

BAY RESTORATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Maryland Department of the Environment

Thursday, October 9 · 1:00 – 3:00pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/oix-oibg-mrc>

Or dial: (US) +1 772-218-1095 PIN: 873 803 529#

And Remain Muted Unless Speaking

Meeting Agenda

We welcome the use of AI in many functions, but when a user wants to use AI to record the meeting, s/he must get permission, and all attendees must be informed that AI is being used to record the meeting.

- Introduction – Chris Murphy, Committee Chairman
- Approve previous meeting minutes – Chris Murphy, Committee Chairman
- Update on Major and Minor WWTPs ENR Implementation – Walid Saffouri, MDE
- Annual Report – Walid Saffouri, MDE
- Update on the Whole Watershed Act Implementation - Kristin Saunders, DNR
- Update on Cover Crops Activities – Jason Keppler, MDA
- Update on Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems (OSDS) – Adriana Caldarelli, MDE
- Update on BRF Fee Collection and Budget – Adriana Caldarelli, MDE
- Next meetings and other administrative issues to be discussed with the committee – Chris Murphy, Committee Chairman
- 2025 Next Pre-Scheduled Meeting – December 11th.
- ADJOURNMENT

BAY RESTORATION FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Maryland Department of the Environment

Virtual Meeting
July 10, 2025

Meeting Minutes

Welcome/Introduction

- The meeting was opened by Mr. Murphy, the Chairman of the Bay Restoration Fund Advisory Committee.
- Mr. Murphy welcomed the committee members and other attendees, including the new committee members, Mayor John Carroll, Mr. Barry Glotfelty, and Mr. Peter Bozick.

Review of Meeting Minutes

- Previous meeting minutes, from the April 10, 2025 meeting, were shared with the committee members for their review and comments. An electronic copy of the meeting minutes was also e-mailed to the committee members prior to the meeting.
- Mr. Murphy asked if anyone had any questions, comments, or a motion to approve. The minutes were approved, and they will be posted on the web.

Discussions:

I. Update on Major and Minor WWTPs ENR Implementation:

- Mr. Saffouri provided an update on the major and minor WWTPs ENR implementation. The major plants have no change in status. Princess Anne in Somerset County, which is the only remaining major plant, is still in planning. We're hoping to move it sometime this year into design. Under the minor facilities, the town of Trappe Wastewater Treatment Plant has progressed from planning to the design phase. In terms of the projects that are under construction, they're progressing with no known issues. Twin Cities WWTP remains at 96%, but the treatment plant itself has been completed and in operation. The reason it's still 96% is because they have to decommission the old lagoon. Smith Island is also substantially completed and in operation. Mr. Bozick confirmed that and added that as they decommission the old plant, they're going to use that same space for shellfish holding tanks and for sludge drying beds. Also, they are decommissioning the second plant in Tylerton and conveying the flows to the new plant. Mr.

Saffouri added that Elk Neck State Park WWTP has progressed from 90 percent to 92. That's not a lot of progress, but it's normal for the progress to slow down when construction reaches 90 percent.

- Mr. Murphy asked whether there is any way to bypass the high tide flow through the Ewell WWTP on Smith Island plant. Mr. Bozick responded that it just runs through the plant with no way to stop it. The streets in Smith Island flood five or six times a month and the bay water gets into the system through clean-outs and manholes. Then the pumps can pump 24/7 until the tide subsides. Ewell WWTP has flow equalization of 40,000 gallons a day, which is the nominal design flow, but 20% of the time the flows are 80,000 gallons a day and above.

II. Update on the Whole Watershed Act Implementation:

- Ms. Baird provided an update on the implementation of the Whole Watershed program. The Whole Watershed legislation was passed in April 2024. The goal of the program is to take a holistic approach to the entire watershed, looking at all aspects to work towards restoration, and working with a variety of partners. It is a five-year pilot program targeting five watersheds. The program focuses on the water quality aspects, stormwater management, increasing public access to our waterways, and public health improvements. Another important goal of this program is working with underserved and overburdened communities. The five watersheds that were selected last March include Antietam Creek on the western part of the state, Baltimore Harbor, Newport Bay, Severn River and Upper Choptank on the Eastern shore. Each watershed will receive \$2 million. Year-one projects have a diversity of projects, including stormwater management, aquatic resources through dam removal, fish passage, oyster reef creation, stream restoration, and living shoreline projects.
- Mr. Murphy asked about the duration of the Whole Watershed grants. Ms. Baird responded that the program itself is for five years, but the contracts that we're working on now are for year one, Fiscal Year 2026. The next solicitation process will be in five years.

III. Update on Cover Crops Activities:

- Mr. Keppler provided an update on cover crop activities. Bay Restoration Fund pays for about half of the Cover Crop Program, and the other half comes from the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund. This year's program, which includes the cover crops that were planted back in the fall of 2024, was our banner year, and by far it had the largest enrollment in Cover Crop Program history. We had nearly a half a million acres signed up and planted within the Cover Crop Program. While we're excited about having that acreage, obviously that comes at a cost. We were over our budget for the program. Our normal program budget is around \$22 to \$23 million. The anticipated payout for this year's program is going to be closer to \$31-\$32 million. We have to dip into the reserve carryover money in BRF funds in addition to fully expending all the trust fund money. In addition, we were able to leverage some federal money through EPA, the CB wrap grant that we have through the Most Effective Basins. So, we've been cobbling together

various fund sources to accommodate the record enrollment. As everyone is aware, 2025 is the final year of our milestone goals. We blew our milestone goal out of the water with this year's program. However, moving forward, we had to tailor our program or scale it back to really fall within the means of the current budget.

- Mr. Keppler added that the upcoming program for farmers planting cover crops will start in the fall of this year. The application window opened on June 23rd and will continue until July 17th. All farmers must be in good standing with MDA Nutrient Management Program. The minimum acreage is ten acres or more. We allow homegrown seeds to be used, but that seed needs to be tested to make sure that it's viable and free of noxious weeds, et cetera. Any nutrients are forbidden from being applied to cover crops over the winter. The only exception is dairy manure. The base payment rate dropped significantly from \$55 per acre (paid last year) to \$35 to accommodate the budget. However, we provide other enhancements that could generate additional payments to farmers for up to \$65 per acre. In addition to planting corn, soybean, sorghum, tobacco, vegetables, and hemp, we added sunflowers, sod, and millet as acceptable cover crops. Farmers need to apply their cover crops according to the seeding recommendations by NRCS. Legumes can be planted as part of a mix (not alone), and they must be terminated after May 1st. The intent behind legumes is that they are a nitrogen-fixing crop in the spring. So, by having those legumes grow throughout the spring, it will pull some nitrogen into the ground through the bacteria that are in those nodules within the legumes and provide some natural fertilizer to the crops. That's the reason why we're allowing legumes to be terminated after May 1st. We have tried to streamline the program as much as possible. The base payment rate for this coming year is \$35 an acre. If you plant before October 10th, you get an additional \$15. If you use aerial seeding, you can get \$10 extra an acre. If you plant one of our targeted species of cover crops, whether that's rye, triticale or the multi-species that includes a legume or brassicas, you can get additional \$15. The dairy farmers that are applying liquid dairy manure, they can receive just a flat-out \$25 per acre fall payment right up front. Farmers have to certify by October 17th for the October 10th planting deadline. For the spring certification, they have to terminate between March 1st and June 1st, and all acres need to be certified by June 10th. We verify all the kill-down in the spring through satellite imagery, and then we won't make the final spring payment until we can verify that those fields were in fact killed down. More information regarding the Cover Corps program is available on MDA website.

IV. Update on Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems (OSDS):

- Mr. Emmart provided an update on Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems (OSDS) upgrades and sewer connections. He shared a handout showing the number of upgrades and connections for the various counties. To date in this fiscal year, we have funded a total of 430 OSDS upgrades and 47 sewer connections, which are low relative to other years. In previous years, we ended up with roughly 500 upgrades and 90 connections. However, there's no issue. The counties have until August 31st to submit for reimbursement for projects completed before June 30th. So, we should have the total numbers for FY25 at the next meeting.

- Mr. Glotfelty (of Frederick County Health Department) confirmed that they are currently reconciling a few systems and should be done by the end of the month. Other counties are in a similar situation. He added that this was a difficult year because we had some weird weather patterns and rain that delayed some of the installations.

V. Update on the BRF Fee Collection and Budget:

- Mr. Emmart provided an update on the BRF fee collection and budget. In Fiscal Year 2024, we only collected \$103 million in the wastewater fund. This could be a concern unless that is going to be made up in Fiscal Year 2025. At the April meeting, the committee asked a similar question because those numbers were low at that time as well. In response, Mr. Emmart has been in contact with the collection group in the state treasurer's office in attempt to get an explanation regarding the low revenues. They appear to be low compared to the other years. The revenues for the wastewater fund have been close to \$110 million from 2014 through 2023.
- Mr. Murphy reminded everyone that the revenues went low in FY21 during COVID, which caused us to lose our AAA bond rating. So, hopefully we'll make it up in FY25. Mr. Emmart agreed that FY25 should increase to par, but the explanation for the unusual years is still needed.

VI. Mr. Murphy reminded the Committee members that the next meeting will be held on October 9th.

Materials Distributed at the Meeting

- Meeting Agenda
- Previous Meeting Minutes
- Wastewater Treatment Plants ENR Upgrade Status
- BRF Septic Program Funded Installations
- Distribution of Bay Restoration Fee

Wastewater Treatment Plants ENR Upgrade Status

(October 9, 2025)

Major WWTPs

Previous Meeting

66 facilities are in operation
0 facility is under construction
1 facility is in planning
67 total

Current

66 facilities are in operation
0 facility is under construction
1 facility is in planning
67 total

Status Changes Since Previous Meeting:

- No status change. Princess Anne (Somerset County) may start design by the end of the year.

Minor WWTPs

Previous Meeting

16 facilities are in operation
3 facilities are under construction
9 facilities are in design
7 facilities are in planning
35 total

Current

16 facilities are in operation
3 facilities are under construction
9 facilities are in design
7 facilities are in planning
35 total

Status Changes Since Previous Meeting:

- No status change. St. Clements Shore (St. Mary's County), and Rock Hall (Kent County) are in the bidding process and may go to construction by the end of the year.

Percentage completion for facilities under construction for ENR Upgrade:

Facility	Previous Meeting Percentage Complete	Current Percentage Complete
Twin Cities	96%	96%
Smith Island	91%	94%
Elk Neck State Park	92%	99%

Whole Watershed Program Update

October 9, 2025
BRF Advisory Committee Meeting

Kristin Saunders, MD DNR



Whole Watershed Program Goals

- Collaborative, science-based approach
- Shallow water habitat improvements
- Rapid improvement (de-listing)
- Cost-effective
- Measurable pollution reductions
- Supports local land use policies
- Local landowner interest (documented)
- Minimized loss of trees, other habitat
- Reduce environmental disparities
- Foster innovation

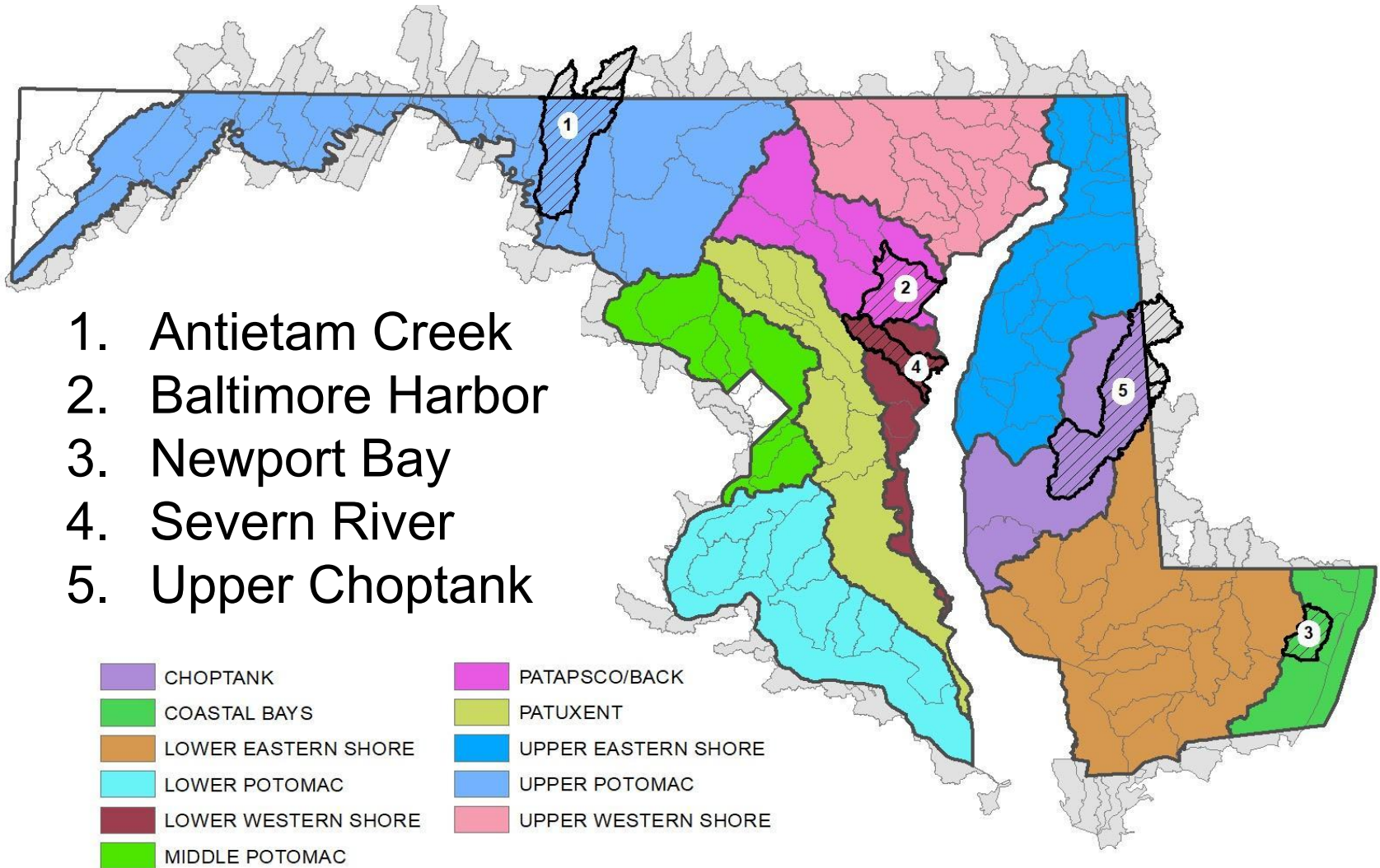


**In direct response to the
Chesapeake Bay
Program's
Comprehensive
Evaluation of System
Response (CESR) Report**

Co-Benefits ~

- Wildlife habitat, buffers and wetlands
- Aquatic resources
- Carbon sequestration
- Climate change mitigation
- Local employment opportunities
- Public health improvement / protection
- Recreation / Public access

Selected Watersheds



1. Antietam Creek
2. Baltimore Harbor
3. Newport Bay
4. Severn River
5. Upper Choptank

Antietam Creek

Pennsylvania

Maryland

Washington County

Frederick County

Hagerstown

Smithsburg

Halfway

Robinwood

South Mountain State Park

Lappans

Keedysville

Middletown

Frederick County

Projects

1. The Terrace at Northern Avenue
2. Beaver Creek Dam Removal
3. Jones Property Buffer Planting
4. Horst Property Buffer Planting
5. Crawford Property Buffer Planting
6. Volcjak Property Buffer Planting

Watershed-wide Projects

- Additional Buffers (35 AC)
- Community Tree Program
- Boat Put-In



Whole Watershed Program

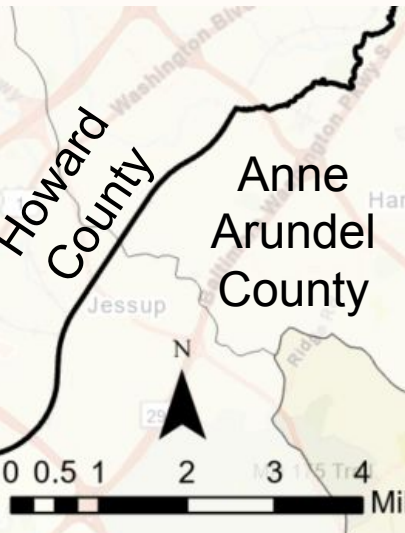




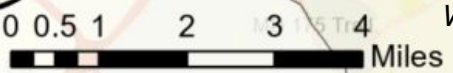
Baltimore Harbor

Projects

1. Medstar Hospital Tidal Wetland
2. Hanover / Potee Street Stormwater Wetland Design
3. Cherry Hill Equitable Waterfront Access ~ Design
4. Reel Rewards Invasive Fish Bounty Program
5. "Witness Trees" Urban Forestry Program



Whole Watershed Program
Maryland



Whole Watershed – Severn River

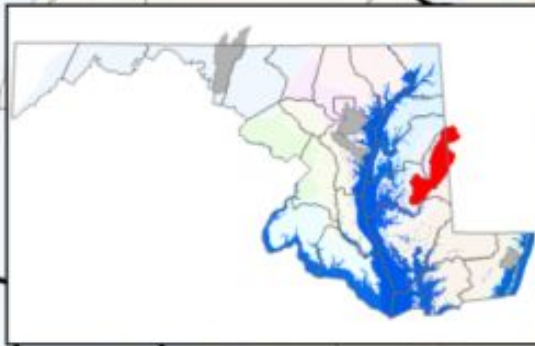
Upper Choptank

Projects

1. Poor House Run Stream Restoration
2. Pealiquor Road Stormwater Wetland
3. Hannah Henry Way Stormwater Projects

Watershed Wide

- Fish Passage
- Producer Led Agricultural Projects
- Biological Monitoring
- Envision the Choptank Watershed Coordination



Queen Anne's County

Talbot County

Caroline County

Maryland
Delaware



0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles



Maryland

Whole Watershed Program

Newport Bay



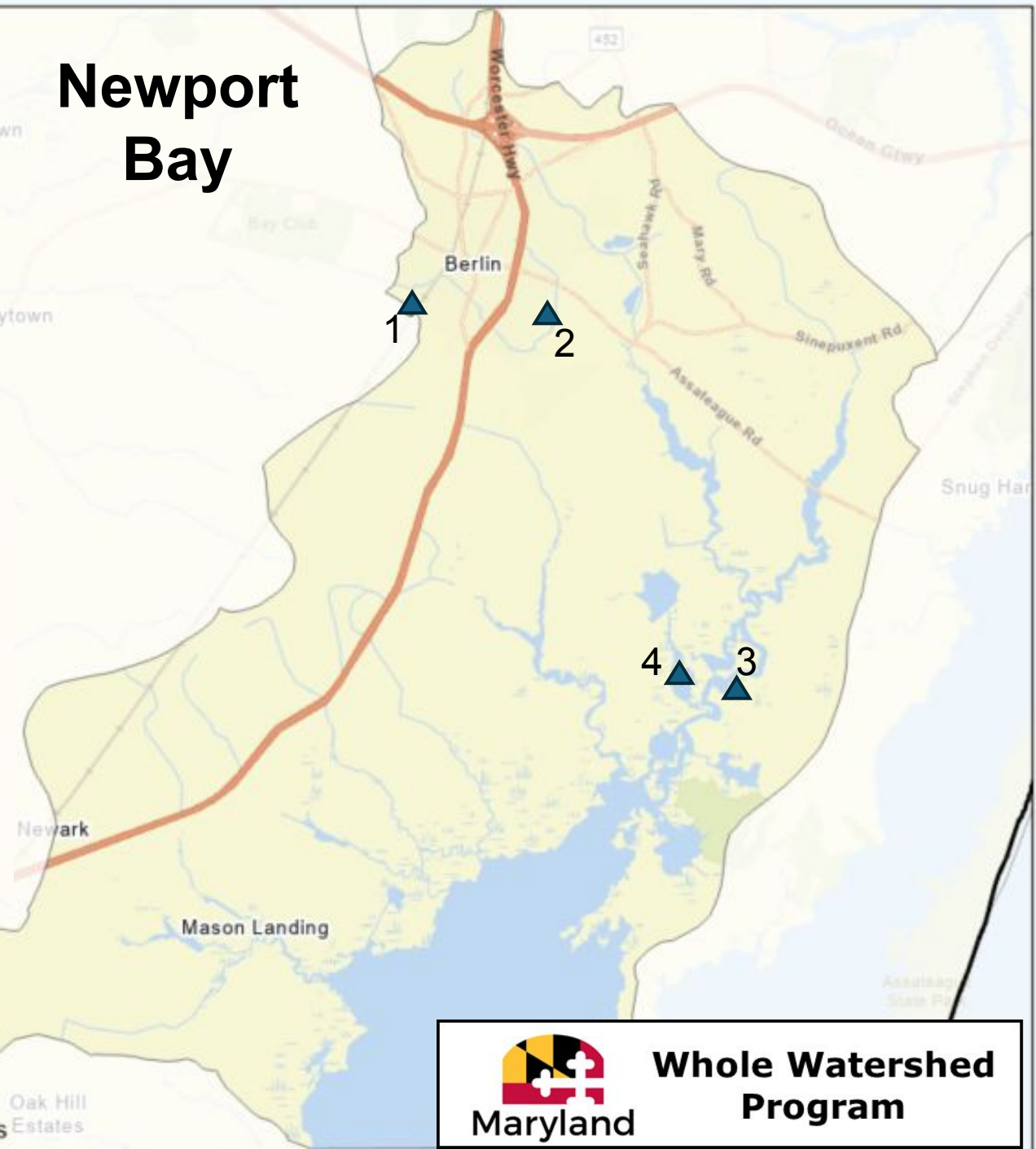
Wicomico
County

Projects

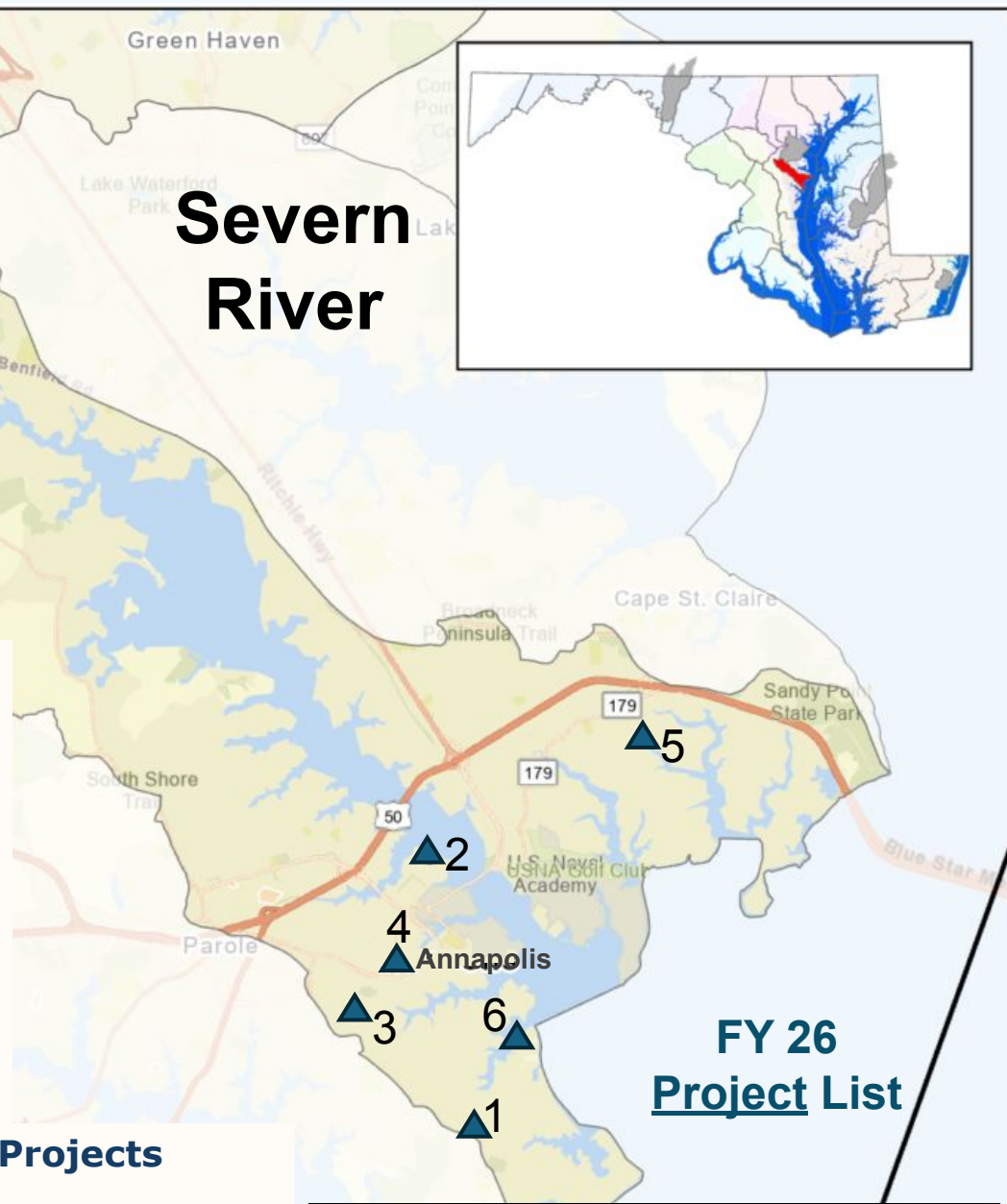
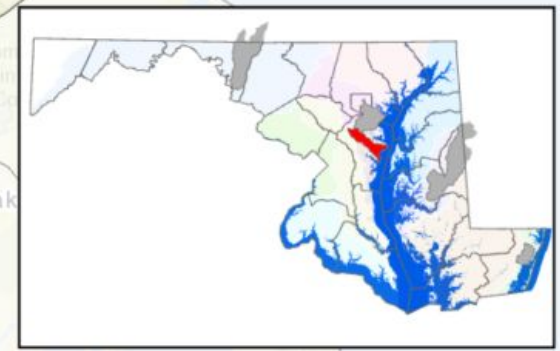
1. Berlin Stormwater Upgrades
2. Hudson Branch Stream Restoration
3. Horner Marsh Restoration
4. Bay Creek Marsh Restoration

Watershed-wide Projects

- Biological Monitoring
- Community Engagement



Severn River



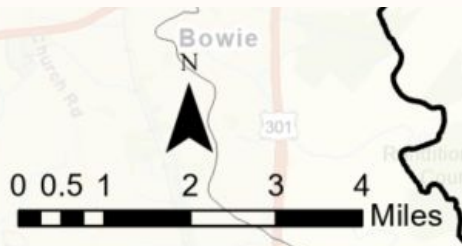
**FY 26
Project List**

Projects

1. Key Point Giant Stormwater Management
2. Wardour Stormwater Management
3. Merryman Stream Restoration
4. Brewer Hill Cemetery Step Pool Conveyance
5. Rideout Creek Gully Prevention
6. Truxton Cove Submerged Wetland

Watershed-wide Projects

- Oyster reef construction
- Watershed Planning & Design



Some additional notes:

Projects funded by BRF in these 8 digit watersheds:

- Baltimore Harbor
- Upper Choptank
- Severn

Themed meetings:

- Agriculture meeting with project sponsors, MDA and Soil Conservation District staff to make connections and explain programs
- Land use planning tools, land conservation and zoning to make restoration and conservation investments more durable

Next Steps: Program Requirements

- **Watershed Monitoring**

- Co-develop a plan with project sponsors, State partners and other monitoring experts to determine a baseline, adequately measure results and “tell a story” after 5 years

- **Finance & Implementation Plan**

- Develop a plan for watershed health improvements over the five year period
- Evaluate funding sources and resource availability, opportunities for collaboration, and a detailed project management framework
-

- **Permitting Efficiencies**

- Provide for coordinated and transparent State Permitting
- Establish a public Permit Tracking Dashboard
- *Requirement of Whole Watershed Act & Bay Legacy Act*

BRF Septic Program
Funded Installations FY24 to Date
July 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025

County	Total approvals from Fiscal Year 26 Grant from July 1, 2025 - September 30, 2025	
	# Septic Systems funded FY 26	# Sewer Connections funded FY 26
Allegany (CVI)	5	1
Anne Arundel	27	2
Baltimore	2	2
Calvert	14	0
Caroline	8	0
Carroll (CVI)	1	0
Cecil	15	0
Charles	7	1
Dorchester	2	0
Frederick (CVI)	6	0
Garrett	0	0
Harford	8	2
Howard (CVI)	1	3
Kent	9	0
Montgomery (CVI)	4	1
Prince George's	0	0
Queen Anne's	8	93
Somerset	11	1
St. Mary's	30	0
Talbot	8	2
Washington (CVI)	11	0
Wicomico	18	0
Worcester	0	0
Totals	195	108

County	Total approvals from Fiscal Year 25 Grant From 7/1/24-6/30/2025	
	# Septic Systems funded FY 25	# Sewer Connections funded FY 25
Allegany (CVI)	0	2
Anne Arundel	136	7
Baltimore	23	7
Calvert	59	0
Caroline	11	0
Carroll (CVI)	4	0
Cecil	31	12
Charles	10	0
Dorchester	36	3
Frederick (CVI)	1	0
Garrett	3	0
Harford	13	5
Howard (CVI)	0	4
Kent	15	0
Montgomery (CVI)	6	2
Prince George's	0	0
Queen Anne's	18	0
Somerset	11	0
St. Mary's	28	3
Talbot	16	2
Washington (CVI)	6	0
Wicomico	3	0
Worcester	0	0
Totals	430	47

**Comptroller of Maryland
Distribution of Bay Restoration Fee
Fiscal Year 2026**

<u>MD Dept of Environment</u>			
<u>Line 1:</u>			
4/05 - 6/05:			
Total Fiscal Year 2005	\$ 7,022,667.18	Total Fiscal Year 2006	\$ 57,686,674.75
Total Fiscal Year 2007	\$ 69,141,379.76	Total Fiscal Year 2008	\$ 54,695,910.00
Total Fiscal Year 2009	\$ 53,339,463.89	Total Fiscal Year 2010	\$ 54,398,088.37
Total Fiscal Year 2011	\$ 55,461,809.59	Total Fiscal Year 2012	\$ 55,971,051.91
Total Fiscal Year 2013	\$ 102,145,356.32	Total Fiscal Year 2014	\$ 110,688,785.91
Total Fiscal Year 2015	\$ 109,796,411.58	Total Fiscal Year 2016	\$ 124,301,135.01
Total Fiscal Year 2017	\$ 115,989,051.47	Total Fiscal Year 2018	\$ 115,308,016.48
Total Fiscal Year 2019	\$ 107,545,498.54	Total Fiscal Year 2020	\$ 121,185,706.78
Total Fiscal Year 2021	\$ 98,087,149.34	Total Fiscal Year 2022	\$ 119,371,455.88
Total Fiscal Year 2023	\$ 114,847,299.86	Total Fiscal Year 2024	\$ 103,736,978.66
Total Fiscal Year 2025	\$ 108,960,919.15	Total Fiscal Year 2026	

August 2025	2,705,326.13	JTRAD004	Effective Date 8/31/2025
September			
October			
November			
December			
January 2024			
February			
March			
March		-	
March			
April			
May			
FM13			

FM13

Total FY 2025	\$	2,705,326.13
---------------	----	--------------

Program Grand Total	\$	1,859,680,810.43
----------------------------	-----------	-------------------------

<u>Line 2:</u>	<u>MD Dept of Environment</u>	<u>MD Dept of Agriculture</u>	<u>Total Line 2</u>
4/05 - 6/05			
Total Fiscal Year 2005 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 156,580.00	\$ 104,386.66	\$ 260,966.66
Total Fiscal Year 2006 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 4,782,770.15	\$ 3,188,513.44	\$ 7,971,283.59
Total Fiscal Year 2007 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 8,094,089.27	\$ 5,396,059.51	\$ 13,490,148.78
Total Fiscal Year 2008 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 8,489,069.61	\$ 5,659,379.72	\$ 14,148,449.33
Total Fiscal Year 2009 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 9,484,117.74	\$ 6,322,745.15	\$ 15,806,862.89
Total Fiscal Year 2010 22.4% MDE 77.6% MDA	\$ 3,118,419.66	\$ 10,803,096.68	\$ 13,921,516.34
Total Fiscal Year 2011 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 8,173,632.20	\$ 5,449,088.14	\$ 13,622,720.34
Total Fiscal Year 2012 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 8,271,087.10	\$ 5,514,058.08	\$ 13,785,145.18
Total Fiscal Year 2013 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 15,992,799.08	\$ 10,661,866.06	\$ 26,654,665.14
Total Fiscal Year 2014 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 16,801,348.71	\$ 11,200,899.10	\$ 28,002,247.81
Total Fiscal Year 2015 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 17,456,798.39	\$ 11,637,865.59	\$ 29,094,663.98
Total Fiscal Year 2016 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 17,311,866.76	\$ 11,541,244.49	\$ 28,853,111.25
Total Fiscal Year 2017 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 17,113,840.66	\$ 11,409,227.10	\$ 28,523,067.76
Total Fiscal Year 2018	\$ 17,811,270.90	\$ 11,874,180.60	\$ 29,685,451.50

60% MDE 40% MDA			
Total Fiscal Year 2019 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 16,883,720.52	\$ 11,255,813.67	\$ 28,139,534.19
Total Fiscal Year 2020 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 17,397,453.75	\$ 11,598,302.51	\$ 28,995,756.26
Total Fiscal Year 2021 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 16,989,802.10	\$ 11,326,534.72	\$ 28,316,336.82
Total Fiscal Year 2022 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 18,553,175.61	\$ 12,368,783.78	\$ 30,921,959.39
Total Fiscal Year 2023 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 16,949,975.95	\$ 11,299,984.02	\$ 28,249,959.97
Total Fiscal Year 2024 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 18,341,974.14	\$ 12,227,982.76	\$ 30,569,956.90
Total Fiscal Year 2025 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 17,146,751.75	\$ 11,431,167.83	\$ 28,577,919.58
Total Fiscal Year 2026 60% MDE 40% MDA	\$ 151,630.73	\$ 60,652.29	\$ 212,283.02

Fiscal Year 2026	60%	40%	Total
August 2025	\$ 151,630.73	\$ 60,652.29	\$ 212,283.02
September	-	-	\$ -
October		-	\$ -
November			
December		-	\$ -
January 2026			\$ -
February		-	\$ -
March		-	\$ -
April			
May		-	\$ -
FM13		-	\$ -
FM13		-	\$ -
FM13		-	\$ -
Total FY 2025	\$ 151,630.73	\$ 60,652.29	\$ 212,283.02

Program Grand Total	\$	258,325,423.03	\$	180,900,664.07	\$	439,226,087.10
----------------------------	-----------	-----------------------	-----------	-----------------------	-----------	-----------------------