

Matthew Pennington

Senior Planner

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Profile

Mr. Pennington is an environmental, community, and economic development planner with extensive expertise helping local governments and organizations balance economic and population growth with the preservation of natural resources. He is an award-winning stormwater professional and focuses on comprehensive planning, green infrastructure implementation, hazard mitigation actions, and securing grants for community projects and programs.

Skills and Experience

Served for 10 years as Environmental Program Coordinator for the Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council in Martinsburg, West Virginia, chaired the Chesapeake Bay Local Leadership Workgroup, served as a liaison to the Bay's Local Government Advisory Committee, and played a leadership role in West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Restoration Team.

Facilitated and authored comprehensive and strategic planning efforts that engaged diverse stakeholders to better capture and represent the entire community's vision.

As Planner/GIS Coordinator for the Berkeley County Planning Commission in Martinsburg, West Virginia, reviewed development plans to ensure compliance with codes and ordinances, managed the GIS for Berkeley County, and educated the community through meetings and public forums.

Managed regional programs in collaboration with local, state, federal, and nongovernmental organizations to meet Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act responsibilities.

Assisted local governments in the development of policies to mitigate and reduce pollution and other natural hazards, such as flooding.

Listened to the priorities of local governments and other partners to create action strategies for West Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Implementation Plan.

Activated strategies into on-the-ground action with projects that benefit local communities and Chesapeake Bay Program Goals.

Nurtured relationships across a variety of sectors, such as government, agriculture, conservation agencies, economic development authorities, utility districts, emergency managers, and special interest groups, by understanding their common goals and promoting environmental best management practices to complement each organization's mission and resolve their shared issues.

Assisted with brownfield redevelopment, community revitalization, and market analysis projects.

Oversaw the development of green infrastructure plans to leverage the ecological services that natural systems provide such as flood resiliency, source water protection, and energy savings.

Managed field installations, including tree plantings, rain gardens, and streambank stabilizations.

Orchestrated and tracked manure transport from Chesapeake watershed farms to abandoned mine lands that are being restored and repurposed for apple orchards in Appalachia.

Developed policies and regulations for local governments to mitigate and reduce pollution.

Designed "Green Collar" Workforce Development initiatives with area colleges to create professional opportunities for students in the natural resource and ecosystem restoration sectors.

Education

B.S., Urban and Regional Planning, Frostburg State University, Maryland. 2004.

Representative Publications

Pennington M. 2019. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2019-2023. Prepared for the Eastern Panhandle Planning and Development Council (Region 9).

Pennington M. 2017. Town of Bath Comprehensive Plan. Prepared for the Town of Bath, West Virginia.

Pennington M et al. 2019 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan, Phase III. Prepared for the W. Va. Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Chesapeake Bay Program.