



CHESAPEAKE BAY COMMISSION

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Chesapeake Bay Commission - Maryland Delegation - Fall 2023 Meeting Update on SRBC Conowingo RFP Webinar

SRBC Presentation

- On October 23th, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) hosted a “Pre-Proposal Webinar” with stakeholders related to its RFP to procure nitrogen reductions in the Susquehanna Watershed, pursuant to the Conowingo WIP and funding from Maryland.
- It noted that any reductions achieved would count against Maryland allocated target (from the Conowingo WIP) of 0.18 million lbs/year of nitrogen.
- They will use a Pay for Success model, as authorized under MD’s Conservation Finance Act and was piloted in the Clean Water Commerce Act. The process is a “reverse auction” where proposed restoration projects with measured and validated nitrogen reductions will propose a cost/lb reduction in the application process.
- \$25 million was appropriated by the MD General Assembly to purchase “environmental outcomes” using the pay for performance/success procurement strategy, and the goal is to contract for at least \$10 million through this RFP.
- SRBC will screen proposals based on eligibility criteria, completeness, and project viability. The SRBC reserved the right to reject any proposal based on a nitrogen reduction at a cost deemed too high, where the verification of the reduction or nature of the project would be too uncertain, or the lack of available funding for the total project cost.
- All eligible and complete proposals will then be evaluated based on the following:
 - The most cost effective proposals with the lowest cost per pound of nitrogen removed will be given the highest consideration. Specifically, the proposal with the lowest cost per pound of nitrogen will receive the maximum points 50 pts and the Commission will award points in this criterion to other proposals based on how their cost per pound of nitrogen compares to the lowest cost proposal.
 - Projects located anywhere in the Susquehanna watershed are eligible. However, projects located in the Susquehanna Watershed within the Maryland counties of Harford and Cecil will be given additional consideration (20 pts). Projects in the watersheds of Deer Creek, Conowingo Creek, or Octoraro Creek in Pennsylvania are given will receive additional 10 points. Those in the most effective basins developed by the Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan are given additional 10 points as well.
 - Proposals involving dredging will be given additional consideration - any project that produces the overwhelming majority of its nitrogen reductions by directly removing sediment and debris from the Conowingo Reservoir would receive +10 points.
- Load reductions will be quantified using the Chesapeake Assessment Scenario Tool (CAST) and verified using the Chesapeake Bay Program’s Best Management Verification Guidance.
- Successful projects will enter into a Pay For Success Contract with the SRBC.
 - After the Contract is fully executed, the SRBC will present the Contract and an invoice to MDE for the full Award Amount of the Contract.
 - Once MDE distributes the total funds to SRBC to pay for the verifiable environmental outcomes associated with the Contract, the SRBC will issue a Notice to Proceed authorizing work to begin.