

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Susquehanna River Basin Commission



The Rocks by Nicholas Tonelli
Muncy Creek, Lycoming County, PA
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About SRBC

Formed in 1971, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission is a federal-interstate compact agency designed to guide the comprehensive planning, water supply allocation, and management of the resources of the Susquehanna River.



To accomplish this mission, SRBC works to:

- Provide for the reasonable and sustained development and use of surface water and groundwater for domestic, agricultural, recreational, commercial, and industrial purposes;
- Assess and restore fisheries, wetlands, and aquatic habitats;
- Monitor and restore water quality and protect instream uses;
- Reduce damages caused by floods; and
- Ensure future availability of flows to the Chesapeake Bay.





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Commander, North Atlantic Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Alternate: Colonel Francis Pera, Baltimore District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Alternate: Amy M. Guise, Chief, Planning Division, USACE, Baltimore



NEW YORK

Governor Kathy Hochul

Alternate: Lauren Townley, Chief, Water Assessment and Implementation
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PENNSYLVANIA

Governor Josh Shapiro

Alternate: Jill Whitcomb, Deputy Secretary, PA Department of Environmental
Protection

Alternate: Jason M. Minnich, Program Manager, Interstate Water Resources
Management Division, PA Department of Environmental Protection



MARYLAND

Governor Wes Moore

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Department of the Environment

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Monitoring and Protection

Executive Director Message

2025 was a year of attention and adaptation for the Susquehanna River Basin. New industries emerged, funding shifted, but our focus on the comprehensive needs of the basin never stopped. Some years, the work we do flows quietly in the background. This year, the river – and the issues facing it – were on full public display.

Hyperscale data centers emerged in our basin, bringing economic opportunity, but also questions about water use. For the Commission, it meant stepping into the spotlight to make sure these potential demands are managed responsibly. Through science, careful planning, and collaboration with local to federal leaders, we are integrating this fast-moving industry thoughtfully, just as we have done with other emerging sectors that have come before.

At the same time, uncertainty in federal funding and staffing reminded us how much we rely on strong partnerships. Agencies like NOAA, USGS, and EPA provide essential expertise in floods, droughts, and water quality. As resources fluctuate, our work alongside local governments and communities ensures that the basin continues to have reliable, sustainable water supplies.

Even amid these pressures, 2025 has been a year of progress. Cross-border collaboration, advanced monitoring technologies, expanded agency transparency, and streamlined permitting and policies are helping communities, local leaders, and industry make smart, long-term decisions. Innovation, collaboration, and science remain at the heart of everything we do – keeping the basin healthy and its water secure.

Looking forward, we know the river and the basin will be shaped by both emerging technologies and evolving environmental and economic pressures. With the dedication of our staff and the support of our partners, we are ready to meet these challenges head-on, ensuring the Susquehanna River Basin remains resilient, vibrant, and sustainable for generations to come.



Andrew Dehoff
Executive Director

Data Centers: New Water Use in the Basin

2025 was a critical year for SRBC to draw attention to the potential effects of large-scale data centers on the water resources of our basin.

Water can take a big hit when it comes to this emerging, fast-changing industry. Water is used for cooling both the server systems on-site and the power plants that provide electricity to the data center. A single data center facility using traditional evaporative cooling techniques can use millions of gallons of water per day, potentially putting a large demand on a community's water supply.

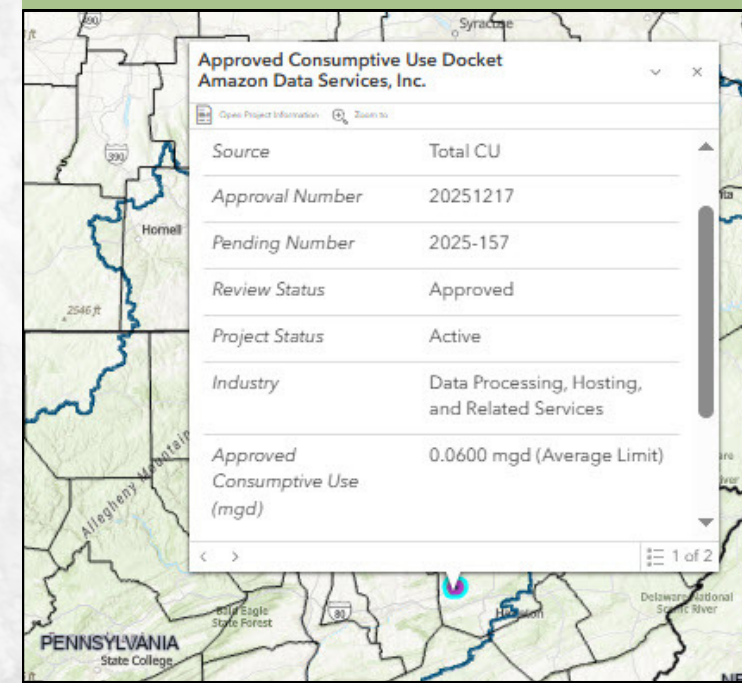
Fortunately, innovative technologies such as dry and hybrid cooling can greatly reduce the water demand at these facilities without compromising feasibility. These alternatives have proven successful in four power plants within the river basin. Operational costs can also be saved through permitting incentives.

SRBC also highlights the importance of preserving recharge zones with smart siting and incorporating low-impact development strategies to mitigate the loss of groundwater recharge and maintain natural hydrologic function. SRBC's **map of optimal groundwater recharge areas** offers a valuable tool for engineers and planners early in the development process.

[READ FAQ](#)



Through 2025, SRBC has permitted one data center in the river basin – Amazon Data Services, Inc. in Salem Township, Luzerne County. Photo credit: Citizens Voice, Wilkes-Barre, PA



Wondering about a project's application status?

SRBC's Water Application & Approval Viewer (WAAV), provides access to information on water withdrawal, diversion, and consumptive use projects regulated by the Commission.

New Findings



Climate Change

An assessment of future precipitation and temperature in the river basin predicts:

- Increases in daily maximum and minimum temperatures;
- Increases in annual precipitation, although trending towards more short-duration, intense events;
- Seasonal variations resulting in warmer and wetter patterns.

[READ MORE](#)



Natural Gas Report

A new report details the natural gas industry's water usage in the Susquehanna River Basin between 2019 and 2023. Surface water sources remain the majority component of water used for industry operations. On average, natural gas water use represented less than one percent of daily flow in the entire Susquehanna Basin.

[READ MORE](#)



Ag Water Study

To help gain a better understanding of agricultural water use in the basin, staff is working in collaboration with the agricultural community in a small Pennsylvania watershed studying irrigation needs for select water intensive crops. The study will help focus future evaluations in the basin. Stay tuned for the pilot's final report.

[SEE FEATURE FARM
ON PAGE 11.](#)



Road Salt Study

Phase III of a study that is examining the effects of road salt and brine applications on freshwater streams wrapped up in 2025. The study looked at chloride concentrations and land use at 10 sites in New York and Pennsylvania. This final stage focused on capturing winter storm samples and analyzing impacts to aquatic animal and plant life.

[READ FINAL REPORT](#)

Cross Border Collaboration



As coordinator of the **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Freshwater Mussel Partnership**, SRBC partnered with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy in 2025 to launch the Commission's first dedicated freshwater mussel survey in the Conodoguinet and Swatara Creek watersheds. Mussels were identified at 13 of the 15 surveyed sites with several species documented.

[READ MORE](#)



The **Conowingo Watershed Implementation Plan (CWIP)** was developed to address additional nutrient pollution entering the Chesapeake Bay due to the declining capacity of the Conowingo Reservoir on the lower Susquehanna River to trap nutrients and sediment.

SRBC plays a key role in the CWIP by managing projects, verifying pollutant reduction outcomes, and coordinating interstate efforts. A new project under Maryland's Pay-for-Success financing model provides evidence that performance-based financing delivers measurable results, given the lowest cost project delivered approximately 150,000 pounds of nitrogen reduction in 2025.

[READ MORE](#)



Among all states, New York and Pennsylvania rank first and second, respectively, in the amount of road salt used every winter on roads and other paved surfaces.

Though an effective tool for melting ice and snow, salt is corrosive to surfaces and creates ecological harm to aquatic life. In 2025, SRBC joined the newly formed **PA Road Salt Action (PARSA) Workgroup**, a network of partners throughout Pennsylvania who:

- Advocate to municipalities, property managers, and homeowners about concerns of excess salt use and ways to maintain safety with less salt;
- Participate in statewide calls-to-action, such as Road Salt Best Management Practices; and,
- Develop and deliver education/outreach materials.

[READ MORE](#)

Community Led Conservation

CONSUMPTIVE USE MITIGATION GRANTS 2025 Awards (Year 4)

Funds projects that will improve water availability and quality during critical low flow periods

\$6.1 MILLION
17 PROJECTS

400 Million Gallons

The estimated amount of water savings a year from these 17 projects.

Innovative project types range from state-of-the-art leak detection technology to irrigation system upgrades that incorporate soil moisture readings, and the permanent conservation of wetlands that increase groundwater recharge to stormwater diversions that protect water quality.

[See 2025 Awardees Here](#)

Amish Liaison Project



Launched in 2023, the Amish Liaison Project is a collaboration between conservation stakeholders and farmers who adhere to Anabaptist traditions as members of Old Order Amish and Mennonite communities.

The project area covers a 96-square mile area of the Upper Octoraro Watershed in Lancaster County, among the highest source of nutrient and sediment pollutant yields in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

- SRBC and Lancaster Clean Water Partners equally cost share the ~\$40k/year operating costs.
- Financial assistance is available from numerous state and federal programs.
- Technical service providers include private and public conservation entities.

Since launched, the Amish Liaison Project has conducted numerous individual farm visits. Conservation plans and projects have been implemented on almost a dozen farms with more than 20 others in progress. The effort is building momentum each successive year!

Community Led Conservation



The Otsego County Conservation Association, Inc. led a community-driven river cleanup of the upper Susquehanna River in July 2025. Activities included walking, kayaking, and shallow diving to recover debris. The grant covered staffing, volunteer coordination, promotion, and costs for proper refuse disposal.

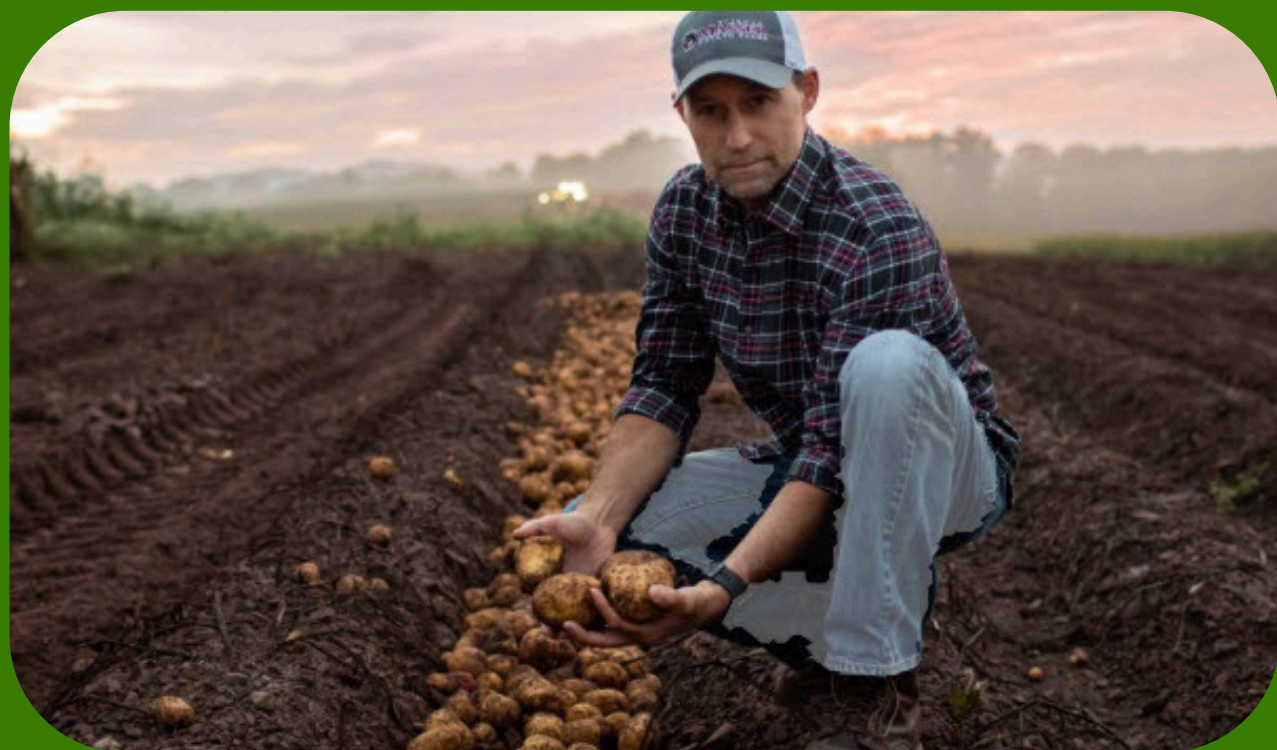
Stream & Watershed Enhancement Grant Program

YEAR 2
\$155,000
34 PROJECTS

SRBC awarded more than \$155,000 to local organizations to support 34 community-based environmental projects that will enhance, restore, or protect the basin's waterways. The Stream and Watershed Enhancement Grant program provides smaller grants, typically around \$5,000, to smaller, volunteer-led groups.

Project examples include abandoned mine drainage education, aquatic organism passage, a recreational disability access study, water trail and stream quality signage, waterway road salt monitoring, and a pet waste clean-up campaign.

[**See Awardees Here**](#)



DID YOU KNOW?

Although consumptive use associated with agriculture is exempt from Commission regulation, the agency has jurisdiction over withdrawals operating in excess of 100,000 gallons per day (30-day average).

Water System Upgrades

Small municipal public water supply systems – generally less than 10,000 in population – are getting help from SRBC staff in meeting regulatory requirements under the Public Water Supply Assistance Program.

Compliance staff focused on conducting site inspections of public water suppliers that have aging infrastructure and high system water loss volumes. Project sponsors with water systems that fit this description are good candidates to apply for the [**Consumptive Use Mitigation Grant**](#).

Program staff also partnered with the PADEP Safe Drinking Water Operator Outreach Program in Fall 2025 to provide a free three-part training series on water loss management for water operators, water managers, water authority personnel, engineers, and water system board members.

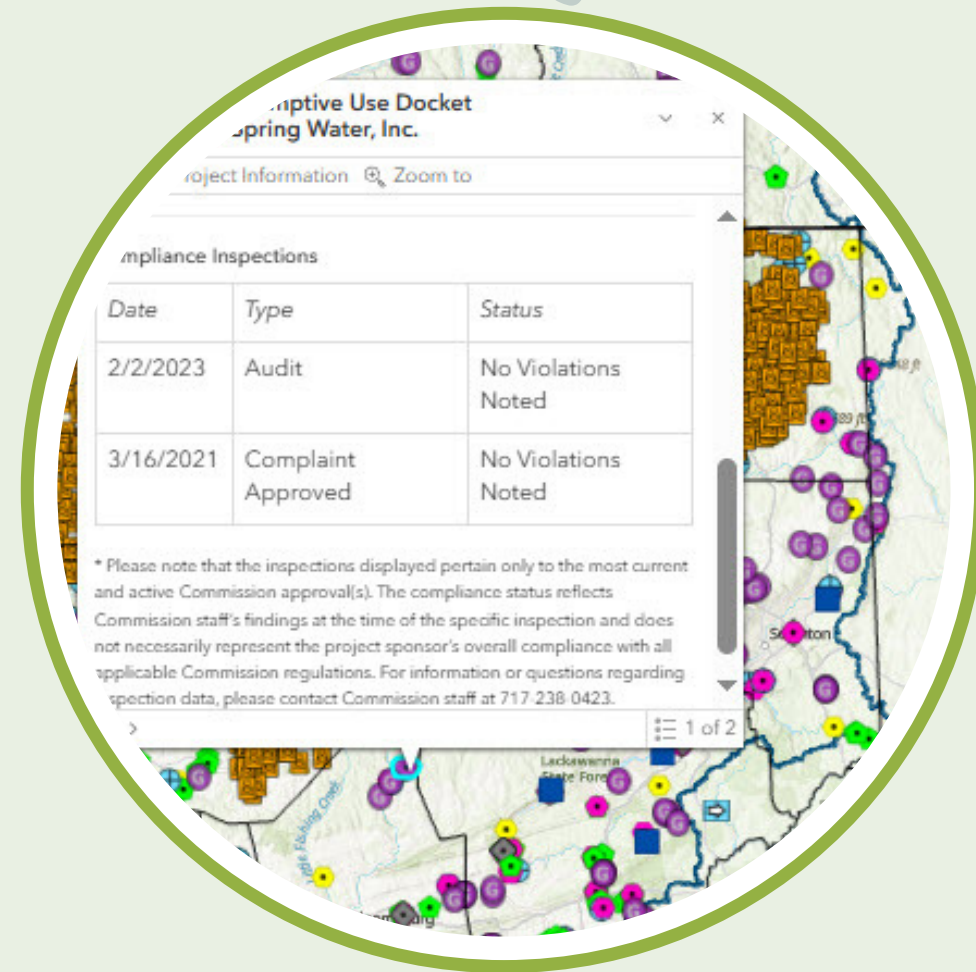
Technology Upgrades for River Health

Smart Irrigation Technology for Agriculture

Within the Ag Pilot Study (page 7), the Serman Masser potato farm is one of the largest water users and one of several “grandfathered” water uses (a use not requiring SRBC approval if the use predates regulations and there is no environmental harm). SRBC provided funding to Serman Masser to implement smart irrigation technology at one of its farms which will decrease water demand by as much as 50%.

Compliance staff is overseeing the conversion project and will be able to evaluate historic water use vs. water use associated with smart irrigation and determine the exact amount of water saved. It is believed that implementation of this technology at other farms may reduce demand below the Commission’s regulatory thresholds and will reduce overall water use in watersheds with water availability concerns.

Policy & Regulation



Compliance staff evaluated similar regulatory agencies to determine what type of information related to site inspections is publicly accessible. In an effort to increase transparency and align with sister agency practices, Compliance and IT staff updated [WAAV](#) to display past inspection dates and compliance status.



In 2025, SRBC adopted [General Permit* 04 \(GP-04\)](#), which governs **water diversions into the Susquehanna Basin**. Projects that meet prescribed standards can benefit from a streamlined application and review process and lower application fees.

** In lieu of an individual approval, a General Permit allows a type of activity that can operate under the same general conditions and will result in minimal adverse impacts to the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin.*



Consumptive Use Mitigation: Lime Quarry to Drought Asset

The Commission requires projects to mitigate for their consumptive use (CU) of water. Using funds generated by CU mitigation fees, the Commission and the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority (LCSWMA) have partnered over the past 10 years to tap an old quarry as a source of water to augment the Susquehanna River during low flows and periods of drought.

A pumping test showed that the volume of water available for CU mitigation was 425 million gallons.

[Watch video here.](#)

Livestream River Camera

Today: 44°F, Chance Rain And Snow Showers. Wind: 15 to 18 mph NW

Flow at Harrisburg, Pa: 99000 cfs 03/12/26, 10:00 AM

A new livestream river camera at the SRBC headquarters in Harrisburg, PA, displays a live feed on the SRBC website of the Susquehanna River/Rockville Bridge.

In addition to giving visitors a glimpse of the flowing river, SRBC staff monitor conditions as they change with flood, drought, and ice events.

[Watch here.](#)



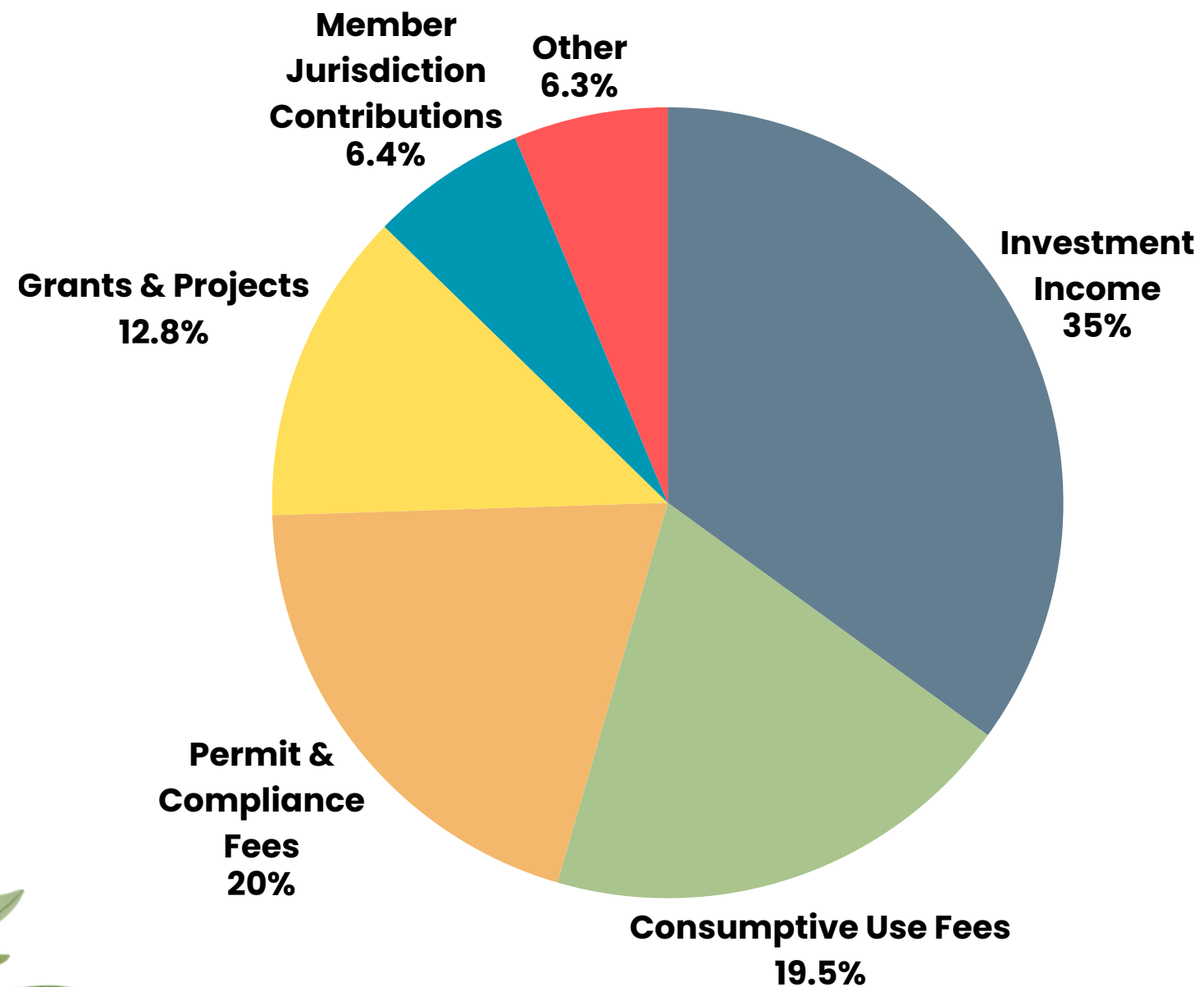
Thank you for viewing our livestream of the Susquehanna River just north of Harrisburg, Pa. You are looking west across the river from Susquehanna Township in Dauphin County to Marysville in Perry County and Enola in Cumberland County.



Fiscal Year 2025

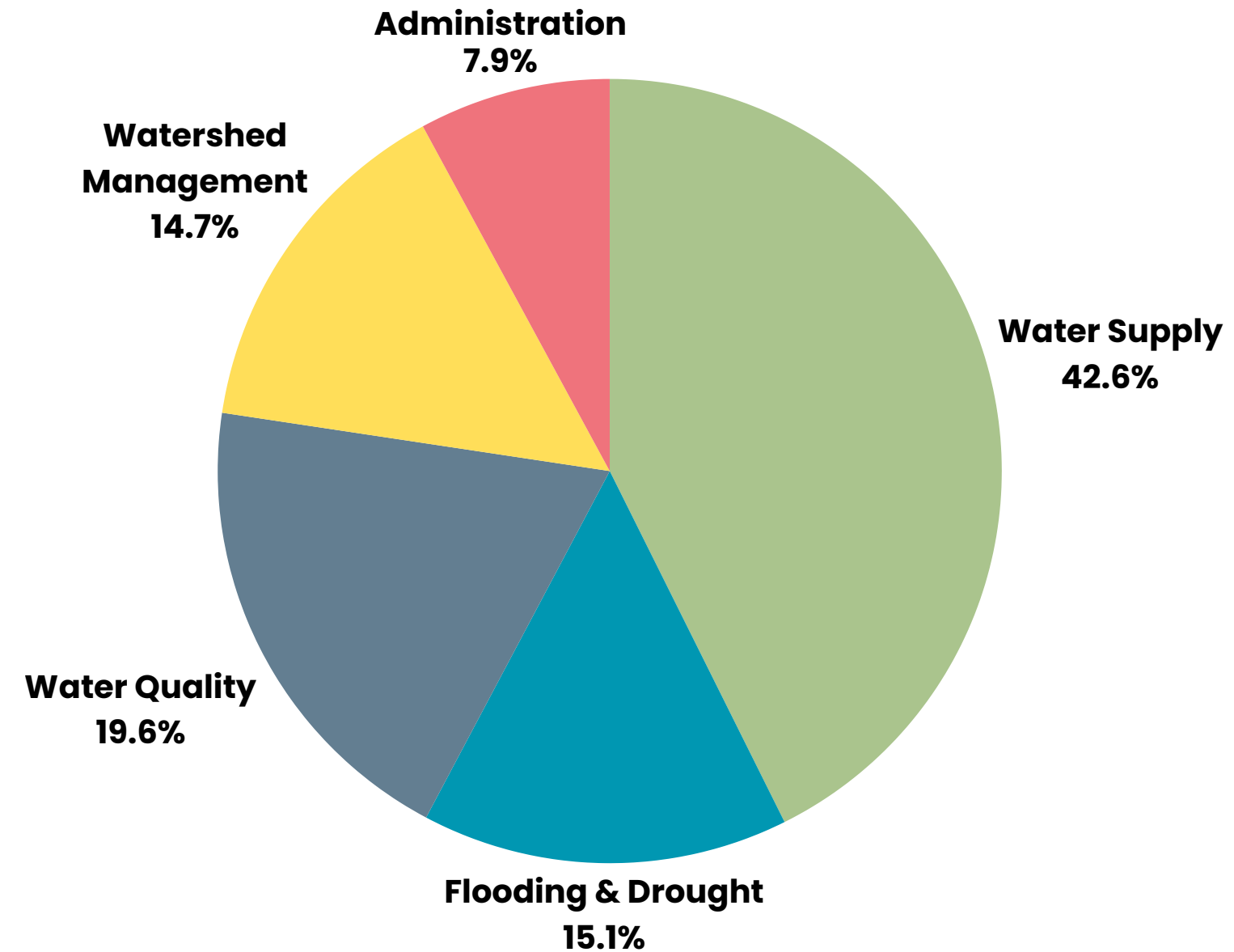


Total Revenue



Total Revenue: \$20,942,177

Total Expenditures



Total Expenditures: \$18,432,701

Change in Commision Fund Balances - 2024-2025

Fiscal Stabilization Fund	\$ (163,405)
Sustainable Water Resources Fund	\$ (295,494)
Water Management Fund	\$ 2,968,682



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