



## Sixth Annual PennFuture Watershed Workshop:

### Advocating Outside the Box

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Saturday, April 25, 2009

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Brandywine River Museum, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania

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### Agenda

**8:30 - 8:45**    **Registration** (*coffee and light breakfast*)

**8:45 - 9:15**    **Welcome and Introduction**

*Brian Glass, Staff Attorney, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)*

#### **Opening Remarks**

*Representative Greg Vitali*

**9:15 - 10:30**    **Stormwater Authorities**

*Steven A. Hann, Esquire, Principal, Hamburg, Rubin, Mullin, Maxwell & Lupin*

Pollution from stormwater is a huge problem, and we have yet to identify a silver bullet. Stormwater authorities, however, present some interesting possibilities. This session explains the stormwater problem and explores the role that stormwater authorities may play in addressing it. The limitations of stormwater authorities also will be considered.

**10:30 - 10:45**    **Break**

**10:45 - 12:00**    **Decentralized Wastewater Management**

*Craig A. Kologie, AICP, Principal, Castle Valley Consultants, Inc.*

Water reuse. Groundwater recharge. Water resources sustainability. Less infrastructure. Lower costs. Smart growth promotion. This session explains the concept of decentralized wastewater management, discusses the benefits of moving towards such management and away from "big pipe" solutions, and explores why this technology has yet to catch on and steps we can take to ensure that it will by integration of wastewater planning with open space and land use objectives.

**12:00 - 12:45**    **Lunch**

#### **Midday Remarks**

*Representative Chris Ross*

*Representative David Kessler*

**12:45 – 2:00 Restoring Penn’s Woods: Re-Forestation to Maximize Watershed Performance**

*Wesley Horner, Senior Advisor for Water Resources, Environmental Management Center, Brandywine Conservancy*

The most beneficial use of land (water quality, runoff, habitat) in Eastern Piedmont watersheds is forest, as documented by an ever-increasing body of scientific study, recently reinforced by carbon sequestration functions. Though Brandywine Conservancy has protected and conserved extensive areas (approximately 45,000 acres), much of this land has been cleared, is not cultivated intensively, and is characterized by steep slopes and other sensitivities. Restoration of forest could restore essential watershed functions. This presentation describes an exciting campaign to plant upland forest areas on owned and leased lands through partnership with Stroud Water Research Center. Reinforcing existing riparian buffer restoration programs, the project strives to integrate into local school curricula, maximize volunteer labor, and uses available TreeVitalize native stock.

**2:00 – 2:15 Break**

**2:15 – 2:45 StormwaterPA: A Multimedia Blueprint for Success**

*Barry Lewis, Executive Director, GreenTreks Network, Inc.*

The PA DEP’s Stormwater BMP Manual proposes a major shift in how we think about stormwater management, but its concepts are at risk of being dismissed and not being put into use. The Manual is a highly technical document that opponents say does not consider economic realities or the wide variation in landscapes, geology, hydrologic conditions, and other factors that affect how runoff is managed in various parts of the state. StormwaterPA is an education and outreach effort designed to help dispel these myths, uncover misconceptions about traditional stormwater management techniques, and make the case for getting stormwater management right. Rather than focus on the “out of sight, out of mind, built-solution” mentality, the new way of thinking involves treating runoff as a resource to be managed in the most natural way. StormwaterPA not only documents and shares real world examples of some of the innovative stormwater management techniques at work in our region today, it provides advocates and decision-makers with a variety of outreach tools and guides them in how to put them to use.

**2:45 – 3:45 Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP)**

*Brian Glass, Staff Attorney, PennFuture*

The threat of lawsuits seeking to discourage public participation in government decisions impacting the environment is real. This session explains what SLAPPs are, what protections exist against them, and how to engage in public participation in a way that reduces your exposure to SLAPPs and increases your chances of successfully defeating them. Ways to strengthen the existing protections against SLAPPs will be considered, including ways that you can help in these efforts.

**3:45 – 4:00 Workshop Wrap-Up and Adjournment**

*\*Please take the time to complete the workshop evaluation. Your comments will help us to improve future events.*

*Agenda subject to change*

*This event, as with all PennFuture activities, is climate neutral. In order to reduce paper use, workshop materials will be posted on our website at [www.pennfuture.org/content.aspx?SectionID=90&MenuID=14](http://www.pennfuture.org/content.aspx?SectionID=90&MenuID=14). If you have any difficulty accessing the materials, please contact a PennFuture staff member.*