

What's New ...

STATE WATER PLAN READY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

A series of public meetings and hearings will be held across the state in September on a draft of the State Water Plan. According to a cover letter sent in March with a status report on the Plan, "The State Water Plan will be presented to the public in draft form this fall. We will collect public comments and input on the analysis of watersheds under consideration as Critical Water Planning Areas, as well as recommendations and priorities of the Statewide and Regional Water Resources Committees, and a Statewide Water Atlas that highlights the water resources of each region."

And from the status report: "All those with an interest in Pennsylvania have a stake in the use, enhancement and stewardship of the state's water resources. the State Water Plan will offer tools and guidance for all those who make decisions that affect the Commonwealth's water resources or who make decisions based upon the availability of water of adequate quantity and quality."

A statewide committee, and regional committees, have been meeting since 2004 to develop the Plan. For more information on the planning process, and the date and place of the hearing in your area, visit www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword - Water Resources.

PPCPs, GREENWAYS AND FORESTS ON WREN PROGRAM

Keeping drinking water safe, and healthy is the common theme of the WREN Wrap-up and Orientation Meeting, June 17-18 at the Hotel Carlisle in Carlisle. Back by popular demand, Dr Kent Crawford of the U.S. Geological Survey will give an update, and report on Phase II of his study of Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) in the lower Susquehanna watershed. Paula Conolly, from the Watersheds office at Philadelphia Water Department will give the view from the water supplier's seat on the issue.

Dinner speaker Tuesday evening is Diane Kripas, from the Greenways Division of the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Two pre-conference sessions on Tuesday morning, June 17th will also

be idea-packed: Harry Campbell, Scientist with CBF will take a look at the water quality impacts of lawns, while Martina Barnes with US Forest Service will overview the role of forests on water, and resources coming from their new "Forests to Faucets" study.

As always, the program will focus on building partnerships and crafting your message so it reaches beyond the choir of your peers and fellow educators. Tips and lessons learned by previous WREN grantees, as well as networking with fellow water gurus continues to be a valuable part of the 2-day conference.

The annual WREN meeting is a requirement of WREN grantees. Grantees have found the WREN meeting fun and well worth their time.

SWPTAP -- A POPULAR PROGRAM

About 50 public water systems across PA have made the decision to look upstream to protect their raw water sources and have signed on to DEP's Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program (SWPTAP). One of the latest to take that step is Oil City in Venango County, where the City Council voted in April to sign-up for the program. The first step for the City is to appoint a steering committee which will work with DEP and its technical consultant to develop a Scope of Work that will evolve into a contract with DEP funding the cost of the technical services.

SWPTAP provides technical help

to define wellfield areas and land areas that contribute to the wells, identifies potential sources of contamination such as road runoff and septic systems and offers advice on best strategies to protect water sources. Public education on where drinking water comes from and the importance of protecting it's source is a staple of the program.

According to DEP's John Van Zant, SWPTAP has been very popular, and contracts are now being developed for the 2009-2010 year.

Visit www.drinkingwaterwise.org for more information. For info on the Oil City program, contact City Engineer, Chris Sporer at 814-678-3019.

WREN Awards Grants ...

Watershed Education Projects

funding provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) Nonpoint Source Management Program through Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act) —total awards: \$50,001

Abrahams Creek Watershed Association, Luzerne County. \$3,342 to develop and distribute an informational brochure, produce a quarterly newsletter, set up a website and feature the expertise of local agencies to explain the several nonpoint source pollution issues facing the watershed, emphasizing the need for a comprehensive watershed management plan. **Contact:** *Eileen Cipriani, 570-287-3349, ecipriani@comcast.net*

Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies, Erie County. \$3,200 to educate school students, outdoor organizations and civic groups, and visitors to Erie about nonpoint source pollution such as urban runoff and malfunctioning septic systems by using a historic wooden war canoe as a “mobile classroom”, launching a professionally designed website, distributing related print information, and designing teacher education packets. **Contact:** *Richard Eisenberg, 814-456-4077, catketch@hotmail.com*

Earth Force, Inc. dba Lake Erie - Allegheny Earth Force, Erie County. \$5,000 to engage the youth of the area to write watershed protection articles for several local publications, make presentations at at least five public venues, and inspiring and recruiting watershed residents to become active in the International Coastal Cleanup and the Great PA Cleanup, thereby taking a leadership role in raising awareness about the nonpoint source pollution impacting the McDannell Run watershed. **Contact:** *Pat Lupo, 814-835-8069, plupo@lea.earthforce.org*

Friends of the Nescopeck, Luzerne, Schuylkill, Columbia Counties. \$4,312 to design and distribute an eight page full color newspaper insert alerting residents of Nescopeck Creek Watershed the effects of their activities on the health of the watershed and what they can do to minimize negative impacts; the insert will also encourage residents to support efforts to minimize abandoned mine drainage, manage stormwater properly, and respond appropriately to development pressures. **Contact:** *Tim Ference, 570-788-4827, timfer@epix.net*

Hallstead Borough, Susquehanna County. \$3,140 to exhibit a working rainbarrel display on four well visited municipal properties; and hold a rain barrel workshop to instruct attendees of the North Susquehanna River Watershed Association how nonpoint source pollution such as stormwater runoff can be controlled on the homeowner's property with rain barrels and raingardens, and in the larger community though other best management practices such as green roofs and increasing the amount of pervious surfaces. **Contact:** *Michele Giangrieco, 570-879-2345, mga@nep.net*

Jefferson County Conservation District, Jefferson County. \$3,100 to develop educational print materials, a display, and placemats aimed at educating residents of the County about steps they can take to reduce nonpoint source pollution and to make a presentation Township Supervisors Convention about the practices that municipal employees can adopt to reduce the impacts of NPS in the North Fork and other watersheds in Jefferson County. **Contact:** *Amber Siar, 814-849-7463, acgillung@alltel.net*

Jenkintown Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC), Montgomery County. \$2,530 to produce a quarterly flyer for borough residents identifying specific actions residents can take to protect the Tookany/Tacony-Frankford from the negative effects of nonpoint source pollution and hold a screening of some films related to protecting the environment. **Contact:** *Elizabeth Boyd, 215-884-2247, elizaboyd@yahoo.com*

Nether Providence Township, Delaware County. \$5,000 to install and promote two demonstration raingardens on municipal properties and produce and distribute printed materials to residents explaining how to install their own rain garden and other watershed protection activities they can that will protect the Crum Creek and Ridley Creek. **Contact:** *SheaBrianna Christilaw, 610-566-4516, schristilaw@netherprovidence.org*

Pennsylvania Resources Council, Allegheny County. \$5,000 to deliver ten Watershed Awareness/Rain Barrel Workshops in Allegheny County with the goal of raising awareness and promoting action regarding issues such as nonpoint source pollution, combined sewer overflows and other sources of human impact plaguing the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio River Watersheds. **Contact:** *Dave Mazza, 412-431-4449x209, davem@ccicenter.org*

Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy, Montgomery, Bucks, Berks and Lehigh Counties. \$5,000 to educate Home Owner Associations in Limerick Township about the benefits of properly maintaining stormwater management facilities and develop a set of recommendations that can be distributed to and used by a municipality to encourage or compel HMOs to properly maintain stormwater basins, thereby improving water quality, adding critical habitat and saving the Home Owner Associations money. **Contact:** *Crystal Gilchrist, 610-287-9383, cgilchrist@perkiomenwatershed.org*

Ridge & Valley Streamkeepers, Bedford County. \$3,500 to coordinate planting work crews and conduct a hands-on workshop to emphasize the benefits of forested buffers for the Sideling, Fifteen Mile, and Town Creeks, followed by a guided planting by the workshop attendees; a website will publicize the project and further educate visitors to the site and the region about steps they can take to minimize nonpoint source pollution of these watersheds. **Contact:** *Ronald Stanley, 814-784-3652, apples@pennswoods.net*

Tobyhanna Creek/Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association, Monroe County. \$1,880 to produce and

distribute a restaurant placemat aimed at residents of Kidder Township and the surrounding area with information about solutions to problems associated with urban runoff and acceptable effective alternatives pesticide application, thereby minimizing the negative impacts of these nonpoint sources of pollution. **Contact:** *Paula Guenst, 570-646-5206, guenst@epix.net*

Warrington Township, Bucks County. \$4,997 to 1) demonstrate The Healthy Yards Initiative by naturalizing a detention basin on the property of a public and highly visible business that sits next to the Little Neshaminy Creek and 2) conduct homeowner property assessments, recommending healthy yard practices like storm water management, improved wildlife habitats, removal of invasive species and planting native vegetation on residential properties within the Township. The project also includes a "Healthy Yard" poster or brochure contest for fifth grade students. **Contact:** *Tim Tieperman, 215-343-9350, ttieperman@warringtontownship.org*

Source Water Protection Education Projects

funding provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection by virtue of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, section 1452 (State Revolving Loan Fund for Drinking Water SWP)—total award for 2008: \$42,737

Clarion County Conservation District, Clarion County. \$3020 to transform stormdrains throughout Clarion Borough with stencils and markers and distribute doorhangers to encourage Clarion citizens to do their part in curbing stormwater pollution which can harm sources of drinking water like the Clarion River. **Contact:** *David Bohlander, 814-226-4070x126, david.bohlander@pa.nacdnet.net*

Greater Johnstown Water Authority, Cambria and Somerset Counties. \$5,000 to continue practicing good stewardship of its drinking water sources located throughout the Northfork, Dalton, and Saltlick watersheds, with programming for elementary and middle school students about the actions they can take to protect their drinking water. **Contact:** *Elizabeth Rhoades, 814-533-4300, erhoades@rdm-gjwa.com*

McKean County Conservation District, McKean and Potter Counties. \$5,000 to educate residents of McKean and Potter Counties about the issue of pharmaceuticals in water supplies, survey health care establishments' current practices regarding pharmaceutical disposal, and explore the feasibility of collaborating with multiple agencies and municipalities in the Upper Allegheny watershed to conduct a household hazardous waste collection. **Contact:** *Heather McKean, 814-887-4003, hsmckean@mckeancountypa.org*

Municipal Authority of Boswell Borough, Somerset County. \$5,000 to devise a strategy and train emergency personnel to effectively respond to incidents in the wellhead protection area, post water supply area traffic signs at the boundaries of the wellhead protection area and design and distribute an educational brochure, placemats, "toolboxes", and fact sheets about the Boswell Wellhead

protection plan and what residents of the Stoneycreek River watershed can do to protect their water supply.

Contact: *Joseph DeBlase, 814-629-6107, tazza@floodcity.net*

Port Allegany Borough, McKean County. \$3,400 to enhance emergency response personnel's ability to respond effectively to incidents where PA Route 6 and other major roads intersect the wellhead protection area, post water supply area traffic signs at the boundaries of the wellhead protection area, and design and distribute educational placemats and other print materials to promote the protection of the community's drinking water. **Contact:** *Richard Kallenborn, 814-642-2526, portaboro@zitomedia.net*

Reading Area Community College, Berks County. \$4,995 to conduct a college wide, year long "Get Your Fill" campaign aimed at increasing understanding of the Reading Area Water Authority's role in providing safe drinking water to customers in the Maiden Creek/Lake Ontelaunee watershed and to motivate students about the steps they can take to protect their source water while at school and also after graduation. **Contact:** *Andrew Lapinski, 610-372-4721, alapinski@racc.edu*

Reading Area Water Authority, Berks County. \$5,000 to install thirty drinking water supply area signs on secondary roads throughout the Maiden Creek watershed to raise resident and visitor awareness of source water/drinking water areas and devise a comprehensive "spill response strategy" including education and training for all emergency personnel about the importance of fast response to hazardous substance spills. **Contact:** *Dean Miller, 610-926-5477, dean.miller@readingpa.gov*

Riverside Center for Innovation, Allegheny, Westmoreland, Greene, Clarion, Butler, Fayette, Armstrong and Washington Counties. \$5,000 to educate and increase awareness of source water protection strategies via three major events aimed at thirty-three drinking water suppliers in the Allegheny, Youghiogheny and Monongahela watersheds in eight southwest PA counties. **Contact:** *Emily Buka, 412-322-3523, eb@riversidecenterforinnovation.com*

Upper Leacock Township, Lancaster County. \$5,000 to facilitate the local emergency response team's efficiency by posting Water Supply Area Signs on all state roads intersecting the wellhead protection area and developing procedures for emergency responder personnel to handle hazardous waste spills that occur near wells located in a carbonate aquifer. **Contact:** *Robert Rissler, 717-656-6111, water@ultwp.com*

Warren County Conservation District, Warren County. \$1,322 to purchase a Drinking Water & Wastewater Treatment EnviroScape Model to be used in local schools to demonstrate visually how source water can be impacted by human activities and what steps students and their parents can take to protect the source of their drinking water. **Contact:** *Jean Gomory, 814-563-3117, jean.gomory@pa.nacdnet.net*

LWVPA-CEF
226 Forster Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102-3220

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 420
Harrisburg, PA

Address Service Requested

Water POLICY NEWS Spring 2008

Pennsylvania Water Resources Education Network
<http://wren.palww.org/> & www.drinkingwaterwise.org

Calendar . . .

June 30-July 2 Virginia Beach, VA
Riparian Ecosystems and Buffers:
Working at the Water's Edge
Sponsored by the American Water
Resources Association
Visit: www.awra.org

July 18-19 State College, PA
West Branch Susquehanna
Restoration Symposium
Sponsored by Trout Unlimited
Contact: (570) 726-3118
Amy Wolfe, awolfe@tu.org
Rebecca Dunlap,
rdunlap@tu.org

Sept 8-11 Estes Park, CO
Third Interagency Conference
on Research in the Watersheds
(ICRW): Planning for an Uncer-
tain Future: Monitoring, Inte-
gration, and Adaptation
Sponsored by USGS
Visit: <http://www.hydrologicscience.org/icrw/>

Sep 14-18 Columbus, OH
16th National Nonpoint Source
(NPS) Monitoring Workshop:
Getting the Point About
Nonpoint
Visit: <http://streams.osu.edu:80/conf.php>

Resources . . .

POLLUTION PREVENTION
MANUAL
(Center for Watershed Protection)
Manual 8, now available for free
download, addresses neighbor-
hood behavior change.
The manual first outlines a series
of methods to discover pollution
sources in your community and
details how education, training,
direct municipal service, subsidi-
es, and recognition can rein-
force pollution reduction. It also
addresses permits, ordinances,
inspections and enforcement that
are needed for the most severe
stormwater pollution sources.

Manual 8, released in 2005, joins
Manuals 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the
Manual Series that are available
for free download at <http://www.cwp.org/PublicationStore/USRM.htm>

RUNOFF REDUCTION
METHOD TECHNICAL MEMO
(Center for Watershed Protection)
outlines an innovative system for
stormwater design and methods
for determining BMP
effectiveness.
Download free at www.cwp.org

Wren Orientation and **Wrap-Up meeting** **June 17-18** **Hotel Carlisle**

Water Policy News is published three times
a year by the League of Women Voters of
Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund for the
Water Resources Education Network
(WREN) Project. Funds for **Water Policy**
News and the WREN Project are provided
by the PA Department of Environmental
Protection.

The WREN project provides funding for
local groups engaged in water education
projects and communications links between
groups and individuals interested in improv-
ing local policy making for water resource
protection. Local and statewide activities that
focus on water resource education will be
highlighted in each issue of **Water Policy**
News.

Articles about water education activities
are solicited from the readers of Water
Policy News. Send newsletter items to Edi-
tor: Edith Stevens, RR 1, Box 1550, Cresco,
PA 18326, estevens@ptd.net.

To receive this free newsletter or inquire
about the resources available from the
WREN Project, visit <http://wren.palww.org>,
or call the LWVPA at 1-800-692-7281 or
write them at 226 Forster St., Harrisburg,
PA 17102. Please send address changes
to the LWVPA office. Environ