

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Federal Funding and Legislation

Peter J. Marx

Federal Affairs

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Funding: New & Old Programs/Annual Appropriations Process

- New:
 - Chesapeake WILD (US FWS) [\$4 million in FY22)
 - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (aka, bipartisan infrastructure bill, enacted November 2021)
 - EPA Chesapeake Bay Program (\$238 million over 5 years)
 - Clean Water SRF (\$11.7 billion over 5 years)
 - USDA Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative (\$22.5 million in FY22)
- Old/Existing Programs:
 - EPA Chesapeake Bay Program (\$88 million in FY22)
 - Farm Bill Conservation Programs + Conservation Technical Assistance (\$904m in FY22)
- Proposed Legislation
 - SEEE Act – NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office Reauthorization Bill (H.R. 3540/S. 1816)

Chesapeake WILD – US Fish & Wildlife Service

- September 2019 - Legislation introduced by Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA)
- October 31, 2020 – Became law
- March 2022 – FY22 Omnibus Approps bill funds the C-WILD at \$4m
- September(?) 2022 – first round of projects should be announced

EPA Chesapeake Bay Program

- FY22 - \$88 million
 - \$9.625m for SWG
 - \$9.625m for INSR
 - \$7.25m for MEB
- IIJA (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) – Supplemental Funding FY22 \$47.6m
 - \$15m for SWG
 - \$15m for MEB
 - \$10m for INSR

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF)

- FY22 - \$1.6 billion (\$353m for the 7 Bay jurisdictions)
 - MD - \$38.8 million
- FY22 – Additional \$1.9 billion in IIJA Funding (\$410m for the 7 Bay jurisdictions)
 - MD - \$45m
- EPA Guidance on IIJA CW SRF, issued in March 2022
 - 49% of IIJA CW SRF funds – grants or loan forgiveness for “disadvantaged communities”
 - 10% for Green Project Reserve

USDA Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative (announced on May 6)

- This is a named program – Good✓
- Utilizes unspent/unobligated FY21 funds
- \$22.5m for Bay watershed conservation on farms in FY22- Good✓
 - \$10m through EQIP
 - \$10m through ACEP
 - \$2.5m through CSP
- No guarantees of permanence or continued funding
- CTA funding increased to \$904 in FY22
- 2023 Farm Bill? RCPP?

SEEE Act – NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office Reauthorization Bill (H.R. 3540/S. 1816)

- Authorization expired in 2007.
- Current funding level is about \$9 million
- SEEE Act would authorize funding for the NOAA CBO at \$18.7 million in FY23 up to \$22.6 million in FY25.