

Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership (CWMP)

Organizational Description & Services

Mission

The Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership (CWMP) is a long-term partnership of Pennsylvania municipalities, county agencies, and watershed conservation organizations. The mission of CWMP is *to facilitate and support engagement and collaboration of Pennsylvania municipalities, landowners, and other stakeholders to restore and protect the water quality of streams in the Brandywine Creek, Red Clay Creek and White Clay Creek watersheds.*

Beneficial Outcomes

Since 2003, this Partnership has provided broad based collaborative education and MS4 regulatory planning and coordination efforts to 38 municipalities and private, non-profit, and government partners in the PA portion of the Christina Basin. The CWMP coordination efforts have achieved significant cost savings and improved consistencies for MS4 municipalities through information sharing, tools and templates, and facilitation of collaborative planning, among other services, and assisted them with watershed-based approaches to regulatory compliance. In recent years, CWMP has assisted municipalities in preparing pollutant reduction and TMDL plans, and for the past two years, has also facilitated 3 pilot areas of multi-municipal collaboration planning in the Brandywine Creek and White Clay Creek watersheds.

Emerging Challenges

Over the next five years, the CWMP MS4 municipalities will need to complete the approval process of their pollution reduction planning, and then begin a new era of municipal implementation efforts, with the associated financial, regulatory, logistical, and operational uncertainties. This transition to implementation will continue to benefit from flexible and responsive coordination among the partners, and clear communication between the partners and DEP, to address challenges as they emerge and to most effectively and expeditiously begin reducing pollution within the Christina watersheds.

Moving Forward

CWMP municipal partners were interviewed to identify the following key services and support that would most benefit the municipalities as they navigate through these challenges and uncertainties, and which will guide CWMP's activities moving forward:

- *Christina Basin-wide integration of restoration efforts* - among all of the numerous entities and efforts underway for water quality restoration in the Christina watersheds, through continuity of leadership and consistency of guidance, to accelerate restoration;
- *Facilitation of multi-municipal collaboration* - for planning and implementation of pollution reduction efforts by providing collaboration "facilitators" and identifying and "incubating" new collaboration opportunities;
- *Technical assistance and planning support* - among all municipal, county/state government and non-profit partners to exchange information and experiences, and advance understanding of watershed needs, and opportunities vis a vis regulatory requirements;

- *Regulatory liaison and unified representation, coordination and communication with regulatory agencies* – to communicate the cumulative voice of the collective partnership to engage DEP in leveraging opportunities within and beyond the regulatory framework to advance water quality improvement;
- *Engagement of CWMP municipalities* – through cost-sharing arrangements with their watershed organizations and providing materials, training and support services for achieving their MS4 requirements;
- *Coordination with the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI) Brandywine- Christina Cluster* – to coordinate CWMP and DRWI Cluster initiatives to efficiently provide services to municipalities and stakeholders and maximize benefits to the streams of the watersheds.

Accomplishments

The CWMP partners have worked together for over 15 years toward improving water quality in the Christina watersheds. Through the coordinated and collaborative work of all of the CWMP partners, the following have been achieved:

- Maintained participation of 38 MS4 municipalities in CWMP (2003 – 2019).
- Assisted in MCMs 1& 2 for municipalities by providing education and public participation plans and input for annual reports (2003-2018).
- Developed a TMDL plan template for CWMP municipalities (2011-2012).
- Provided leadership in developing calculation methodologies for loading rates and reductions in TMDL plans (2016-2018).
- Facilitated collaboration on calculation methodology and planning among the White Clay Creek pilot partners to enable future collaborative projects and funding (2016-present).
- Facilitated Honey Brook Borough and Honey Brook Township to develop a collaborative TMDL plan including agricultural and urban projects (2016-2018).
- Served as a communication channel between municipalities and PADEP in the TMDL planning process (2010-2019).
- Completed land use loading rate calculations and an easy-to-use table to assist municipalities in determining their existing baseline pollutant load (2016-2017).
- Provided GIS land use layers from 1995 and 2012 to CWMP municipalities configured to allow direct comparison of land use between years for base line load calculations (2016-2017).
- Developed an easy-to-use spreadsheet Urban BMP Load Reduction Calculation Tool that mimicked the MapShed BMP editor tool, using the Chesapeake Bay performance standard approach, for calculation of the load reductions from existing or proposed BMPs (2017).
- Provided municipalities and consultants with a GIS map package with symbology to encourage standardized stormwater mapping across the watersheds (2017).
- Continued coordination with municipalities to achieve TMDL/PRP plan approval from PADEP (2017-present).
- Partnership activities funded by member municipalities, planning team and municipal in-kind services, and a one-time NFWF Delaware River Restoration Fund Innovation Grant.