

Centre County Senior Environmental Corps Newsletter June 2017



The Chesapeake Bay Watershed

Donald Trump's administration says it's time for state and local governments to pay for cleanups in Chesapeake Bay and Puget Sound and his proposed budget made substantial cuts in EPA funding.

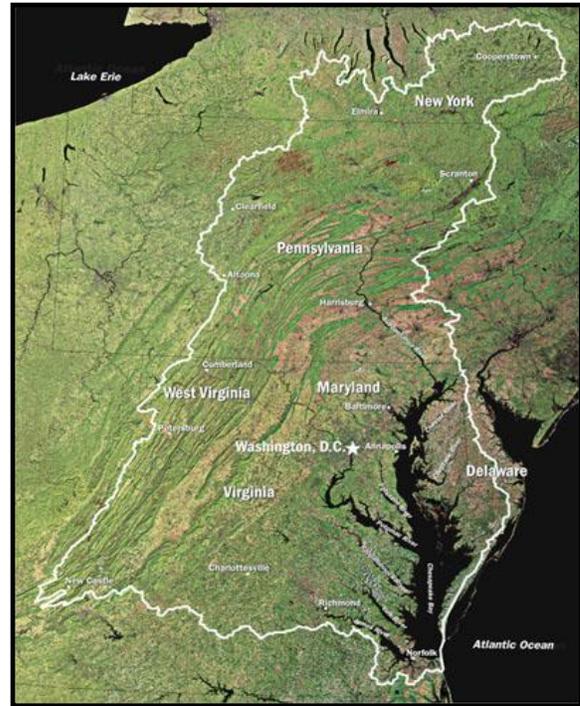
In May, Congress passed the \$1.1 trillion budget bill to keep the federal government running through September. It fully funds the program that coordinates Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts for decades—but right now federal funding is only assured through September.

Seven watershed jurisdictions provide additional investment. They reported investing an estimated \$1.23 billion in watershed restoration through state programs in fiscal 2016 that is \$252 million below the estimated fiscal 2017 budget of \$1.54 billion. However, looming cuts in federal EPA funding threaten the continuation of the Bay's restoration.

2016 Federal & State Chesapeake Bay Restoration funding

Federal	\$536,000,000
State	\$1,285,000,000

The seven watershed jurisdictions include Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.



Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania is mandated by the EPA to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment levels in the Bay watershed by 2015. The ***Commonwealth fell short of its Phase 1 and Phase 2 goals.***

This year (2017), the EPA is conducting a ***Phase 3*** midpoint assessment of these levels and will define what Pennsylvania needs to achieve in Phase 3 based on this assessment. While Pennsylvania has made significant progress toward meeting the EPA targets, particularly since launch of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Strategy, considerable work remains to be done.

What can we do?

Pennsylvania Constitution Article I, Section 27

The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. ***Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all of the people, including generations yet to come.***

Support our local Conservation District, Fish and Boat, Trout Unlimited and the Citizens Advisory Council. Let them know we are active and are proponents of clean water.

Dick Sodergren of Trout Unlimited of Bellefonte and Amy Wolfe who directs TU's Pennsylvania Coldwater Habitat Restoration and Eastern Abandoned Mines programs recently traveled to Washington DC, spending a day on Capitol Hill meeting with lawmakers and their staffs to tout the benefits of stream conservation efforts in Pennsylvania. The pair met with U.S. Rep. Glenn Thompson, R-Howard, and with the offices of U.S. Sens. Bob Casey and Pat Toomey and Rep. Matt Cartwright. Elimination of that \$73 million program would severely limit the amount of coldwater habitat conservation TU can accomplish and stall progress on Bay cleanup efforts.

Citizens Advisory Council

<http://www.dep.pa.gov/PublicParticipation/CitizensAdvisoryCouncil/Pages/default.aspx>

The Council is composed of 18 appointed citizen volunteers and the secretary of the

DEP. It's mission specifically states that the Council is to carry out the mandates of Act 275 of 1970 and Act 95 of 1992, by performing non-partisan, independent oversight of the operations, management and policy of the Department of Environmental Protection;

- evaluating environmental issues and laws;
- participating in the development of environmental regulations; and
- providing advice concerning environmental matters to the Department, the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Commonwealth's federal representatives.



Centre County Senior Environmental Corps monitors local streams, water that flows into the Chesapeake Bay. Join us to meet new friends and share experiences. We provide training and equipment; it's easy, and fun.

Please call the Centre Counter RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)

Monday – Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Phone (814) 355-6816