

Section 8. Next Steps

Next Steps

Worcester County has many water quality and wildlife habitat issues to address in the coming years. These issues are traced back to land use activities and water recreational activities—human impacts to the land and water contribute to the watershed’s deteriorating water quality and wildlife habitat. This plan asks every person who works on the land, enjoys its natural bounty, and recreates and lives in the watershed to take responsibility for their actions. The county encourages all visitors and residents to do their part to help improve water quality and wildlife habitat.

As next steps to the WRAS process, the following actions should occur (see sidebar).

1. This plan should be approved by the Worcester County Commissioners, Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA’s approval would qualify BMP projects for section 319 nonpoint source pollution grant funds.
2. After the WRAS document is approved, a feasibility analysis should be conducted to begin implementing proposed projects. This plan shall guide local, state, and federal stakeholders determine where and how resources should be spent. General support and participation for BMP projects is necessary to move recommended projects forward.
3. As consensus builds, funds must be acquired. Management of grant expenditures, attentiveness to requirements, and adherence to deadlines are essential throughout the grant funding period.
4. Implement the project concepts. This can be a tangible in-the-ground type of project like a wetland restoration or tree planting or a new regulation like conservation subdivision and can take years. Be patient and flexible.

Conclusion

This plan shall guide restoration efforts in the Assawoman Bay watershed and may be updated as new information becomes available. This document fulfills Worcester County’s obligation to the Assawoman Watershed Restoration Action Strategy 319(h) FFY2005 Incremental Grant.

Next Steps

Approval

1. *County Commissioner*
2. *Maryland Department of the Environment*
3. *Environmental Protection Agency*

Coordinate potential BMP projects

4. *Develop consensus for immediate project objectives, goals, and details*
5. *Coordinate with state, local, and elected officials*
6. *Contact stakeholders*
7. *Raise public awareness and increase education*

Leverage funds

8. *Identify resources required*
9. *Seek grant opportunities*

Implementation

10. *Take action*