

# WAY E-NEWS

*A coalition of stakeholders committed to being innovative leaders  
encouraging watershed-based planning, restoration and protection*



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A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP

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### WATERSHED CONTACTS

**COUNTY PLANNING – (717) 771-9870**  
**CONSERVATION – (717) 840-7430**

- Agricultural conservation planning
- Environmentally sensitive dirt & gravel road maintenance
- Environmental stewardship and watershed protection
- Erosion & sediment control
- Stormwater complaints

**24-HR EMERGENCIES – (877) 333-1904**

- Chemical and oil spills from transport trucks, trains and industrial facilities

**ENVIRONMENTAL – DEP-SCRO**

- General Info 717-705-4700
- Director SCRO 717-705-47047
- Air Quality 717-705-4702
- Energy & Technology 717-705-4703
- Environmental Cleanup 717-705-4705
- Mining (800) 541-2050
- Radiation Protection 717-705-4704
- Waste Management 717-705-4706
- Water Supply Management 717-705-4708
- Water Management 717-705-4707
- Watershed Management 717-705-4704

**FISHERIES – (800) 541-2050**

- Wildlife (fish, reptiles, amphibians) nuisance problems or to report violations
- FISH KILL 1-855-347-4545

**GAME & WILDLIFE – (888) 742-8001**

- Wildlife (mammals or birds) to report violations or nuisance problems

**ILLEGAL DUMPING**

- Illegal dumping on state forest and park lands (877) 772-3673
- Illegal dumping York County 840-7687

**MUNICIPAL (Phonebook Blue Pages)**

- Air pollution by burning household garbage
- Dumping waste in surface waters
- Floodplain disturbances
- Municipal and residential septic/sewage problems
- Stormwater management

**NOXIOUS PLANTS – (717) 772-5209**

**RECYCLING – (717) 845-1066**

**WETLANDS – (717) 249-2522**

*Updated 4/27/2011*

- U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Water Program Posts New Web Pages
- Federal Geographic Data Committee Launches Geospatial Platform Website
- *EPA committee completes report on agricultural issues*  
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## **WATERSHED ALLIANCE NEWS**

### **Ag Land Preservation Board of York County** – [www.york-county.org/gov/AUTH/agri.htm](http://www.york-county.org/gov/AUTH/agri.htm)

- For information about farmland preservation in York County contact Patty McCandless at [pmccandless@york-county.org](mailto:pmccandless@york-county.org) or call 717-840-7400.

### **Carroll Citizens for Sensible Growth** - <http://carrollcitizens.com/>

- Contact: Deana Weaver at (717) 432-2211 or [admin@carrollcitizens.com](mailto:admin@carrollcitizens.com)

### **Codorus Creek Watershed Association** – [www.codoruscreek.net](http://www.codoruscreek.net)

- Apr 16 – CCWA Meeting of Members and Board, 7:00 pm, at York Water Co. (Mt. Rose Ave.)
- Contact: Jim Leaman at 843-2929

### **Codorus Endowment Implementation Committee** – [www.yccf.org](http://www.yccf.org)

- For more information, contact the York County Community Foundation at 14 West Market Street York, PA 17401-1203. Telephone: York 717.848.3733; Hanover 717.630.1843. Email: [info@yccf.org](mailto:info@yccf.org)

### **Codorus State Park** – [www.dcnr.state.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.gov)

### **Conewago Canoe Club** – [www.conewagocanooclub.org](http://www.conewagocanooclub.org)

- Mar 1 – Club Meeting – Mount Zion United Church of Christ, 7:00 pm, at Ridgewood Road in Pleasureville
- Questions or comments e-mail me [oc1mike@comcast.net](mailto:oc1mike@comcast.net), but remember you catch more flies with honey than vinegar.

### **Deer Creek Watershed Association** – <http://deercreekwatershed.com/>

- Contact Lee McDaniel at [ldmcdaniel@aol.com](mailto:ldmcdaniel@aol.com).

### **Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County** – [www.farmtrust.org](http://www.farmtrust.org)

- Contact: Sean Kenny at Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County • 156 North George Street • Suite 300 • York, PA 17401 • Phone (717) 843-4411 • Fax (717) 854-7452 or [skenny@farmtrust.org](mailto:skenny@farmtrust.org)

### **Friends of Codorus State Park** – [www.friends-of-codorus.org/](http://www.friends-of-codorus.org/)

- For more information contact Becky Miller at 632-6747 or email [beckymill1@juno.com](mailto:beckymill1@juno.com) or Dave Carbaugh at 637-9875 or email [carbaugh3@embarqmail.com](mailto:carbaugh3@embarqmail.com)

### **Gifford Pinchot State Park** – [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/giffordpinchot.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/giffordpinchot.aspx)

- Event calendar <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp>
- Contact Elizabeth Kepley, Environmental Education Specialist, DCNR Bureau of State Parks/Gifford Pinchot State Park, 2200 Rosstown Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339. Phone: 717-432-5011

### **Gunpowder Valley Conservancy** – [www.gunpowderfalls.org](http://www.gunpowderfalls.org)

- How to contact us U.S. Mail: Gunpowder Valley Conservancy, P.O. Box 9733. Towson, MD 21284. Or Assistant Project Manager Rachel Streusand [rstreusand@gunpowderfalls.org](mailto:rstreusand@gunpowderfalls.org).

### **Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education** – [www.hornfarmcenter.org](http://www.hornfarmcenter.org)

- Contact: Horn Farm Center for Agricultural Education, 4945 Horn Road, York, PA 17406. Phone: (717)654-0571. Email: [info@hornfarmcenter.org](mailto:info@hornfarmcenter.org). Web: [www.hornfarmcenter.org](http://www.hornfarmcenter.org).

### **Izaak Walton League York Chapter #67** – [www.yorkchapter67iwla.org/](http://www.yorkchapter67iwla.org/)

- Calendar of events – [www.yorkchapter67iwla.org/id21.html](http://www.yorkchapter67iwla.org/id21.html)
- Club Open Meetings are held the Third Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Clubhouse.
- Contact: York Chapter #67 IWLA, 7131 Ironstone Hill Road, Dallastown, PA 17313. Club Grounds Phone: 717-428-2000 \*Leave a message for the Committee Contact or Club Officer you are trying to reach. Committee Contacts & Club Officers are listed on the Club Information Page. If no phone or email address is listed contact club grounds phone number.

### **Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper** – [www.lowersusquehannariverkeeper.org](http://www.lowersusquehannariverkeeper.org)

- Contact: Michael Helfrich, Lower Susquehanna RIVERKEEPER®, York, PA. Cell phone: 717-779-7915 E-mail: [lawsusriver@hotmail.com](mailto:lawsusriver@hotmail.com).

**Maryland's Upper West Shore Trib Team** – [http://www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/tribstrat/upper\\_west/up\\_west\\_shore.html](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/bay/tribstrat/upper_west/up_west_shore.html)

- This email announces the 2012 Maryland Biological Stream Survey certification and training. We will be offering certification in certain MBSS protocols for the first time this year. We will also be providing the MBSS trainings as in previous years. Please see the link below for details and a registration form. [www.dnr.state.md.us/streams/MBSSTraining.asp](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/streams/MBSSTraining.asp)
- Contact: RupertRossett, Tributary Team Coordinator, e-mail: [RupertRossetti@aol.com](mailto:RupertRossetti@aol.com)

**Mason-Dixon Trail System, Inc.** - <http://www.masondixontrail.org/>

- The members of the Mason Dixon Trail System, Inc. hope that you enjoy your hikes on the trail. Volunteers from several states have constructed and are maintaining it. Our organization is aging and needs to mentor a new generation to run the organization. Unless we get some new active members we are in danger of losing the trail. Please consider helping. We need officers in the organization as well as trail maintainers. We meet four times a year at the convenience of the officers. Maintainers work at their own pace. For more information, contact James Hooper at (717) 252-3784 or Ron Gray at (717) 244-8040 or [ronaldgray@comcast.net](mailto:ronaldgray@comcast.net). We do need help.
- *Mar 24 - Next meeting will be in White Clay State Park, DE, details to be supplied later*
- Contact: James Hooper at 717/252-3784 or [j.e.hooper@ieee.org](mailto:j.e.hooper@ieee.org)

**Mid-Atlantic Ecological Landscapes Partnership [MAEscapes]** – [www.maescapes.org](http://www.maescapes.org)

- May 19 – Native Plant Fest, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, at York County ANNEX
- Jan 30 – Advisory Board meeting, 6:30 pm, York County ANNEX
- Contact: 717-840-7408 or Connie Schmotzer at [cxs51@psu.edu](mailto:cxs51@psu.edu)

**Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group Inc.** - [www.pbccg.com](http://www.pbccg.com)

- Contact Maria Payan by email [pbccg@hotmail.com](mailto:pbccg@hotmail.com) or mail: Peach Bottom Concerned Citizens Group, P.O. Box 307 Delta, PA 17314. PBCCG, Inc is a nonprofit organization supported solely by volunteers and donations.

**Prettyboy Watershed Alliance** – [www.prettyboywatershed.org](http://www.prettyboywatershed.org)

- Contact: Nancy Shaper at [nshaper@jhmi.edu](mailto:nshaper@jhmi.edu)

**Sierra Club – Gov. Pinchot Group of PA** – <http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot/>

- Monthly meetings will be held the last Tuesday of the each month at 6:30 pm in the Community Room at the Giant at 2300 Linglestown Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17110. All members are welcome!
- Contact GVP Sierra Club, P.O. Box 606, Harrisburg, PA 17108-0606. [GVPSierraClub@email.com](mailto:GVPSierraClub@email.com)

**Shank's Mare Outfitters** – [www.shanksmare.com](http://www.shanksmare.com)

GO PLAY OUTSIDE!

- Visit the Susquehanna House and Lock 2 Cafe
- Outdoor activities <http://www.shanksmare.com/html/activities.html>
- Shank's Mare: Call Us: 717-252-1616. Email us: [Shanksmare@comcast.net](mailto:Shanksmare@comcast.net)

**Spoutwood Farm Center for Sustainable Living** – [www.spoutwood.com](http://www.spoutwood.com)

- Jan 28 – Board of Directors meeting and strategic planning session, 9:00 Am to 4:00 PM, in New Park
- Contact Rob & Lucy Woods at Spoutwood Farm at 717-235-6610 or [spoutwood@comcast.net](mailto:spoutwood@comcast.net).

**Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area** - <http://www.susquehannaheritage.org/>

- Contact Mark Platts, Susquehanna Heritage Corporation, 1706 Long Level Road, Wrightsville, PA 17368. Office: 717-252-0229. E-mail: [info@lyhr.org](mailto:info@lyhr.org).

**Susquehanna Greenway Partnership** – [www.susquehannagreenway.org](http://www.susquehannagreenway.org)

- For more information about the Susquehanna Greenway, please contact: The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, 201 Furnace Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Phone: 570-522-7211. Email: [greenway@susquehannagreenway.org](mailto:greenway@susquehannagreenway.org)

**Trout Unlimited Codorus Chapter #558** – [www.codorustu.org](http://www.codorustu.org)

- Feb 8 – Monthly Chapter Meetings 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., at Gander Mtn. (winter)
- Contact: Tom Finenze at 840-1372 or [tom@codorustu.org](mailto:tom@codorustu.org). Cancellations due to winter weather will be announced here, and on WSBA Radio, 910 AM.

**Trout Unlimited Muddy Creek Chapter #575** – <http://muddycreektu.org/>

- Jan 18 – Chapter Meeting at [Collinsville Fish & Game](http://Collinsville Fish & Game)
- Contact: Ron Heuston, President MCTU, 244-1851 or [Heuy1955@aol.com](mailto:Heuy1955@aol.com)

**Watershed Alliance of Adams County** – <http://www.adamswatersheds.org/>

- Jan 18 – Meet the 3rd Wednesday @5pm.
- Contact: Adam McClain, Ph: 717-334-0636; E-mail: [stilden@adamswatersheds.org](mailto:stilden@adamswatersheds.org)

**Watershed Alliance of York** – [www.watershedsyork.org](http://www.watershedsyork.org)

- Apr 4 – Annual Meeting of WAY Board of Directors, 7:00 PM, at The York Water Company, Mt. Rose Ave., York, PA.
- GoodShop Deals for WAY - <http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx>
- WAY E-News – Published by the Watershed Alliance of York, Inc. to inform the public about news and information that affect York County watersheds and beyond. PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND E-MAIL LIST. Contributions of news, events and information

relating to watershed education, funding, planning, restoration, protection, and stewardship welcome. Send contribution to and contact us for mailing list additions/changes to the e-mail address below. Distribution: electronic (1,850). Frequency: bi-weekly. Subscription: No charge. Editor: Gary R. Peacock.

- You can make [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter WAY as the charity you want to support.
- Contact: Watershed Alliance of York, Inc. (WAY), C/o York County Conservation District, 118 Pleasant Acres Road, York, PA 17402. Phone: (717) 840-7430. Facsimile: (717) 755-0301. E-mail: [gpeacock@yorkccd.org](mailto:gpeacock@yorkccd.org)

#### **Yellow Breeches Watershed Association** – [www.ybwa.org](http://www.ybwa.org)

- Board of Directors meets quarterly at Messiah College Library-Athenaeum Room 6 PM.
- Contact: Deborah Goetz, at [deborah.p.goetz@gmail.com](mailto:deborah.p.goetz@gmail.com) or phone 717-697-4734

#### **York-Adams Regional Smart Growth Coalition** – [www.yorkadamssmartgrowth.org](http://www.yorkadamssmartgrowth.org)

- Jan 25 – Board meets from 9:00 to 11:00 Am, at RAYAC, York
- Contact Shanna Wiest, Government Affairs Director, REALTORS Association of York & Adams Counties, Inc. 901 Smile Way York, PA 17404. Phone: (717) 843-7891. Fax: (717) 854-0720. <http://www.rayac.com>

#### **York Audubon Society** – <http://www.yorkaudubon.org/>

- Contact Tom Smith at 717-246-9767 or [ts35@psu.edu](mailto:ts35@psu.edu).

#### **York County Conservation District** – [www.yorkccd.org](http://www.yorkccd.org)

- Board meets 2nd Friday, 11:00 a.m. (December-March) and 2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m. (Apr.-Nov.), at the York County ANNEX
- Rain Barrel Sale! Visit our website for more information and prices.
- Contact: YCCD at 717-840-7430 or [yorkccd@yorkccd.org](mailto:yorkccd@yorkccd.org)

#### **York County Parks & Recreation** – [www.YorkCountyParks.org](http://www.YorkCountyParks.org)

- For more information, contact York County Department of Parks and Recreation, 400 Mundis Race Road, York PA 17406-9721. Phone: (717) 840-7440. E-mail: [Parks@York-County.org](mailto:Parks@York-County.org). Web: [www.YorkCountyParks.org](http://www.YorkCountyParks.org). Nixon Park Nature Center, 5922 Nixon Drive • York PA 17403. Phone: (717) 428-1961. E-mail: [NixonCountyPark@york-county.org](mailto:NixonCountyPark@york-county.org).

#### **York County Planning Commission** – [www.ycpc.org](http://www.ycpc.org)

- Meets 1st Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., except Wed. Nov. 1 at 7:30 and Tues. Dec. 1, 6:00 p.m., at 28 E. Market St., 2nd Floor.
- Contact YCPC at 717-771-9870 or [planner@ycpc.org](mailto:planner@ycpc.org)



## **WATERSHED EDUCATION & OUTREACH**

### **Dead Zones Decline in Chesapeake Bay**

Chesapeake Bay cleanup efforts appear to be working, according to a study released recently analyzing 60 years of water quality data. The study, conducted by Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, found that statewide measures to reduce the flow of fertilizers, animal waste and other bay watershed pollutants have worked to reduce the size of mid- to late-summer oxygen-starved “dead zones,” areas where plants and water animals cannot live, in deep channels of the bay.

<http://www.somdnews.com/article/20111214/NEWS/712149823/1057/dead-zones-decline-in-bay&template=southernMaryland>

### **Did the Chesapeake Bay Turn the Corner in 2011?**

2011 may go down in history as the turning point for the Chesapeake Bay. The largest estuary in the United States, the Bay's watershed includes almost 20 percent of the country's Atlantic coast and produces an estimated 500 million pounds of seafood every year. In many ways, unfortunately, the Chesapeake Bay is ground zero when looking at the environmental impact of our food production. Inundated by pollution from factory farms, as well as sewage treatment plants, vehicle exhaust and power plant emissions, the Bay's reputation as a high quality source of crabs and seafood has suffered over the years. As chicken replaced beef as the number one source of protein on American dinner plates, the number of chickens crammed into factory farms—agricultural operations raising chickens and other farm animals on an industrial scale—has skyrocketed. According to Food & Water Watch, Maryland has six factory-farmed broiler chickens (those raised for meat, not eggs) for every one person in the state. Think that's a lot? Delaware has 19 factory-farmed broiler chickens for every human resident of the state. The pollution from these facilities has been especially difficult to control. The chicken manure and their bedding is dried in large piles and then spread as fertilizer on nearby farm fields. Unfortunately, the amount of waste far exceeds the capacity of the crops to absorb the nutrients, and every time it rains the excess runs off the fields into nearby streams and then flows into the Chesapeake Bay. According to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the runoff from farm fields accounts for 40 percent of the nitrogen and 50 percent of the phosphorous entering the Bay. As the key nutrients in fertilizer, nitrogen and phosphorous promote plant growth everywhere—and in water, this means the growth of algae blooms that consume the oxygen in the water. In centuries past, marine species known as “filter feeders” would consume the algae and other types of plankton, keeping the water clean. These filter feeders include well-known species such as oysters and mostly unknown species such as Atlantic menhaden. But while the runoff from factory farms has vastly increased the amount of food for the filter feeders, overfishing has decimated their populations. Atlantic menhaden, for example, once existed in vast quantities so large that schools once stretched for dozens of miles. A small innocuous fish no more than a foot in length, it can eat the algae in more than four gallons of water every minute. Menhaden are the food of choice for seabirds, whales and marine mammals, and predator fish like the striped bass, blue fish, bluefin tuna, king mackerel, and Atlantic tarpon. Unfortunately, more menhaden are caught on the U.S. Eastern seaboard than any other species, even though they are not caught for food. Instead, more than three quarters of this catch is brought to a processing factory at the mouth of the Chesapeake where the fish are “reduced” to oil—for omega 3 fatty acid pills—as well as fertilizer, factory farm feed, pet food, lipstick, and other commercial products. Scientists from the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences looked at the number of menhaden thought to be in

Chesapeake Bay and then examined the amount of algae thought to be growing in the Bay's waters. They concluded that there weren't enough menhaden to slurp up all the algae, and their study was cited by the commercial fishing industry as proof that menhaden had a limited ecological role as it fought against efforts to lower its annual catch. What has not been examined, however, is whether lowering the amount of nutrients in the water—and thus the amount of algae—while increasing the amount of menhaden would change the results. And this is why 2011 has been such a landmark year. In December, 2010, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency introduced new caps for the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous that can enter the Chesapeake Bay. Promoted as a "pollution diet," the new effort would reduce the amount of nitrogen entering the bay by 25 percent and the amount of phosphorous by 24 percent. In 2011, advocates beat back repeated attempts in Congress to defund this effort, and draft implementation plans for this pollution diet have now been submitted by those states in the Bay watershed along with the District of Columbia. Last month, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission reacted to the most recent stock assessment for Atlantic menhaden and agreed that the amount of menhaden caught should be reduced by more than a third. This action will leave more fish in the water to rebuild vastly depleted populations—and thus increase the capacity of the fish to clean more of the Bay's waters. It will take years for these developments to bear fruit, but the progress comes not a moment too soon. While recent reports note that the dead zones in the Bay had been shrinking, this year's dead zones were the largest ever. In the end, however, if these initiatives are fully implemented, more fish and less pollution should add up to a cleaner Chesapeake Bay. View clip...

<http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2012/01/04/did-the-chesapeake-bay-turn-the-corner-in-2011/>

#### **Bay cleanup 'milestone' – Farmers receive proceeds from 1st sale of nutrient credits**

Lycoming County's progress toward developing a nutrient credit trading program now can be measured in dollars and cents. On Thursday, county and state officials met at the Lysock View Complex in Loyalsock Township to celebrate the presentation of more than \$41,000 to nine county farmers who generated credits through the implementation of pollution-reducing conservation practices. Attending the event was state Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Michael Krancer, state Conservation Commission Executive Secretary Karl Brown, Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority Executive Director Dr. Paul Marchetti and local officials involved in the credit trading program. The credits were sold in 2010 and 2011 during an auction supervised by the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority. Credits can be bought by sewage treatment plants, developers and other pollution generators in order to comply with state and federal pollution regulations associated with the Chesapeake Bay cleanup initiative. According to county Commissioner Jeff C. Wheeland, the presentation of the first proceeds from the credit trading program "is an important milestone in Lycoming County's efforts to meet Chesapeake Bay cleanup mandates." Work toward that milestone began in 2008, Wheeland said. That's when the county, faced with tens of millions of dollars worth of sewage treatment plant upgrades, realized the most inexpensive and efficient way to meet bay cleanup mandates was to work collaboratively. That meant bringing treatment plant operators, business and industry, government officials and the agricultural community together to work as partners.

#### **Zebra Mussels Slowly Spreading into Chesapeake Tributaries**

Biologists in the Bay region have long been concerned about the arrival of Zebra mussel, a native of the Caspian Sea, because of its ability to mushroom into huge populations, crowd out native mussel species, and alter ecosystems. It is unlikely that the mussels will thrive in the Bay, but they could easily be transported to other rivers where they could take up residence, especially in lakes and reservoirs.

<http://www.bayjournal.com/article.cfm?article=4245>

#### **New Report Finds Aging Water Infrastructure Burdens US Economy**

Reston, VA December 13, 2011 – Aging water infrastructure will cost U.S. businesses \$147 billion over the next decade, a new report from the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) found. America's water and wastewater infrastructure systems are aging and overburdened, with many of them built around the turn of the century. Unless new investments are made, by 2020 unreliable and insufficient water infrastructure will cost the average American household \$900 a year in higher water rates and lower wages. American businesses can expect an additional \$147 billion in increased costs and the economy will lose 700,000 jobs by 2020. The report, "Failure to Act: The Economic Impact of Current Investment Trends in Water and Wastewater Treatment Infrastructure," shows that a modest investment in drinking water, wastewater, and wet weather management can prevent these economic losses. The analysis showed that by 2020, the gap between what is being spent on water infrastructure and what is needed to meet the nation's needs will reach \$84 billion. The report was completed by the Economic Development Research Group (EDR) along with Downstream Strategies and is the first study of its kind to link the condition of America's water infrastructure to economic performance. Annual capital investment in water infrastructure is approximately \$36.4 billion. In order to meet the needs of our growing population for clean, available water, the annual investment must increase to \$91 billion. An additional \$9.4 billion per year between now and 2020 would avoid \$21 billion per year in costs to households and businesses. The report identifies three sectors of the economy that will bear the brunt of the impact. Retail, restaurants and bars, and construction businesses face the greatest job losses as a result of aging water infrastructure, driven by a combination of less disposable income, increased water costs and the higher costs of water-based goods. Other solutions can help minimize these impacts. If households and businesses adopt sustainability practices such as improved efficiency through process or equipment changes, water reclamation or green infrastructure to address wet weather management, the economic impact could be lessened. The report's projections assume needs and available funding based on current trends, and do not adjust for possible costs associated with climate change, changes in regulations, or other factors. Source: ASCE <http://www.infrastructureusa.org>

#### **Debunking the "Job Killer" Myth: How Pollution Limits Encourage Jobs in the Chesapeake Bay Region**

CBF released its latest report entitled [Debunking the "Job Killer" Myth: How Pollution Limits Encourage Jobs in the Chesapeake Bay Region](#), this 17-page report is the product of data from state and federal agencies, published studies and reports, and interviews with experts, and includes 84 source citations. The gist of the report is that contrary to what opponents of the federal/state Bay pollution limits and plans say—and they say the result will be economic Armageddon—environmental regulations spur economic activity and create jobs. In fact, our report concludes that stormwater and sewage plant upgrades intended to help implement the federal/state plan would create nearly 250,000 jobs in the Bay region. And we profile three individuals who are newly employed because of the plan and are thus able to provide for their families as well as one farmer who increased his herd by a factor of three, reduced polluted runoff from his cows, and created jobs for 25 workers who constructed a new barn and two manure pits on his farm. I hope you will read the report and let your local, state, and federal officials know that you do not believe the "Job Killer" myth, and that you want clean water, healthy rivers and streams, and a restored Chesapeake Bay.

### **STILLHOUSE ROAD, NEWBERRY TOWNSHIP AND RAILROAD STREET, GOLDSBORO BOROUGH CLEANUP A SUCCESS!**

**York, PA – (January 4, 2012)** – On Saturday, December 17, 2011, volunteers and staff eliminated several dump sites along Stillhouse Road and Railroad Street. Volunteers removed and properly disposed of 4.86 tons of trash which included; 20 tires, 1 washing machine, 1 hot tub, 3 sofas, 2 reclining chairs, 2 swimming pool liners, kitchen cabinets, carpeting and flooring. A 30 cubic yard dumpster was provided by Newberry Township. The trash and waste was properly disposed of at the York County Solid Waste Authority at no charge through their Free Litter Disposal Program. Another cleanup will be planned for the area in the spring. This area is along the Susquehanna River and provides a great area for biking, walking and birding. It also has nearby areas for camping and fishing. Adoption by an interested group to ensure continued stewardship is needed. Individuals and groups interested in volunteering for future cleanup events can contact Keep York County Beautiful at 717-840-2375. Partners on the Stillhouse Road and Railroad Street Cleanup included Penn State Extension-York County West Nile Virus Program, Watershed Alliance of York, York Water Company, Carroll Citizens for Sensible Growth, Stewards of the Lower Susquehanna River and local Goldsboro residents. Funding was provided by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and Newberry Township. About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful – Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to make our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed almost 85 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania's roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit [www.keppabeautiful.org](http://www.keppabeautiful.org).

### **Weather Outlook – Paul Knight, Pennsylvania State Climatologist**

In the longer range, there is likely to be a substantial, though relatively short-lived, break in the mild pattern during February with several opportunities for wintry weather and perhaps a significant ice storm in a portion of the state. While very mild weather is expected to return in the first half of March, a shift to persistent cool conditions is likely during the latter portion of March and into April. It is during this period that a late season snow storm is possible and also a late freeze is a risk during the second half of April (particularly in southeast PA). Early indications point toward a rather warm and dry summer.



## **WATERSHED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

### **EPA Accepting Proposals and Questions on Urban Waters Small Grants – Jan 23**

EPA is accepting proposals and questions for its urban waters small grants. In December, the Agency announced that it will provide up to \$1.8 million for projects across the country to protect Americans' health and help restore urban waters by improving water quality and supporting community revitalization. The funding is part of EPA's Urban Waters program, which supports communities in their efforts to access, improve and benefit from their urban waters and the surrounding land. Urban waters are canals, rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, estuaries, bays and oceans. Funding proposals must be received by January 23, 2012 and the deadline for submitting questions is January 16, 2012. For more information and to view updated answers to frequently asked questions, visit <http://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/funding/>.

### **Funding Opportunity for Habitat Restoration Projects – Feb 15**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is now accepting applications for the Five-Star Restoration Matching Grants Program, which seeks to fund community-based wetland, riparian and coastal habitat restoration projects throughout the U.S. Because this opportunity is provided through the collaborative partnership of the NFWF, the National Association of Counties, the Wildlife Habitat Council, the U.S. EPA, and the corporate partners, the Southern Company and Pacific Gas and Electric Company, they are seeking applicants who work within a diverse collaboration of partners on their proposed projects as well. Grants range from \$10,000 to \$40,000 and are available to both non-profit organizations as well as government entities. A minimum of one-to-one match of cash or in-kind services is expected. For more information, visit the [foundation's website](#). The application deadline is February 15.

### **Ben Franklin, Partners Open \$50,000 Big Idea Business Plan Contest – Feb 29**

The Ben Franklin Venture Investment Forum in partnership with the Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Central and Northern PA announced Thursday the [BIG IDEA Business Plan Contest](#) is back! The deadline for entries is February 29. A grand prize of \$50,000 will be awarded to one tech-based start-up company to further develop and grow a business in the 32-county footprint served by the program in Pennsylvania. Preferred industry sectors include, but are not limited to, nanotechnology, green technologies, alternative energy, advanced manufacturing, advanced materials, medical devices, information technology and software. Entrepreneurs can visit the [BIG IDEA Business Plan Contest](#) webpage for a complete description of the rules, entry forms, and FAQs.

### **EPA Environmental Justice Funding Opportunity – Feb 29**

Currently many low-income and minority communities bare a disproportionate risk to environmental and health hazards and are not included in environmental decisions effecting them. Environmental Justice is needed where everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and has equal access to the decision-making process about the environment in which they live, learn, and work. EPA's Brownfields program strives to fill this need by providing funding and technical support to communities to assess and clean up contaminated properties and plan for future redevelopment and neighborhood revitalization. For more information and support for environmental justice projects, consult EPA's recently published EJ Plan found at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/ej/plan-ej/>. In addition, EPA is now accepting grant applications through February 29, 2012 for \$1 million in funding to support projects designed to research, educate, empower and enable communities to understand and address local environmental and public health issues. Funding is available for grants up to \$25,000 each. For more information and an application visit <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html>

### **USDA Announces Funding for Water Quality Markets, Seeks Proposals for Projects – Mar 2**

WASHINGTON, January 13, 2012 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced a funding opportunity that will bring states, USDA and other stakeholders together to enhance the effectiveness of water quality credit trading. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is providing up to \$10 million in Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) for these projects, with up to \$5 million focused on water quality credit trading in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Proposals for projects are due March 2, 2012. CIG funds will be awarded through a competitive

grants process. At least 50 percent of the total cost of CIG projects must come from non-Federal matching funds, including cash and in-kind contributions provided by the grant recipient. Projects must involve producers who are eligible for the NRCS [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#). To apply electronically, visit [Grants.gov](#) or contact a local NRCS office. View the complete Announcement of Program Funding [here](#). The Chesapeake Bay portion of this effort is part of NRCS' [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative](#), which helps agricultural producers in Delaware, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia improve water quality in the watershed. NRCS will host a webinar at 3 p.m. EST on January 24th for prospective applicants. USDA officials and staff will discuss the goals of the program and answer questions about the request for proposals. For more webinar details please go to the [CIG website](#). Learn more about NRCS conservation programs [here](#) or visit your local [USDA service center](#).

### **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Grants – Mar 9**

The Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources welcome requests for technical planning and design assistance associated with protection and restoration programs and projects that lead to improved water quality in the Maryland portion of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and the Maryland Coastal Bays. The funding partners invite local governments and non-profit organizations to submit requests for this assistance. The purpose of this assistance is to help grantees accomplish the earliest phases of restoration projects. The grant program is currently **OPEN**. For the RFP, [click here](#). Applications for this program are accepted online. Click here: [www.cbtrustgrants.org](#) to apply. New users must register to use the Online Grants System 24 hours prior to submitting an application. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply several days prior to the deadline, due to potential for high website traffic on the date of the deadline. *Technical assistance for online application cannot be guaranteed on the deadline date.*

### **Do Something Wild On Your State Tax Form: Support The Wild Resource Conservation Fund**

It's a new year, so why not do something Wild? Check the box on your tax form to donate all or a portion of your refund to the [Wild Resource Conservation Fund](#). Since 1982, the fund has been helping to protect our threatened and endangered species, and it needs your support to carry on its important work. [Click Here](#) for how you can check your tax form or make a donation to the Fund. You can also download a [new 2012 Calendar](#) full of information on Pennsylvania's threatened and endangered species. Sign up to receive electronic copies of [Keystone Wild! Notes](#), the quarterly newsletter from the Wild Resource Conservation Fund Program. You can also sign up for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' [monthly Resource](#) online newsletter (go to the bottom of the page).



## **WATERSHED FACILITATION ASSISTANCE**

### **Monaghan Township Volunteer Fire Department Annual Fishing Show and Flea Market – Jan 28-29**

Saturday hours are 8A to 4P. Sunday hours are 9A to 3P. We will be attending both days. Fire Dept address: 245 West Siddonsburg Road, Dillsburg, PA. Website: <http://www.monaghnfishingshow.com>.

### **Penn State Extension Sponsors PA Forests Web Seminar Series**

The [PA Forests Web Seminar Center](#) is providing web-based educational programs and materials for forest owners, extension educators, and natural resource professionals starting January 10. The center's goal is to offer "live" seminars on forest resource related topics. Webinar topics include: Emerald Ash Borer, Regenerating a High-Graded Stand, Early Successional Wildlife Habitat, Oak Management and Regeneration and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. A listing of scheduled seminar topics and dates is available on the [Upcoming Seminars link](#). You can view previously recorded seminars and educational material by clicking the [Previous Seminars link](#). Previous programs include a series on Wildlife Damage, White-tailed Deer Management and Forest Stewardship. To view a webinar you must [first register online](#). For more information, contact your county office of Penn State Extension or use [this contact form](#).

### **PENNVEST's Nutrient Credit Auctions**

Please join Markit Environmental team for a series of informative Webinars that will discuss how to use Markit systems for PENNVEST's Nutrient Credit Auctions Program for the **upcoming March 21st Forward Water Auction**. The following topics will be covered:

- Enrollment / Eligibility – Utilize Markit Document Exchange platform to manage your enrollment documentation
- Submitting Bids and Offers – Submit Auction Bids and Offers through Markit Environmental Registry
- Review Auction Results – Review your individual Auction results on Markit Document Exchange

Enrollment:

- Wednesday January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (9:00 am to 12:00 pm)
- Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 (9:00 am to 12:00 pm)

Submit Bids and Offers, Review Auction Results:

- Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (9:00 am to 12:00 pm)
- Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (9:00 am to 12:00 pm)

The information needed to join is as follows: Call-in toll-free number (US/Canada): (866) 273 – 7990. Meeting Password: 4891177#

In order to see the presentation, please open the following link in your Internet Explorer Browser:

<http://www.meetingzone.com/markit/>. Complete the participant information and click *Login*. Please use the Participant Access Code:

4891177. To ensure that you are able to see all parts of the presentation, please perform the system check by following this link:

<http://www.meetingzone.com/markit/>. Under *Related Links* on the right side of the screen, click on *System Compatibility Check* and follow the instructions. To participate, please email [environmental.auctions@markit.com](mailto:environmental.auctions@markit.com).

### **EPA to Seek Stakeholder Input on Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Management Plans**

EPA is holding a series of five workshops to solicit stakeholder input on the use of integrated municipal stormwater and wastewater plans to meet the water quality objectives of the Clean Water Act. The workshops are intended to assist EPA in developing an integrated planning approach framework that could be used to help municipalities prioritize their infrastructure investments in order to maximize water quality

benefits and consider various innovative approaches, such as green infrastructure, that may be more sustainable. The workshops will include a facilitated discussion with representatives of interested stakeholder groups, including those organizations that represent local government administrators, publicly owned treatment works, state National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting authorities, and nonprofit environmental groups. Interested members of the public are invited to observe and offer verbal comments at designated times during the workshop or submit written comments to the Agency. The workshops will be held on the following dates at the following locations:

- January 31, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EPA Region 4 Office, 61 Forsyth Street, SW., Atlanta, GA 30303
- February 6, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EPA Region 2 Office, 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007-1866
- February 13, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EPA Region 10 Office, 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101
- February 15, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EPA Region 7 Office, 901 N. 5th Street, Kansas City, KS 66101
- February 17, 2012, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. EPA Region 5 Office, 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604-3507:

Participants must pre-register to attend the workshops by January 20, 2012 at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/integratedplans>. For additional information and to register for the workshop, please visit EPA's Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Plans website at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/integratedplans> or contact Kevin Weiss, Office of Water, Office of Wastewater Management by phone at: 202-564-0742 or via e-mail at: [weiss.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:weiss.kevin@epa.gov).

#### **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit workshops**

We are providing a series of free workshops for MS4 permittees to help them develop their renewal permit. We encourage district attendees to register at the website below so that we can ensure everyone receives meals and the workshop materials.

- 2/8/12 Lancaster County
- 2/29/12 Cumberland County

[http://www.psats3.org/onesource/onesource\\_courses\\_register\\_free.cfm?courseid=MS42012](http://www.psats3.org/onesource/onesource_courses_register_free.cfm?courseid=MS42012). The brochure can be found at this link: <http://www.stormwaterpa.org/blog/ms4/ms4-permit-workshops-sign-up-now/>. Please feel free to forward to other people in your office who may be interested in attending and let me know if you have any questions. **Jennifer Kehler** | Water Program Specialist, Department of Environmental Protection, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street | Harrisburg, PA 17101. Phone: 717.772.5628 | Fax: 717.772.5986. [www.depweb.state.pa.us](http://www.depweb.state.pa.us)

#### **PA BASIC BOATING SAFETY CLASS – Feb 4**

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Presenter: Daniel Benny, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Instructor. Location: Brunner Island Power Plant, main conference room. Please bring your own lunch and snacks for the day. Course will be held at the main conference room at the Brunner Island plant. Please check in at Gate A for a visitor badge. Advance registration is required by January 27. To register, call PPL at 570-437-3131 or e-mail [pplpreserves@pplweb.com](mailto:pplpreserves@pplweb.com).

#### **Land Ethics Symposium: Creative Approaches For Ecological Landscaping - Feb 16**

[Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve](#), Bucks County and their partners will present its 12th annual [Land Ethics Symposium](#) on February 16 in Langhore, Pa with the theme of Creative Approaches for Ecological Landscaping. The Land Ethics Symposium focuses on ways to create low-maintenance, economical and ecologically balanced landscapes with native plants and restoration techniques. This daylong Symposium is geared toward professionals, including landscape architects, designers, contractors and the green industry, environmental consultants, land planners, managers and developers, and state/municipal officials. The Symposium features presentations by regional and national experts. Continuing Education Credits are available. A selection of topical books are for sale throughout the event. For more information and to register, visit the [Land Ethics Symposium](#) webpage.

#### **Attend GardenWise for the Latest Gardening Information – Mar 10**

From energy saving landscaping to growing vegetables, GardenWise 2012 has something for everyone. Join Penn State Extension Master Gardeners for a full day of fun and learning March 10, 2012 at our new location, the York County School of Technology, 2179 South Queen Street, York, PA. Susan Reed, author of the award winning Energy-Wise Landscaping Design, will share ideas and tips you can easily incorporate into your landscape. Later in the day, Dr. Michael Raupp from the University of Maryland takes us on a fascinating journey to learn "why bugs and plants make the world go round". In between you can attend sessions on growing vegetables sustainable, using cover crops in the garden, heirloom and open pollinated plants, biorational pesticides and beneficial insects, or native plants and their role in garden design. Early bird registration (on or before February 21) is \$49.00 and includes a full day of gardening talks, handouts, continental breakfast, and lunch. To register, call Kelly at 717-840-7408 and request a GardenWise brochure. Or go online to <http://extension.psu.edu/york>. Register early, as space is limited.

#### **4th National DEA Drug Take Back Program – Apr 28**

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has scheduled another National Prescription Drug Take Back Day which will take place on Saturday, April 28, 2012, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is a great opportunity for those who missed the previous events, or who have subsequently accumulated unwanted, unused prescription drugs, to safely dispose of those medications. This is a great opportunity to dispose of unwanted medications properly and keep pharmaceuticals out of our eater supply. For more information: [http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/)

#### **Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education – Feb 9-12**

Register today! Make your hotel reservations for February 9-12, 2012 Clarion Fountainebleau Resort. Mention MAEOE Conference to get discounted rates (through January 9th). Friday evening with Keynote Speakers Charles Saylan and Dan Blumstein authors of The Failure of Environmental Education (and how we can fix it) believe that change is possible and within our collective reach. But all of us will need to look at the problems differently and embrace our collective and individual responsibilities as stewards of the earth; there is no better place to begin this process than within the framework of education. Questions: email [conference@maeoe.org](mailto:conference@maeoe.org) or call the hotline (443) 824-1953 (see MAEOE website for hours) [www.maeoe.org](http://www.maeoe.org) register for the MAEOE conference! Contact Stacy Bond, Maryland Green School Organizer Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education <http://www.maeoe.org/>, [mdgsorganizer@maeoe.org](mailto:mdgsorganizer@maeoe.org), 443-733-1220 ext 121.



### **George Mason University and the Washington Youth Summit on the Environment - Jun 24-29**

(WYSE) seek several dynamic and enthusiastic individuals to fill the positions of Faculty Advisor for a week-long residential student leadership conference held June 24-June 29, 2012. WYSE brings together 250 of the nations' brightest rising high school juniors and senior (rising sophomores and juniors) for an experiential and intensive conference focusing on leadership and environmental science and conservation. The students will reside on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University, while taking advantage of Washington, D.C. and venues such as the National Geographic Society, the Smithsonian National Zoo, and the U.S. Capitol. Detailed program information and a tentative schedule can be found at [www.wyse.gmu.edu](http://www.wyse.gmu.edu).



## **WATERSHED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Revisiting the village of Menomonee Falls stormwater management plan nine years later**

In 2002, *Stormwater* magazine featured an article about a stormwater management plan for the village of Menomonee Falls, WI (“A Stormwater Management System Plan for Menomonee Falls” by Michael F. Campbell, November/December 2002 issue). The simultaneous completion of both a stormwater management plan and a sanitary sewerage system plan was to identify storm and sanitary sewer capacity problems in existing developed areas and to serve as a roadmap for future projects, so that environmental, economic, and construction concerns could be addressed in concert with each other. Nine years after the village started working with these plans, how are things going? Has this holistic approach paid off for the village? What identified projects have been completed, and what are the results? Are the plans still the driving force behind future projects? Read article... <http://www.stormh2o.com/SW/articles/15594.aspx>

### **Green infrastructure can provide long-term flood protection benefits on a watershed scale**

Green infrastructure (GI), also known as low-impact development (LID), is a stormwater management approach that emphasizes minimization of runoff through a combination of sound site planning principles and concepts that encourage disconnection of impervious areas from waterways, infiltration, and evapotranspiration. A basic tenet of GI is to control small storms, which typically comprise upward of 80% of the average annual rainfall. Runoff from these storms is diverted to pervious areas or collected in micro-controls distributed throughout a site. It has been surmised that these controls have minimal impact on extreme events that result in flooding; therefore GI has not been deemed capable of reducing flood losses. This article illustrates that GI can indeed provide substantial benefits regarding flood protection. Read article... <http://www.stormh2o.com/SW/articles/15593.aspx>

### **Rainwater Management in a Watershed Context - What's the Goal?**

This article is written from a British Columbia perspective. It connects the dots between recent developments in the United States, such as *A Strategic Agenda to Protect Waters and Build More Livable Communities Through Green Infrastructure* released by EPA in April 2011, and comparable initiatives that have been underway in British Columbia for the past decade. A key message is that we are observing a convergence of understanding. On both sides of the 49th parallel, light bulbs are going on about the inter-connectedness of green infrastructure and water sustainability, and the implications for watershed health. We hope that this article will stimulate a cross-border discussion on the relative effectiveness of an educational versus prescriptive approach to leading and implementing change. Similarities and difference much like those of York County, Pennsylvania, and the Chesapeake Bay Program. Read article...

<http://www.stormh2o.com/SW/articles/15596.aspx>

### **Stormwater Ponds and Water Quality**

Although a variety of stormwater management practices have been developed, the use of stormwater ponds is by far the most common practice employed to address coastal nonpoint source pollution (NPS) and flooding, particularly in coastal South Carolina (Law et al. 2008, Vandiver and Hernandez 2009). Stormwater ponds were one of the first recommended stormwater management practices by federal, state, and local agencies to reduce flooding potential. Today, coastal stormwater ponds are a common water feature and are an accepted practice by stormwater engineers, developers, designers, and permitting agencies for controlling stormwater runoff. Yet relatively little is known about the collective role of these best management practices (BMPs) in addressing NPS pollution. Read article...

<http://www.stormh2o.com/SW/articles/15598.aspx>

### **New EPA Tool Focuses on Reducing Nitrogen and Phosphorus Pollution**

EPA has released a new Nitrogen and Phosphorus Pollution Data Access Tool. The goal of the tool is to support nitrogen and phosphorus analyses by providing the most current data available on: the extent and magnitude of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution; water quality problems related to this pollution; and potential pollution sources in a format that is readily-accessible and easy-to-use.

<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/nutrients/index.cfm>

### **Wetland Restoration and Construction-A Technical Guide**

Published by The Wetland Trust, this guide provides clear, logical, step-by-step instructions on how to design and build naturally- appearing and functioning wetlands for wildlife and fish habitat. The author reveal practices used to restore over 1,400 wetlands in 18 states and two Canadian provinces, answering questions asked by thousands of who have taken the hands-on wetland restoration workshops he has taught across North America.

<http://www.aswm.org/wetlands/wetland-bookshelf/1333-wetland-science-ecology-books#biebighauser>

### **EPA Launches Climate Ready Water Utilities Initiative**

EPA has launched the Climate Ready Water Utilities (CRWU) initiative to assist water and wastewater utilities in implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, with the goal of a more resilient water sector.

<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/climate/>

### **New USDA Nutrient Standards to Help Farmers, Waterways**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released the new nutrient management standard in December. The standard will be used by the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service to help farmers and ranchers apply fertilizer and manure more efficiently. The release of the new standard follows assessments in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the Upper Mississippi River basin, and the Great Lakes basin. <http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20111213/NEWS01/111213024/CBF-New-USDA-standards-help-farmers-waterways>

### **EPA Gives States More Leeway to Set Local Cleanup Goals**

States no longer need to assign nutrient and sediment reduction targets to local governments (measured in pounds of pollutants) to guide their pollution reduction efforts. Instead, the EPA said that states could use a "narrative" to describe the types of local actions that will be implemented to achieve broader nutrient goals assigned to them. <http://www.bayjournal.com/article.cfm?article=4248>

### **EPA Launches Recovery Potential Screening Website to Assist Restoration Planners**

EPA announces the release of a new technical assistance tool for state and watershed-level surface water quality protection and restoration programs: the recovery potential screening website ([www.epa.gov/recoverypotential/](http://www.epa.gov/recoverypotential/)). Recovery potential screening is a flexible approach for comparing relative differences in restorability among impaired waters across a state, watershed or other area. The website provides step-by-step screening directions, restorability indicators and literature, and tools for scoring and displaying results. EPA developed recovery potential screening to help users improve their restoration programs by revealing and comparing factors that influence restoration success. The method is applicable to watershed priority setting, impaired waters listing, TMDL implementation, 319/nonpoint source control, healthy watersheds assessment, and watershed plan development. For additional information, please contact Doug Norton ([norton.douglas@epa.gov](mailto:norton.douglas@epa.gov)).

### **Pennsylvania's Master Well Owner Network**

Penn State Master Well Owners reach out to assist adults and children understand the value of proper well location and construction and the importance of proper testing and treatment of their drinking water supply. FYI

[http://extension.psu.edu/water/discovery-watersheds/newsletter/news/2009/pennsylvania2019s-master-well-owner-network?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+agsci-water-watershedwinds+%28Penn+State+Watershed+Winds+Newsletter%29](http://extension.psu.edu/water/discovery-watersheds/newsletter/news/2009/pennsylvania2019s-master-well-owner-network?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+agsci-water-watershedwinds+%28Penn+State+Watershed+Winds+Newsletter%29)

### **U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Water Program Posts New Web Pages**

The U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Water Program has posted online revised web pages for the Cooperative Water Program. Learn about and directly access water data on streams, groundwater and water quality, as well as selected products released in 2011 on water availability, ecosystem health, water quality and drinking water, water hazards, energy, and climate. <http://water.usgs.gov/coop/>

### **Federal Geographic Data Committee Launches Geospatial Platform Website**

Federal agencies and their partners collect and manage large amounts of geospatial data - but this data is often not easily found when needed or accessible in useful forms. The Geospatial Platform provides ready access to federally maintained geospatial data, services and applications, as well as access to data from our partners across state, tribal, regional and local governments as well as non-governmental organizations. The website makes it possible for users to create customized maps, or to integrate their own data into the maps, and share the maps through web browsers and mobile applications. The Geospatial Platform was developed by an interagency committee composed of representatives from the Executive Office of the President, the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). <http://www.geoplatform.gov/home/index.html>

### **EPA committee completes report on agricultural issues**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's federal advisory committee on agricultural issues, the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee, has submitted its report to the agency on agricultural and water quality issues. The report offers recommendations on the most effective approaches for dealing with water quality issues related to agricultural production and improving water quality across the United States. It also provides suggestions for increasing support for certainty programs, increasing stewardship, and coordinating resources with USDA, land grant universities, and the farm community to support a strong partnership effort. To view the FRRCC report: [http://epa.gov/ofacmo/frcc/reports\\_advice.htm](http://epa.gov/ofacmo/frcc/reports_advice.htm)

### **EPA Extends Comment Period for the Proposed CAFO Rule**

On October 21, 2011, EPA published a proposed rule that would require concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) to submit basic operational information to the Agency. EPA received requests from the public for additional time to submit comments, and is extending the public comment period to January 19, 2012. EPA proposed the rule in order to more effectively carry out its CAFO permitting programs on a national level and ensure that CAFOs are implementing practices to protect water quality and human health. For information on the proposed rule, visit <http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/af/aforule.cfm>. Source: US EPA

### **PADEP Proposals Currently Open for Comment**

Date Published	Proposal	Comment
11/17/2011	Draft Phase 2 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan	1/30/2012
11/17/2011	Nutrient Credit Trading Program, Notice of Certification Requests	1/17/2012

