialist funding comes from the same pot (Environmental Stewardship Fund) can we reduce administration, eliminate the mini-grants and increase the overall funding of the watershed specialist contracts?

Response

- The current Watershed Specialist contracts will expire June 30, 2028.
- In calendar year 2027, DEP is committed to forming a committee to evaluate the current Watershed Specialist Program to recommend proposed changes to the program ahead of the issuance of the new contracts.
- BWRNSM will consider all recommendations from the committee.

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Miscellaneous

Question

What is the process to resolve issues when Districts received conflicting advice from Regional and Central Office?

Response

Central office responses are typically framed from a statewide perspective.

Districts should always attempt to work through issues with the region first, but if there is an unresolved conflict, the district/region can contact central office to weigh in further.

All parties should be included in the conversation, and central office should be provided the full details of the specific situation.

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Miscellaneous

Question

- PCSM Manual update.
- SPEED update
- PILOT program updates.

Response

- PCSM Manual – about 70% complete, at least one year to complete.
- No SPEED (102 or 105) Updates.
- The Chapter 102 Permitting Pilot materials were updated on DEP's E&S Resources page in August to reflect additional CCDs participating, as well as the addition of the PAG-02 into the Pilot. Anyone participating in that Pilot should be familiar with the latest materials.
- Details regarding the new Statewide Utility Pilot were also posted to the E&S Resources website. All Districts should familiarize themselves with this Pilot, as it involves one overarching permit that will cover many projects across the state. DEP's Major Projects Permitting Division (MPPD) is the lead on permitting for this Pilot, but districts will still be reviewing E&S plans and performing typical inspection/compliance activities within their county.
- No 105 pilot updates.

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Miscellaneous

Question

- Please provide clarification on the regulatory definition of “Dam Removal”.

Response

“Dam Removal” is not defined in the Chapter 105 regulation or the Dam Safety and Encroachments Act, so there is not a regulatory definition.

DEP Support for CCDs

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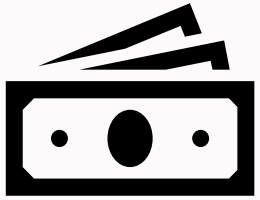
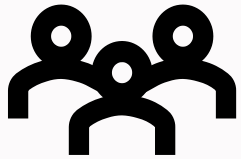
DEP Support for CCDs



More than $32 million

per year on average

(Does not include what's been granted to CCDs through Growing Greener and 319)



More than 157 FTE's

(Does not include positions paid through CDFAP or grant administration)

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DEP Grant Programs

Growing Greener Plus Program – NPS Watershed Support

- Funded by the Environmental Stewardship Fund (state funds)
- Protects restores abandoned mine lands and enhances watershed health
- Implements BMPs to reduce nonpoint source pollution
- Open to local governments, watershed groups, conservation districts, non-profits, educational institutions, and municipal authorities
- Funding cycles typically allowing up to three years for project completion
- Funds technical assistance, design, permit, and engineering

	2021 Award	2022 Award	2023 Award	2024 Award	2025 Award
GG Plus	$18.2M	$19.9M	$12.7M	$15.2M	$17.3M

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DEP Grant Programs

Countywide Action Plan (CAP) Implementation Grant - Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Watershed Accountability and Administration

- Supports counties in PA's Chesapeake Bay watershed as they carry out locally developed strategies under the Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan
- Designed as a “block grant” - simplifies funding by consolidating multiple state and federal sources through a single county-level agreement
- Allows for acceleration of implementation of best management practices.

	2021 Award	2022 Award	2023 Award	2024 Award	2025 Award
CAP	$6.7M	$17.7M	$12.3M	$19.9M	$24.0M

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DEP Grant Programs

EPA Section 319 Nonpoint Source Management Grant – NPS Watershed Support

- Funded through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act
- EPA provides funding to PA DEP, which then supports watershed restoration projects in impaired waterbodies with approved watershed plans.
- Finance on-the-ground activities such as streambank restoration, riparian buffer installation, agricultural BMPs, stormwater retrofits, abandoned mine drainage treatment, and natural channel design.
- Supports Watershed Improvement Plan Updates

	2021 Award	2022 Award	2023 Award	2024 Award	2025 Award
319	$8.3M	$8.3M	$8.4M	$8.0M	$8.7M

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

DEP Grant Programs

Conservation District Funding Support (CD Fund) – NPS Conservation District Support

- Receives funding from three sources – PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Line Item, PA Department of Agriculture (PDA) Line Item and the Unconventional Gas Well Fund (Act 13).
- In fiscal year 2026-2027 the total deposited into the CD Fund from these three sources was $15,392,023.
- The State Conservation Commission provides conservation districts from the CD Fund through the Conservation District Fund Allocation Program (CDFAP) to be used for the employment of conservation district managers and technicians, to provide administrative funding assistance to districts, to finance Commission mandated or authorized activities.
- The five-year average total allocations for CDFAP from 2022-2026 was $14,999,503.

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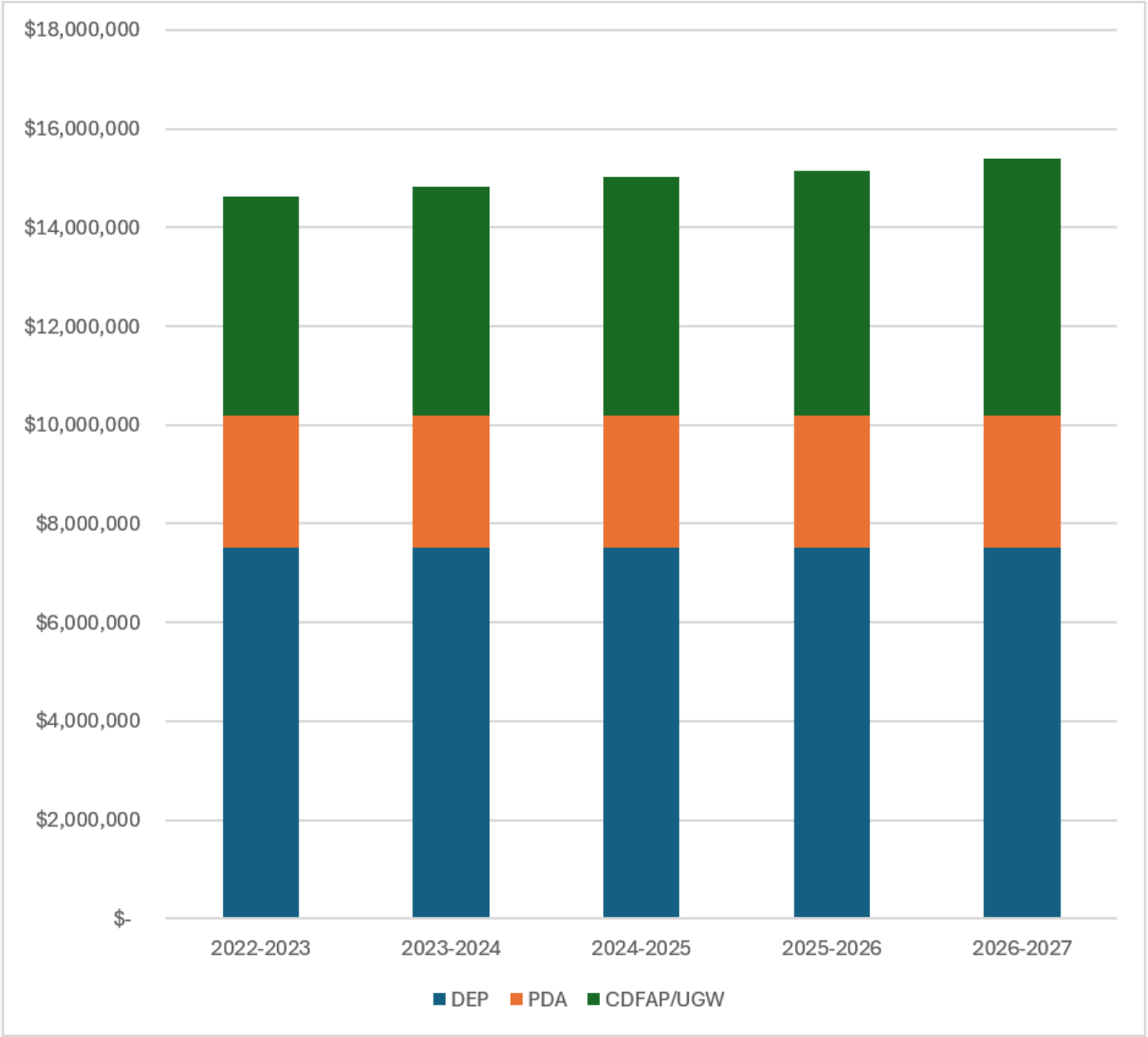
DEP Grant Programs

CDFAP 2022-2027



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DEP Grant Programs

NPS Agriculture Compliance

- Combination of federal (Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program, Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant) and state sources (Chesapeake Bay Abatement Fund, Nutrient Management Fund)
- All federal match requirements are met through state contributions to the programs. There is no obligation for match from the CD.
- Per FTE allocations have increased for CB Tech and NMMM from under $60,000 to $80,000 per year since 2018.

Program	Five-year Annual Average Award	Number of FTEs Supported
Chesapeake Bay Tech	$2,236,627	29
Chesapeake Bay Engineer	$642,940	6.5
Nutrient and Manure Management (NMMM) Delegation	$3,341,991	51

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DEP Grant Programs

Watershed Specialist – NPS Watershed Support

- Funded through the Environmental Stewardship Fund (state funds)
- No match Required
- New with the current contract – Increased allocation of up to $5000 to support on-the-ground projects administered by the Watershed Specialist.

Five-year Annual Average Award	Number of FTEs Supported
$3,341,991	53

Data Tracking and Reporting

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Why we data

It is foundational to achieving our DEP and NPS missions.

DEP Mission

The Department of Environmental Protection's mission is to **protect Pennsylvania's air, land and water resources** and to provide for the health and safety of its residents and visitors, consistent with the rights and duties established under the Environmental Rights Amendment (Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution).

We will work as partners with individuals, organizations, governments, and businesses to conserve and restore our natural resources and to address all current and future environmental challenges including climate change and environmental justice.

NPS Mission

To **protect, conserve, and restore** waters of the Commonwealth from **nonpoint source pollution** for present and future generations through support programs, targeted compliance, outreach, and grants.

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Why we data

Without data, we do not have resources to achieve our mission:

- We do not understand the work left to do or the work that has been done.
- We cannot measure success or challenges.
- We cannot justify the need for resources to federal partners.
- We cannot justify the need for additional (or maintenance of) state resources for our NPS programs during state budget negotiations.

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Why we data: To measure success (Baseline and Progress)

Programs collecting BMP planning and implementation data

- 102 Delegation
- 105 Delegation
- NMMM Delegation
- Growing Greener
- 319 Nonpoint Source
- Watershed Specialist
- Chesapeake Bay Engineer
- Chesapeake Bay Technician
- CAP Implementation
- Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

Programs collecting monitoring data

- 319 Nonpoint Source
  - National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)
  - Lakes Monitoring
- Growing Greener

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Why we data: To position ourselves for and maintain current federal funding

Federal grants requiring baseline and progress reports or other success metrics

- 319 Nonpoint Source
- Chesapeake Bay Regulatory and Accountability Program (CBRAP)
- Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG)
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- ?????

Federal grants that do not require reporting



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Why we data: To demonstrate success of state programs
(and maintain or increase state funding)

State programs that require metrics to demonstrate success

- 102 Delegation
- 105 Delegation
- NMMM Delegation
- Growing Greener
- 319 Nonpoint Source
- Watershed Specialist
- Chesapeake Bay Engineer
- Chesapeake Bay Technician
- CAP Implementation

State funds that are a guaranteed line in the state budget without justification



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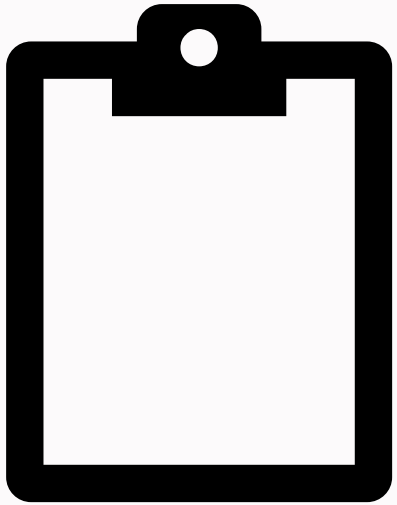
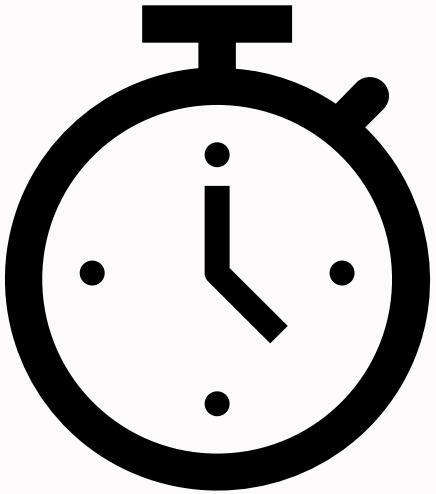
Why we data: To make data-driven program decisions

Reduce Survey Requests



Expedite Decision Making



Enhanced Accountability



Data Discussion

Questions

Contact Us

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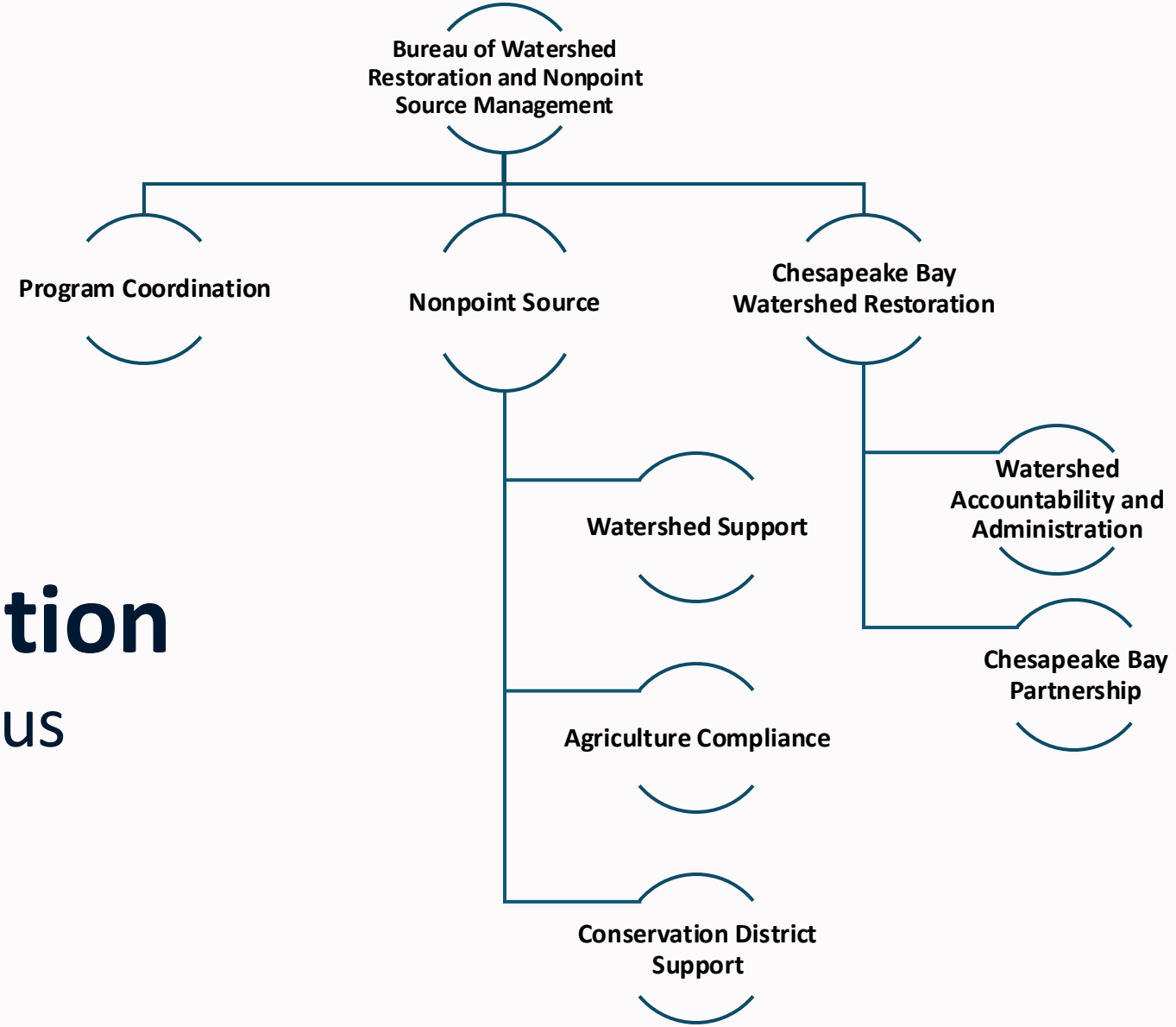
Our Organization

How to contact us



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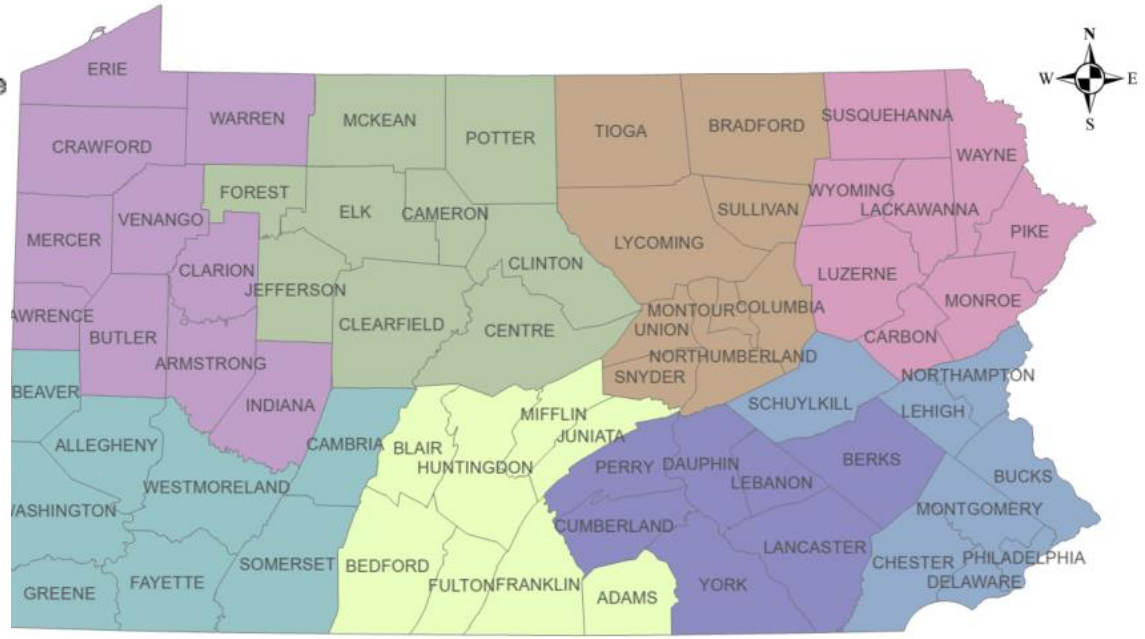
Vacant



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