

New York Chesapeake Bay Restore Clean Water Action Items
 Final 2016-2017 Programmatic Milestones
 Submitted 05/06/2016; Revised 1/16/2018

Target Date	Milestone (WIP page reference) ¹	Deliverable	Lead Agency	Comments/Status Updates
Agriculture				
08/05/2016	Demonstrate further progress toward nutrient and sediment reduction goals	Written plan for demonstrating further progress toward agricultural BMP goals described in the Watershed Implementation Plan. This description may include improved accounting of current implementation and ways to increase implementation levels in the future.	NYSDEC, USC, NYSDAM	Completed in August 2016
12/31/2016	Issue new CAFO general permits	New York is working to issue a new Clean Water Act CAFO general permit and a new Environmental Conservation Law CAFO general permit by the end of 2016.	NYSDEC	Issued Jan 2017
08/31/2016	Chesapeake Bay Watershed Grant Program for Riparian Buffer Protection and Restoration (Step 1)	Issue a request for proposals for a new competitive funding program to support protection and restoration of riparian buffers. DEC expects to make up to \$1,000,000 of CBIG funding available for the first round of this program.	NYSDEC	Issued Feb 2017
12/31/2016	Chesapeake Bay Watershed Grant Program for Riparian Buffer Protection and Restoration (Step 2)	Award funding for projects submitted in response to the RFP for buffer protection and restoration.	NYSDEC	Projects awarded June 2017
06/31/2017	Chesapeake Bay Watershed Grant Program for Riparian Buffer Protection and Restoration (Step 3)	Execute contracts for projects awarded funding in step 2 above.	NYSDEC	Executed contracts for Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District, Edward L. Rose Conservancy, and Finger Lakes Land Trust to permanently protect riparian buffers through land acquisition and conservation easements.

¹ As part of the adaptive management process for achieving water quality goals, jurisdictions may submit programmatic milestones that modify, are in place of, or are in addition to milestones listed in their Phase I WIPs so long as the jurisdiction can demonstrate that they will be as effective toward meeting water quality goals.

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12/31/2017	NYS funding for agricultural conservation (p. 54)	Implement two rounds of the NYS Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program (AgNPS) for practice implementation and two years of the AEM Base Program, supporting technical assistance by Soil & Water Conservation Districts through the AEM Tiers: Tier 1: Resource Inventory Tier 2: Environmental Assessment Tier 3: Conservation Planning Tier 4: BMP System Implementation Tier 5: Evaluation of Implemented Practices or Plan Update	NYS/DAM, USC	<p>12/31/17: This milestone report is a snapshot based on proposals funded in AgNPS Round 23 (1/1/2017-12/31/2017) and work through the AEM Tiers completed by SWCDs in the USC area using funding from AEM Base Year 12. Except when specifically noted, all data represent accomplishments within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed HUC12s. This work is in addition to prior accomplishments reported.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1577 691 1965 1179"> <thead> <tr> <th>AgNPS</th> <th>R23</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Proposals Funded</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Districts</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farms</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BMP Systems Being Installed</td> <td>48 Systems (232 BMPs)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>AgNPS Share</td> <td>\$4.61M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sponsor Share</td> <td>\$7.0K</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmer Share</td> <td>\$3.41M</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total \$</td> <td>\$8.02M</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="1577 1211 1965 1469"> <thead> <tr> <th>AEM Base</th> <th>Year 12</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Districts</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tier 1</td> <td>75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tier 2</td> <td>51</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tier 3A</td> <td>38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tier 3B</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	AgNPS	R23	Proposals Funded	18	Districts	8	Farms	23	BMP Systems Being Installed	48 Systems (232 BMPs)	AgNPS Share	\$4.61M	Sponsor Share	\$7.0K	Farmer Share	\$3.41M	Total \$	\$8.02M	AEM Base	Year 12	Districts	17	Tier 1	75	Tier 2	51	Tier 3A	38	Tier 3B	2
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				Tier 4	87
				Tier 5A	26
				Tier 5B	67
				Total \$ of Tech. Assist. by SWCDs	\$1.11M*
				*includes AEM Base Tech Assistance dollars provided for entire county, not solely those HUC12s in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.	
12/31/2017	Dairy Acceleration Program (DAP is a New York State funding program supported by the state Environmental Protection Fund)	Implement two rounds of DAP to cost-share farm business planning and CNMP development/updates for dairy farms with fewer than 300 cows.	Cornell, NYSDEC, NYSDAM	Statewide 138 farm have developed a CNMP or had one updated. 108 farms had a CNMP required BMP designed. The Department is in the process of developing a new DAP contract to keep the program going through 2023.	
12/31/2017	Agriculture BMP data collection	Collect agriculture BMP data following the Agricultural Environmental Management approach and using USC's online data management system to collect farm BMP data and convert to NEIEN-compliant format for the 2016 and 2017 Progress Runs.	USC	2016 and 2017 Agricultural BMP data was collected by 16 member SWCD's and data was inputted into the USC's online database and then submitted via the NEIEN Node.	
12/31/2017	CAFO BMP data collection program	Continue BMP data collection program for CAFO farms by combining NYSDEC compliance inspections with SWCD data collection and verification visits. Data collected will include both cost-shared and non-cost-shared BMPs to the extent possible to generate a complete record of implementation on CAFO farms.	NYSDEC, USC	Note: This is a continuation of the 2014-2015 Milestone called, "Annual BMP data collection pilot program." USC member counties participated in 20 CAFO inspections in the watershed in 2016. Procedures for BMP Data collection were piloted and staff were trained.	

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12/31/2017	BMP verification	Implement and refine verification procedures for agricultural BMPs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.	USC, NYSDEC, NYSDAM	BMP Verification protocols have been established for agriculture, wetland and streams. In 2017, random sampling protocol developed was utilized and provided to SWCD to complete verification of practices. All farms were visited and verification results were updated in our online AEM BMP database.
12/31/2017	Implementation partners coordination	Improve coordination and support amongst organizations working in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and people that represent NY in Chesapeake Bay Program committees, workgroups, Goal Implementation Teams, expert panels, etc. This may include meetings, conference calls, support on funding proposals, etc.	NYSDEC, Partners	<p>Several calls between Central office staff and Regional staff to discuss CB outputs.</p> <p>USC meetings with partners occur on a bi-monthly basis.</p> <p>USC Buffer Workgroup holds meetings quarterly</p> <p>Riparian Buffer Task Force meets bi-annually.</p> <p>11/3/2016 and 09/21/2017 - Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum – DEC and USC Staff presented</p>
12/31/2017	<p>Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Outreach and Education (p. 25)</p> <p>(AEM is a New York State planning program that helps farmers meet business objectives while protecting and conserving natural resources)</p>	Deliver outreach programs for farmers and agricultural professionals in the watershed about agricultural environmental management, including Cornell Cooperative Extension, Soil & Water Conservation District, NYSDAM, and NRCS workshops as well as two years of multi-day trainings, including: Conservation Skills Workshop, Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Training, and Water Quality Symposium.	USC, NYSDAM, Cornell, NRCS	12/31/17: Within 2017, the Water Quality Symposium held in March, the Conservation Skills workshop held in September and the Northeast Region CCA Training in November each offered a week long track of training on various Agricultural BMP implementation for SWCD and other professions. USC staff provided trainings at both the March WQ Symposium on our modeling tools as

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				well as buffer and training at both events
12/31/2017	<p>Implementation of USDA-FSA Chesapeake Bay Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative and CREP State Enhancement Program</p> <p>(The State Enhancement Program is supported by Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant funding)</p>	<p>As part of the USDA-FSA Chesapeake Bay Riparian Forest Buffer Initiative, NYSDEC has allocated \$200,000 of CBIG funding (CREP State Enhancement Program) for practice incentive payments to landowners that enroll in new riparian forest buffer contracts through CREP. The payments will be 5-15 times the soil rental rate, depending on soil type and width of the buffer to be installed. Higher payments will be made to landowners that enroll cropland acres.</p> <p>USDA-FSA will also offer additional signing incentive payments to landowners located in the Chesapeake Bay watershed of \$250-375 per acre, depending on the length of the contract.</p>	<p>NYSDEC, NYSDAM, USC, USDA-FSA</p>	<p>Note: Initiation of the additional incentive payments is pending approval of amendments to New York's CREP agreement by USDA-FSA management.</p> <p>New York's CREP agreement was finalized in August 2016. \$200,000 of funding has been transferred to NYSDAM and a contract was finalized between NYSDAM and the USC. The USC will distribute the state funded state incentive payments upon riparian forest practice installation. USDA-FSA had begun to distribute additional signing incentive payments.</p> <p>USC: n 2017, \$27,888.00 in State Practice Incentive Payments were paid utilizing these funds to 5 landowners in the watershed. 25.99 acres of buffer.</p>
12/31/2017	<p>DNBR research initiative</p> <p>(This project is supported by New York NRCS CIG funding)</p>	<p>To demonstrate applicability of coupled biochemical/biophysical systems (denitrifying bioreactor (DNBR) and active drainage management) to attenuate nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) in shallow groundwater using both diffuse and inline bioreactors. The outcome of this project will be to install 6 DNBR systems for treatment and monitoring,</p>	<p>Cornell, USC</p>	<p>Project completed, all deliverables met and grant closed in 2016.</p>

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		provide quantifiable, numerically defensible N and P reduction attributable to DNBRs, inform the NRCS state denitrifying bioreactor interim standard (747), to provide outreach to producers and stakeholders, and to train conservation and watershed management personnel to site, install, and manage DNBRs.		
12/31/2017	Susquehanna Watershed Riparian Buffer Enhancement Project (This project is supported by the USFS/NRCS Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership)	Provide education to promote riparian forest buffer implementation to landowners, develop and provide buffer workshops and trainings, coordinate buffer workgroups, and track implementation in the watershed.	USC	<p>Outreach Events: The USC Buffer Coordinator has led, or participated in 8 outreach events in 2017 reaching more than 450 people. Most events were geared towards training and educating technician assistance staff, but few events targeted landowners.</p> <p>Events ranged from training Soil and Water Conservation District Staff on the conservation planning requirements of NRCS for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to creating awareness about the diversity of programs that the USC supports and promotes. Landowners were often engaged through event tabling or short presentations about the purpose of a riparian buffers</p> <p>Workgroup Coordination: Two buffer workgroups continue to be coordinated: a. The USC Buffer Workgroup met twice in 2017. b. The Riparian Forest Buffer Task Force met twice in 2017. The continued partnership between the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Arbor Day Foundation funded 700</p>

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				<p>plants for implementation throughout the watershed. In 2017 the Contribution Agreement between NRCS and USC has led to the development of 21 conservation plans for riparian buffers, totaling to more than 200 acres. The USC carried out a pilot project involving the implementation of shrub tubes on riparian projects. Including shrub tubes in riparian plantings began in the Fall of 2017, and will continue into 2018. The buffer tracking tool continues to be updated. This tool provides information to USC Buffer Team staff on the implementation program, design and maintenance happenings of each project.</p>
12/31/2017	<p>Implementation and outreach associated with NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund grant (This project is supported by the NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fun)</p>	<p>Integration of 8,510 feet of stream rehabilitation with 100 buffer and 450 grazing acres. These practices combined with outreach, training and support will provide long-term responses to flood events.</p>	USC	<p>NOTE: USC staff currently working on grant closeout and final reporting. Numbers below are based on Annual progress report submitted to NFWF in September 2017. Additional deliverables were met during Sept-December 2017 not reflected in numbers below.</p> <p>Grant Totals to date: 9,296 feet of Stream rehabilitation completed, 205.3 acres of new buffer and 693 acres of prescribed grazing completed along with several trainings on funding sources for landowners, and workshop on techniques that the USC was focusing on.</p>

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				<p>Also installed 69,061 exclusionary fence, 23 stream crossings, 29,898 feet of waterline installed, 74 watering stations, 7 spring developments and 1 well to assist with prescribed grazing and buffer implementation. Also 25.5 acres of habitat improvement.</p>
12/31/2017	<p>Comprehensive Conservation Riparian Buffer Approach (This project is supported by the NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund)</p>	<p>Research, lead the development, and facilitate the application of new tools for buffer implementation.</p>	<p>USC</p>	<p>Grant still in progress, end date January 31, 2019. Numbers provided based on implementation through September 2017.</p> <p>25 acres of Buffer implementation utilizing USC developed Buffer Approach/Program and 195 acres of rotational grazing.</p> <p>Held two trainings one on 9/7 where the USC Buffer Coordinator attended the Pennsylvania DCNR buffer workshop and presented on the USC's Buffer Pilot Program. On 9/21 Buffer coordinator presented at the USC's Watershed forum the buffer program development, projects, funding processes and projects implemented.</p> <p>USC also supported implementation of buffers utilizing conventional program funding under this grant. This includes assisting with CREP. Under this portion 126.62 acres of buffer were implemented and 216 acres of rotation grazing were completed.</p>

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12/31/2017	Soil health implementation and outreach (This project is supported by New York NRCS CIG funding)	Promote the widespread use of soil health practices and demonstrate effective outreach programs for delivering technical assistance to small dairies implementing whole farm strategies to reduce nutrient and sediment loss.	USC	<p>Through collaboration with ARC and USGS remote sensing techniques were applied to evaluate winter ground cover on agricultural fields in three New York counties: Cortland, Delaware, and Seneca. Satellite images collected in April of each year (2009-2016) were used to measure vegetation abundance, and the USDA-NASS National Cropland Data Layer was used to focus the analysis by crop type. Results demonstrated the effect of weather on vegetation outcomes, but did not detect multi-year trends in vegetation that would indicate trends in cover crop implementation following corn or soybean harvest.</p> <p>Over thirty soil samples were collected and soil health technical assistance was provided to three farms.</p> <p>A tool was developed and training held on May 25, 2017 to help District staff utilize farmer provided tillage system information to document conservation tillage. Field training was conducted to help staff develop an “eye” for these tillage systems, and also teach residue measurement for field verification when new</p>

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				<p>systems or equipment are used, or the management is in question.</p> <p>Whole farm planning calendars were used to record and track soil health practices and observations on several farms. This effort is on-going, but this tool appears to be most readily adopted and used by operators who prefer manual record keeping.</p>
12/31/2017	<p>Integrated Approach to Nutrient Management</p> <p>(This project is supported by the NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund)</p>	<p>Develop a coordinated, integrated, and comprehensive nutrient management planning process which includes the development of a resource team and the use of nutrient reduction tools for the purposes of increased adoption of Nutrient Management Plans and associated BMPs, and maximizing farm sustainability, profitability and sound resource management.</p>	USC	<p>Currently we have a total of 19,160 acres of Nutrient Management completed. This includes 32 plan updates and 15 new Nutrient management plans with new producers. We have implemented 386 acres of cover crops in 2017. We are currently contracting for 2018 planning work and the grant concludes in the fall 2018.</p>
12/31/2017	<p>Upper Susquehanna Coalition I-4 Program</p> <p>(This project is supported by the NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund)</p>	<p>Work with seven watersheds and their communities to reduce stream channel nutrient and sediment contributions through the survey, identification, design and implementation of practices and projects on 7,000+ feet of stream corridor. In addition, build local capacity through direct education and technical assistance to local governments to help improve stream health and habitat on 2,500 feet of stream channel.</p>	USC	<p>7 watersheds selected an initiated. IN 2017 2 trainings were held a Floodplain regulation and NAACC training. Community meetings were held with watershed stakeholders in 6 of the watersheds. Background reports are being assembled, several drafts completed and in review stage. In 2017, assessments will be used to prioritize locations for survey and design.</p>

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12/31/2017	Upper Susquehanna Agricultural BMP Implementation (This program is supported by 2016 RCPP funding from USDA-NRCS)	Hold sign-up for additional EQIP practices using funding from the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.	USC, NRCS	In 2017, USC worked with NRCS to offer Round 1 of EQIP sign ups specific to RCPP. We released information in June of 2017, and our applications were due 7/21. Since then USC resource team has been prioritizing, review resource concerns and completing plan review and developing engineering cost estimates. We had a total of 12 applications submitted for livestock waste projects and 7 were identified as high priorities. In 2018, we intend to have pre-approvals, authorizations for round 1 and being design work. Also in 2018 plan to hold Round 2 signups for Grazing practices. Currently, SWCD staff are working on grazing planning for these signs ups.
12/31/2017	NEW: NYS DEC Funded USC's Cover Crop Implementation Project	Implement 2000 acres of cover crops in Fall 2017	USC	Utilizing newly awarded funds from NYSDEC, the USC completed work plan, subcontracts, implementation and reporting on 2494 acres of cover crops in 2017.
12/31/2017	Compliance and enforcement of CAFO permits	Continue to implement enhanced oversight of facilities in the Susquehanna and Chemung River Basins regulated by NYSDEC SPDES permits.	NYSDEC	17 Medium inspections and 8 Large inspections were completed in 2016. 28 Medium inspections and 14 Large inspections were completed January-September 2017.
Nonpoint Sources (Non-Agriculture)				

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12/31/2017	Wetland restoration	Continue wetland restoration on public and private lands	USC	The USC wetland team actively pursued wetland restoration in 2017, collaborating with NYS foresters and private landowner. The USC wetland team also began a new effort to compile a list of potential wetland sites across the watershed. This new list will enable the USC to identify alternative sources of restoration funding, increasing implementation in the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. In 2017, the USC applied for an NYSDEC WQIP grant, to support wetland restoration efforts in the watershed. Funding was approved and in 2018 we will complete work plan, contract and begin implementation.
12/31/2017	Flood mitigation	Continue streambank berm removal program to reconnect streams to their floodplains.	USC	Utilizing DEC WQIP funding, the USC removed 3 berms this year: Delaware County 2000 feet, Otsego County 2000 feet and Steuben County 4000 feet. Removing 184,800 Cubic feet of material between the 3 sites.
12/31/2017	Post-flood emergency stream intervention	Hold post-flood emergency stream intervention training sessions for municipal officials, contractors and machine operators.	USC, NYSDEC	USC held an ESI for Ontario County SWCD on 8/28 and 8/29 and completed two culvert training workshops in Tioga County on 8/8 and Cortland County on 12/14.
12/31/2017	Trees for Tribs riparian buffer program	Continue the Trees for Tribs stream buffer program in the Susquehanna and Chemung river watersheds.	NYSDEC, USC	7 Trees for Tributaries projects were planned and implemented in 2017. 10 sites from 2016 implementation were monitored and maintained. Average project width was 70' and approximately 7 acres were planted.

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				Approximately 3,000 plants were planted throughout the projects. A plant order of 5,000 plants has been placed for 2018 for 13 projects. Project implementation is now being coordinated by district staff in some instances and the program is being used as match for some other implementation programs.
12/31/2017	Acid whey use (This project is supported by the New York State Environmental Protection Fund)	Continue project with Cornell University to improve understanding of the composition of and best practices for agronomic use of acid whey.	NYSDEC, Cornell	Fact Sheet completed 12/22/2016.
Stormwater				
12/31/2017	Green infrastructure guide for municipalities	Continue working with NYSEFC to develop a low cost green infrastructure guide for municipalities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.	NYSDEC	Draft complete. Final not completed in 2017.
12/31/2016	Track stormwater BMP data	Develop a system to track stormwater BMPs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.	NYSDEC	Draft MS4 Permit includes post-construction control inventory requirements which are consistent with CB needs. Permit is expected to be finalized by the end of 2018. Meeting with NYSARC planned for early 2018 to discuss their role in better collection of post-construction controls from MS4s and non MS4s.

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12/31/2017	Report stormwater BMP data	Report stormwater BMP data beyond erosion and sediment control in the 2017 Progress Run.	NYSDEC	Reported some stormwater BMP data in 2016 and 2017 progress run. With the finalization of the MS4 General Permit and work with NYSARC, better reporting of stormwater BMP is expected in the 2018 progress run.
09/30/2016	Clean up historic stormwater BMP data	Use 2016 WIP Assistance funding and support from Tetra Tech to gather and report historic stormwater BMP data from MS4s in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.	NYSDEC	Completed 9/30/2016.
12/31/2017	MS4 recordkeeping and reporting template	Seek technical support to complete development of the template and begin implementation.	NYSDEC	New post-construction control inventory requirements will be added to MS4 recordkeeping template once permit is finalized.
12/31/2016	Evaluate fertilizer sales data	Evaluate non-farm fertilizer sales data to assess effectiveness of NY's Dishwasher Detergent and Nutrient Runoff Law and to support receipt of the phosphorus reduction credit in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model.	NYSDEC	Information about non-farm fertilizer sales is available from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets. DEC will use this information to verify continued receipt of the phosphorus reduction credit in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model.
12/31/2017	Compliance and enforcement of MS4 communities, industrial stormwater and construction sites	Continue to implement enhanced oversight of facilities in the Susquehanna and Chemung River Basins regulated by NYSDEC SPDES permits.	NYSDEC	12/31/16: During calendar year 2016, DEC conducted 2 MS4 compliance inspections and 25 construction stormwater inspections in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. DEC also issued 1 Notices of Violation for construction stormwater violations in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

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				As of 9/30/2017: DEC conducted 3 MS4 compliance inspections and 96 construction stormwater inspections in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
04/30/2017	MS4 general permit	DEC will work with EPA through the established coordination process before the draft MS4 permit is released for public comment to ensure consistency with New York's Watershed Implementation Plan.	NYSDEC	12/31/16: Draft permit released for public comment late 2016. Comments due Feb 3, 2017. 1/11/2018: Currently no updates on MS4 General permit.
Wastewater				
12/31/2017	Nitrogen bubble permit compliance	Ensure compliance of Bay Significant wastewater treatment plants with the nitrogen bubble permit limits. Compliance with Phase I of the bubble begins in January 2016; compliance with Phase II begins in January 2017; and compliance with Phase III begins in January 2018.	NYSDEC	No exceedance of bubble limit in 2016 or 2017.
12/31/2017	Reconstruction of Binghamton-Johnston City wastewater treatment plant	Oversee compliance with consent order that outlines the schedule of construction and dates for achieving effluent limits.	NYSDEC	12/31/16: DEC continues to oversee compliance with the consent order for reconstruction of the WWTP. 1/10/2018: The plant is due to be able to treat flows up to 35 mgd thru BNR by the end of this year.
12/31/2017	Continue to use EPA's Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS)	Continue to use the ICIS data management system to submit individual SPDES permit data as appropriate.	NYSDEC	During calendar year 2016 and 2017, DEC entered individual SPDES permit data into the ICIS database as appropriate.
12/31/2017	Compliance and enforcement of wastewater permits	Continue to implement enhanced oversight of facilities in the Susquehanna and Chemung	NYSDEC	12/31/16: During calendar year 2016, DEC conducted 23 compliance inspections at Bay Significant WWTPs

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		River Basins regulated by NYSDEC SPDES permits.		<p>in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and 40 inspections at Bay Non-Significant WWTPs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. DEC also issued 2 consent orders and 1 Notice of Violation to wastewater facilities in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.</p> <p>As of 9/30/2017: DEC conducted 34 compliance inspections at Bay Significant WWTPs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and 40 inspections at Bay Non-significant WWTPs in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.</p>
<i>Habitat and Wildlife Restoration and Protection</i>				
12/31/2017	Hellbender restoration	Continue developing a hellbender restoration program in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.	USC, NYSDEC, USFWS, SUNY Buffalo	<p>In March, USC staff designed and assembled a 30 aquarium recirculation system to support the hellbender reintroduction project. In July, 102 juvenile hellbenders were transported from the Bronx Zoo to the Golf Course Road hellbender rearing lab for continued study. USC assisted TWT with land acquisition of riparian corridors associated with the known hellbender habitat on Butternut Creek. USC constructed and assisted with the installation of artificial habitat within the known habitat. Additional hellbender eggs were collected in 2017 and are being currently reared at the</p>

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				Bronx Zoo. These juveniles will be transported to the Golf Course rearing lab in 2018 and released in 2019.

Additional Notes:

USC contracted with NYS Dept of Ag & Markets on 2 Climate Resiliency projects, on included develop a stream corridor assessment guide to be wrapped into the NYS Agricultural Management Program (NYSAEM). Under this contract, USC Developed a Stream Corridor Assessment Guide to determine health and resiliency to climate change and floods. USC staff conducted trainings on the guide at the following events/locations: Conservation Skills Workshop; Trout Run watershed, Butternut watershed; Pony Hollow watershed. Under the 2nd contract USC developed a watershed tool that utilizes factors within the watershed that would allow for the remote identification of locations where BMP implementation would be suitable to increase landscape water storage and/or reduce runoff on the landscape. Both contracts completed all deliverables met.

Also USC Stream Team Leader is now the co-chair of the CBP Stream Health Work, attending and participating in meetings of the group as well as Habitat Goal Implementation Committee.

2017 USC Involvement in CREP: The USC has had 21 CREP conservation plans developed by USC member districts, and approved by NRCS for submission to FSA's state office for the time period 6/1/17-1/7/2018. These contracts total to about 207 acres. Practices includes are CP 21 and CP 22.

Within the watershed, we are beginning to solicit the expertise of tree planting contractors to implement CP 22 projects for both new contracts and re-enrollments.

On 2/8/2017 we had a training where 11 SWCDs were present to learn about the Conservation Planning documents required to submit a CREP plan to NRCS for approval. About 30 people total were in attendance

In July, 2017 the USC hired a Riparian Forester to assist with planning, implementation, oversight and maintenance of riparian forest buffers. This individual has since developed several CREP CP 22 plans.

In 2017, the USC rolled out a program that will provide the other 50% c/s, and/or funding for other practices associated with CREP riparian buffers (CP21 and 22). This program will be providing matching funds for about 36 acres of CREP riparian buffer.