

Conowingo WIP

Background

- ▶ **Dam captured sediment and nutrients, reducing pollution entering the Bay.**
- ▶ **When TMDL established in 2010, believed trapping capacity would continue through 2025.**
- ▶ **More recent science shows reservoir no longer has long-term ability to store sediment and nutrients.**
- ▶ **In 2017, Principal Staff Committee committed to creating and executing a separate Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) to address the additive loads.**

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Approach

- ▶ EPA issued RFP to solicited grantees to address three activity areas:
 1. Develop and implement WIP
 2. Financing strategy for WIP
 3. System for tracking and monitoring
- ▶ Grant funding provided by EPA Bay Program and from each jurisdiction's bay-related grant funding; \$2.6 million FY 2019-2024.

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Where We Are Now

- ▶ **Draft CWIP completed last fall; 90-day public comment period closed in January. WIP being revised.**
- ▶ **WIP focuses on the most effective BMPs (mostly agriculture) in the most effective areas of the Susquehanna watershed. Estimated cost \$53 million/year.**
- ▶ **The level of implementation needed to achieve the targeted load reduction is large - 600,000+ acres of N-based nutrient management, 216,000 acres of conservation tillage, etc.**
- ▶ **Financing strategy to be released in phases; first report in December described necessary features of system, pilot project with SRBC being developed by MD, PA, VA and NY.**