

From: Allyson Gibson
Subject: EPA statement

Hello Partners,

As many of you may have heard, on Monday the EPA issued a press release stating that it finds Pennsylvania's Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) falls short of addressing mandated pollution reductions. The EPA plans to "step up federal actions" starting this week.

[Read the full release here.](#) And read more information on federal actions in [this Lancaster Farming article](#).

The press release from EPA acknowledges that Pennsylvania has made "noteworthy progress" and "tremendous effort." The missing link, though, is creating dependable state funding and programmatic changes to finance the work outlined in the state WIP.

Organizations across Lancaster – all of you! – are operating at an unprecedented pace and scale to implement conservation practices as timelines to reduce nutrient and sediment levels entering the Chesapeake Bay grow shorter. But we have much further to go. In order to move forward, there are essential funding elements that need to be in place, such as starting a state cost-share program for agricultural conservation plans and practices, an updated Act 167 plan, and funding to address flooding resiliency and stormwater needs, among other things.

Pennsylvania has 90 days to submit an improved plan. We have not yet heard from any state agency on next steps or specifics for the Countywide Action Plan Coordinators. But whatever next steps EPA and Pennsylvania agree to take, Lancaster is prepared to do what's necessary to meet its local clean water goals. Our sense of urgency drives each organization to increase the pace and scale of their work, which will be even more successful when the appropriate resources are available.

We will keep you informed as more information is available.

Please note the information shared in this email is not an official statement from the Lancaster Clean Water Partners on this matter. It is simply to keep you informed as partner organizations

Respectfully,
Allyson

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