

The People Side of Stormwater Solutions

Funding stormwater practices is just part of the stormwater runoff equation. Solving stormwater problems often involves getting parties together, listening to concerns, and developing solutions based on common interests. CWQE is currently providing technical assistance to landowners and municipalities on a number of fronts that require a neutral, third-party perspective on education, regulatory interpretation, and common-sense solutions.



THE ISSUE -- Do agricultural high tunnels require a local stormwater management plan and permit?

A state law passed in 2018 exempts high tunnels (hoop houses that extend the growing season) from having to prepare and submit a stormwater management plan as long as certain criteria are met. A local township interprets the criteria differently. The crux of the issue centers around interpretation of HB 1486 and the maximum quantity and size of structures permitted with exemptions for stormwater plan submissions at the local level.

CWQE is working with the landowner to secure permit approvals and to address the township's concerns as it relates to stormwater management plan



THE ISSUE -- Maintenance of stormwater infrastructure in older developments

In late 2021, residents in Manchester Township, York County asked the CWQE for assistance in solving severe runoff and flooding issues in their 25-year-old suburban neighborhood.

Their situation is not uncommon – aging stormwater infrastructure begins to fail and no one is sure who is responsible for maintaining old detention basins that are often located on private property. Moreover, who will pay for fixing the problems?

In response, the CWQE met with the property owners, Township officials, and the site developer to discuss potential

requirements. The Center will be hosting a workshop on March 10th to discuss stormwater aspects of these temporary structures and Rep. Zimmerman of Lancaster County will be one of the guest speakers

See workshop event below.

strategies. After much discussion, the developer has fixed a broken pipe and is getting the detention ponds back in shape. Efforts are also underway to clarify long-term O&M responsibilities and secure sustainable funding.

READ MORE



Confused about Grant Match?

Every grant has different match requirements -- minimum match, type of match, eligible match sources. CWQE has a Match Criteria table that neatly outlines match requirements for 18 common state and federal grant programs. Check it out at the CWQE Support Hub [HERE](#).

Up & Coming Grant Deadlines

Upcoming grant deadlines are also posted on the Support Hub. Look ahead to the next six months and get prepared. Don't miss out! Any questions, call CWQE for assistance.

Deadline	Program Name	Funding Profile
1/28/2022	SRBC Consumptive Use Mitigation Grants	SRBC Consumptive Use Mitigation Grants
2/18/2022	LCWP_Lancaster Clean Water Fund Large Grants	Lancaster Clean Water Fund - PA-CWQE
2/28/2022	ACB_Turkey Hill Partnership Grants	under development
3/1/2022	Lancaster County Community Development Block Grants	Lancaster County Community Development Block Grants
3/3/2022	CBT_Green Streets, Green Jobs, Green Towns Program	CBT_G3 Grant Program
4/28/2022	NFWF Small Watershed Grants	Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants - PA-CWQE

UPCOMING CWQE EVENTS

TECH Talk Happy Hour

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Join us at the Center for a Personal demo of easy-to-use digital tools for stormwater BMP inspections, farm site

CWQE WORKSHOP

Join Use for a discussion on Seasonal High Tunnels, Agroforestry & Stormwater Regs

WHEN: Thursday, March 10, 2022

evaluations, and municipal asset mapping. Open House format with short general presentation at 3:00 p.m..

Create MS4 Inspection

Campus
PA_Campus

BMP ID *
DB_10

Inspection Date

Date
01/25/2022

[More information?](#)

WHEN: Friday, February 18, 2022

WHERE: CWQE Office - 430 Walnut Street, Suite 303, Columbia, PA

TIME: 2:00 - 5:00 pm w/ a 30 minute general presentation at 3:00 pm.

AUDIENCE: Municipal staff, farm operators, municipal engineers

Stop in anytime between 2:00 and 5:00 pm and talk one on one with our technology team to learn how to use the following digital tools:

Stormwater BMP Inspection Tool -- Stay on top of stormwater inspections. Checklists keep regular inspection details in order. Easy to use web application to map and track your stormwater practices or Best Management Practices (BMPs). Free service to landowners, businesses, and municipalities in Lancaster and York counties.

GNSS Receivers -- Get a hands-on look at how handheld GNSS receivers with ESRI Fieldmaps can streamline your mobile field data collection workflows.

WHERE: CWQE Office - 430 Walnut Street, Suite 303, Columbia, PA

TIME: 12:30 - 4:00 pm

AUDIENCE: Farmers, municipal engineers, Township staff



A new multifunctional riparian buffer planting at Village Acres Farm in Mifflintown, Pennsylvania. Site includes a combination of silvopasture-supporting trees, high-shade trees near the water, and underplantings that can be used by florists or harvested for profitable crops. (Image courtesy of Angela Brubaker)

High Tunnels:

Speakers will include State Representative David Zimmerman, Lancaster County, author of HB 1486 (Act 15 of 2018).

Panel Discussion topics:

- Brief introduction to high tunnel structures and operation
- State stormwater plan exemption
- High tunnels and local permits/plan requirements

Agroforestry: Profitable for Farms and Protective of Water Quality

Learn how farms can use trees and shrubs alongside traditional crops and pastureland to diversify their operations and help protect water quality. Explore how you can add marketable products like fruits/nuts, medicines, and wood products to your business model. Learn about grant programs that support

Use these high accuracy receivers to map stormwater infrastructure or other municipal assets with SBAS and RTK for centimeter level accuracy.

Farm*A*Syst - These online digital worksheets are a great starting point to develop an onfarm site assessment and help identify water quality improvement opportunities on your land. Use your phone or tablet.

REGISTER HERE

techniques such as multifunctional riparian buffers, alley cropping, and silvopasture.

REGISTER HERE

BE A CWQE SPONSOR



Chuck Hegberg, VP of Ecotone, our December sponsor, shared information about Ecotone's services during the recent CWQE workshop on stormwater authorities and fee programs. Ecotone offers design/build stormwater solutions, ecosystem credits, and runs a wholesale nursery for ecological restoration projects.

Ecotone has adopted the idea of using nature to restore nature and guess what, it works.

Sponsorship now available for March 2022. Mix with participants at the upcoming CWQE workshop on March 10th. Call the Center at 855-227-1202 for more information on sponsorship opportunities.

The Value of a Loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund

Did you know that a PENNVEST loan can help satisfy the match requirement for some grants? For instance, your payback of a PENNVEST low interest loan is an eligible source of nonfederal match for the state's 319 Nonpoint Source grant program.

Here's how it works. A Section 319 match requirement can be financed as part of the total PENNVEST loan amount that is to be repaid over time. With the below-market financing terms under PENNVEST loans (and

What is the Value of an SRF Loan?

Subsidized Loan Calculator

Using the parameters below, calculate the cost of a subsidized loan versus a traditional market based loan. The value at the bottom of the dashboard represents the "grant equivalent" of the subsidized loan given the parameters selected from the dropdowns and average market interest rate. The calculations made and assumptions used in each calculation can be found by hovering over the resulting value.

Estimated Project Cost	Loan Term (in Years)
<input type="text" value="\$1,000,000"/>	<input type="text" value="20"/>
Subsidized Interest Rate	Principal Forgiveness
<input type="text" value="1.0%"/>	<input type="text" value="\$0"/>
Market Rate for Loan	
<input type="text" value="2.5%"/>	

Based on These Inputs, How Much Could You Save Compared to a Commercial Loan?

Grant Equivalent (Principal Forgiven)	Interest Savings Over the Life of the Loan (in Nominal Dollars)
\$0	\$174,636

possibly even loan forgiveness), this represents a significant cost savings over the life of the loan and is equivalent to receiving a partial grant.

For example, if you borrowed \$1 million for a restoration project and chose to fund the project with a PENNVEST loan at a 1.0% interest rate for a 20-year term, the project would cost 17.5% less than if the borrower financed the project using a traditional commercial lending rate of 2.5%. The interest rate savings realized from taking on a PENNVEST loan is functionally equivalent to receiving a grant for nearly \$175,000. If you received any loan forgiveness, the savings would be even greater.

Find out what you may be saving with a low interest loan by using the [Subsidized Loan Calculator](#) created by the UNC Chapel Hill Environmental Finance Center.

