Natural Resources Conservation Service
One Credit Union Place, Suite 340
Harrisburg, PA 17110-2993

October 25, 2012

State Technical Committee
AGENDA

12:30 – Welcome …….. Barry Frantz, NRCS

12:40 – 2013 Farm Bill Update …….. Barry Frantz, NRCS

1:00 – Guest Speaker (DEP) ……..G. Patrick Bowling P.G.
"Overview of the Pennsylvania Source Water Protection Program"

1:30 – CRP …….. Katrina Thompson, NRCS
- Training Update

1:40 – Conservation Programs Progress …….. Barry Frantz, NRCS

1:50 – FY 2013 Rollout …….. Barry Frantz, NRCS

2:10 – National Water Quality Areas ……..Barry Frantz, NRCS

2:20 – 590 Update …….. Dan Dostie, NRCS

2:30 – Subcommittee Reports …….. Barry Frantz, NRCS
- Air Quality Task Force
- Bioenergy
- Feed
- Forestry
- Wildlife and Fisheries
- Nutrients
- Organic
- Specialty
- GLCI

3:15 – Easements Update …….. Hathaway Jones, NRCS

3:25 – Closing …….. Barry Frantz, NRCS

Barry Frantz: Welcome and 2013 Farm Bill Update

Farm Bill Update:

Reviewed handout on 2013 Farm Bill Conservation Programs in PA, existing contracts and pointed out that we are still waiting for the finalized authorization of the Farm Bill. Probably it will be passed by the later part of the fiscal year. In the meantime, efforts should continue to be made applying for the current programs until we get approval of the new Farm Bill. In his estimation, CRP will be coming back and CBWI will not. There are no new WRP projects being accepted for new contracts. Based on information he has received, it is anticipated that funding should be available for AMA, EQIP as indicated in the attached hand out and WHIP. He outlined the priorities for Pennsylvania and Conservation Activity Plan Options for 2013. (see attached handout)

2012 Agricultural Management Assistance

- Irrigation – 6 contracts, 182 acres, $168K

2012 Conservation Stewardship Program CSP

- Almost 100 contracts,
- Over 31,000 acres,
- Over $800,000

2012 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative CBWI

- Over 250 contracts,
- over 26,000 acres,
- over $15.5 million

2012 Environmental Quality Incentives Program EQIP

- Over 600 contracts,
- almost 59,000 acres,
- over $18.5 million

NRCS 2008 Farm Bill

2012 Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program WHIP

- Working Lands for Wildlife
  - Bog Turtle
  - Golden Winged Warbler
- Over 40 contracts,
- Over 1,600 acres,
- Almost $1 million

PA EQIP/CBWI and AMA/WHIP 2007-2012

	2002 Farm Bill		2008 Farm Bill			
Program	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
EQIP	$10.8 M	$15.3 M	$13.0 M	$13.5 M	$13.5 M	$18.7 M
CBWI	$0	$0	$5.5 M	$9.7 M	$19.4 M	$15.1 M
EQIP/CBWI combined	$10.8 M	$15.3 M	$18.5 M	$23.2 M	$32.9 M	$33.8 M
AMA	0	$1.0 M	$1.0 M	$0.8 M	$0.7 M	$0.2 M
WHIP	$0.2 M	$0.9 M	$0.8 M	$0.8 M	$0.8 M	$1.1 M

6

NRCS 2008 Farm Bill

Contracts

- Over 2,700 Active Contracts (AMA, CBWI, CSP, EQIP, WHIP)
- 1,445 Completed Contracts
  - 135 completed AMA
  - 551 completed CBWI
  - 658 completed EQIP
  - 101 completed WHIP

NRCS 2008 Farm Bill

Practices (not including CSP)

- Almost 13,000 certified practices
- Almost 10,500 planned practices

CRP Update:

Katrina Thompson presented a Training Update on CRP. She indicated that a training is being scheduled next week for the DC's. The District Conservationists report that there are about 45 people coming to CRP training. We do not have authorization for new CRP Projects as yet. The CRP Website is currently being updated. NRCS and partners continue to work on practice maintenance with landowners who have existing CREP contracts.. The Delaware River CREP proposal has been submitted to FSA National office for review.

Conservation Stewardship Program CSP:
We are currently taking CSP applications. About 140 to 150 enhancements are being introduced to make the processes work more smoothly.

Guest Speaker, G. Patrick Bowling of DEP and Matt Genchur of PA Rural Water Association, presented an "overview of the Pennsylvania Source Water Protection Program". Topics covered in their presentation included:

G. Patrick Bowling, DEP: a. Source Water Protection (SWP) was defined.

b. Wellhead Protection (WHP) is the "Cornerstone of SWP".

c. Responding to wellhead contamination can be up to 200 times as costly as prevention.

d. For every 10% increase in forest cover, DW treatments costs decrease by 20%.

e. SWP concept is not new, it traces back to 1610 in Jamestown, VA.

f. The Federal "Safe Drinking Water Act" (SDWA) was enacted in 1986 and defines guidelines for the state's WHP Programs.

g. Local SWP program is voluntary – "Your water. Your decision".

h. According to a 2005 Report made to the EPA, indicated that Agriculture was the most threatening and the most prevalent in the causes of contamination.

i. Opportunities for collaboration between State Source Water Program and the State Conservationist/NRCS can assist in protecting sources of drinking water.

j. Source Water Area Delineation (Surface-Water Source) for basins.

k. Made reference to the SWP Partners & Resources website: http://www.sourcewatercollaborative.org/swp-usda/

Matt Genchur, PA Rural Water Association:

Mr Genchur defined the make-up of the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association and its role in the state's Water Protection Program. He covered the following points:

a. The Association is a member supported, non-government, non-profit organization. It provides technical assistance, operator training, member services and legislative support. It was formed in 1988. That certain members are dedicated to SWP planning/implementation, began working with SWP in 1992. One staff position is funded with USDA monies and that the Association is required to hold an annual “forum”.

b. The Association works with systems in a 6 step process/format, which involves a Steering Committee whose purpose is to delineate the sources, identify risks, to provide management strategies/partnerships, emergency response/contingencies and new source planning. All the above emphasizing Flexibility to provide the system what it wants and needs.

c. Deliverables are: Source Water Protection Plans, Partnership Opportunities, builds on past successes, on-the-ground protection and being able to ideally create a “program”, not just a plan.

d. Implementation Struggles experienced was a limited staff, money (always an issue), time (operators have to wear many hats) and necessary connections – lack of partner awareness.

e. In building a stronger link, many USDA/NRCS programs can directly benefit drinking water, Streamside projects, Wetlands and private forest stewardship.

f. Project Examples: Schuylkill Action Network: focus is drinking water protection; 37% of watershed is agriculture, 258 impaired stream miles due to agriculture. Partner with Berks County Conservancy – created a Restoration Fund that leverages USDA/NRCS programs to projects on the ground.

Kutztown Borough: Donated money for projects in their area: conservation and nutrient planning, manure storage construction. Buffer installation next to Borough wells and created a lease agreement.

g. New Opportunities: Latest trend in implementation – County Coalitions; Allows water systems to join together on projects and initiatives; Efficient use of PRWA and DEP time; Opportunities to speak and meet these systems.

h. Partnership examples: Private forests in drinking water areas; Idea: add a layer to GIS analysis that includes source water areas – affect the ranking system; a way to target projects and planning. (see handouts)

Collaboration Toolkit:
Protecting Drinking Water Sources through Agricultural Conservation Practices

Visit: http://www.sourcewatercollaborative.org/swp-usda/

Goals of Toolkit

- Promote source water protection through agriculture conservation practices
- Facilitate collaboration between source water and USDA state and local leaders, with a focus on Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Programs

5 Easy-to-Follow Steps

The toolkit includes simple steps for identifying common ground, current opportunities, and key contacts and ideas for working with USDA at the state level.

- Step 1 gives a quick overview of key USDA conservation programs that help protect and improve sources of drinking water. Learn the vocabulary NRCS staff use so you're sure to speak their language.
- Step 2 gives tips to help you define what your source water program can offer and includes an infographic that explains the State Conservationist's role and what can be accomplished through collaboration.
- Step 3 links to talking points, draft agenda for first meeting, and key USDA documents to help you take the first steps to action.
- Step 4 lists useful conservation and source water protection resources.
- Step 5 links to key partners who can bring data, technical capabilities, useful state and local perspectives, and links to other key stakeholders.

Current Opportunities to Put Toolkit to Use in Your State

- **NRCS Nutrient Management Conservation Practice Standard 590 – Updated State Standards due to NRCS January 2013**:
  - Consultation with state water quality agencies is required. Some state NRCS offices have provided drafts of the state standards to their state drinking water programs to ensure accurate information, e.g., wellhead setbacks. Contact your State Conservationist's office to request an opportunity to review the draft standard.
    - View Connecticut's conservation practice standard 590 (updated June 2012): http://www.sourcewatercollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/CT_590_2012_Final.pdf
  - This is a critical standard for getting adequate nutrient management on the ground and an opportunity for consideration of drinking water sources. Private landowners and operators receiving funds to develop and implement nutrient management plans or to install animal waste storage structures must comply with the NRCS 590 conservation practice standard.
  - Click here for NRCS nutrient management information: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/npm
- **The 2013 USDA National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)** offers an opportunity to increase installation of conservation practices to address nutrient concerns for drinking water sources in selected watersheds. States can work with NRCS to identify additional watersheds in FY 2013.
  - Coordinate with your state's Clean Water Act Section 319 program, and contact your State Conservationist's office to provide input to watershed selection. Click here to see which watersheds have been selected to date: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=STELPRDB1047761

Upcoming Supplement *(Planned for Early 2013 Release)*

- The current toolkit is designed to help you work with USDA conservation programs at the state level
- Through the Source Water Collaborative's partnership with the National Association of Conservation Districts, the toolkit will be updated with tips for working with conservation districts

See the reverse side of this handout for an infographic that highlights what source water programs and NRCS State Conservationists can bring to a collaborative effort to protect sources of drinking water.

COLLABORATION CAN PROTECT SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

TOGETHER

- Align our work for mutual program benefits
- Leverage funding
- Include multiple partners
- Measure progress
- Help private landowners and operators, agencies, and partners know they are helping a bigger picture

STATE SOURCE WATER PROGRAM

- Share data and information on delineated source water protection areas, priority contaminants, sources of contamination, and water quality monitoring results
- Provide information and leverage potential funding sources
- Assist with implementation and help target USDA initiatives (e.g., identifying priority areas, potential benefits of conservation practices to drinking water)
- Partner in conducting outreach to private landowners and operators

STATE CONSERVATIONIST

- Implement NRCS conservation programs – technical assistance and funding to private landowners and operators for conservation plans, and cost-share for conservation practices
  - EQIP (water quality initiatives)
  - State 590 conservation practice standards
  - Conservation Stewardship Program
- Funding capacity, and discretion about what to fund
- Agreements with partners (e.g., conservation districts)
- Discretionary technical assistance (e.g. signup workshops for private landowners and operators to help implement a water quality improvement project)

OUR COMMON GROUND

- Voluntary (non-regulatory) programs for private landowners and operators
- Focus on protecting soil, water quality, and health
- Help assure overall health of communities
- Achieve and demonstrate water quality results in priority areas

Note: It's a good idea to find out who USDA NRCS work with in your state. We are using "private landowners and operators" as a general term in this infographic. NRCS may work with a variety of producers - farmers, ranchers, poultry and livestock producers, dairymen, forest landowners, including those who rent land.

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

Overview of Pennsylvania's Source Water Protection Program

G. Patrick Bowling, P.G. (PA DEP) &

Matt Genchur (PA Rural Water Association)

USDA Pennsylvania State Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

October 25, 2012

pa rural water Association

PENNSYLVANIA SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Safe Drinking Water Starts at the Source!

What is Source Water Protection?

- Source Water Protection (SWP): efforts to protect raw water quality of sources (wells, springs, streams, reservoirs) used by public (community) water systems
- First barrier to drinking water contamination
- For ground-water source: a/k/a Wellhead Protection (WHP) - *"Cornerstone of SWP"*
- Protects public health, promotes sound land-use planning, avoids costs from contamination

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Comparing Costs & Benefits

Gettysburg Mun. Auth. Well #6

- 1987-1995: ~$350,000 by GMA & ~$1.4M by DEP to respond to contamination of well
- Responding to contamination can be up to **200 times as costly** as prevention

(US EPA, 1996, *Benefits and Costs of Prevention: Case Studies of Community Wellhead Protection*.)

- Surface Water: For every 10% increase in forest cover, DW treatment costs **decrease by 20%** (TPL/AWWA, 2002)

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

SWP Program Background/Authority

- Concept is not new: Jamestown, VA (1610)
- 1986 Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) => State WHP Programs
- 1996 SDWA => Source Water Assessments (contributing area, potential threats, susceptibility & inform public)
- Purpose: framework for local SWP program
- Local SWP program is voluntary! ("*Your water. Your decision.*")

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

PA Source Water Assessment Results

(2005 Report to EPA)

GW RANK	Most Threatening	Most Prevalent
1	Underground Storage Tanks	Transportation Corridors
2	Transportation Corridors	Agriculture
3	Agriculture	Underground Storage Tanks
4	Automobile Related Activities	Septic
5	Mining	Mining
SW RANK	**Most Threatening**	**Most Prevalent**
1	Transportation Corridors	Transportation Corridors
2	Agriculture	Municipal Sanitary Waste Disposal
3	Fertilizer & Pesticide Applications	Septic Systems
4	Storm Water	Mining
5	Mining	Animal Feeding Operations

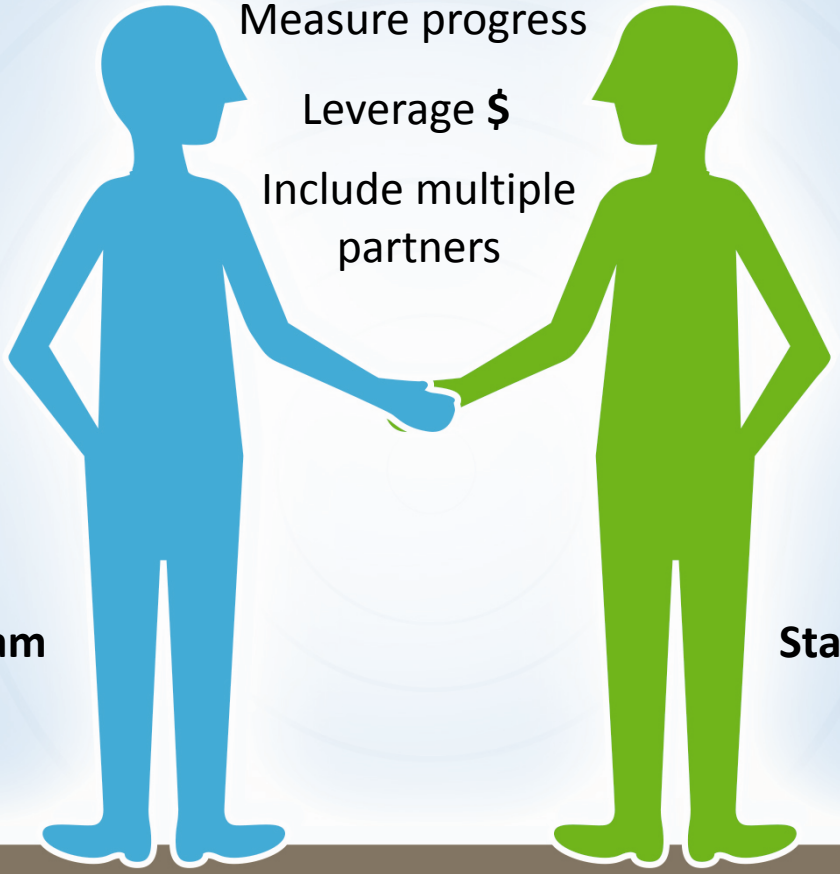
Collaboration Can Protect Sources of Drinking Water

Align work for mutual program benefits

Measure progress

Leverage **$**

Include multiple partners



State Source Water Program

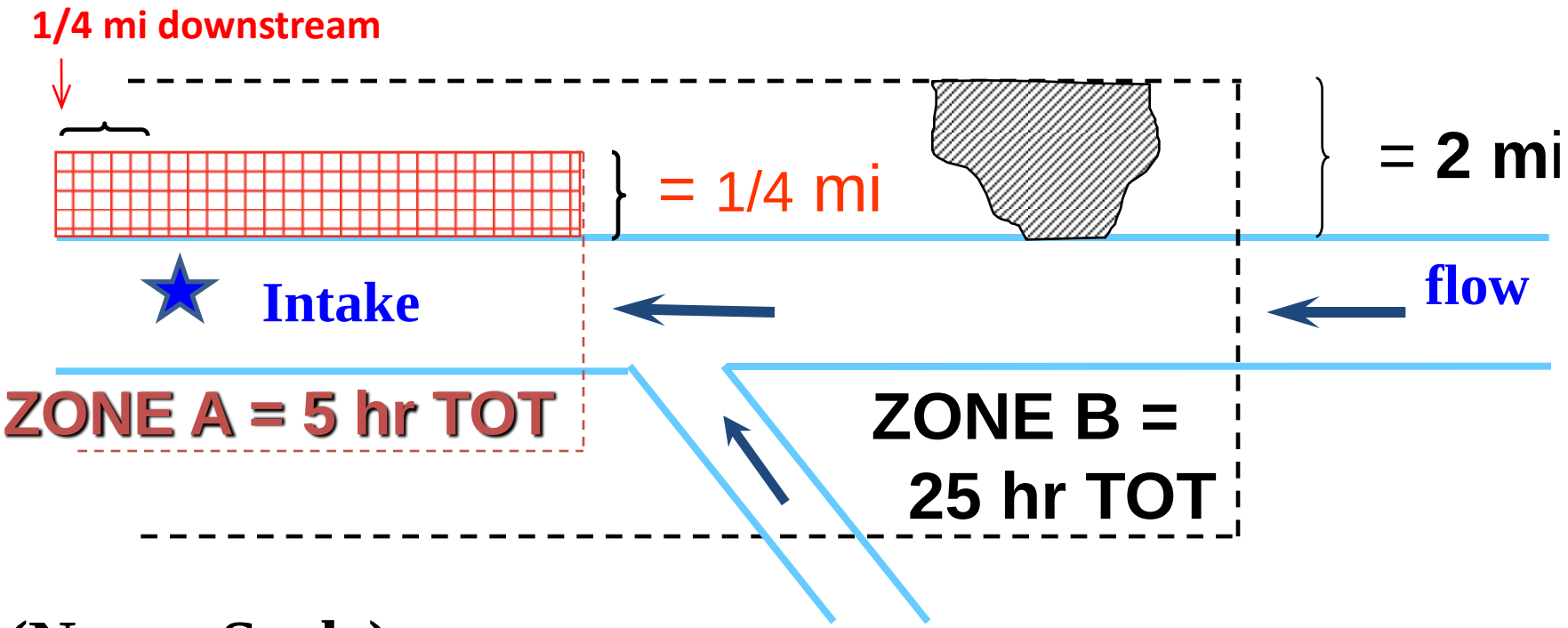
State Conservationist/NRCS

OUR COMMON GROUND

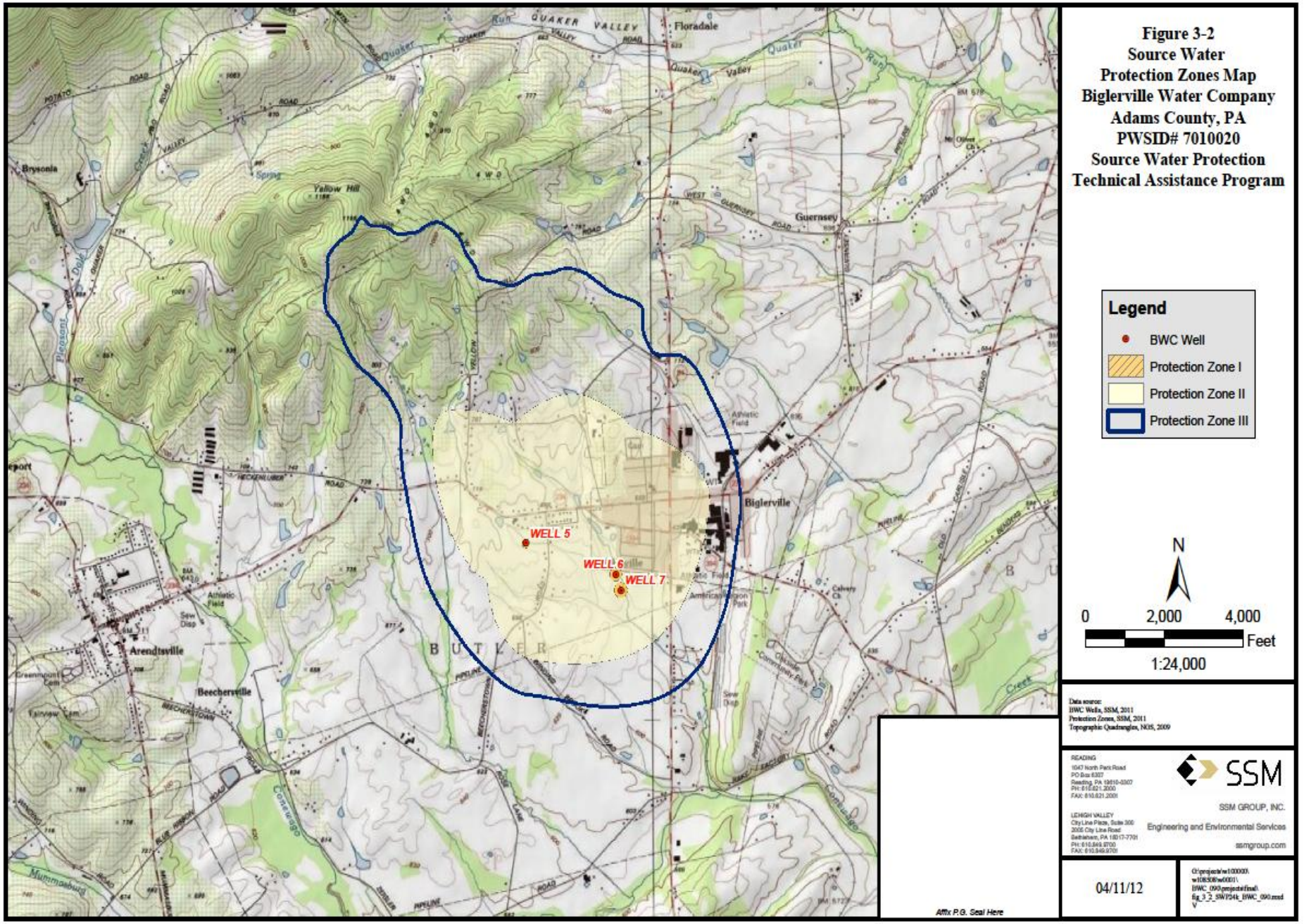
- Voluntary (non-regulatory) programs for private landowners and operators
- Focus on protecting soil, water quality, and health
- Help assure overall health of communities
- Achieve and demonstrate water quality results in priority areas

Source Water Area Delineation (Surface-Water Source) for basins ≥ 100 mi²

Segments based on Time-of-Travel (TOT) + Buffer

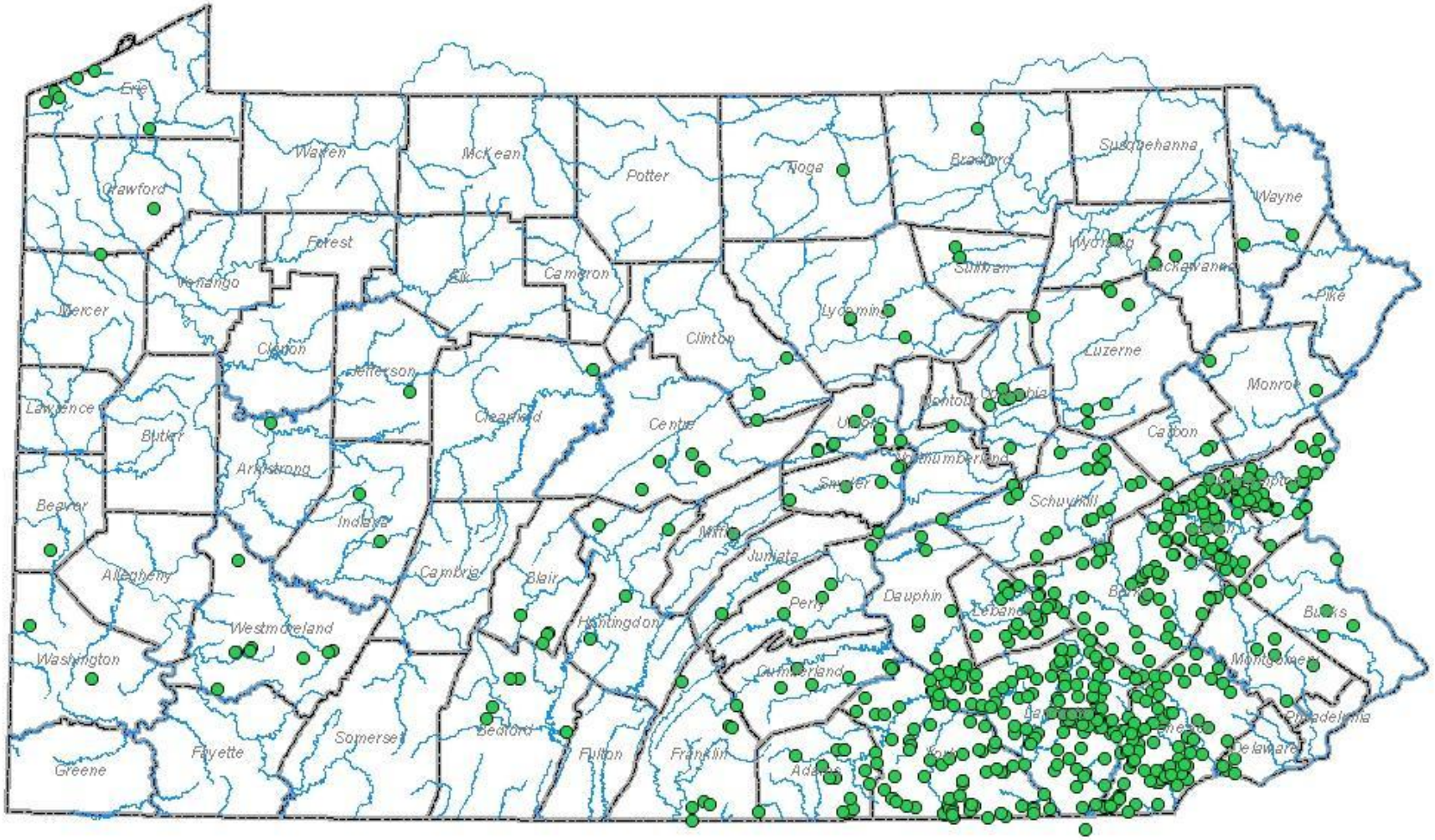


(Not to Scale)



Three-tiered WHP Area

Pennsylvania Nitrate Sample Results Greater Than 8 mg/L
January 1998 through March 2007



SWP Partners & Resources

- PA Rural Water Association (PRWA)
- Water Resources Education Network (WREN)
- Susquehanna River Basin Commission
- USGS & USEPA
- FFA – FieldtoFaucet.org; *Drinking Water: Protecting the Source* (FFA Learn)
- Source Water Collaborative Toolkit – *Protecting Drinking Water Sources through Agricultural Conservation Practices* http://www.sourcewatercollaborative.org/swp-usda/

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

For more info on PA SWP Program:

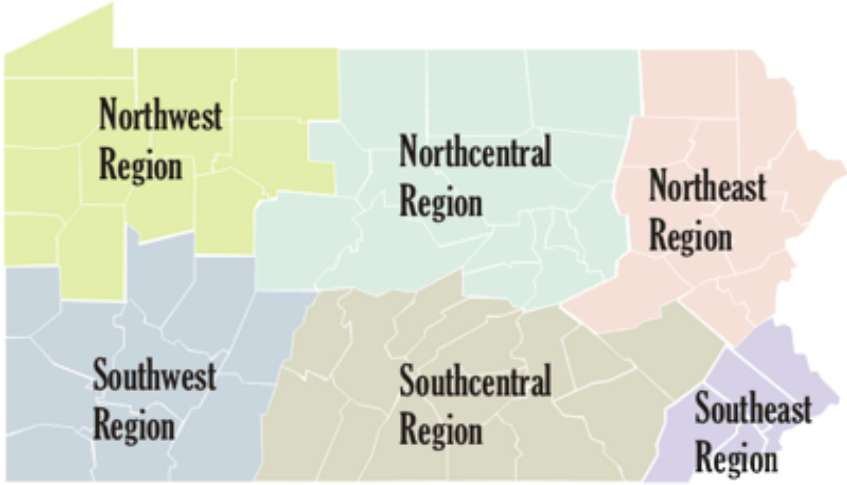
G. Patrick Bowling

gbowling@pa.gov

(717) 772-3600

Regional SWP Facilitators

SERO - Kevin Smith (484) 250-5131
NERO - Andrew Augustine (570) 830-3101
SCRO - Cathy Port (717) 705-4913
SCRO - Derrick Havice, P.G. (717) 705-4152
NCRO - Mark Stephens, P.G. (570) 327-3422
SWRO - Tom McCaffrey (412) 442-4212
NWRO - Jake Moore (814) 332-6176



Pennsylvania Rural Water Association

- Member supported, non-government, non-profit
- Onsite technical assistance, operator training, member services, legislative support
- Formed in 1988

pa rural water Association

Quality On Tap!

Our Commitment Our Profession

Source Water Protection

- 3 field staff dedicated to SWP planning and implementation
- Began working on SWP in 1992
- One position is funded with USDA monies – required to hold an annual “forum”

Working with Systems

- 6 Step process/format
  - Steering Committee
  - Delineate the Sources
  - Identify Risks
  - Management Strategies/Partnerships
  - Emergency Response/Contingencies
  - New Source Planning
- Flexibility = give the system what they want

Deliverables

- Source Water Protection Plan
- Partnership Opportunities
- Build on Past Successes
- On-the-ground Protection
- Ideally create a Program, not just a Plan

Implementation Struggles

- Limited staff
- $$$ - always an issue
- Time – operators wear many hats
- Connections – lack of partner awareness

A Stronger Link

- Many USDA/NRCS programs can also directly benefit drinking water
- Streamside projects
- Wetlands
- Private forest stewardship

Project Examples

- Schuylkill Action Network
  - Focus is drinking water protection
  - 37% of watershed is agriculture; 258 impaired stream miles due to agriculture
  - Partner with Berks County Conservancy – created a Restoration Fund that leverages USDA/NRCS programs to put projects on the ground

Project Examples

- Kutztown Borough
  - Donated money for projects in their area: Conservation and nutrient planning, manure storage construction
  - Buffer installation next to Borough wells – created lease agreement

New Opportunities

- Latest trend in implementation – **County Coalitions**
- Allows water systems to join together on projects, initiatives
- Efficient use of PRWA & DEP time
- Opportunities to speak and meet these systems

Partnership Example

- Private forests in drinking water areas
- Idea: add a layer to GIS analysis that includes source water areas – affect the ranking system
- A way to target projects and planning

For more info on the PRWA SWP Program

Matt Genchur

Source Water Protection Program Manager

Pennsylvania Rural Water Association

138 W. Bishop Street

Bellefonte, PA 16823

(814) 353-9302

mgenchur@prwa.com

Protecting drinking water from

FIELD TO FAUCET

ffa.org/drinkingwater

20 High School Agriculture Science Lessons in Source Water Protection

In agriculture, the way we work affects our drinking water. Learn about water and today's best management practices now, so you and your neighbors can drink in the results.

You can save money. Practices that protect the environment not only make famers more sustainable (such as protecting soil quality), they also can be more cost effective.

You can help protect the health of your family and community. By reducing agricultural runoff and leaching, a leading source of sediment and nutrient pollution, you can protect your drinking water.

YOUR WATER. YOUR DECISION:

Best Conservation Pratices

Protect drinking water from FIELD TO FAUCET

Next Generation Agriculture

What can you find in the FFA Source Water Lessons ?

20 Source Water Protection Lessons available online at ffa.learn.com, fall 2011.

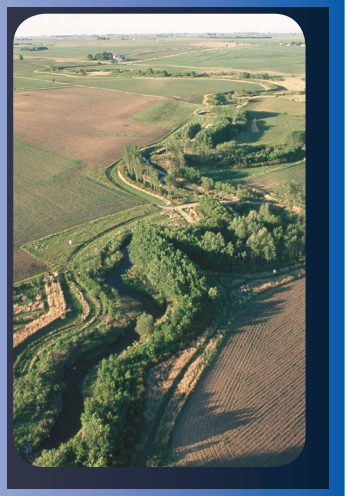
Developed by FFA with support from USDA and EPA

Where does your drinking water come from?

Lesson 1: Water in your community: Where does it come from? Where does it go?

Lesson 2: Water On and Under the Farm: Where does it come from and how is it used?

Lesson 3: What is the source of my drinking water? Source Water!



What are threats to sources of our drinking water?

Lesson 4: What are the threats to water quality in agricultural areas?

Lesson 5: What is the relationship between soil and drinking water quality?

Lesson 6: Drinking water safety – Health concerns and testing

Lesson 7: Drinking Water Treatment

Lesson 8: Drinking Water Quality and Quantity Concerns On and Near the Farm

How can we protect our drinking water?

Lesson 9: Who Protects Source Water?

Lesson 10: How Does the Government Protect Public Water?

Lesson 11: Land Use Decision Makers and Their Roles in Drinking Water Protection

Lesson 12: From Field to Faucet: Introduction to Farm Conservation Practices

Lesson 13: From Field to Faucet: Farm Conservation Plans and Source Water Protection

Lesson 14: From Field to Faucet: Manure Management and Source Water Protection

Lesson 15: Water Protection in Rural Communities–Examples of Funding and Technical Resources

Lesson 16: Source Water Protection Downstream

Taking action in your community

Lesson 17: Source Water Protection in Agricultural Communities: The Watershed Management Approach

Lesson 18: Beyond the Watershed: Water Use and Conservation

Lesson 19: Climate Change Impacts on Agricultural Water Resources

Lesson 20: Stewardship and Reflection – Source Water Protection and My Community

Make a Difference: Do Your Part for Clean Water!

Find out more at: ffa.org/drinkingwater

epa.gov/nutrientpollution

epa.gov/drink

fieldtofaucet.org

May 2012

EPA 840 F 11 002

twitter.com/@EPAowow

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

Conservation Programs Progress/FY 2013 Rollout/National Water Quality Areas

Barry Frantz spoke about the progress of Conservation Programs. Areas that he covered were:

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) which is administered by NRCS. That Pennsylvania is targeting Irrigation, because of limited funding, Adams and York counties are highest priority due to largest backlog of unfunded applications.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI) administered by NRCS. Authorization for new funding ended September 30, 2012. Existing contracts are valid and effort will be made to implement those contracts. Producers are encouraged to consider other 2013 options such as EQIP or WHIP.

Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) administered by NRCS.
This is for innovative practices or implementation methods not available in regular EQIP. Due date for pre-proposals for national funding and dates for Pennsylvania state option are to be announced.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) administered by FSA. Authorization for funding of new contracts ended September 30, 2012. Existing contracts are valid and will be emphasized by FSA and NRCS. Funding is proposed for reauthorization in the new Farm Bill.

Continuous CRP administered by FSA.
Authorization for funding of new contracts ended September 30, 2013. Existing contracts are valid and will be emphasized by FSA and NRCS. Funding is proposed for reauthorization in the new Farm Bill.

General CRP administered by FSA.
Authorization for funding of new contracts ended September 30, 2013. Existing contracts are valid and will be emphasized by FSA and NRCS. Funding is proposed for reauthorization in the new Farm Bill.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) administered by NRCS.
State allocations are on an acreage basis for Agricultural Land and Forest Land and available statewide with continuous signup with periodic rankings.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) administered by NRCS. This program is for enhancing soil, water and related resources on land such as cropland,

pasture, forest land and on animal feeding operations. $300,000 limit on total payments from 2009 through 2014. Continuous signup with cutoff dates for FY 2013.

Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) administered by NRCS.
For permanent agricultural conservation easements. It provides funding to units of government and private non-profits that acquire easements from private landowners.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) administered by FSA and NRCS.
Authorization for funding of new contracts ended September 30, 2013. Existing contracts are valid and will be emphasized by FSA and NRCS. Funding is proposed for termination in the new Farm Bill, and is to be replaced by the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) administered by NRCS.
For practices that establish or improve fish and wildlife habitat, targeting at risk and threatened/endangered species through the "Working Lands for Wildlife" initiative. Golden-Winged Warbler and Bog Turtle are targeted in Pennsylvania. It has a $50,000/year payment limit and has continuous signup for FY 2013.

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) administered by NRCS.
Authorization for funding of new contracts ended September 30, 2013. Existing contracts are valid and will be emphasized by FSA and NRCS. Funding is proposed for termination in the new Farm Bill, and will be replaced by Agricultural Conservation Easement Program.

Information on expiration of programs authorized under the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008.
Many programs and policies of USDA were authorized under the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 ("2008 Farm Bill") through September 30, 2012. These include a great number of programs impacting millions of Americans, including programs for farm commodity and price support, conservation, research, nutrition, food safety and agricultural trade. Beginning October 2012 the authority of funding provided under the 2008 Farm Bill for USDA to operate a number of these programs is expired, and the authority and funding for additional programs will expire in the coming months. Because Congress has not passed a 2012 Food, Farm and Jobs Act, effective October 1st, USDA can no longer make new commitments for programs for which the Department's authority or funding has expired. (see handouts)

BARRY

Available Conservation Programs from the 2008 Farm Bill October 2012

- Agricultural Management Assistance - AMA
- Conservation Stewardship Program - CSP
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program – EQIP
- Farm and Ranchland Protection Program - FRPP
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program - WHIP

2013 Program Development Considerations

- Anticipate Reduced Funding for Conservation Projects and for Staff.
- Focus on Areas with Historical Strong Interest and High Public or Environmental Benefit.
- If funding and staffing allows, or new Farm Bill directs, add or expand options when needs are identified.

PA EQIP/CBWI and AMA/WHIP 2007-2012

	2002 Farm Bill		2008 Farm Bill			
Program	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
EQIP	$10.8 M	$15.3 M	$13.0 M	$13.5 M	$13.5 M	$18.7 M
CBWI	$0	$0	$5.5 M	$9.7 M	$19.4 M	$15.6 M
EQIP/CBWI combined	$10.8 M	$15.3 M	$18.5 M	$23.2 M	$32.9 M	$34.3 M
AMA	0	$1.0 M	$1.0 M	$0.8 M	$0.7 M	$0.2 M
WHIP	$0.2 M	$0.9 M	$0.8 M	$0.8 M	$0.8 M	$1.0 M

2013 Application and Obligation Dates

- National Signup Cycles - 3rd Friday of month
  - Oct 19 2012 = First cycle applications
  - Dec 21 2012 = Second cycle applications
  - Feb 15 2013 = Third cycle applications
  - Will designate additional cycles if needed
- Obligate funds by July 1 2013

2013 Practices and Payment Rates

- Practice rates based on regional average costs
  - Mid-Atlantic
    - DE, MD, PA, NJ, NY
- Conservation Activity Plans based on national average costs
- Finalize rates and individual practice options by mid November

2013 Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)

- Irrigation
  - Anticipate extremely limited funding
  - Propose targeting Adams & York Counties

2013 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- National Initiatives and Requirements
- State Priorities
- Locally Directed Fund Pools

Fiscal Year 2013

EQIP National Initiatives and Required Offerings

- Air Quality
- Organic Initiative
- On-Farm Energy Conservation
- Seasonal High Tunnel
- Water Quality Initiative
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- Greenhouse Gas/Conservation Innovation Grant support
- Beginning Farmers and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers

2013 PA State Priorities

- Advanced Technology/Digesters, Litter Incinerators
- CNMP/NMP Plan Development
- Conservation Activity Plans
- Feed Management
- Forestry Practices
- Forest Management Plan Development
- Wildlife Habitat

- Conservation Innovation Grant (state option)

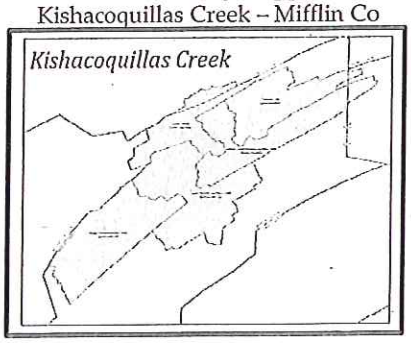
Conservation Activity Plan Options

- Agricultural Energy Management Plan
  - o Headquorters or Landscape
- Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan
- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
- Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition
- Drainage Water Management Plan
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan
- Forest Management Plan
- Grazing Management Plan
- Integrated Pest Management Plan
- Irrigation Water Management Plan
- Nutrient Management Plan (no livestock)
- Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan

2013 Locally Directed Fund Pools with Team Allocations

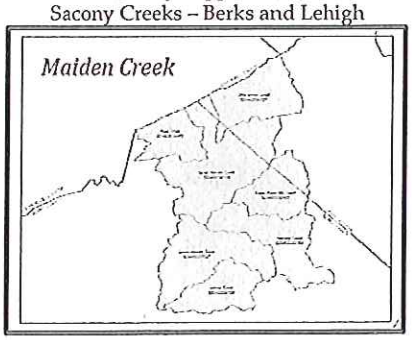
- Field Team Allocations for:
  - o Cropland
  - o Pasture/Grazing Land
  - o Livestock/Manure Management

Water Quality - Upper Kishacoquillas Creek -- Mifflin Co



2012: 2 Contracts, 135 acres, $338K

Water Quality -Upper Maiden and Sacony Creeks – Berks and Lehigh

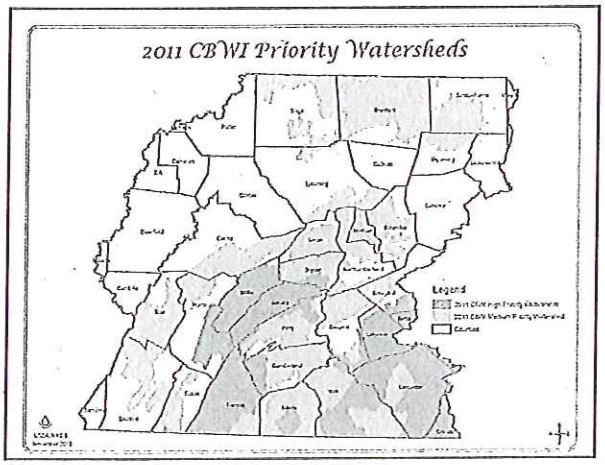


2012: 10 contracts, 684 acres, $500,000

What was lost with CBWI

- Significant funding for farm projects
  - o Farmers can apply under EQIP
- Proposing to discontinue or reduce fund pools for:
  - o Conewago Creek
  - o Dam Removal/Streambank Protection
  - o CCPI – Healthy Dairies
    - Exploring other options
- Applicants can apply for practices in available EQIP fund pool options

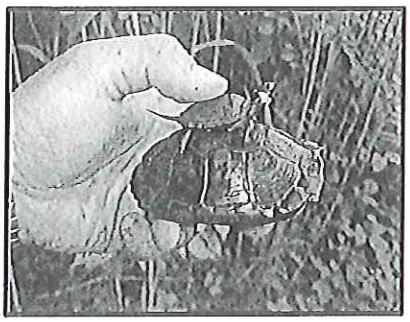
•14



2013 Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

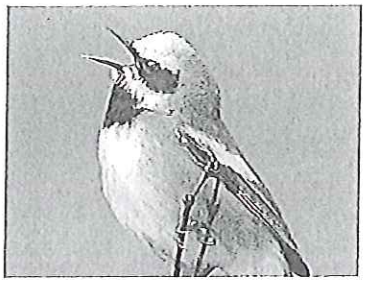
- Working Lands for Wildlife
  - o Bog Turtle
  - o Golden Winged Warbler

Bog Turtle

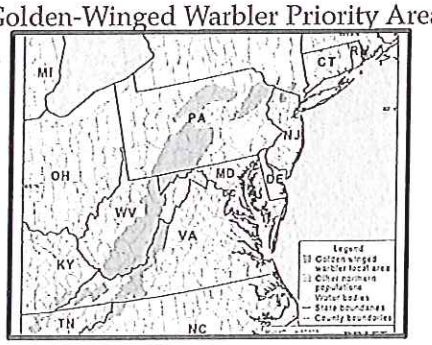


Bog Turtle Priority Area

Golden-Winged Warbler



Golden-Winged Warbler Priority Area



Conservation Stewardship Program - CSP

Rewards producers for current high levels of stewardship

Available for

- Agricultural Land (Cropland and Pasture)
- Non Industrial Private Forestland

Five-year contracts

Average PA payments 2012:

- $8,600 per contract
- $26 per acre

21

PA CREP

- Before loss of authority for new contracts, all 43 Ches Bay counties combined into one zone using newer procedures developed for the upper 23 counties.
- Re-authorization should retain existing PA total acreage allocation
  - o 265,000 Acres
- Re-enrollment of expiring contracts with allowed acreage and other applicable rules

22

United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

For More Information, visit:

- ✓ Your local USDA Service Center
- ✓ Your local conservation district
- ✓ www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov

23

Protecting drinking water from
FIELD TO FAUCET
ffa.org/drinkingwater

20 High School Agriculture Science Lessons in Source Water Protection

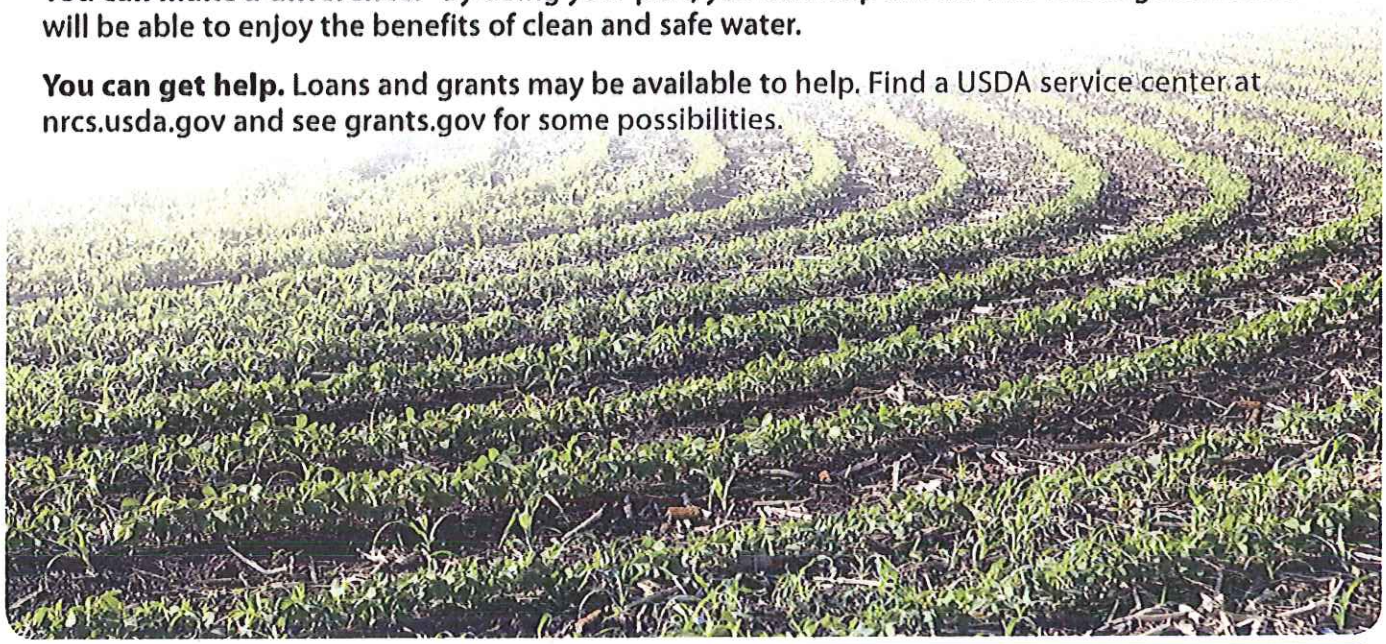
In agriculture, the way we work affects our drinking water. Learn about water and today's best management practices now, so you and your neighbors can drink in the results.

You can save money. Practices that protect the environment not only make famers more sustainable (such as protecting soil quality), they also can be more cost effective.

You can help protect the health of your family and community. By reducing agricultural runoff and leaching, a leading source of sediment and nutrient pollution, you can protect your drinking water.

You can make a difference. By doing your part, you can help ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the benefits of clean and safe water.

You can get help. Loans and grants may be available to help. Find a USDA service center at nrcs.usda.gov and see grants.gov for some possibilities.



YOUR WATER. YOUR DECISION:
Best Conservation Pratices

Protect drinking water from
FIELD TO FAUCET
Next Generation Agriculture

What can you find in the FFA Source Water Lessons ?

20 Source Water Protection Lessons available online at ffa.learn.com, fall 2011.

Developed by FFA with support from USDA and EPA

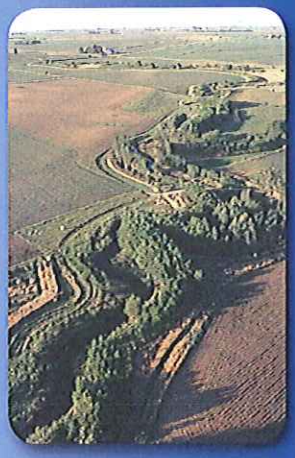
Where does your drinking water come from?

Lesson 1: Water in your community: Where does it come from? Where does it go?

Lesson 2: Water On and Under the Farm: Where does it come from and how is it used?

Lesson 3: What is the source of my drinking water? Source Water!

What are threats to sources of our drinking water?



Lesson 4: What are the threats to water quality in agricultural areas?

Lesson 5: What is the relationship between soil and drinking water quality?

Lesson 6: Drinking water safety – Health concerns and testing

Lesson 7: Drinking Water Treatment

Lesson 8: Drinking Water Quality and Quantity Concerns On and Near the Farm

How can we protect our drinking water?

Lesson 9: Who Protects Source Water?

Lesson 10: How Does the Government Protect Public Water?

Lesson 11: Land Use Decision Makers and Their Roles in Drinking Water Protection

Lesson 12: From Field to Faucet: Introduction to Farm Conservation Practices

Lesson 13: From Field to Faucet: Farm Conservation Plans and Source Water Protection

Lesson 14: From Field to Faucet: Manure Management and Source Water Protection

Lesson 15: Water Protection in Rural Communities–Examples of Funding and Technical Resources

Lesson 16: Source Water Protection Downstream

Taking action in your community

Lesson 17: Source Water Protection in Agricultural Communities: The Watershed Management Approach

Lesson 18: Beyond the Watershed: Water Use and Conservation

Lesson 19: Climate Change Impacts on Agricultural Water Resources

Lesson 20: Stewardship and Reflection – Source Water Protection and My Community

Make a Difference: Do Your Part for Clean Water!

Find out more at: ffa.org/drinkingwater

epa.gov/nutrientpollution
epa.gov/drink
fieldtofaucet.org

May 2012
EPA 840-F-11-002
twitter.com/@EPAowow

EPA United States Environmental Protection Agency

sourcewater COLLABORATIVE

Collaboration Toolkit:
Protecting Drinking Water Sources through Agricultural Conservation Practices

Visit: http://www.sourcewatercollaborative.org/swp-usda/

Goals of Toolkit

- Promote source water protection through agriculture conservation practices
- Facilitate collaboration between source water and USDA state and local leaders, with a focus on Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Conservation Programs

5 Easy-to-Follow Steps

The toolkit includes simple steps for identifying common ground, current opportunities, and key contacts and ideas for working with USDA at the state level.

- Step 1 gives a quick overview of key USDA conservation programs that help protect and improve sources of drinking water. Learn the vocabulary NRCS staff use so you're sure to speak their language.
- Step 2 gives tips to help you define what your source water program can offer and includes an infographic that explains the State Conservationist's role and what can be accomplished through collaboration.
- Step 3 links to talking points, draft agenda for first meeting, and key USDA documents to help you take the first steps to action.
- Step 4 lists useful conservation and source water protection resources.
- Step 5 links to key partners who can bring data, technical capabilities, useful state and local perspectives, and links to other key stakeholders.

Current Opportunities to Put Toolkit to Use in Your State

- **NRCS Nutrient Management Conservation Practice Standard 590 – Updated State Standards due to NRCS January 2013**:
  - Consultation with state water quality agencies is required. Some state NRCS offices have provided drafts of the state standards to their state drinking water programs to ensure accurate information, e.g., wellhead setbacks. Contact your State Conservationist's office to request an opportunity to review the draft standard.
    - View Connecticut's conservation practice standard 590 (updated June 2012): http://www.sourcewatercollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/CT_590_2012_Final.pdf
  - This is a critical standard for getting adequate nutrient management on the ground and an opportunity for consideration of drinking water sources. Private landowners and operators receiving funds to develop and implement nutrient management plans or to install animal waste storage structures must comply with the NRCS 590 conservation practice standard.
  - Click here for NRCS nutrient management information: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/landuse/crops/npm
- **The 2013 USDA National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)** offers an opportunity to increase installation of conservation practices to address nutrient concerns for drinking water sources in selected watersheds. States can work with NRCS to identify additional watersheds in FY 2013.
  - Coordinate with your state's Clean Water Act Section 319 program, and contact your State Conservationist's office to provide input to watershed selection. Click here to see which watersheds have been selected to date: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=STELPRDB1047761

Upcoming Supplement *(Planned for Early 2013 Release)*

- The current toolkit is designed to help you work with USDA conservation programs at the state level
- Through the Source Water Collaborative's partnership with the National Association of Conservation Districts, the toolkit will be updated with tips for working with conservation districts

See the reverse side of this handout for an infographic that highlights what source water programs and NRCS State Conservationists can bring to a collaborative effort to protect sources of drinking water.

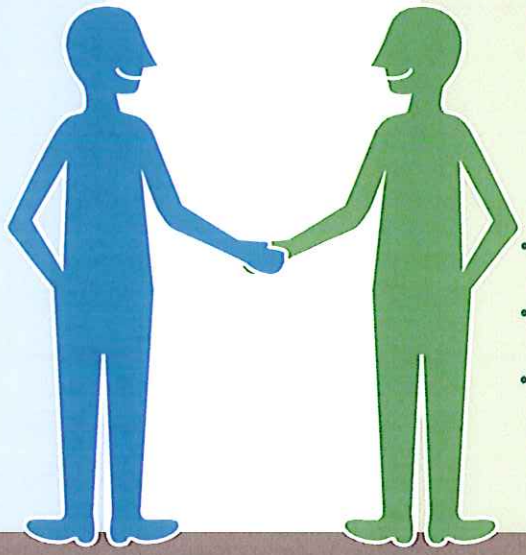
COLLABORATION CAN PROTECT SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER

TOGETHER

- Align our work for mutual program benefits
- Leverage funding
- Include multiple partners
- Measure progress
- Help private landowners and operators, agencies, and partners know they are helping a bigger picture

STATE SOURCE WATER PROGRAM

- Share data and information on delineated source water protection areas, priority contaminants, sources of contamination, and water quality monitoring results
- Provide information and leverage potential funding sources
- Assist with implementation and help target USDA initiatives (e.g., identifying priority areas, potential benefits of conservation practices to drinking water)
- Partner in conducting outreach to private landowners and operators



STATE CONSERVATIONIST

- Implement NRCS conservation programs – technical assistance and funding to private landowners and operators for conservation plans, and cost-share for conservation practices
  - EQIP (water quality initiatives)
  - State 590 conservation practice standards
  - Conservation Stewardship Program
- Funding capacity, and discretion about what to fund
- Agreements with partners (e.g., conservation districts)
- Discretionary technical assistance (e.g. signup workshops for private landowners and operators to help implement a water quality improvement project)

OUR COMMON GROUND

- Voluntary (non-regulatory) programs for private landowners and operators
- Focus on protecting soil, water quality, and health
- Help assure overall health of communities
- Achieve and demonstrate water quality results in priority areas

Note: It's a good idea to find out who USDA NRCS work with in your state. We are using "private landowners and operators" as a general term in this infographic. NRCS may work with a variety of producers - farmers, ranchers, poultry and livestock producers, dairymen, forest landowners, including those who rent land.

590 Update

Mark Goodson briefly discussed the Nutrient Management Subcommittee meeting held on August 30, 2012. A copy of those minutes are attached. (see handouts)

USDA NRCS State Technical Committee
Nutrient Management Subcommittee

August 30, 2012
9:00 a.m.

Attendance: Kelly O'Neill, Doug Beegle, Rebecca Ranck - scribe/munutes, Jennifer Grimes, Johan Berger, Bill Angstadt, Marel Raub, Jennifer Reed-Harry, Bill Fink, Dean Collamer - Chair, Jedd Moncavage, Greg Hostetter, Curt Dell, Bill Neilson, Steve Taglang, Mark Goodson, Dan Dostie, Denise Coleman

I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Dean Collamer at 9:10 a.m.
II. Minutes from the May 2012 meeting were not formal written minutes. A verbal report was given by Mark Goodson and Dean Collamer. A secretary to take minutes is needed. Rebecca Ranck volunteered to take notes from the meeting and collaborate with Mark and Dean prior to sending out meeting minutes to the group.
III. Open Issues
    A. Timeline – PA revision of NRCS Nutrient Management (590) Conservation Practice Standard
        1. Mark Goodson reported the 590 standard affects nutrient application on cropland, hay land and pasture land. It protects soil and water. This standard is issued and reissued every five years. This standard has received national attention because of the nutrient-related water quality concerns. Pa nutrient management stake holders desire compatibility with state and federal nutrient management regulations and the revised 590. The question remains: how will the revised 590 standard affect training of field technicians and planning, etc.?
        2. The current timeline is:
            a. National 590 (new) standard was issued December 2011/January 2012
                1. States were encouraged to adapt or change the standard specific to their state.
                2. The standard can be made more restrictive by the states, but not less restrictive.
                3. An official guidance was issued at the same time for making changes.
                4. State revision of the 590 standard must be completed by January 2013.
            b. The State Technical Committee – Nutrient Management Subcommittee met in January 2012 and viewed a NRCS webcast on the standard. Subcommittee decided to increase subcommittee membership to include more stakeholders.
            c. Also in January 2012, a technical review workgroup with members from Penn State, the PA State Conservation Commission staff, PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Department of Agriculture, and NRCS met and made a comprehensive review to changes to the 590 standard.
            d. February through May 2012 was spent networking and getting input on the standard.
            e. The Nutrient Management Subcommittee met in May 2012. The subcommittee ranked maintaining consistency between state/federal regulatory nutrient management requirements and the Pa revision of the 590 standard as its top priority.
            f. May through August 2012 was spent further networking and getting interpretations of the policies within the standard.
            g. August 2012 Nutrient Management Subcommittee met and Doug Beegle gave a PowerPoint presentation on the new parts of the 590 standard compared to the old standard. Proposals for adopting the Pa 590 standard were discussed. The subcommittee advised NRCS to follow the proposal presented that kept consistency with current regulations and further strengthened the planning process.
            h. October 1, 2012 the finalized 590 draft will be ready for public review. This will be an opportunity for technical feedback. At this time, any issues between the state and national NRCS should be ironed out. Standards are written with all 50 states in mind,

but there is some language that may target a specific area of the country. The intention is to get a Pa 590 that works for Pennsylvania.

i. December 2012-January 2013 the new 590 standard will be published in the field technical guide. This publish date will be one year from the original issue day from headquarters. The final published 590 standard does not have to be reviewed by the federal office for approval or published in the Federal Registry.

3. Jen Reed-Harry asked what is headquarters saying about winter spreading of manure? As we all know, winter spreading of manure is not desired. Mark stated that DC is not saying there cannot be winter spreading of manure. The new 590 allow winter manure application provided criteria are met and that these criteria are acceptable to PA-DEP and state nutrient management stakeholders. They did not outline any specific requirement against it. What PA is currently doing is acceptable.
4. Mark also stated that subcommittee members can contact him directly between scheduled meetings to ask questions or discuss language of the standard.

B. 590 Standard: Doug Beegle
1. Doug showed the group a series of slides including language that is currently in the 590 standard, additional language that explains what the standard is saying and Penn State Extension slides of what is currently being done in PA with the standard.
2. Key points made by Doug through his slides and comments of questions that arose:
   a. There are some items contained within the standards that are going to need further work and discussion.
   b. There is language in the standard that describes leaching, which is not currently addressed in the standard we are following currently. The way the language is worded, it does give states some flexibility in meeting the requirements. The challenge will be addressing the leaching realistically and consistent with Act 38 requirements for CAFOs and farmers who have CNMPs.
   c. There is no assurance that the Act 38 requirements and Nutrient Management Planning requirements will easily align with the new 590 standard. Currently the 590 standard, Act 38 CAO regulations, and CAFO regulations align so that all acres in a regulated CAO and CAFO plan meet the 590 standard.
   d. Having a Nitrogen Leaching Index evaluation on all fields is required. How complex would it have to be?
      i. The Leaching Index is a different concept than the P Index we currently use in PA. Nitrogen is managed with different management practices than phosphorus.
      ii. Leaching can occur when best management practices are not planned and implemented. Best management practices to minimize leaching risk are published throughout the Agronomy Guide and other extension publications.
      iii. Current regulations do not specifically state that certain management choices are to mitigate leaching risk although many required managements do in reduce leaching.
      iv. When a PA Nutrient Management Program Act 38 plan (or equivalent) is implemented on a CAO, CAFO, or CNMP operations, the conditions for minimizing leaching risks are met as required by the new 590.
      v. This approach was suggested by John Davis and Wayne Honeycutt in meeting with NRCS (PA) and Doug Beegle at ARS Pasture Lab during Ag Progress Days.
   e. National Instructions from NRCS require that each state's P Index must be met. This is separate from the PA 590 revision but will impact all nutrient management planning when the P Index is revised in the future.
   f. For those farmers participating in voluntary assistance, would it be better to move towards annual plans? Jedd Moncavage stated that if you move towards annual plans,

there will be less plans written in a year's time and the state is going to need a lot more nutrient planning consultants. Bill Fink stated that annual plans do not make sense from a regulatory standpoint. There would be too much cost coming back to the industry as a whole, just to comply.

g. There are no changes currently being made to the P Index as it is used in PA today with the publishing of the new 590 standard, but over the next 5 years, changes will be P Index.

C. PA 4R's Alliance: Bill Angstadt, PennAg Industries Associations

1. PennAg Industries created the Pennsylvania 4R Alliance for Research and Education to conduct outreach and education related to the new 590 standard and nutrient management in general. The PA 4R's Alliance was launched by Bill Angstadt on behalf of PennAg at the recent PA Soybean Board's field day at the Penn State Research and Extension Center near Landisville. More recently, Bill led a discussion about the PA 4R Alliance at a DEP Chesapeake Bay Ag Workgroup meeting.
2. The 4R's are described in the following way:
   a. Right amount (rate of application)
   b. Right source of nutrient
   c. Right placement (method of application)
   d. Right timing (application of commercial fertilizer, manure, etc.)
3. Bill questioned the group for thoughts and recommendations:
   a. What do we (as the subcommittee) recommend?
   b. Who should PA NRCS be addressing with these education and outreach opportunities?
4. The charter for this alliance revolves around the sustainable concept of environmental, economic and social obligation with emphasis on profitability and environmental conservation.
5. The 4R's will include these actions taken by the Alliance:
   a. Research, including manure nutrient technologies, nutrient use efficiency, balancing soil health and resilience.
   b. Education and Outreach to nutrient management technicians, both public and private; decision support tools; farmer to farmer communication, Penn State Extension and winter meetings.
   c. Data collection and quality of information used relating to the Bay Model scenario, BMPs, and verification of practices being implemented and maintained. Sharing crop production data, better data to be accessed. Request manure hauler records though industry groups so there is a better knowledge of what manure is moving out of state or out of the watershed.
   d. 4R program facilitate communications with and amongst all the partners in the Alliance and communication among the farmers. The communication with the farmers will help bring back good feed-back to the alliance of where work needs to be done or concentrate on communicating certain topics or to certain groups.
   e. For the State Conservation Commission and the nutrient management technicians, are we doing enough? Is there a good enough general knowledge among conservation district technicians? Can we use private consultants and industry knowledge to add value to teaching and communicating with farmers and solving those unique problems we come in contact with and use the opportunities that present themselves for knowledge sharing and education? Practical agricultural knowledge among technicians at Conservation Districts is less than it used to be. Awareness needs to be elevated by those who have the practical working knowledge of agriculture.
   f. Grower meetings over the winter are relied upon by a lot of farmers to get up to date information about what is going on in the industry.

g. Private sector has to help the farmers understand the sequence and methods of changes in regulations and standards so they can be well informed and comply. Conservation Districts and Penn State can plan to see that they maintain communication between private sector and farmers by working through this process together.
h. The challenge is to raise the bar of professional groups to make others more aware by educating the less informed field people and give more advice. The more repetition there is, the more information and knowledge

IV. New Business
A. Do we have the capacity to meet the Nutrient Management Plan needs now and going forward?

V. Next Steps
A. Next meeting to be scheduled for mid to late November.
B. 590 Draft sent out in October for public comment, will collect comments for all of October.
C. State Conservation Commission meeting, Mark to present 590 standard on September 11, 2012
D. Nutrient Management Advisory Board meeting scheduled for October, Mark to also present 590 standard at that meeting

Meeting moved to adjourn by Jen Reed-Harry. Seconded by Jen Grimes.
Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Subcommittee Reports

Organic: Although no report was presented, a copy of the minutes of the PA NRCS STC Subcommittee Meeting minutes held on October 9, 2012 are attached.

Grazing: Susan Beal presented new video CDs as handouts.

Easements Update

Hathaway Jones presented an End of year report on the following programs:

FRPP: 28 new enrollments – 3,141.5 acres - $4.3 million; 27 new Chesapeake Bay enrollments – 3,000 acres - $4.2 million. Closed 2,500 acres - $3.9 million/ Bay closed; 2,300 acres, $3.0 million.

WRP: 30 new enrollments – 1766 acres - $8.5 million; 13 Chesapeake Bay enrollments – 13,319 acres - $4.2 million; 4 new Bog Turtle enrollments - 333 acres - $4.3 million. Closed; 11 WRP – 400 acres - $1.4 million; 6 Chesapeake Bay – 6,244 acres - $780,000

GRP: 2 new enrollments – 219.9 acres - $682,000, none closed

HFRP: 2 new enrollments – 1,142 acres - $1 million; 1,057 acre tract in Blair County; 89 acre tract in Huntingdon County – both new enrollments are in the survey stage right now. (see handouts)

Pennsylvania NRCS GRP GARC Rates FY2013

Geographic Area By Region and County			Market Analysis 2013	Market Analysis 2013	GARC (85%)	GARC (85%)
No.	Region	County	Cropland $/ac	Pasture $/ac	Cropland $/ac	Pasture $/ac
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Allegheny	$4,400	$3,000	$3,740	$2,550
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Armstrong	$4,400	$3,000	$3,740	$2,550
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Beaver	$4,400	$3,000	$3,740	$2,550
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Butler	$4,400	$3,000	$3,740	$2,550
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Fayette	$4,400	$3,000	$3,740	$2,550
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Greene	$4,400	$3,000	$3,740	$2,550
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Indiana	$4,400	$3,000	$3,740	$2,550
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Washington	$4,400	$3,000	$3,740	$2,550
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Westmoreland	$4,400	$3,000	$3,740	$2,550
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Clarion	$2,500	$2,600	$2,125	$2,210
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Crawford	$2,500	$2,600	$2,125	$2,210
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Erie	$2,500	$2,600	$2,125	$2,210
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Forest	$2,500	$2,600	$2,125	$2,210
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Lawrence	$2,500	$2,600	$2,125	$2,210
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Mercer	$2,500	$2,600	$2,125	$2,210
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Venango	$2,500	$2,600	$2,125	$2,210
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Warren	$2,500	$2,600	$2,125	$2,210
3	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Cameron	$2,100	$2,500	$1,785	$2,125
3	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Clearfield	$2,100	$2,500	$1,785	$2,125
3	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Elk	$2,100	$2,500	$1,785	$2,125
3	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Jefferson	$2,100	$2,500	$1,785	$2,125
3	Northwestern Pennsylvania	McKean	$2,100	$2,500	$1,785	$2,125
3	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Potter	$2,100	$2,500	$1,785	$2,125
4	South Central Pennsylvania	Bedford	$3,500	$3,200	$2,975	$2,720
4	South Central Pennsylvania	Blair	$3,500	$3,200	$2,975	$2,720
4	South Central Pennsylvania	Cambria	$3,500	$3,200	$2,975	$2,720
4	South Central Pennsylvania	Fulton	$3,500	$3,200	$2,975	$2,720
4	South Central Pennsylvania	Huntingdon	$3,500	$3,200	$2,975	$2,720
4	South Central Pennsylvania	Somerset	$3,500	$3,200	$2,975	$2,720
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Centre	$4,500	$5,200	$3,825	$4,420
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Clinton	$4,500	$5,200	$3,825	$4,420
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Columbia	$4,500	$5,200	$3,825	$4,420
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Juniata	$4,500	$5,200	$3,825	$4,420
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Mifflin	$4,500	$5,200	$3,825	$4,420
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Montour	$4,500	$5,200	$3,825	$4,420
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Northumberland	$4,500	$5,200	$3,825	$4,420
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Schuylkill	$4,500	$5,200	$3,825	$4,420
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Snyder	$4,500	$5,200	$3,825	$4,420
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Union	$4,500	$5,200	$3,825	$4,420
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Bradford	$6,200	$6,700	$5,000*	$5,000*
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Lycoming	$6,200	$6,700	$5,000*	$5,000*
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Sullivan	$6,200	$6,700	$5,000*	$5,000*
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Susquehanna	$6,200	$6,700	$5,000*	$5,000*
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Tioga	$6,200	$6,700	$5,000*	$5,000*
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Wyoming	$6,200	$6,700	$5,000*	$5,000*
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Carbon	$5,900	$5,900	$5,000*	$5,000*
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Lackawanna	$5,900	$5,900	$5,000*	$5,000*
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Luzerne	$5,900	$5,900	$5,000*	$5,000*
7	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Monroe	$5,900	$5,900	$5,000*	$5,000*
7	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Pike	$5,900	$5,900	$5,000*	$5,000*
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Wayne	$5,900	$5,900	$5,000*	$5,000*
8	Farm Belt	Adams	$6,700	$4,600	$5,000*	$3,910
8	Farm Belt	Berks	$6,700	$4,600	$5,000*	$3,910
8	Farm Belt	Cumberland	$6,700	$4,600	$5,000*	$3,910
8	Farm Belt	Dauphin	$6,700	$4,600	$5,000*	$3,910
8	Farm Belt	Franklin	$6,700	$4,600	$5,000*	$3,910
8	Farm Belt	Lebanon	$6,700	$4,600	$5,000*	$3,910
8	Farm Belt	Perry	$6,700	$4,600	$5,000*	$3,910
8	Farm Belt	York	$6,700	$4,600	$5,000*	$3,910
9	Farm Belt	Lancaster	$12,300	$12,300	$5,000*	$5,000*
10	Southeastern Pennsylvania	Bucks	$19,100	$19,100	$5,000*	$5,000*
10	Southeastern Pennsylvania	Chester	$19,100	$19,100	$5,000*	$5,000*
10	Southeastern Pennsylvania	Delaware	$19,100	$19,100	$5,000*	$5,000*
10	Southeastern Pennsylvania	Lehigh	$19,100	$19,100	$5,000*	$5,000*
10	Southeastern Pennsylvania	Montgomery	$19,100	$19,100	$5,000*	$5,000*
10	Southeastern Pennsylvania	Northampton	$19,100	$19,100	$5,000*	$5,000*

** LAND VALUES CAPPED*

DRAFT

Pennsylvania NRCS WRP GARC Rates FY2013

Geographic Area By Region and County			Market Analysis 2013	Market Analysis 2013	Market Analysis 2013	GARC (95%)	GARC (95%)	GARC (95%)	
No.	Region	County	Cropland $/ac	Pasture $/ac	Forest $/ac	Cropland $/ac	Pasture $/ac	Forest $/ac	
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Allegheny	$4,400	$3,000	$3,300	$4,180	$2,850	$3,135	
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Armstrong	$4,400	$3,000	$3,300	$4,180	$2,850	$3,135	
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Beaver	$4,400	$3,000	$3,300	$4,180	$2,850	$3,135	
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Butler	$4,400	$3,000	$3,300	$4,180	$2,850	$3,135	
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Fayette	$4,400	$3,000	$3,300	$4,180	$2,850	$3,135	
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Greene	$4,400	$3,000	$3,300	$4,180	$2,850	$3,135	
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Indiana	$4,400	$3,000	$3,300	$4,180	$2,850	$3,135	
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Washington	$4,400	$3,000	$3,300	$4,180	$2,850	$3,135	
1	Southwestern Pennsylvania	Westmoreland	$4,400	$3,000	$3,300	$4,180	$2,850	$3,135	
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Clarion	$2,500	$2,600	$2,500	$2,375	$2,470	$2,375	
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Crawford	$2,500	$2,600	$2,500	$2,375	$2,470	$2,375	
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Erie	$2,500	$2,600	$2,500	$2,375	$2,470	$2,375	
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Forest	$2,500	$2,600	$2,500	$2,375	$2,470	$2,375	
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Lawrence	$2,500	$2,600	$2,500	$2,375	$2,470	$2,375	
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Mercer	$2,500	$2,600	$2,500	$2,375	$2,470	$2,375	
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Venango	$2,500	$2,600	$2,500	$2,375	$2,470	$2,375	
2	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Warren	$2,500	$2,600	$2,500	$2,375	$2,470	$2,375	
3	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Cameron	$2,100	$2,500	$1,700	$1,995	$2,375	$1,615	
3	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Clearfield	$2,100	$2,500	$1,700	$1,995	$2,375	$1,615	
3	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Elk	$2,100	$2,500	$1,700	$1,995	$2,375	$1,615	
3	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Jefferson	$2,100	$2,500	$1,700	$1,995	$2,375	$1,615	
3	Northwestern Pennsylvania	McKean	$2,100	$2,500	$1,700	$1,995	$2,375	$1,615	
3	Northwestern Pennsylvania	Potter	$2,100	$2,500	$1,700	$1,995	$2,375	$1,615	
4	South Central Pennsylvania	Bedford	$3,500	$3,200	$2,400	$3,325	$3,040	$2,280	
4	South Central Pennsylvania	Blair	$3,500	$3,200	$2,400	$3,325	$3,040	$2,280	
4	South Central Pennsylvania	Cambria	$3,500	$3,200	$2,400	$3,325	$3,040	$2,280	
4	South Central Pennsylvania	Fulton	$3,500	$3,200	$2,400	$3,325	$3,040	$2,280	
4	South Central Pennsylvania	Huntingdon	$3,500	$3,200	$2,400	$3,325	$3,040	$2,280	
4	South Central Pennsylvania	Somerset	$3,500	$3,200	$2,400	$3,325	$3,040	$2,280	
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Centre	$4,500	$5,200	$3,200	$4,275	$4,940	$3,040	
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Clinton	$4,500	$5,200	$3,200	$4,275	$4,940	$3,040	
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Columbia	$4,500	$5,200	$3,200	$4,275	$4,940	$3,040	
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Juniata	$4,500	$5,200	$3,200	$4,275	$4,940	$3,040	
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Mifflin	$4,500	$5,200	$3,200	$4,275	$4,940	$3,040	
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Montour	$4,500	$5,200	$3,200	$4,275	$4,940	$3,040	
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Northumberland	$4,500	$5,200	$3,200	$4,275	$4,940	$3,040	
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Schuylkill	$4,500	$5,200	$3,200	$4,275	$4,940	$3,040	
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Snyder	$4,500	$5,200	$3,200	$4,275	$4,940	$3,040	
5	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Union	$4,500	$5,200	$3,200	$4,275	$4,940	$3,040	
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Bradford	$6,200	$6,700	$4,500	$5,890	$6,365	$4,275	
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Lycoming	$6,200	$6,700	$4,500	$5,890	$6,365	$4,275	
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Sullivan	$6,200	$6,700	$4,500	$5,890	$6,365	$4,275	
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Susquehanna	$6,200	$6,700	$4,500	$5,890	$6,365	$4,275	
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Tioga	$6,200	$6,700	$4,500	$5,890	$6,365	$4,275	
6	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Wyoming	$6,200	$6,700	$4,500	$5,890	$6,365	$4,275	
7	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Carbon	$5,900	$5,900	$5,900	$5,605	$5,605	$5,605	*
7	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Lackawanna	$5,900	$5,900	$5,900	$5,605	$5,605	$5,605	
7	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Luzerne	$5,900	$5,900	$5,900	$5,605	$5,605	$5,605	
7	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Monroe	$5,900	$5,900	$5,900	$5,605	$5,605	$5,605	*
7	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Pike	$5,900	$5,900	$5,900	$5,000	$5,000	$5,000	capped
7	Northeastern Pennsylvania	Wayne	$5,900	$5,900	$5,900	$5,605	$5,605	$5,605	
8	Farm Belt	Adams	$6,700	$4,600	$3,700	$6,365	$4,370	$3,515	
8	Farm Belt	Berks	$6,700	$4,600	$3,700	$6,365	$4,370	$3,515	
8	Farm Belt	Cumberland	$6,700	$4,600	$3,700	$6,365	$4,370	$3,515	
8	Farm Belt	Dauphin	$6,700	$4,600	$3,700	$6,365	$4,370	$3,515	
8	Farm Belt	Franklin	$6,700	$4,600	$3,700	$6,365	$4,370	$3,515	
8	Farm Belt	Lebanon	$6,700	$4,600	$3,700	$6,365	$4,370	$3,515	
8	Farm Belt	Perry	$6,700	$4,600	$3,700	$6,365	$4,370	$3,515	
8	Farm Belt	York	$6,700	$4,600	$3,700	$6,365	$4,370	$3,515	
9	Farm Belt	Lancaster	$12,300	$12,300	$12,300	$11,685	$11,685	$11,685	
10	Southeastern Pennsylvania	Bucks	$19,100	$19,100	$19,100	$18,145	$18,145	$18,145	*
10	Southeastern Pennsylvania	Chester	$19,100	$19,100	$19,100	$18,145	$18,145	$18,145	
10	Southeastern Pennsylvania	Delaware	$19,100	$19,100	$19,100	$18,145	$18,145	$18,145	*
10	Southeastern Pennsylvania	Lehigh	$19,100	$19,100	$19,100	$18,145	$18,145	$18,145	*
10	Southeastern Pennsylvania	Montgomery	$19,100	$19,100	$19,100	$18,145	$18,145	$18,145	*
10	Southeastern Pennsylvania	Northampton	$19,100	$19,100	$19,100	$18,145	$18,145	$18,145	*

NOTE: The $5,000 cap applies to these counties for any applicant that is NOT applying for WRP through the Bog Turtle Initiative.

Pennsylvania NRCS FY2013 Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) Eligibility, Preliminary Planning, and Cost Estimates Worksheet

Applicant: _____

County: _____

APPLICANT'S OBJECTIVE: _____

_____

I. Wetland Habitat Classification (NEST Reporting)**

Categories:

- Upland (riparian)
- Upland (non-riparian)
- Palustrine Open Water / Unknown Bottom
- Palustrine Forested
- Palustrine Emergent

NEST Habitat Category	**Existing** *(Acres within the easement that are outside of the restoration area)*	**Restorable** *(Restoration area acres only)*
Upland, Non-Riparian		
Upland, Riparian		
Open Water		
Forested Wetland		
Emergent Wetland		
SUBTOTAL		
TOTAL_____	The sum of the two subtotals should equal the total area of the proposed easement or restoration cost-share agreement.	

II. Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC) and Land Category Determination**

County: _____

Cropland Acres :	**Pasture Acres:**	**Wooded/Other Land Acres:**
GARC $/acre:	**GARC $/acre:**	**GARC $/acre:**
Subtotal:	**Subtotal:**	**Subtotal:**

Easement Value (total all land category GARCs): $_____

** If final survey acreage change is more than 2% this worksheet must be re-completed and submitted to the State Office for evaluation/verification.

IV. Preliminary Restoration Plan and Cost Estimate

See the attached PA NRCS WRP Preliminary Restoration Plan and Cost Estimates Calculator.

TOTAL ESTIMATED RESTORATION COST: $_____

RESTORATION COST PER ACRE: $ _____

V. MAPS

The following maps must be attached to this plan to complete the Preliminary Restoration Plan. The easement area boundaries must be delineated clearly on ALL maps. Maps must be provided to applicant/landowner for review.

1) Soils Map with the areas presently determined to have hydric soils highlighted.
2) Aerial Plan Map showing the proposed WRP easement area, core eligible acres and buffer acres.
3) Preliminary Restoration Plan Practice Map (illustrating practices listed above)

Applicant certifies (below) that they have reviewed the preliminary restoration plan and accompanying maps (all landowners on the deed must sign):

_____ Date:_____
Landowner

_____ Date:_____
Landowner

_____ Date:_____
Landowner

_____ Date:_____
Landowner

NRCS Representative:_____ Title:_____ Date: _____

VI. BASELINE DOCUMENTATION

The acreage and land documentation outlined in this form serves as the baseline documentation for the proposed WRP easement. **Photographs** of the proposed enrollment must be attached to this form.

PA NRCS Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)
Ranking Form FY2013

Applicant _____ County _____ Tract:_____

Application Type: Permanent Easement ____ 30-Year Easement ____ Restoration only ____

Eligible (Y/N): _____
Screening Pass/Fail: _____
Total Ranking Score: _____

RANKING SCREENING		
1. Does the applicant have and will have control over the land being offered for restoration? (if No, not eligible, do not rank)	Yes____	No____
2.Does the applicant have clear title to the land being offered for easement? (if No, do not rank - all judgments, liens, past due taxes must be remedied, or landowner is ineligible) ***NOTE: landowner must provide a deed or proof of ownership prior to ranking***	Yes____	No____
3. Has the applicant owned the land for 7 years or more? (If No, not eligible do not rank- a 7-year waiver must be obtained prior to ranking)	Yes____	No____
4. For easement, are there any co-owners other than the spouse? (If YES, list the names as they appear on the deed.) _____	Yes____	No____
5. Does the applicant and the co-owners (including spouse) meet payment eligibility criteria (AGI) and conservation provisions (HEL/WC)? (if No, not eligible, do not rank) (If yes, attach ***Subsidiary Printout*** for each landowner)	Yes____	No____
6. Does everyone on the deed (plus their spouses) agree to enroll the land in WRP? (if No, not eligible, do not rank)	Yes____	No____
7. Is there a land lease or land rental contract? (if YES, list names, purpose and term)	Yes____	No____
8. Is the acreage proposed for enrollment located in a "high risk" area for Marcellus or Utica drilling?* (see "high risk" maps)	Yes____	No____
a. If yes, does the landowner have an oil/gas lease or lease or contract?* *if Yes to both, do not rank - NRCS must review the lease prior to ranking and enrollment	Yes____	No____

RANKING

1. Type of Application (choose one)

a. Restoration Only	0 pts
b. 30-Year Easement	100 pts
c. Permanent Easement	200 pts
Score	

2. Location (Part 1 - choose one option, Part 2 points are in addition to Part 1)

Part 1 -	a. Project is within 5 miles of a designated local, state, or federal wildlife area of significance	100 pts
	b. Project is within 5-10 miles of a designated local, state, or federal wildlife area of significance	50 pts
	c. Project is greater than 10 miles from a designated local, state, or federal wildlife area of significance	0 pts
Part 2 -	a. Proposed land is no more than 500 feet from a riparian area or includes a riparian area (if yes, add 5 points to score)	5 pts
	Score	

3. Percent of Hydric Soil to be Restored within the Restoration Area (choose one)

a. 70% or higher	30 pts
b. 50%-70%	20 pts
c. less than 50%	0 pts
Score	

4. Land Use History of the proposed core eligible acreage (choose one - based on *dominant* land use in area)

a. Row crops produced within the past 3 years	30 pts
b. Hay produced within the past 3 years	20 pts
c. Acres used as pasture within the past 3 years	10 pts
d. No row crop, hay or pasture use within the past 3 years	0 pts
Score	

5. Ratio of Buffer to Core Eligible Acres Included in the Proposed Land (choose one)

a. Ratio of Buffer to Core Eligible Acres is 1 to 1 (or 5 to 1 for bog turtle)	30 pts
b. Ratio of Buffer to Core Eligible Acres is 0.5 to 1 (or 2.5 to 1 for bog turtle)	20 pts
c. Ratio of Buffer to Core Eligible Acres is less than 0.5 to 1 (2.5 to 1 for bog turtle)	0 pts
Score	

6. Wildlife (Points can be given from each part, as applicable)

a. Proposed enrollment is located within an existing local, state, or federal wildlife area of significance	100 pts
b. Proposed enrollment includes habitat for at-risk wildlife*	50 pts
c. Proposed enrollment inlcudes bog turtle habitat*	100 pts
d. Proposed enrollment connects bog turtle habitat	100 pts

* ***Note: Choose either b or c. For at risk wildlife other than bog turtle, select b.*** **Score**

7. Restoration Cost (choose one)

a. Previously restored wetland (cost is < $2,000/ac, includes prior WRP restoration only)	10 pts
b. Under $2,000 per Acre	5 pts
c. $2,000 or more per acre	0 pts
Score	

8. Landowner or other non-Federal Contributons

a. USDA total cost reduction of at least 25% (includes easement & restoration combined, or restoration only for restoration agreement)	5 pts
Score	

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM

LANDOWNER DISCLOSURE WORKSHEET

**Indicates a required field.*

Landowner Name: *(Primary contact)* _____

*Landowner SSN or TIN: _____

Mailing Address: _____

_____

E mail Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

DUNS Number (if applicable): _____

Spouse Name: *(Required due to marital property laws.)* *(If married)* _____

*Spouse SSN: _____

WRP Site Location: *(This section must be completed.)*

County: _____

Township: _____

Lat/Long: _____

Farm Address (if different from mailing address):

_____

_____

NOTE: This worksheet must be completed with the NRCS-CPA-1200 application form.

LANDOWNER INTERVIEW:

Check YES or NO. All YES responses should be explained.

YES	NO		
☐	☐	1.	Has the land been owned for less than 7 years? (If YES, site is not eligible without STC waiver.)
☐	☐	2.	Are there any co-owners other than the spouse? (List the names as they appear on the deed. Provide copy of deed.)
☐	☐	3.	Is there a land contract or land rental contract? (If YES, list names and circumstances. Provide copy of the LC.)
☐	☐	4.	Is there a power of attorney in place? (If YES, provide copy.)
☐	☐	5.	Does the landowner have legal access to this parcel? (If NO, parcel is ineligible)
☐	☐	6.	Does the landowner have clear title to the property? (If NO, list encumbrances—all judgments, liens, past due taxes must be remedied or landowner is ineligible – this includes OIL AND GAS LEASES)
☐	☐	7.	Are there any tenants living on the property? (If YES, is there a lease? ☐Yes ☐No)
☐	☐	8.	Are there any dumps, junk piles, or old equipment, etc. within the proposed easement area?
☐	☐	9.	Are there any tanks, containers, or toxic waste materials above, below, or near the proposed easement area? (If YES, to #7 or #8, landowner must remove after project is funded, or easement payment will be withheld.)
☐	☐	10.	Does the land owner hold surface and subsurface rights to the land? Does the landowner have active Oil and Gas Leases on the land proposed for enrollment? (if yes, request a copy of the lease from the landowner.)
☐	☐	11.	Are there any other easements present? (e.g., Ag preservation easement or other easement that protects the land in perpetuity, etc.)
☐	☐	12.	Is the land in any Federal or State programs? (CRP, Farmland Preservation, etc.) (If YES, list in the preliminary certificate of inspection and possession.)
☐	☐	13.	Will the WRP easement create any land parcel with blocked access? (Land locked. Also consider future parcel sales.)
☐	☐	14.	Are there any known cultural resource sites within the proposed easement area?
☐	☐	15.	Does the landowner desire that private access be maintained? (If YES, explain potential navigability issues, and address in preliminary plan design if possible.)
☐	☐	16.	Are there CRP-funded tree stands on the proposed easement area?
☐	☐	17.	Are you willing to participate in maintenance activities needed and participate in the restoration contracting process? (examples: noxious weed control, fence repair, vegetative management if needed, non-encroachment enforcement, illegal trespass, etc.)

Landowner _____ NRCS Representative _____

New Information:

Farm Bill: No new information. NRCS will not take new applications for WRP, GRP but will take landowner contact information and get back to the landowners when funding is available. NRCS will accept new applications for FRPP on a continuous basis.

Mr Samuel King, a dairy farmer and a member of the Anabaptist farmers of Lancaster County, was introduced and made discussed the needs and concerns of his community. He indicated that everyone needs to stress the good of environment and that he personally has seen great success with the implementation of the EQIP and CREP programs in his community. That NRCS has shown great spirit working with farmers in addressing their needs and explaining and working out the technical problems encountered.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.