

**WREN GRANT
FINAL PROGRESS REPORT**

This report covers the period: December 31, 2008 to June 30, 2009

Grantee Name: Boswell Borough Municipal Authority

ME or SAP Document Number: ME#4100040880

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Project Description

The Boswell Borough Municipal Authority (MABB) solicited funding for the generation of a Wellhead Protection Plan (WHPP) for the protection of their two groundwater well sources. The wells allow the Authority to provide potable water service and fire protection to approximately 900 customers in the Borough of Boswell and Jenner Township. The wells are situated on Authority-owned property in Jenner Township. During the process, the Authority formed a steering committee that would oversee the wellhead protection generation process. The committee included various members of the Authority as well as customers and a Township Supervisor of Jenner Township. The Township's participation is useful in enforcing the protection of the Authority's water resources.

In August 2007, the Authority received funding from the Commonwealth in the form of a Growing Greener Grant. The grant provided \$15,000 from the Commonwealth towards the generation of the WHPP. The grant required a match fund by the Authority for \$2,250. The WHPP consisted of consulting work by a hydrogeologist to determine the extents of the area which affect the groundwater sources. The Plan also included the process of informing the public of the Authority efforts to protect their resources and to encourage the public to participate in the protection of the water they consume. The Authority and steering committee contacted WREN for assistance in these educational efforts. WREN offered the Authority \$5,000 in grant funding to use towards the educational efforts, which included in-school demonstrations and the generation of informative placemats and brochures.

Project Status

For consistency with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) requirements for a source water protection plan, the project was separated in to various tasks. The tasks are outlined below:

• **Task 1 – Steering Committee**

The Boswell Borough Municipal Steering Committee met on February 14, 2008, September 11, 2008 and May 14, 2009. The steering committee was responsible for the oversight of the project and discussed the various activates of the protection plan. Responsibilities also included field investigation for potential pollutant sources within the wellhead area.

• **Task 2 – Delineate Wellhead Protection Area**

Casselberry and Associates has delineated the Wellhead Protection Area. A map was provided to the Authority and steering committee for use with the committee's field investigation of pollutant sources. A copy of the final report from the hydrogeologist has not yet been received.

• **Task 3 – Educational Outreach Program**

The Boswell Borough Municipal Authority received a Water Resources Education Network (WREN) Grant for \$5,000 in May 2008. This grant money was used to mail brochures to customers of the Authority and those living with the watershed. Initially, the grant funds were also to be used to post signs at the extents of the protection area; however, there are no roads through the wellhead area and no signs are required. A budget modification request was made to WREN to account for this change. An education demonstration was made to students of the North Star School District. A groundwater model demonstration kit was obtained from Pennsylvania Rural Water Association (PRWA) and was used to show the students how pollution affected the water they drink. Steering Committee member Tony DeLuca attended the WREN orientation meeting on June 17 & 18, 2008 and also the final meeting in June 2009 as required by WREN. Publication Committee members are Connie Volk and Brenda Tazza.

- **Task 4 – Inventory Pollutant Sources**

A field investigation was conducted on April 18, 2009 within the wellhead protection area. The groundwater sources are located in a secluded, wooded area and there is very little activity in the area. As expected, there are limited sources of pollution, and only a few structures were located in the area at the extent of the boundary. The owners of the structures were informed of their proximity to the Authority's resources and the importance to protect them. Photo documentation was prepared and a poster was displayed at the Authority's meeting to detail the investigation. The Steering Committee volunteers are Brenda Tazza and Ron Geisweidt.

- **Task 5 – Partnerships**

The Wellhead Protection Committee and the Boswell Borough Municipal Authority have continued their efforts to complete the Wellhead Protection tasks. A list of interested parties and individuals was developed to assemble information about the Boswell Wellhead Protection Area. The Committee continues to have open dialog with Jenner Township. Also, an informational meeting was held with local emergency managers, fire departments, municipal officials and PennDOT.

- **Task 6 – Contingency and New Source Planning**

Committee members Joe DeBlase, Adam Calderone and Ron Geisweidt will identify new sources. One of the new sources is an inter-connection to a newly constructed transmission main operated by the Somerset General Authority. This water source is not used on a regular basis, but will be used for line flushing and emergency use, including extended fire protection. The Authority can switch to this source at any time in the case their groundwater sources are contaminated.

Evaluation

The following is an evaluation of the WHPP project. The questions were obtained from the "Guidelines for Conducting WREN Funded Source Water Protection Projects" prepared and provided WREN. The questions have been addressed so to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of this project.

- 1. Have the necessary information and technical tools been made available for protection activities to occur at the local level?**

Yes. Tools and resources were readily made available by WREN for use by the Authority and steering committee. The resources suggested by WREN allowed the committee to consider options which have

been previously used and tested. This was considered to be more useful and cost-effective than drafting the publications on their own, as the committee would have had to generate the documents from start to finish, resulting in higher costs of production.

2. Has citizen and public awareness for the need to protect the watershed and/or the drinking water source water on a regional basis increased?

Yes. The Authority and steering committee has increased the level of public awareness by mailing brochures to all of their customers which consume the water they are trying to protect. Also, placemats were prepared to educate customers of local restaurants, which is not limited to just customers of the system. Students of the North Star High School were shown a demonstration, which taught them of the potential sources of pollution that affect the water they drink.

3. Has the capacity of citizen organizations and government agencies to work cooperatively to address watershed and/or drinking water source water issues increased?

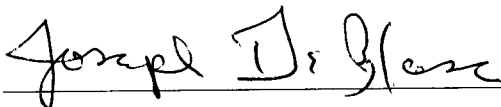
Yes. The Authority developed a partnership with Jenner Township, the municipality in which their groundwater sources are located. This partnership will allow the local governments to observe activities around the groundwater sources as well as manage activities in the vicinity. Through public awareness, residents of the area can also observe activities and report to the local government agencies with any questionable activities which might result in the contamination of the wellhead area. Partnerships were also developed with local emergency managers, fire companies and PennDOT.

4. Have citizens participated in the local government process regarding watershed and/or drinking water source water management?

Yes. The steering committee included citizens. Also, a citizen, the North Star science teacher, conducted the educational classes for the students.

5. Have local officials increased their efforts to protect the watershed and/ drinking water source water?

Yes. Previously, Jenner Township, the Township in which the well sources are located, did not have knowledge of the extent of the wellhead protection area. Since they had no information of the contributing area, there was nothing they could do. Now, with this study and generation of the plan, the municipality can observe the area for pollution and effectively respond to situations involving contamination of the site.



Joseph DeBlase
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