

Source Water Protection News ...

Another round of funding for DEP's Source Water Protection Grants (funded through federal Safe Drinking Water Act) is likely this winter. These grants provide for development of a source water protection program for public water systems with up to \$50,000 for wellhead protection, and up to \$200,000 for surface water source protection. Source water protection represents a first and most important step in safeguarding public water supplies.

Since there is some uncertainty about how long the program may continue, this would be a good time to make plans to submit an application. Deadline is usually timed with Growing Greener deadline (early February 2005). The goal of the Source Water Protection Program is to encourage local communities and public water suppliers to become proactive about protecting the raw water sources of their drinking water, to ensure public health, and minimize need for expensive water treatment systems. Besides contributing to "community wellness," this effort often provides many other benefits of enhanced water quality, such as improving the natural and aesthetic environments of communities.

Local stakeholders craft their own local protection program, based upon the risks outlined in their Source Water Assessment. A growing number of municipalities and water systems across Pennsylvania are already implementing local programs, and EPA's goal is to have 75% of the community water systems with a protection plan in place by 2008. Eligible applicants are municipalities, group of adjacent municipalities, or a community water system, and project duration may be up to five years. For more information, please contact Julie Kollar, Program Manager, Source Water Protection Promotion at 267-468-0555, or email juliek@voicenet.com.

WATERSHED CONFERENCE DRAWS 400

The theme of the fifth annual watershed conference "Watersheds: the Air, Land and Water Connection", held near Allentown, was designed to show how the concept of watershed protection brings together disciplines and concerns that previously were dealt with separately.

Kathleen McGinty, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, provided the keynote speech for the Friday session highlighting the fact that water, more than oil, will be the most precious commodity of the future and has the potential to cause unrest around the world.

She encouraged the more than 100 students at the conference to think twice about going to areas of the country that seem attractive but lack the water resources to sustain growth.

McGinty predicted a "boomerang"

of growth coming back to Pennsylvania as people and businesses look for water rich areas.

In addition to outlining a list of agency and Administration initiatives on water resources planning, farm related water quality issues and clean energy, McGinty said DEP is considering a significant reorganization of field offices using the watershed model. This approach, she said, will eliminate the "stovepipes" of different disciplines not communicating.

McGinty concluded urging attendees to contact their legislators to encourage passage of Gov. Rendell's Growing Greener II proposals.

The Wildlands Conservancy hosted the conference with funding and planning support from DEP, DCNR and many others. Visit www.wildlandspa.org to view the conference agenda.

\$ 1.15 Million Watershed Grant for Schuylkill Projects

Philadelphia Water Department and the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary Program will receive a \$1.15 million Watershed Initiative Grant from EPA for projects to protect drinking water in the Schuylkill River Watershed. The grant was one of 14 funded nationwide and was selected from a field of 114 applicants. The Schuylkill Action Network, a collaborative network of organizations and individuals, has identified more than 70 high priority water quality projects to be addressed through the grant. Projects fall into one of four critical areas:

1. Controlling storm water impacts;
2. Controlling agricultural impacts;
3. Controlling and removing acid mine drainage impacts; and
4. Developing market-based incen-

tives for pollution trading and innovative technology impacts. The Schuylkill River and its tributaries drain an area of 2000 square miles and provide drinking water to 1.5 million people who live in the 11 counties and 232 municipalities included in the watershed. The watershed extends from Pottsville in Schuylkill County to Reading in Berks County, to the City of Philadelphia, where the river enters the Delaware River.

For more information, contact, Jon M. Capacasa, Director, Water Protection Division, EPA Region III, 215-814-5422 or Howard M. Neukrug, P.E., Director, Office of Watersheds, City of Philadelphia Water Department. To learn more about the Schuylkill Action Network, visit their website at www.schuylkillactionnetwork.org.

Washington County's Children's Festival in 10th Year

The Children's Groundwater Festival in Washington County has become a well established tradition, after nine years of providing a daylong program in the Spring for 1000 sixth graders. The Festival Steering Committee is already preparing for its tenth festival which will be held once again at California University of Pennsylvania in May 2005. Students came to the 2004 Festival from 7 school districts and 2 parochial schools in the County; busing is provided by the home district.

Programming is provided by a multitude of federal, state and county agencies, as well as nonprofit organizations, volunteer groups and retired teachers. Key to the success of the 2004 program was student assistance from California Senior High School; 54 students were classroom guides, assistants in the Exhibit Hall and Festival photographer. Students also put on a "You Be the Judge" program, with the visiting students as the jury. And the High School Drumline added a thunderous ending to the Feature Presentation – provided by Carnegie



Museum of Natural History.

All sixth graders, with high school student guides, rotate thru the Feature Presentation, classroom presentations and the Exhibit Hall, where many of the exhibits are hands-on. Prior to the Festival, many sixth grade classes are visited by one of the presenters or a member of the steering committee with a program to introduce them to

some of the concepts they'll learn more about at the Festival.

Although funded by grants, including a WREN grant, in its early years, the Festival is now funded locally. According to volunteer co-chair Sheila Burcin, the Festival costs \$6,000 to put on. For more info contact Sheila: burcin@cobweb.net.

Clearfield Bicentennial Booklet

Clearfield County's Senior Environment Corps, Conservation District and Retired Senior Volunteer Program added a unique perspective to the County's Bicentennial Celebration this year with the production of a 42 page booklet entitled, "Clearfield County's Waterways: Remembering Our Past, Understanding Our Present, Hope for our Future." Through essays, poems and memories of older residents, the history of the County's streams is told. In the introduction to the booklet, the sponsors write, "... the biggest reason for this booklet was to show the public that we not only need to protect what we have but also we can restore what is now polluted ..." For more information, contact Carl Undercoffer, 814-857-7748, email: clearfieldsec@hotmail.com

NEWSPAPER INSERTS REACH THOUSANDS

Newspaper inserts were successfully completed by two WREN projects in the last year. Both projects involved students who researched issues in their watershed and worked with newspapers in their area on concept, design and content.

In the Erie area the Lake Erie-Allegheny Earth Force project students, in partnership with the *Erie Times News*, put together a 16 page newspaper insert which was distributed to over 90,000 people in the spring of 2004. Since then the insert has been used in classrooms and in teacher workshops.

In Huntingdon County the Juniata Valley 9th Grade Advanced Ecology class put together an eight page insert

that was distributed with *Huntingdon Daily News* to 10,000 households in May. Both projects addressed nonpoint source pollution issues in their area — Erie focused on coastal issues and Huntingdon County on agriculture and urbanization.

In Erie the partnership with the *Times News* continues, with plans to produce a full page sheet once a month over the next year. Funding for the continuing project was secured by Times News in Education through the PA Coastal Zone Management program. For info on the Erie project, contact Annette Marshall, annettemarshall@adelphia.net. For info on the Huntingdon County project, Andy Paterson, hccd@papower.net.

Resources ...

PROTECTING WATER RESOURCES WITH SMART GROWTH (US EPA, 2004, 116 pp, EPA 231-R-04-002) documents innovative approaches that state and local governments and water quality professionals can use to achieve their smart growth and water quality goals. Available by email from ncepimal@one.net or call 1-800-490-9198 and request EPA publication 231-R-04-002, Available at: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth>.

PROTECTING THE SOURCE - Land Conservation and the Future of America's Drinking Water (The Trust for Public Land and American Water Works Assoc., 2004, 52 pp) makes the case for and provides case studies on land conservation as a source protection strategy. Available for \$15 or free download at www.tpl.org

OPEN SPACE SERIES

GROWING WITH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE (16 pp)
Opportunity Knocks - Open Space as a Community Investment (12 pp)
Implementing a Municipal Open Space Program (32 pp)
Public Finance For Open Space (32 pp)
Using Conservation Easements to Preserve Open Space (40 pp)
A series of publications for municipalities and groups interested in preserving open space, published by the Heritage Conservancy. Available at www.heritageconservancy.org.

COMMON INVASIVE PLANTS IN RIPARIAN AREAS; Pennsylvania Field Guide (PA DEP, 2004, 49 pp) descriptions, pictures, and control methods for invasiv plants. Available in the WREN website library, <http://pa.lvw.org/wren/>

MANURE'S IMPACT ON RIVERS, STREAMS, AND THE CHESAPEAKE BAY (Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 27 pp, 2004) details the impacts of and outlines a series of actions to stop the damage from this pollution. Available on-line at www.cbf.org, search by title.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD: Commenting on Proposed Water Pollution Regulations for CAFO's and Other Agricultural Operations (7pp)
SHAPING NEW PA NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ACT REGULATIONS: A Guide to the Proposal and Comment Process (8pp) (PennState College of Agricultural Sciences, 2004) Designed to help the public comment (deadline Nov 5) on proposed nutrient management regs for CAFOs. Available at www.cas.psu.edu. See also www.pennfuture.org for info related to CAFOs and nutrient management.

WATER RESOURCES PLAN for the DELAWARE RIVER BASIN (Delaware River Basin Commission, 2004, 100 pp) provides a vision for water resources management in the Basin. Available on the DRBC website: www.drbc.net

URBAN SUBWATERSHED RESTORATION MANUAL SERIES (Center for Watershed Protection, 2004) Manuals 1, 8, 10 and 11 of this eleven part series are now available at an introductory price of \$100. Attendees at the WREN Orientation meeting in June received a CD with Manuals 1, 10 and 11. Manual 8: *Pollution Prevention Practices* is now available for free download at www.cwp.org
Other titles are: Manual #1: *An Integrated Framework to Restore Small Urban Watersheds*, Manual #10: *Unified Stream Assessment: A User's Manual*, and Manual #11: *Unified Subwatershed and Site Reconnaissance: A User's Manual*.

\$100,000 GRANT BUILDS ANTIETAM WATERSHED GROUP

The Antietam Watershed Association (AWA) in Franklin County, a WREN grantee in the 2003-04 grant cycle, has received a \$100,000 grant through the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. AWA and their partners will use the funds for restoration on farmland, stream monitoring equipment, a bioretention center / stormwater management demonstration project and a watershed assessment study on the East Branch of the Antietam. Congratulations to AWA.

In 2003-4 AWA received a \$2,000 WREN watershed grant, which they used to develop an educational display, and produce brochures and a placemat on nonpoint source pollution.

For more information on the AWA and its activities contact Steve Rettig, sjrcadia8@aol.com. For a listing of all the Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants visit www.nfwf.org or contact Rob Schnabel, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, rschnabel@cbf.org.

PENNSYLVANIA SOILMAP WEBSITE, an on-line, interactive web-based program that provides access to mapped soils data and much more for the state of Pennsylvania. View, and print, aerial photos, topo maps, soil maps and other details of your watershed, municipality or farm. Developed by Penn State Cooperative Extension Geospatial Technology Program and Natural Resources Conservator Service and PASDA. Visit <http://soilmap.psu.edu>

Delaware Watershed Stream School Oct 9, 16 and 23

conducted by the
Stroud Water Research Center and Delaware Riverkeeper Network
hosted by
Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center, Reading PA

designed for the adult, private citizen interested in protecting local streams. For more information, contact Delaware Riverkeeper Schuykill Office 610-469-6005 or chari@delawareriverkeeper.org

Conferences ...

October 22 Harrisburg
Water Resources Modeling: New Applications for Quality & Quantity
Sponsored by the PA Section – American Water Resources Association
Contact: Doug Chichester, 717-730-6951, dcchiche@usgs.gov or visit www.awra.org/state/pennsylvania

November 1-4 Orlando, FL
WRA Annual Conference
Visit www.awra.org

November 3-5 Washington, DC
Groundwater and Public Health: Making the Connection
The annual Groundwater Foundation Conference
Visit www.groundwater.org

November 13 Chadds Ford, PA
Brandywine River Museum
Protecting Water with Conservation Easements: Presentation and Roundtable Discussion
http://conserveland.org/events/item?item_id=7892

March 5-6, 2005 Pottstown, PA
Montgomery Co Community College - West Campus
2005 Schuylkill Watershed Congress
For more information:
chari@delawariverkeeper.org.

April 8-9, 2005 Lancaster, PA
Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference
Sponsored by PA Land Trust Assoc. Annual land conservation training, networking and inspirational event.
Contact: aloza@epix.net

Regional Water Resource Planning Committees October schedule

Lower Susquehanna – Oct 4, Harrisburg
Great Lakes – Oct 12, Erie
Delaware - Oct 14, Milford
Potomac – Oct 15, Chambersburg
Ohio – Oct 18, Pittsburgh
Upper Susquehanna – Oct 21, Bellefonte
For meeting times and locations, visit www.dep.state.pa.us, keyword "Water Resources"

Susquehanna River Basin Commission Groundwater Speaker Series

October 19 Harrisburg
Introduction to Groundwater
October 27 Middletown
Groundwater in Pennsylvania; Practical Applications, Characteristics and Water Wells
November 4 State College
Water Treatment Options for Private Well Owners
To register, visit www.srbcc.net

Look for the Water Resource Planning Committee meeting in your area, and try to attend. Public participation is encouraged!

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The WREN project provides funding for local groups engaged in water education projects and communications links between groups and individuals interested in improving 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 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 address changes to the LWVPA office.

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

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