

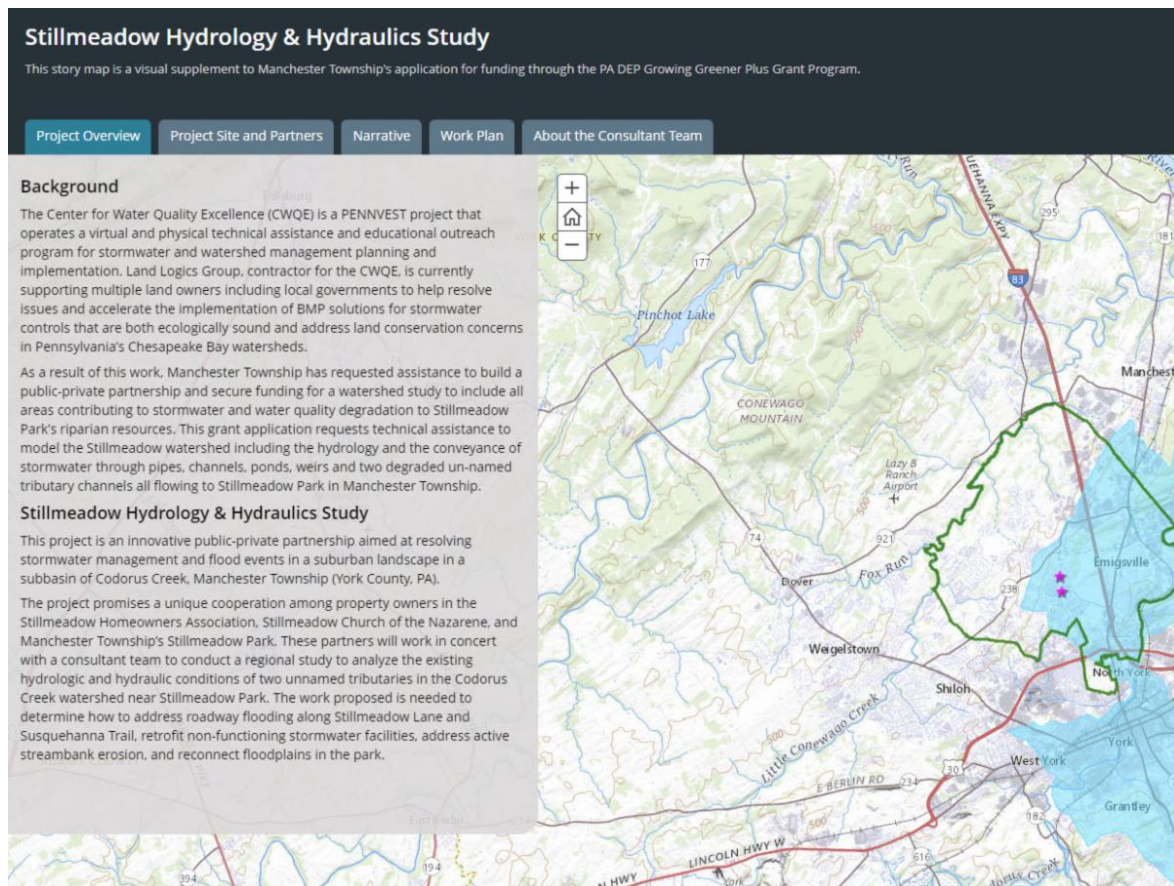
CWQE Assistance

STORY MAPS BOOST GRANT APPEAL

To be awarded a grant, you must convince the funding entity that YOUR project is a top match for a particular program. One approach that can help is the use of a Story Map as a supplement to a grant application.

Why bother? Because many grant reviewers read *a lot* of applications, and competition can be fierce. A story map is designed to inspire. It brings a project to life using interactive maps, aerial photos, condensed narratives with illustrations, videos and photos, and links to technology tools that add project efficiencies. Key messages are highlighted. What's more, online story maps can be easily shared to build support among stakeholder audiences.

CWQE is currently helping two townships in York County develop story maps that offer a highly visual overview of their project applications.



In Manchester Township, The [Stillmeadow Hydrology & Hydraulics Study story map](#) takes the viewer through a proposal to use a public-private partnership aimed at resolving stormwater and flooding issues in a suburban landscape in the Codorus Creek watershed. It's a unique project that relies on the cooperation of multiple property owners – a homeowners association, local church and the Township. The map's tabs help the viewer easily navigate the what, who, when and why for this project.

The proposal was recently submitted to PA DCED's Flood Mitigation Program and PA DEP's Growing Greener Program.



Stormwater management and flooding issues have plagued residents and businesses along **Kreutz Creek in Hellam Township**, York County for years. Funding is needed to implement project ideas presented in a 2020 Corps of Engineers study to address these local flooding concerns.

To accelerate action, CWQE is helping Hellam Township develop a story map to support future grant applications from such agencies as PEMA, PennDOT, PA DEP and PA DCED.

The story map will tell the story of flooding and map priority problem areas with photos, videos and descriptions of past and current issues facing the Township. It will highlight past studies and CWQE's suggestions for funding and strategic initiatives with partner organizations including PennDOT. A township Planning Commission volunteer is hoping to present "the story" before the Board of Supervisors to illustrate needs and encourage potential next steps to mitigate flooding and better manage runoff.

FALL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the CWQE Support Hub funding profiles for the latest on upcoming grant opportunities for stormwater management. See links found in the [Upcoming Deadlines](#) and [Open Enrollment Programs](#) articles.

DCNR is able to offer a [fall round of grants](#) to support streamside forest buffers, community tree planting, and lawn conversion projects. Deadline is October 27, 2022. More than \$8 million in Keystone Tree Fund money and other funds will support watershed and community forestry practices.

[NFWF Innovative Nutrient & Sediment Reduction](#) grant applications are due November 17, 2022. Grant funds tripled this fiscal year with dollars from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Funding Programs

Federal Programs

Federal funding programs for stormwater, non-point source pollution and green infrastructure.

State Programs

Pennsylvania funding programs for stormwater, non-point source pollution and green

Local Governmental Agency Programs

Municipal, county, and regional governmental agency funding programs for stormwater, non-

General

Includes guidance documents related to funding and technical assistance.

Private & Nonprofit Programs

Includes loans, grants and incentive programs administered by non-governmental organizations.

Deadlines

Upcoming funding opportunities, leveraging resources

Clean Water State Revolving Fund

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) is a low-interest source of financing for a wide

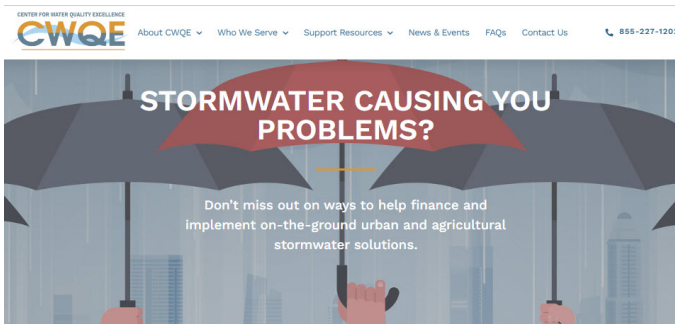
River Basin

Grants or loans offered by interstate River Basin commissions.

CWQE SHARES FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

Outreach, customer support, workshops, special events, and a knowledge-based library were key activities launched during PENNVEST's CWQE project's first year of operation. Want to know more? Visit the CWQE First Annual Report Story Map at <https://arcg.is/1varvK0>.

The story map report provides a visual snapshot of this pilot program's efforts over the last year to assist various landowners



WELCOME TO THE CENTER FOR WATER QUALITY EXCELLENCE

and organizations facing stormwater and water quality issues or concerns in York and Lancaster counties.

What type and from which locations did CWQE receive requests for assistance? Check out the interactive maps next to each of the key audience tabs for pop-up summaries of help provided. As with all pilot projects, the project team (led by Land Logics Group) is sharing lessons learned and making recommendations to PENNVEST, as the Center begins its second year of operation.



AG OUTREACH OPENS DOORS FOR LANDOWNER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The York County Planning Commission took an atypical lead on outreach to farmers by partnering with conservation organizations and businesses to conduct a pilot program called *Better Farms, Cleaner Water*. Funding was provided by the York County Community Foundation.

The program offered no-charge assistance to landowners in the Barshinger Creek watershed (a subwatershed of Codorus Creek). CWQE and Land Logics Group provided support in introducing farm operators to this program, conducting farm visits, and consulting on how to secure funding for conservation practice planning and implementation.

As part of the pilot, ten participating landowners will receive \$1,000 vouchers to help develop a conservation plan or to install conservation practices.

Randy Sterner, Codorus Township, will be dedicating his voucher toward the development of a Forest Stewardship Plan. Part of the planning involves working in concert with Sterner's tenant farmer and addressing ongoing issues with invasive species. CWQE's [PestLogics](#) software will be used to support the writing of the plan and to track use of pesticides for invasive species control. A novel twist is that the plan will be part of a senior project for a student at Messiah University under the supervision of Forest Stewardship Planner Dr. David Foster. A truly hands-on experience for a future conservation professional.

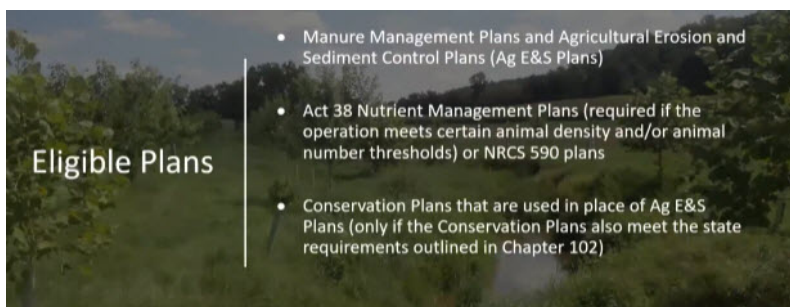
NEW REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM FOR AG PLANS

A new state program is available to reimburse farmers for the development

or update of plans to manage nutrients and erosion. The PA Association of Conservation Districts received a \$500,000 Growing Greener grant to administer the program, which is based on a DEP pilot that ran from 2017-2021. That program awarded \$2.4 million to farmers in selected Bay counties supporting more than 3,200 plans.

Now a statewide program, the DEP Ag Plan Reimbursement Program will support 500 plans; 50 percent of the plans must be within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Farmers must contribute 20% of the cost to update or create a plan and can be reimbursed up to \$1,500 per plan (or 80% of plan cost whichever is lower), or up to \$6,000 for multiple plans. The program is on first-come, first-serve basis, so don't delay in making an application.

If interested, visit the [PACD website](#) or contact Holly Miller at hmiller@pacd.org for guidelines



and forms.



2022 CLEAN WATERSHED NEEDS SURVEY OUT SOON

Attention Municipalities: EPA is working with all the states to find out what capital improvements are needed for wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. Within the next few months, municipalities and publicly and privately owned infrastructure facilities will be urged to complete the **2022 Clean Watershed Needs Survey (CWNS)** for Pennsylvania.

Congress requires EPA to conduct the CWNS to assess capital costs needed to meet the water quality goals of the Clean Water Act. The last survey was conducted in 2012. For the new survey, EPA is directed to assess capital eligible for assistance from state water pollution control revolving funds – i.e., PENNVEST funds. That means the survey will now include decentralized and nonpoint source needs.

Participation is paramount to determining the true needs of Pennsylvania. The results will help determine the allocation of funds to states, so be on the lookout and complete the CWNS survey to share your municipal capital improvement plans and needs. Stay tuned for more information on the PA CWNS. All surveys are to be collected by February 28, 2023.

AG HIGH TUNNELS: RETHINKING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

As a follow-up to CWQE's workshop and farmer assistance on how to best manage stormwater around agricultural high tunnels, discussions at the state level are expected to continue this fall.

High tunnels are temporary, hooped structures that extend the growing season of specialty crops and are growing in popularity in southcentral Pennsylvania. High tunnels help keep farming viable for farmers transitioning from dairy and traditional crop systems.

Pasa Sustainable Agriculture will be providing assistance in coordinating at least one listening session so that state ag and environmental leaders can hear firsthand some of the issues encountered by farmers wanting to install high tunnels.

At the heart of the issue is the



CWQE Helps Farmer Seek Stormwater Solutions

Over the past seven months, CWQE has been working with several Amish farmers in both Lancaster and York counties to help navigate local stormwater management ordinances to gain “building permits” for the use of high tunnels, a recognized agricultural practice by both the NRCS and conservation districts.

Some local township ordinances require stormwater peak rate and volume controls for these high tunnel agricultural practices similar to requirements for permanent buildings associated with land development processes. CWQE reviewed proposed designs that use stone trenches adjacent to the high tunnels, a land development approach to controlling stormwater runoff that disrupts the soil-water

local government interpretation of state stormwater regulations that looks at high tunnels as permanent buildings, thereby triggering a set of stormwater requirements that are more appropriate for excavated sites. High tunnels need to be moved periodically over the soil; requiring practices such as stone trenches can interfere with their placement.

If you would like to be notified about this listening session, please contact Sara Nicholas of Pasa at sara@pasafarming.org.

profile in agricultural soils and interferes with crop rotation and moving the tunnels on a periodic basis.

The stormwater management and building permit dilemma for these farmers led to a closer look at alternative stormwater solutions that would enhance the farm operation while improving water quality.

As part of its assistance, CWQE took a broader watershed perspective and is helping the farmer with grant applications that would support the following alternative designs and complementary conservation practices: addition of a riparian buffer downslope of the high tunnels (with the intent of introducing a multi-functional riparian buffer), rainwater harvesting to offset the stormwater impact from high tunnels, and the use of Biochar for trench and filter strips along the high tunnels. The public-private partnership includes an Operations & Maintenance Plan for the riparian buffer and monitoring associated with the use of Biochar.

For more information, contact Sally Holbert at sholbert@cwqe.org

CWQE TO HOST YORK COUNTY MASTER WATERSHED STEWARDS

On October 5, 2022, CWQE will be hosting the Master Watershed Stewards from York County meeting to introduce CWQE resources that are in support of their mission and to educate them about stormwater management best management practices and opportunities for stormwater retrofits.

Participants will learn about the basics of stormwater management regulations with a focus on operations and management responsibilities and how to identify stormwater basin sites as potential candidates for retrofits using green infrastructure practices. York County Master Watershed Steward coordinator Jodi Sulpizio will be assisting with this special meeting.

Center for Water Quality Excellence |
A PENNVEST funded initiative
www.cwqe.org



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