



CWQE Assistance

**PARTNERSHIPS KEY TO
COMPLEX STORMWATER
CHALLENGES**

Stormwater runoff knows no property boundaries. When stormwater controls stop working properly, it becomes extremely challenging to fix runoff and flooding issues when multiple property owners share the problem...and the expense.

In April 2022, a Homeowners Association (HOA) in Manchester Township, York County, asked for help from CWQE to find ways to repair failing stormwater infrastructure. Site visits revealed the need for a larger project to manage stormwater, streambank erosion, and roadway flooding that sent runoff from the HOA through the adjacent church property and into the Township's Stillmeadow Park. Six detention basins were

found to be in serious need of an overhaul.

Since then, CWQE has been working with the HOA, Manchester Township, and Stillmeadow Church of the Nazarene to build a shared approach to solving the stormwater issues while enhancing the landscape.

CWQE worked with the Township to submit grant application requests to retrofit several failing stormwater basins, construct a new paved trail to connect a residential neighborhood to a township park, and plant a riparian buffer along an impaired stream to provide water quality and wildlife habitat improvements. The Growing Greener Plus program awarded \$250,000 toward an initial study and design analysis. DCNR's C2P2 grant program will provide \$95,000 toward the development of pedestrian trail connections from the open space on the HOA property to Stillmeadow Park boardwalk and trail system.

The complexity of the site and the number of involved parties require a high level of collaboration and education. In time, this unique public-private partnership will transform the Stillmeadow Park area into a model suburban landscape – one that will be far more resilient to storms, protective of water quality, and a model passive recreation area along a headwater tributary to Codorus Creek in York County.

Paramount to the success of this project is public involvement — educating homeowners, church members, and township residents about stormwater management and involving them in defining the problems, setting goals, and identifying solutions. A full understanding of operations and maintenance responsibilities will also be part of the study's outreach efforts.

The York County Watershed Stewards will support the O&M after initial installation of natives plants and grasses. Trained through Penn State Extension, the Watershed Stewards partner

with many conservation organizations, government agencies, and municipalities throughout the county to educate the community about water resources and to implement restoration projects to improve the health of our local streams and rivers.

To kick-start this education, a public workshop was held on October 2nd to introduce the design study and answer questions about the project.

“A lot of neighborhoods built in the 1990s and earlier are experiencing similar situations as your HOA,” explained Sally Holbert, CWQE Manager and President of Land Logics Group. As Ms4 program managers proactively initiate more through basin inspections and the federal government’s push to states to require improved control of runoff volumes and sediment loading, HOAs and municipalities are wrestling with how to manage and pay for much needed stormwater management improvements.

For more information, visit the Stillmeadow Watershed Climate Resiliency Project [story map](#).

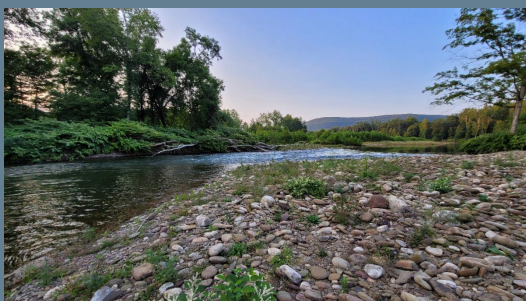
HOA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT KIT

If your Homeowners Association (HOA) is struggling with stormwater management issues, check out the [HOA Stormwater BMP Management Workshop Toolkit](#).

Based on a successful HOA workshop held in March 2023, the toolkit equips HOAs and partners with a sample agenda, tips for organizing a workshop, video presentations, and handouts that can be used to gain a clearer understanding of stormwater management responsibilities, regulations, and how failing infrastructure can be retrofitted or replaced. Video presentations on the following topics include:

- Presentation 1 – **Stormwater Management Overview and Terminology**
- Presentation 2 – **Understanding Regulations & Ownership**
- Presentation 3 – **Inspection and Maintenance of Stormwater BMPs**
- Presentation 4 – **Retrofitting Stormwater Basins**

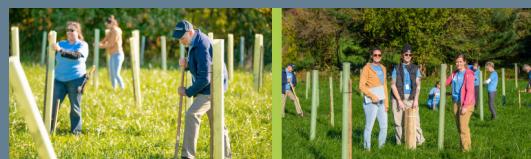
DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE UPCOMING GRANTS!



Small Project Funding

SRBC STREAM & WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT GRANT

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission announced the launch of a new Stream and Watershed Enhancement Grant Program to support local organizations dedicated to the



The WAY: Watershed Forestry Program for Riparian Forest Buffer's

Small Project Funding

WAY FOREST BUFFER GRANTS

The Watershed Alliance of York is now accepting applications for grants to support the planting of riparian forest buffers in York County. The deadline for applications is November 30.

Grants will pay landowners \$6,000 per acre of buffer.

health and wellness of our waterways. The application period closes November 30, 2023.

The program will provide funding for community-based environmental and water resources projects or events that improve, restore or protect our local watersheds. SRBC anticipates awarding approximately \$150,000 in total grant funds with an individual project cap of \$5,000. Funds may be used for direct project implementation costs in addition to select indirect costs such as contracting services, expansion of partnerships, equipment rentals/purchase, and food purchasing for volunteer outreach events between September 06, 2023 and December 31, 2024.

For all the details, visit the SRBC's [Stream and Watershed Enhancement Grant Program](#) webpage.

For information on how to apply, send an email to Rachel Stahlman, President of the Watershed Alliance of York at rstahlman@ycpc.org or call 717-771-9870 x1763.

Program information [HERE](#).

SRBC CONSUMPTIVE USE MITIGATION GRANTS

Now in its third year, SRBC's Consumptive Use Mitigation Grants support innovative projects that improve water availability and watershed resilience. Deadline is January 31, 2024.

Register for the webinar scheduled for November 15, 2023.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the CWQE Support Hub funding profiles for the latest on upcoming grant opportunities for stormwater management. See links found in the [Upcoming Deadlines](#) and [Open Enrollment Programs](#) articles.

Ever wonder what the NFWF Chesapeake Stewardship Fund supports? Find out what projects are active in your area. [CLICK HERE](#) for the most recent slate of grantees for the INSR, Small Watersheds, and PA Most Effective Basins grant programs. (2022/2023).

[CWQE Support](#) / [Funding Programs](#) / [Deadlines](#)

Upcoming Deadlines




Table includes upcoming deadlines for applications to funding programs. Where no current date is available, the table uses approximate dates based on previous funding cycles.

Deadline	Program Name	Funding Profile
11/16/2023	Dirt and Gravel Road Program_York County	Dirt & Gravel Road Program
11/16/2023	WAY Watershed Forestry Program	WAY Watershed Forestry Program - PA-CWQE
11/30/2023	SRBC Stream & Watershed Enhancement Program	SRBC Stream & Watershed Enhancement Grant - PA-CWQE
1/31/2024	SRBC Consumptive Use Mitigation Grants Program	SRBC Consumptive Use Mitigation Grants
4/3/2023	DCNR Community Conservation Partnership Program	DCNR C2P2 Grant Programs

CWQE DEVELOPS DYNAMIC TOOL ON FUNDING PROGRAMS



CWQE Funding
Resources and Opportunities

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[Search Opportunities](#)

One of the key goals behind PENNVEST creating the pilot Center for Water Quality Excellence was to “unsilo” the multitude of financial and technical assistance programs available in Pennsylvania for stormwater and nonpoint source pollution management. Providing a one-stop shop with resources that cross agency and organization boundaries has been one element of CWQE’s services. Roughly 60 funding profiles have been created and consistently updated and housed on the [CWQE Support Hub](#).

CWQE has taken that effort one step further and initiated the development of a cloud-based Content Management System (CMS) for funding programs. Basically, a CMS platform allows for multiple users to independently update their grant and loan program information in one, secure place.

The beauty of the system is that it can be customized for searching common funding needs. Looking for a grant where match is not required? Searching for grants that fund small projects or programs that fund design and analysis? Need a program that supports riparian buffer design and installation? No need to research every program out there. When fully developed, the funding CMS has the potential to streamline your searches.

This new CMS tool is currently in a testing phase with cooperating agencies. The web-based tool is not designed to replace current agency funding program webpages and resources. But it is designed to aggregate funding information and allow program managers to quickly update their own funding profile content sheets. Future tool development will provide for streamline information searches plus printable reports that match specific funding criteria and most importantly, direct users to those programs that best suit users’ needs.

Agencies interested in learning more about this platform should contact Sally Holbert at sholbert@cwqe.org.

FARMING AND FOREST STEWARDSHIP

Randy Sterner of Glen Rock, York County, owns roughly 100 acres of land in the Codorus Creek watershed. About half of the acreage is leased for farming; the other half is in trees.

While Sterner has managed his land well since he took ownership in the 1970s, he wants to improve the value of his wooded acreage. Six years ago, he made \$20,000-\$30,000 from a timber harvest. However, Invasive plants like honeysuckle and Japanese stilt grass along with deer grazing are seriously threatening future stand production.

More important to Sterner than the timber, however, is his desire to leave a family legacy – making and maintaining his property as a financial asset and heirloom practice of sustainable forestry. Forests and trees are also a



non-structural stormwater practice that can work hand in hand with his adjoining crop conservation controls.

The legacy aspect struck a chord with Sterner as he learned about assistance for farm and forest conservation at a CWQE presentation last year. It was part of the York County Planning Commission's *Better Farms, Cleaner Water* project, with assistance provided by CWQE. Sterner applied and won a \$1800 voucher that he could put toward a Forest Stewardship Plan and improvements to his farm's erosion control.

CWQE facilitated the Forest Stewardship Planning process, connecting him with Dr. David Foster, a forester and instructor at Messiah University. With a team of students, Dr. Foster identified forest composition and invasive species and recommended ways to remove invasives, control deer damage, and encourage natural regeneration.

Stay with it: PESTlogics

Effective management of invasives takes multiple years, says Foster. "As conservation plans involve invasives more and more, it's worth it for consultants to stay with it." He'll continue to stay involved with Sterner's Forest Stewardship Plan -- plans generally cover five-year periods. In Sterner's case, honeysuckle is one of the biggest and most challenging invasive threats.

"Honeysuckle continues to grow under tree stands," explained Foster. "As it grows, it doesn't allow sunlight to penetrate and hurts tree production." The key, he says, is to get the seed source out during the spring. Cut close to the ground and spray with a non-selective herbicide. The absorbed herbicide prevents regrowth; spot spraying the next spring targets missed growth.

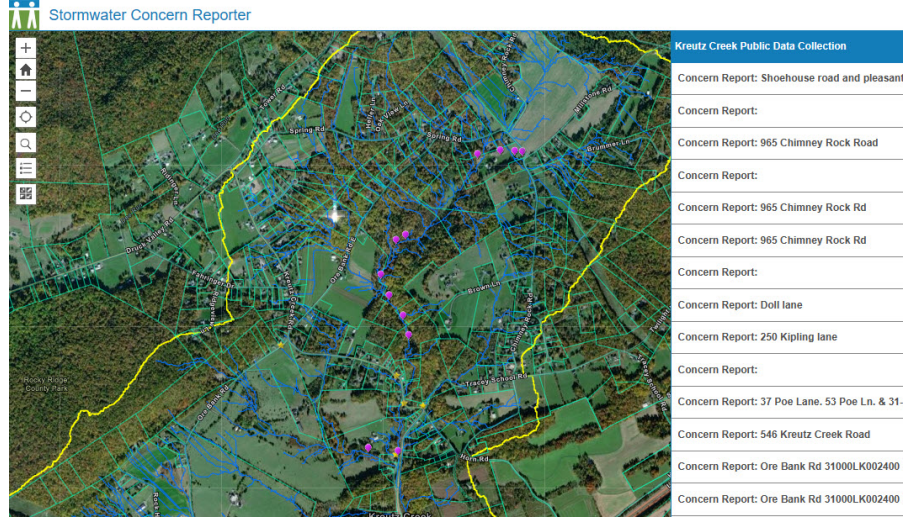
To help landowners collaborate with professional consultants over time, Foster and Sterner are using [PESTlogics](#) to stay on top of invasive plant controls. The cloud-based platform allows users to input all pest control tasks – herbicide applications, mechanical removal, and invasive surveillance. Users can record notes and upload photos for established management units. Dr. Foster can use PESTlogics's calendar function to pre-plan maintenance tasks and herbiciding to be completed by the landowner. Checking up periodically on how tasks are going is easy and truly collaborative.

It is also a great tool for all parties to stay aware of cautions related to pesticide applications. With one click, users can view warnings and precautions for handling every registered pesticide. PESTlogics was provided as a service to CWQE customers during the pilot phase.

Funding for Forest Stewardship Plans

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service can help woodland owners develop a forest management plan. If you qualify, you must have your plan written by an NRCS-approved Technical Service Provider, or TSP. You can find a list of TSPs through your local NRCS Service Center or through the [NRCS online TSP registry](#). Once you have a plan, the NRCS also provides cost-sharing opportunities to implement it.

Having a Forest Stewardship Plan endorsed by a State Forester can also make a landowner eligible for funding for spraying invasive species.



STORMWATER CONCERN REPORTING TOOL ENGAGES RESIDENTS

Flooding of Kreutz Creek in Hellam Township, York County, repeatedly damages roads, homes, barns and driveways at several points north of Route 30 near the Hallam Exit. The last major flooding event in August 2018 was the nod to the Township to aggressively undertake an evaluation of the creek’s flow and determine which best management practices can be constructed to mitigate the flooding.

Since 2022, CWQE has been helping the Township prioritize projects and pursue funding for stormwater management and flood mitigation for a 2264-acre subwatershed area. At the request of the Township, CWQE provided technical support to prepare a grant application to DEP’s Growing Greener program for a climate resiliency watershed-based action plan. To engage the community, CWQE created a webmap application using ArcGIS Online that can be used by residents and businesses to report their own stormwater observations and concerns. The Stormwater Concern Reporter tool helps the Township understand the extent of stormwater issues in order to identify potential opportunities for mitigation. Residents can upload pictures of their property damage.

Municipalities interested in learning more about the Stormwater Concern Reporter tool can contact CWQE to get help with setting up the tool to augment their Ms4 program.

Project Support

CWQE recommended nine grant and loan programs that could support identified flood mitigation projects that ultimately improve the area’s climate resiliency — to prevent extensive damage from large storm events in the future. US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Baltimore District, which studied the area following the 2018 flooding event, has since provided further hydrologic and hydraulic analyses on Kreutz Creek in the vicinity of Kreutz Creek Road under their Planning Assistance program (PAS).

One often overlooked source for cost-sharing assistance is the USACE Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program authorized by Section 510 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1996. Under Section 510, USACE provides design and/or construction assistance for ecosystem restoration projects. Projects are limited to \$15 million. Non-federal project sponsors must cover 25% of the cost of activities. For more information, contact Catherine Perkins at (410) 336-0648, e-mail: catherine.j.perkins@usace.army.mil.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more story map information on the Kreutz Creek Climate Resiliency Watershed-Based Action Plan.

CWQE PILOT DRAWS TO A CLOSE

After nearly three years in operation, the Center for Water Quality Excellence pilot program will be coming to an end. Funded by PENNVEST, CWQE was created to evaluate and improve the delivery of public funding and technical advisory services related

to stormwater management best management practices (BMPs) for farmers, landowners, and municipalities in Lancaster and York counties.

CWQE staff greatly appreciate the support of PENNVEST. A final report will be released in early 2024 highlighting the many valuable lessons learned as a result of the pilot, along with recommendations for continued activity.

Overall, CWQE successfully assisted over 200 landowners, municipalities, businesses and organizations with either direct technical support or guidance on navigating the multitude of funding opportunities for stormwater practices.

The [CWQE Support Hub](#) proved a valuable platform for searching funding programs and requesting assistance. The Hub will continue to be accessible through 2024.

Persons interested in discussing the future of CWQE-related services should contact PENNVEST through Robert Boos, Executive Director or Tes Schlupp, Project Specialist Region 3, at 717-783-4493.

Center for Water Quality Excellence |
A PENNVEST funded initiative
www.cwqe.org



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