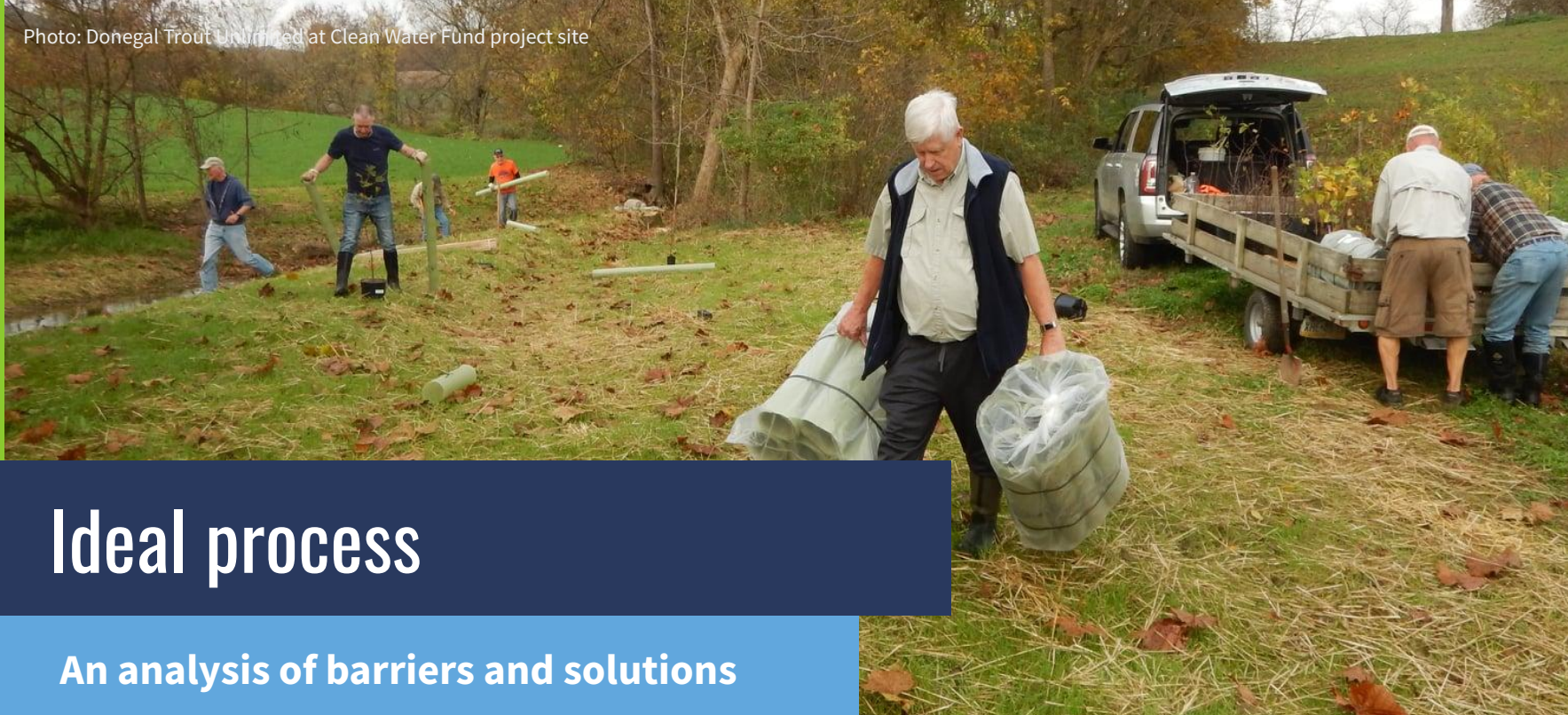


Photo: Donegal Trout Unruffed at Clean Water Fund project site



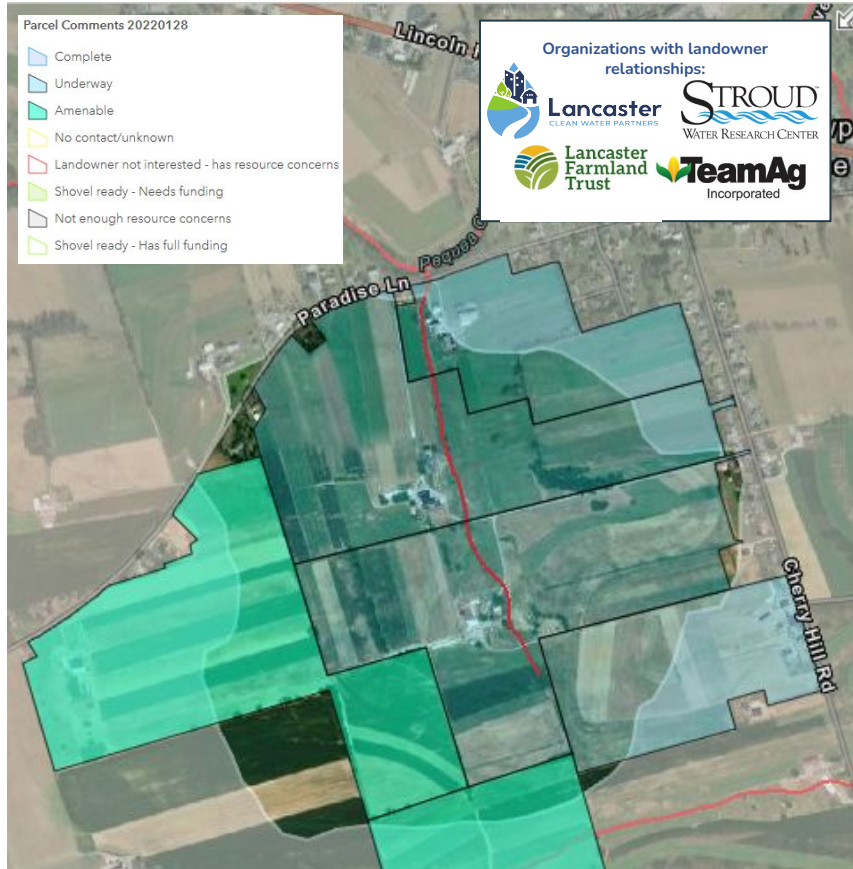
Ideal process

An analysis of barriers and solutions

Chesapeake Bay Commission Meeting
January 6, 2023
Allyson Glbson, Lancaster Clean Water Partners
John Cox, Lancaster Clean Water Partners



May 2022 CBC meeting - Taking us back



Farm Tour Orientation: One Creek At A Time

The Opportunities and Challenges of a Geographically Focused Approach

- Fishing Creek for exclusion fencing
- Rapid Stream Delisting



CBC challenge to presenters and partners:
What would the ideal process look like?



Since then...





Voices and Perspectives



Waterbody Name:	
Location:	
Investigators:	
Parameter	
1. Instream Cover (Fish)	Greater than 10% boulder, covered, submerged undercut bank, stable habitat
2. Epifaunal Substrate	Well-developed, run, riffle is a stream and extends two times

Up-front funding

fashion: hinders workforce development/capacity goals of increasing pool of contractors
Funders: Federal and State Agencies

Funders: Federal and State Agencies



Pennsylvania in the Balance 2022:

Emerging Ideas & Recommendations

- Simplification of funding delivery
 - Block grants
 - Common application
 - Bundled contracts
 - Accelerated approvals/renewals for proven applicants
 - Local funding coordinator/administrator
 - Accelerate permitting process
 - Tackle prevailing wage issue

Pennsylvania in the Balance 2022:

Emerging Ideas & Recommendations

- Local partnership and implementation coordination
 - CAP process as the foundation
 - Local coordination/partnership management/funds coordination/administration/bundling
 - Cultivate relationships and engagement
 - The “playbook” for an effective conservation team
 - Project evaluation metrics to guide prioritization

What We Heard and Now Present as Recommendations:

Funding Needs/Solutions

- Common applications for grants and/or aligned language between programs
- Use a renewal process for existing grants/cooperative agreements/grant
- Block grant-style
- Sustainable funding for capacity

Regulatory Ideas

- Expedited or revised permitting categories

Social/Data Opportunities (not to be discussed today)

- Precision conservation data
- BMP verification processes



PERCEPTION



Funding Solution: Streamline language in applications/reports

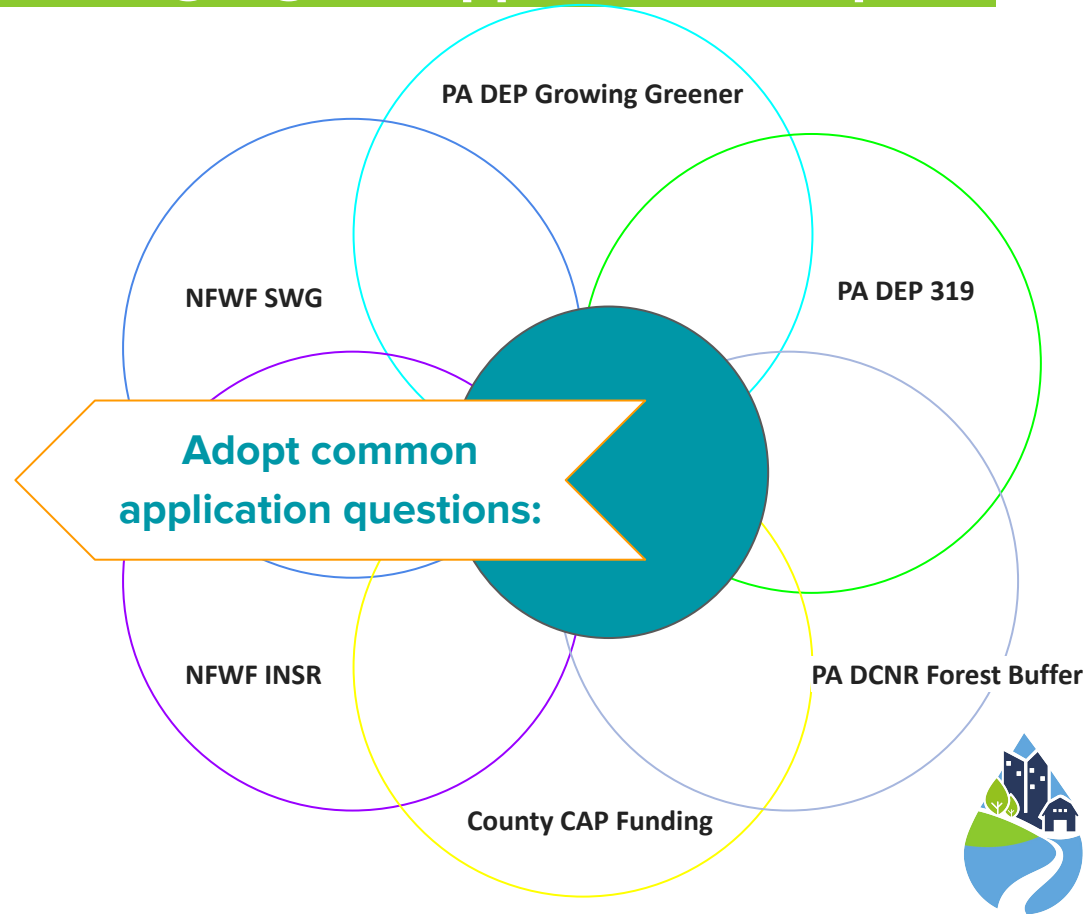
Step 1: Make minor revisions to narrative questions in grant applications from multiple programs so they're all using the same language

- Chesapeake Conservancy has researched existing applications and created a draft as a recommendation to work with agency teams

Step 2: Look at other sections to also adopt common templates/language

- Landowner agreements, narrative questions on reports, budget templates.

Step 3: Adopt a common application template



And the benefit of this is:

Savings:

- Estimate is organizations currently spend 40 hours per applicant per application, valued at \$5,000 each
- Opportunity cost of conservation field staff writing grant applications =
 - 2-5 new farm project prospects are missed

Workforce Development:

- Staff are more often doing the work they are really good at
- Recruits new team members because the reputation of conservation grows

Example of How You Can Help Use a Common Application

Action: In legislation when program funds are budgeted/appropriated, request use of the common application.



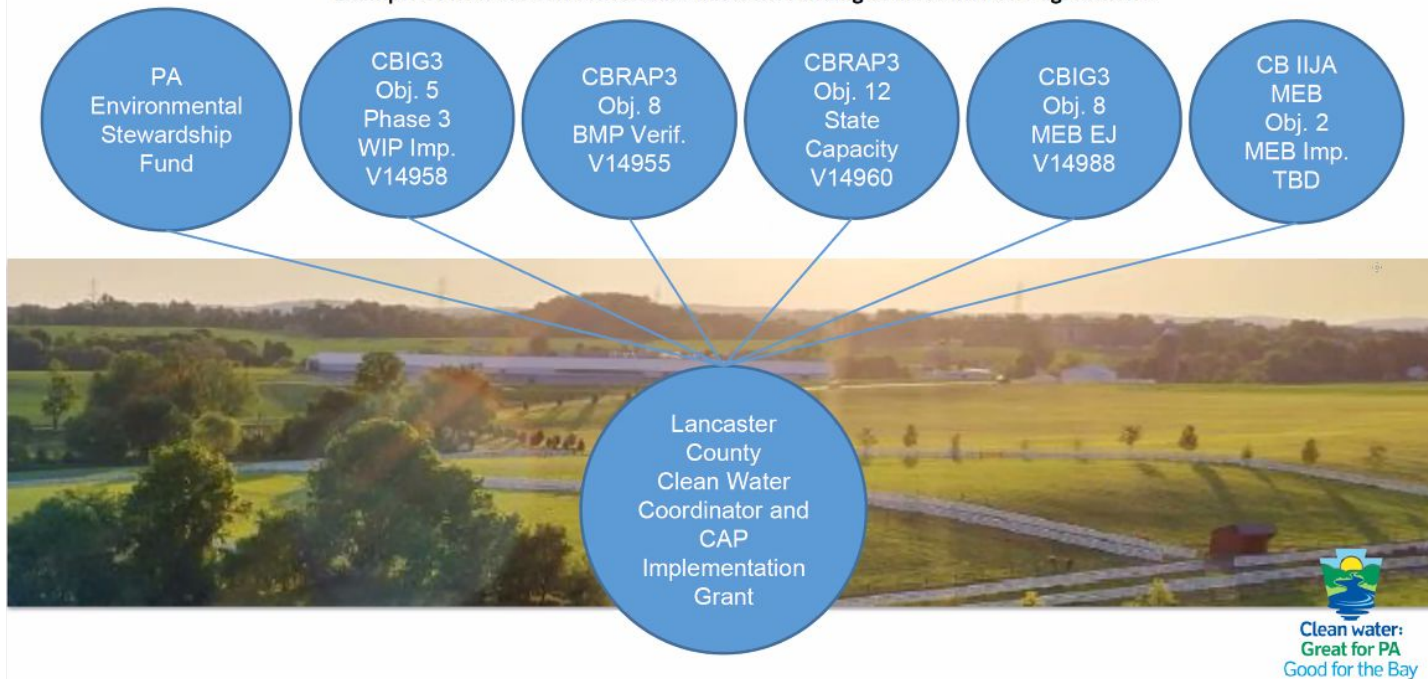
Funding Solution 2: Block-grant style using key roles

Pennsylvania's CAP Implementation Grant Example (image created by Jill Whitcomb, DEP)

Federal CBRAP and CBIG grants require 50/50 match and workplan / progress reporting broken down by objective.

DEP covers all match requirements with Chesapeake Bay Abatement and Env. Stewardship Fund (ESF)

Example of how we can consolidate different funding sources into one agreement:

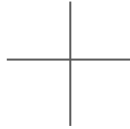


Funding Solution 3: Renewal/addition instead of new application

CAP Coordinator contract existed for regional work → PADEP seamlessly delivered additional dollars to the existing CAP Coordinator grant contract for additional work when new dollars became available

CAP Coordinator dollars are in hand

Need is for technology and GIS mapping work to get verification started across a 14 county region



\$420,000 additional received

Add-on to existing CAP grant contract with new funding available

Benefits:

Funding spent within 15 months of notice of award across a 14 county area

Quick contracting with local experts who performed work

Projects delivered within ~6 months of contract instead of original 2 year timeline



Funding Solution 4: Sustainable funding for capacity

Action:

- Extend contracts to suggested 5-8 year horizon for full positions
- Establish a pot of technical assistance funding that provides working capital so cash flow is not a barrier

Reminder that the current way organizations have to get capacity dollars is the crazy funding matrix or private fundraising.



Regulatory Recommendation: Explore alternative permit categories

Current complexity can be intimidating and drives people to smaller projects

Instead...

ALSO provide a pathway that encourages larger initiatives

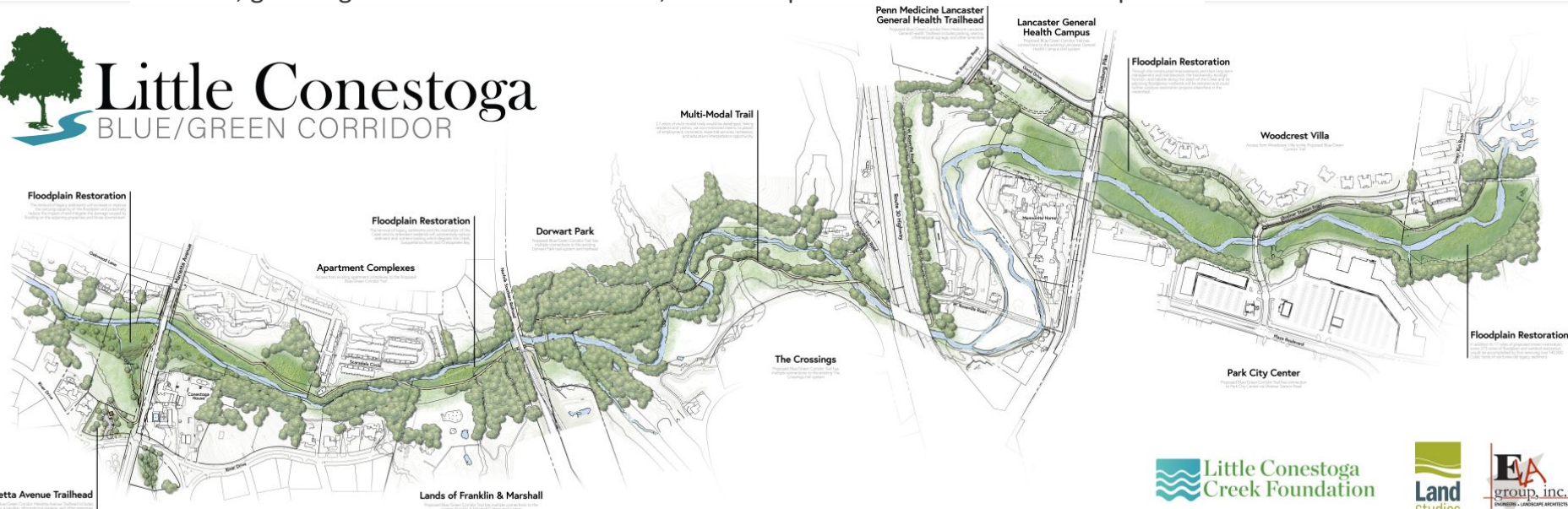
- Allows for a system approach using the increased funding opportunities we have now
- Facilitates success with project boundaries that aren't limited by property lines or political lines



Example Project - Watershed Permit Concept

Little Conestoga Creek Blue/Green Corridor, Lancaster, PA. 1.2 million pound sediment reduction with associated N & P

- Stream restoration and floodplain restoration initially presented as *7 individual projects, 7 permits*
- 40 landowners, 2.5 miles, 4 municipalities partnered with PADEP, USACE
- **End Result: One permit with 7 phases** allowed streamlined engineering work, more understandable landowner outreach, green light for construction overall, and a simpler MOU with the 4 municipalities



Thank you!



Photo
credit:
Conestoga
River Club

