

COG Member Perspectives & Open Dialogue

Points to be covered:

- Local governments are addressing multiple water quality drivers.
- Local governments operate best with long-term planning and budgeting horizons
- We need to protect wastewater capacity for growth.
- We need to set realistic and achievable timelines for addressing additional loadings due to climate change allocations.

COG Talking Point – I

Jason Papacosma, and Councilmember Libby Garvey, Arlington County

There are multiple drivers for water quality investment at the local level. (via a separate presentation)

COG Talking Point – II

Joe Gill, Prince George's County and Kate Bennett, Montgomery County

A **long-term and flexible approach** is needed if further local government investments are sought.

- Local governments need budget certainty and the ability to plan ahead given the high cost of stormwater restoration and other capital program needs.
- Local governments need flexibility to pivot resources to respond to changing climate conditions, i.e., increased overland flooding.
- Substantial progress is being made and the impact of COVID-19 on future budgets is uncertain. A thoughtful review and re-set is required.

Maryland's Nitrogen Load Reduction Target for 2025

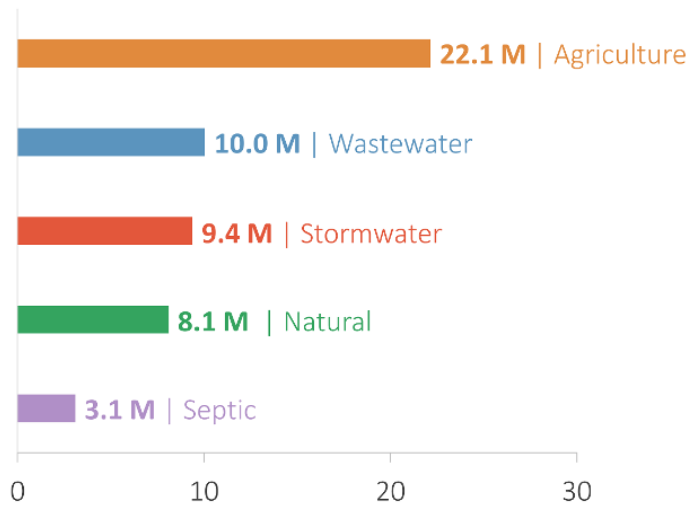
- August 21, 2020: From the MDE website¹
- Maryland's planned nitrogen reduction will put the State at 44.8 million pounds per year entering the Chesapeake Bay, surpassing its 2025 goal by about 1 million pounds per year. This will prepare the State for additional nitrogen reductions needed due to increased loads caused by climate change and growth. Conowingo loads will be addressed through a separate watershed implementation plan.
- The State of Maryland hits the target with room to spare.

¹ <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/234759335b7249d88442a7bff53a8784>

Maryland's Nitrogen Load Reduction Target for 2025

Nitrogen Reaching Chesapeake Bay by Sector | 2018

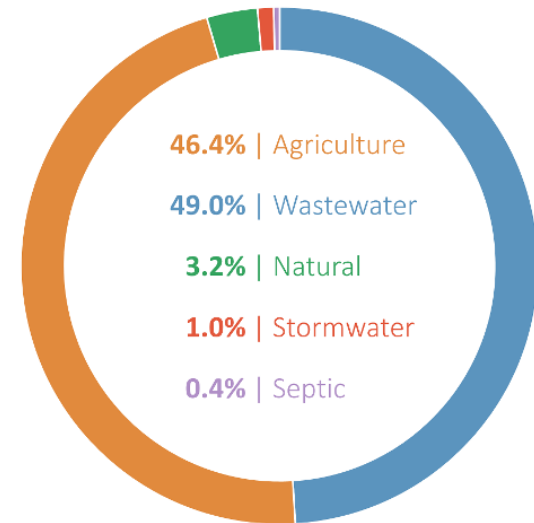
Million Pounds Per Year



Source: CAST 2020

Source of Planned Nitrogen Reductions | 2017 - 2025

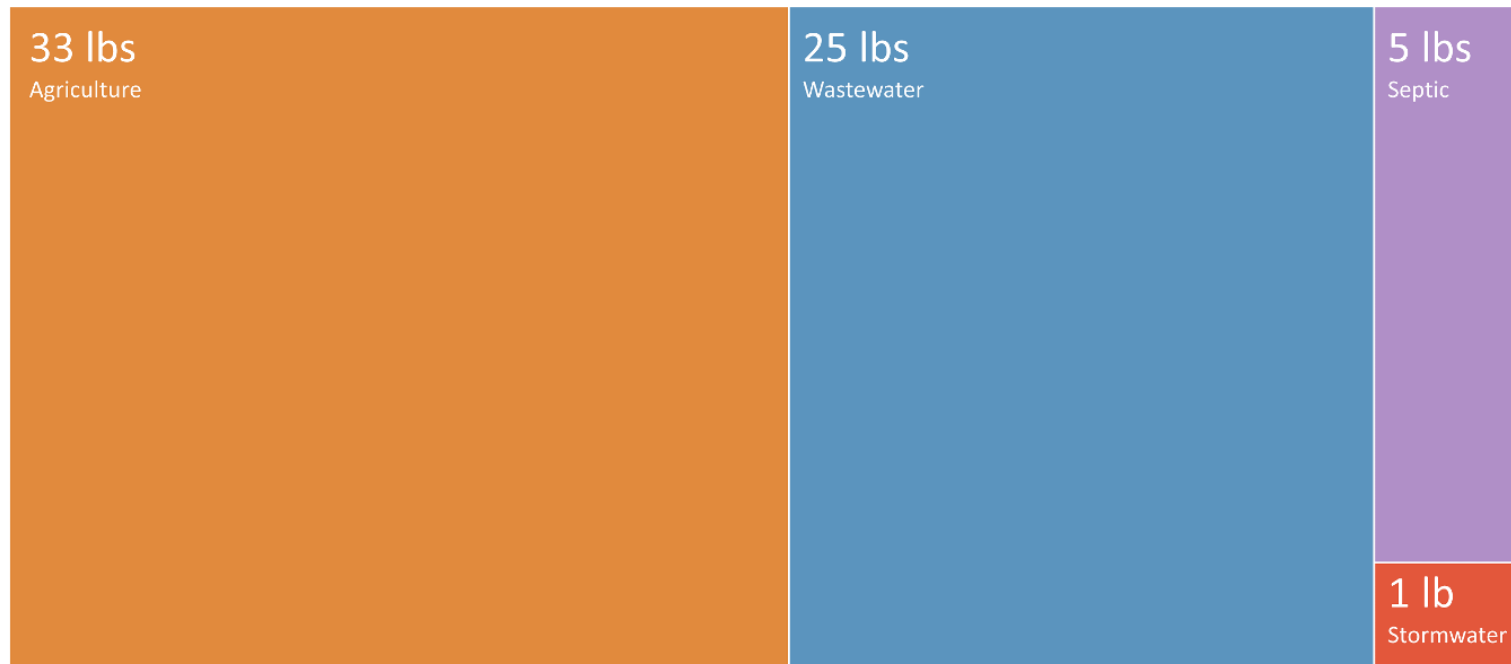
Phase III WIP Goal – 9.5 M lb/yr reduction



Source: Maryland's Phase III WIP CAST Scenario

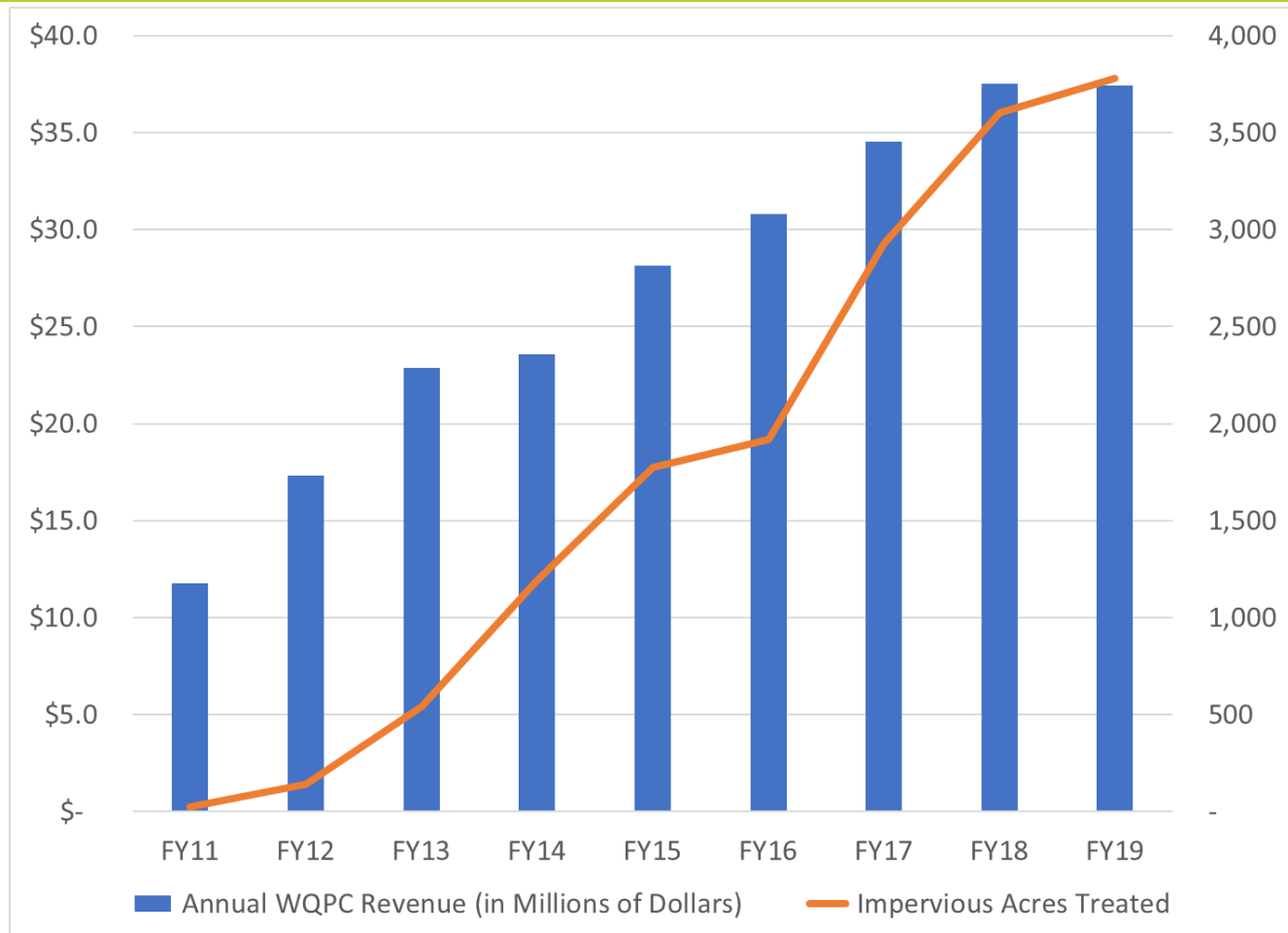
Maryland's Nitrogen Load Reduction Target for 2025

Nitrogen: What does \$1,000 worth of reductions for a sector look like?



Source: Maryland's Phase III WIP, MDE BMP Cost Estimate Spreadsheet

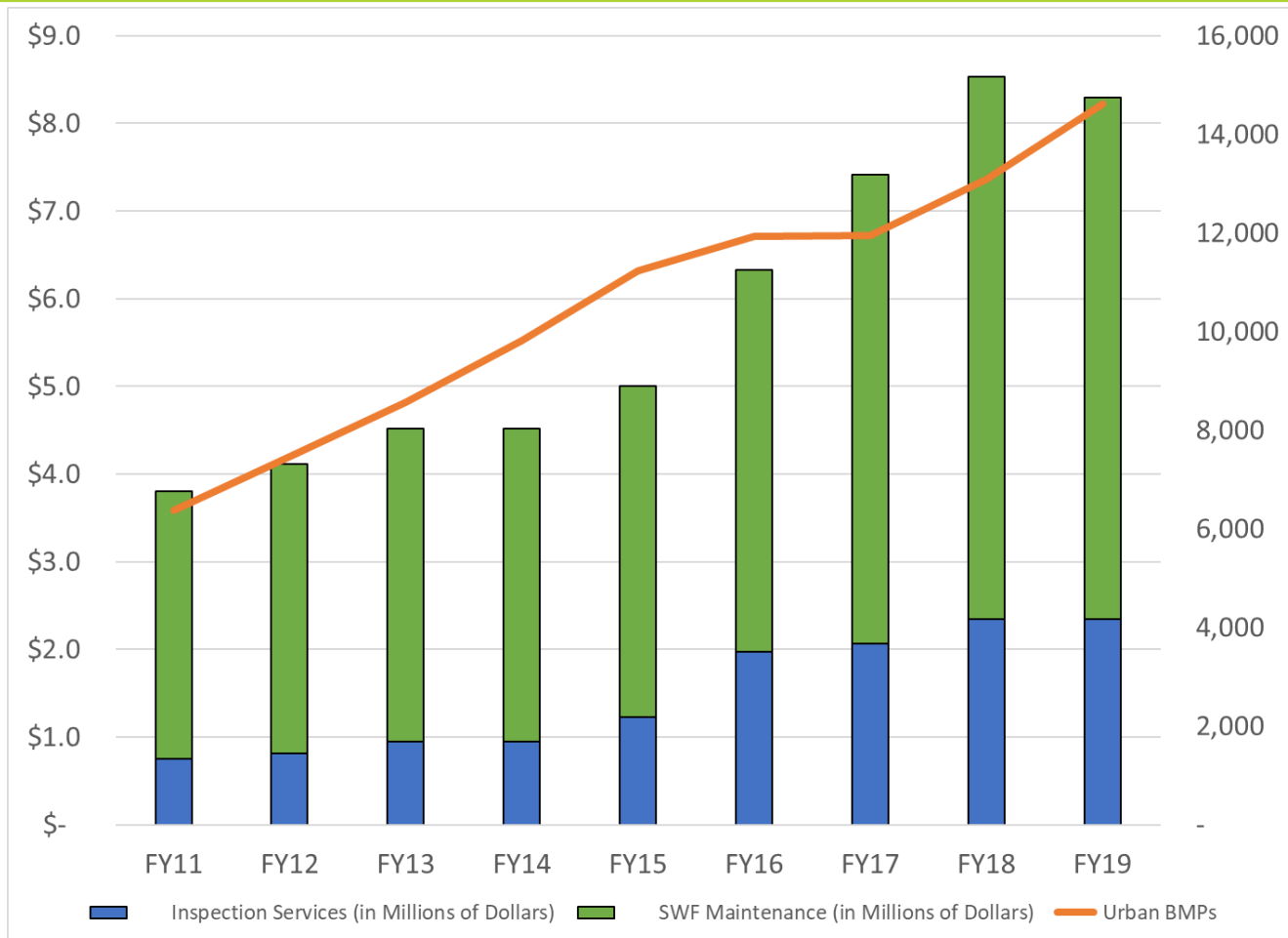
Montgomery County's Water Quality Protection Charge and Impervious Acres Treated (FY11 through FY19)



Examples of Restoration Work Completed



Increase in Inspection and Maintenance Budget and Inventory of Stormwater BMPs (FY11 through FY19)



Restoration Challenges

- Implementation Schedules
 - Allowing time for planning, securing funding, hiring new staff and increasing contract capacity is critical
 - There is competition for contracting services
 - Permitting by local, state and federal agencies also takes time
- Capacity to Perform Inspections and Maintenance
 - ESD practices cost more to maintain than structural (\$1,800/yr vs. \$600/yr)
 - Increasing costs to maintain increasing inventory of BMPs, aging infrastructure
- Flexibility Needed for Emerging Developments
 - Impacts of climate change (more frequent and intense storms)
 - Equity and inclusion considerations
 - Impacts of the pandemic on implementation

Talking Point - III

Karen Pallansch, Alexandria Renew Enterprises

1. Wastewater utilities need to **preserve their ability to accommodate population and job growth** in the region
2. Utilities need long-term planning horizons

Talking Point - IV

CBPC Chair Jon Stehle

- Climate Change and Conowingo WIP allocation decisions should be reasonable and feasible.
- A realistic approach to setting climate change nutrient reduction targets and developing the Conowingo WIP will account for affordability and a rate of implementation progress that is feasible.

Summary of Discussion

Recommended Actions:

- Share Forum outcomes on social media.
- Agree to collaborate on the issues raised during the Forum.
- Jointly promote 2021 Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week.