

Franklin County WIP 3 Next Phase

PA's Watershed Implementation Plan Phase 3 (WIP 3) has been completed and submitted to EPA. Efforts are now focused on meeting the pollutant reduction goals by 2025. The implementation phase for the 4 original pilot counties is underway. A WIP 3 Coordinator position is expected to be placed in Franklin County in early 2020. This position will most likely be housed with the Franklin County Conservation District or the Franklin County Planning Commission. The coordinator's duties will include working with local partners to bring together expertise and resources in an effort to get Best Management Practices (BMPs) implemented on the County's landscape.

Another aspect of the implementation phase will include verification of BMPs already installed and tracking newly installed BMPs. There is talk of using remote sensing (high resolution aerial maps) and possibly a more extensive BMP survey similar to the one Penn State did several years ago. Newly installed BMPs are proposed to be tracked using FieldDocs and Practice Keeper, two computer tracking programs.

Franklin County's County Action Plan (CAP), our local part of PA's WIP 3, contains a number of BMPs selected to reach our reduction goal. The list of Ag BMPs includes enhanced nutrient management, barnyard runoff controls, ag waste storage facilities, cover crop plantings, no-till systems, ag erosion & sediment control plans, manure management plans, forested and grass buffers, and others. Stormwater BMPs include tree plantings, forest buffers, rain gardens, stream restoration projects, post construction stormwater management plans with control measures, erosion and sediment control plans with measures, infiltration basins and Bioswales.

A growing number of financial assistance programs for landowners and municipalities for BMP implementation purposes, are being announced. Programs vary from grants, low interest loans, block grants, PA income tax credits (REAP), etc.

If you have any questions concerning WIP 3 or are interested in learning more about BMPs and implementation funding assistance programs, please contact the Conservation District for assistance. You can view Franklin County's Phase 3 Watershed Implementation Plan on FCCD's website at www.franklinccd.org.