

What's New ...

WREN Awards 26 Grants

Twenty-six grants were awarded to community partnerships in the latest round of WREN grants. Sifting thru a total of 100 applications (the most ever) was a difficult job for the review team this year, as more and more worthy educational projects are proposed. A total of \$110,000 was awarded; \$60,000 to 13 source water protection projects and \$50,000 to 13 watershed education projects. For a list of the successful projects, see pages 2-3.

WREN Orientation

Cathy Myers, DEP Deputy Secretary for Water Management, will be keynote speaker at the Orientation/Wrap-Up Meeting for WREN funded Projects. The meeting will be held at Allenberry Resort in Boiling Springs. Cathy will speak at dinner on June 10. Contact sherenehess@yourinter.net for more information.

Drinking Water PSA's

Listen for Public Service Announcements on your local radio station highlighting threats to drinking water and what you can do to protect your drinking water. The spots were prepared by EPA Region III, using several scripts developed by WREN, and were recently sent to all radio stations in PA. The spots feature Herb and Marge Drainard, discussing drinking water issues in what is hoped to be a humorous manner. If you hear one of the PSA's, Julie Kollar would like to know; email her at julick@voicenet.com

SCHUYKILL PARTNERSHIP PROMOTES PROTECTION

The Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) is a unique partnership formed to focus on cleaning up and protecting the Schuylkill River and its tributaries, which provide drinking water for more than 1.5 million people. Partners met recently to celebrate, with the signing of the Schuylkill Action Network Constitution, an ongoing commitment to water quality issues of the Schuylkill River watershed, which includes parts of 11 counties in southeastern Pennsylvania and covers approximately 2,000 square miles.

Signers of the constitution made a pledge to continue to work together toward restoring and protecting the Schuylkill River watershed as a drinking water source; promote stewardship and

education; transfer the experience and lessons learned to communities; and enhance governmental communications and coordination.

The Schuylkill Action Network was formed in March 2003; it includes EPA, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Philadelphia Water Department, conservation districts, local, state and federal agencies, watershed organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other essential stakeholders. WREN is a partner on the Education and Outreach team of the SAN.

For more information on the Schuylkill Action Network, visit www.schuylkillactionnetwork.org

GROWING GREENER 2 BOND ISSUE PROPOSED

The General Assembly is considering legislation to place a \$800 million bond issue on the ballot in the fall election. Also known as Governor Rendell's Quality of Life Proposal, the bond issue would provide \$200 million per year over the next four years for protecting open space, farmland and forests and enhancing amenities at State Parks; cleaning up abandoned mines and mine drainage and rivers and streams; and revitalizing downtowns, local parks and trails

and greenways.

Also before the General Assembly is legislation that lays out in detail how funds will be raised to pay debt service on the bonds and provide permanent annual allocations for the Environmental Stewardship Fund (Growing Greener). A primary source of revenue will be an increase of \$5 in the municipal waste tipping fee.

For more information on the Growing Greener 2 proposal, visit www.keepgrowinggreener.org

2004-2005 WREN FUNDED PROJECTS

Source Water Protection Projects

(funding provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) by virtue of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, section 1452 (State Revolving Loan Fund for Drinking Water SWP))

Ambridge Water Authority, Beaver County; **\$3,937** to produce and print a map and post "Water Supply Area" signs in critical locations of the source water protection area in the Service Creek Watershed. *Jeff Allen, 724-266-6784, xxl_b2oguy@hotmail.com*

Bucks Co. Planning Commission, Bucks County; **\$5,000** to hold a water awareness day for the Pennridge area in conjunction with National Drinking Water Week and work with the school district to integrate source water protection issues in the curriculum. *Cynthia Unangst, 215-345-3884, ckunangst@co.bucks.pa.us*

City of Titusville, Crawford County; **\$4,094** to post "Water Supply Area" signs in the Oil Creek watershed on state roadways and announce sign installations to citizens of the area via a bill stuffer. *Mary Ann Nau, 814-827-5300, manager@titusvillepa.com*

Dillsburg Borough, York County; **\$4,610** to design a mobile educational display and make presentations that highlight source water protection initiatives in the Yellow Breeches watershed. *Sally Holbert Pat Devlin, 717-697-0127, sbholbert@comcast.net*

Eastern Armstrong Co. Municipal Authority, Armstrong County; **\$1,800** to produce and distribute a brochure to area citizens about source water protection in the Plum Creek watershed and to introduce educational materials to the Elderton School District. *Donald Cessna, 724-354-2540*

Keystone College, Northampton County; **\$5,000** to purchase a groundwater model to demonstrate to students of the Bangor Area School District how to identify and protect their source water supply and to distribute brochures to residents of the Slateford Creek watershed to inform about citizens can protect their drinking water. *Robert Cook, Ph.D., 570-945-8411, robert.cook@keystone.edu*

Lehigh Valley Water Suppliers, Lehigh, Northampton County; **\$5,000** to expand the successful "Hydromania" water festival to include more school districts as well as higher level students to educate about the importance of source water protection in the Lehigh River Basin. *Liesel Mull, 610-398-2503, liselmull@lehighcountyauthority.org*

Little Conemaugh Watershed Assn, Cambria County; **\$5,000** to hold a Children's Water Festival for sixth grade students in Cambria Co. schools. *Jacqueline Ritko, 814-495-4380, ritko@co.cambria.pa.us*

Natural Lands Trust, Schuylkill, Berks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Bucks, Philadelphia County; **\$5,000** to highlight to local environmental organizations and municipal officials the need to protect buffer lands for public drinking water supply. *David Harper, 610-353-5587, dharper@natlands.org*

PA Environmental Council, EAC Network, Montgomery County; **\$5,000** to create a display, brochure, and presentation that will promote the formation of municipally based Environmental Advisory Councils (EACs) to accomplish source water protection initiatives in the Schuylkill River Watershed. *Jeanne Barrett Ortiz, 215-563-0250x113, jortiz@pecphila.org*

RSVP of Lehigh, Northampton & Carbon Counties, Lehigh, Northampton County; **\$4,989** to continue its source water protection mentoring program using groundwater simulators, TAPWater kits, and water testing kits. *Diane Schrammeyer, 610-391-8211, rsvp@diakon.org*

The PEAK Center, Inc., Bucks, Montgomery County; **\$5,000** to conduct twelve workshops aimed at citizens and municipal officials to educate about the importance of preventing nonpoint pollution in order to protect source water for the North Penn Water Authority service area. *Robert Kutler, 215-362-7432, sek@peakcenter.org*

Washington Twp. Supervisors, Westmoreland County; **\$5,000** to produce newsletters, posters, brochures, and presentations for residents of the Beaver Run Reservoir emphasizing the need to eliminate sources of pollution of the community's drinking water supply. *John Turack, 724-727-3515, jturack@washingtontownship.com*

Watershed Education Projects

(funding provided by PA Department of Environmental Protection) Nonpoint Source Management Program through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.)

Berks Co. Conservation District, Berks, Lehigh, Schuylkill County; **\$5,000** to design and conduct two workshops: 1) a watershed forum on nonpoint source pollution issues and 2) Innovative Stormwater Workshop aimed at engineers and municipal officials. *Pam Spayd Bryon Rubl, 610-372-4657x208, brubl@countyofberks.com, pspayd@countyofberks.com*

Borough of North East, Erie County; **\$4,820** to produce and distribute laminated cards designed to educate citizens of the Baker Creek Watershed about proper disposal of materials which contribute to nonpoint source pollution. *Diana Hatfield, 814-725-4262, nechamber@lakeside.net*

Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Assn., Delaware, Chester County; **\$5,000** to promote watershed stewardship practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution the Ridley Creek watershed. *Anne Murphy, 610-892-8731, crc@nni.com*

Greene Co. Conservation District, Greene County; **\$2,700** to conduct a streambank stabilization and riparian buffer installation workshop for municipal officials, agency personnel, and local leaders in the South Fork of Ten Mile watershed. *Lisa Bennett, 724-852-5278, lbennett@co.greene.pa.us*

Lawrence Conservation District, Lawrence County; **\$4,200** to conduct a workshop for homeowners about the causes of nonpoint source pollution in North Fork Little Beaver Creek, especially the need to properly manage on-lot septic systems. *Megan Murphy, 724-652-4512, mmurphy@lawrenceconservationdistrict.org*

Loyalhanna Watershed Assn, Westmoreland County; \$5,000 to design and distribute a Citizen Guide to the residents of the Loyalhanna Creek watershed to raise awareness of nonpoint source pollution and engage the community in watershed restoration. *Carole Wright, 724-238-7560, cjpwright@laurelweb.net*

Mehoopany Creek Watershed Assn., Sullivan, Wyoming, Bradford, Luzerne County; \$2,000 to produce presentations and newsletters to inform citizens and municipal officials about nonpoint source pollution and install watershed identification signs around the Mehoopany Creek watershed. *Lars Lundin, 570-833-3545, lundin2015@epix.net*

North Area Environmental Council, Allegheny County; \$5,000 to produce a booklet, brochure, and table top displays to illustrate to citizens of the Pine Creek watershed the negative impacts of nonpoint source pollution and actions local government and property owners can take to protect the watershed. *Mary W. Wilson, 412-487-9542, kipperbeast@juno.com*

PA Assn. for Sustainable Agriculture, Centre County; \$4,000 to coordinate field days and workshops for farmers about cover crop strategies to reduce nonpoint source pollution from farming operations. *Heather House, 814-349-9856, heather@pasafarming.org*

Pike Co. Conservation District, Pike County; \$2,675 to present programs to municipal officials at public meetings which will identify planning, public involvement measures and land use strategies that officials can take to reduce nonpoint source pollution. *John Jose, 570-226-8220, jjose@pikepa.org*

Pocono Heritage Land Trust, Monroe County; \$3,740 to work with key landowners in the Brodhead watershed to implement practices that will prevent nonpoint source pollution and to restore areas where needed. *Michael Pressman, 570-643-2890, poconoheritage@yahoo.com*

Shenango River Watchers, Inc., Mercer County; \$4,415 to distribute door hangers, placemats and stencil storm drains in the City of Sharon to emphasize how citizens' actions can prevent nonpoint source pollution in the Shenango River watershed. *Jennifer Barborak, 724-342-5453, shenangoriver@hotmail.com*

Snyder Co. Conservation District, Snyder County; \$1,450 to promote agricultural best management practices (BMPs) to farmers and municipal officials by conducting a tour showcasing recently installed BMPs that are reducing nonpoint source pollution in the Middle, Penns, and Mahantango Creeks watersheds. *Barry Spangler, 570-837-0007x114, barry-spangler@pa.nacdnet.org*

URBAN SUBWATERSHED RESTORATION MANUAL SERIES

Under a cooperative agreement from EPA's Office of Wastewater Management and Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, the **Center for Watershed Protection** has just published three manuals of what will be a series of 11 manuals, which CWP has dubbed "Urban Subwatershed Restoration Manual Series".

CWP states that the series is designed to provide a stronger foundation to assist local and state managers in crafting urban watershed restoration plans. The manuals were written to "organize the enormous amount of information needed to restore small urban watersheds into a format that can be easily accessed by watershed groups, municipal staff, environmental consultants and other users."

Each manual is approximately 100 pages long, and some also include a CD with software to enable data collection and storage.

The eleven manuals are:

1. An Integrated Framework to Restore Small Urban Watersheds
2. Methods to Develop Restoration Plans for Small Urban Watersheds
3. Storm Water Retrofit Practices
4. Stream Repair and Restoration Practices
5. Riparian Management Practices
6. Discharge Prevention Practices
7. Previous Area Management Practices
8. Pollution Source Control Practices
9. Municipal Practices and Programs
10. The Unified Stream Assessment: A User's Manual
11. The Unified Subwatershed and Site Reconnaissance: A User's Manual

The first three were published in March 2004 and can be downloaded free from www.cwp.org for the next six months. Five additional manuals are scheduled for release later this summer and early fall, and the remaining three some time after that.

WATER RESOURCES PLANNING UNDERWAY

The Statewide Water Resources Planning Committee held its first meeting on May 10. The Regional Committees have been meeting for several months. To get the latest info on the progress of the committees, visit the DEP website and use the Keyword "Water Resources."

Conferences ...

June 9-12 Indiana, PA
**Pennsylvania's 6th Annual
Abandoned Mine Reclamation
(AMR) Conference**

Contact: Sara Tumulty or Deb Simko,
724-837-5271, saratumulty@aol.com.
or visit www.amrclearinghouse.org

June 15-18 Denver, CO
**Community Involvement
Conference and Training**

an excellent opportunity to share
lessons learned and to establish and
monitor EPA's standards for
community involvement.
Sponsored by the U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency, Office of Water
To learn more, please visit [http://
www.epancic.org/2004](http://www.epancic.org/2004)

September 13-15 Wilmington, DE
**Urban Watershed Summit on the
Delaware**

Sponsored by US EPA and Delaware
River Basin Commission.
Visit www.drbc.net.

Sept 21-23 College Park, MD
**Putting the LID on Stormwater
Management, the benefits of and
impediments to Low Impact
Development**

Sponsored by the Metropolitan
Washington Council of Governments
Visit www.mwcog.org

Sept 30 - Oct 2 Allentown, PA
**Watersheds: the Air, Land and
Water Connection. Fifth Annual
PA Watershed Conference**

Contact ckocher@wildlandspa.org or
ppingel@state.pa.us

June 10-11 Boiling Springs, PA
**WREN Orientation/Wrap-Up
Meeting**

Contact Sherene Hess, 724-465-
4978, sherenehess@yourinter.net

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

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

**Articles about water education activi-
ties are solicited from the readers of
Water Policy News.** Send newsletter
items to Editor: 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, call the LWVPA at 1-800-
692-7281 or write them at 226 Forster St.,
Harrisburg, PA 17102. Please send ad-
dress changes to the LWVPA office.

References ...

**WHAT'S ON TAP? GRADING
DRINKING WATER IN U.S.**

CITIES (Natural Resources Defense
Council (NRDC), 2003, 226 pp)
reviews tap water quality in 19
municipalities, including Philadelphia,
focusing on the effects of aging
infrastructure and source water
pollution. Available on-line at [http://
www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/
uscities/contents.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/uscities/contents.asp)

**CROSSROADS: CONGRESS,
THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS
AND THE FUTURE OF
AMERICA'S WATER**

RESOURCES (National Wildlife
Federation and Taxpayers for
Common Sense, 2004, 104 pp)
highlights the nation's 29 most
threatening and wasteful Corps
projects and provides a blueprint for
reforming the Corps. Available on-line
at www.nwf.org/greeningcorps

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

Address Service Requested

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

Water POLICY NEWS
May 2004

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