

Meadville Area Water Authority is 2009 Source Water System of the Year

The [Meadville Area Water Authority](#), managed by [American Water](#), has received the 2009 Source Water System of the Year Award from the [Pennsylvania Rural Water Association](#).

This award recognizes a water system that has developed and implemented a highly effective program to protect its source of drinking water. MAWA earned the award as a result of its successful Wellhead Protection Plan.

In 2006, MAWA received a \$40,626 Source Water Protection Grant, provided by the Federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program and administered by the Department of Environmental Protection, to develop an effective Wellhead Protection Plan. The program includes: zoning, stormwater management, capture of chemical data and storage in watershed, education outreach, and working to promote water source to enhance economic development.

MAWA has been committed at least since 2000 to protecting their water source and providing high-quality, safe, dependable water service to its community.

Meadville Area Water Authority's source water education programs began in 1999, with a phone call from an elementary school, and then from a high school asking for educational presentations. After these successful events, MAWA decided to make annual presentations during National Drinking Water Week. Read how the program began at <http://wren.palwv.org/projects/documents/MAWAEDUCATIONPROGRAM.doc> .

MAWA extended its outreach to local officials in 2002 with a WREN grant, using the winning poster from their fourth annual poster contest to produce a booklet and placemat for officials in their source water area. The poster was also used to create a bookmark. Read more about this project at <http://wren.palwv.org/projects/Meadville.pdf>

With a WREN grant in 2004, MAWA purchased a groundwater model, developed a source water brochure which was mailed with monthly bills to all customers and developed a coloring book for K-3 students. <http://wren.palwv.org/projects/documents/COLORBOOK.pdf> MAWA has also provided resource material to the Meadville Public Library.

The poster contest, bookmark and school presentations continue to be provided by MAWA with focus on sixth graders and the communities served by the Authority. MAWA credits the support of partners for the success of their program. For more details on MAWA's educational programs, visit <http://wren.palwv.org/projects/crawford.html>

The partnership to promote source water protection has three goals; enlist the support of officials, educate students in the area, and gain the support of everyone living in the source water area.

"This award salutes everyone's effort towards protecting our most valuable resource - water," said Gary A. Fabian, Chairperson for the Meadville Area Water Authority. "Together, through this public/private partnership, we have worked tirelessly in meshing the protection of our water source and promoting growth in the community we serve. The partnerships that have been formed will be long lasting because our goals of protection and our community go hand in hand."

American Water and MAWA formed a public-private partnership in 1997 to develop long-term strategic management and planning processes. The contract was renewed in January 2008 for an additional 10 years.

"We are extremely pleased to be awarded this contract renewal and are committed to delivering excellent service that Meadville can depend upon," said Don Nold, American Water project manager.