



PA Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

September 20, 2004

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On the Hill

Recap of Green Ribbon Commission Appointments

With the Senate Democrats naming their six members to the Green Ribbon Commission this week, there are now 26 voting members on the panel—13 Republicans and 13 Democrats. Here’s a recap of the membership.... so far--

Senate Republicans- 5: Senate Majority Leader David J. Brightbill named Sen. Mary Jo White (Venango), Majority Chair Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee and Senators Wenger (Lancaster), Madigan (Lycoming), Thompson (Chester), and Erickson (Delaware). Brightbill is an ex-officio member.

Senate Democrats- 6: Senate Minority Leader Robert Mellow named Sen. Ray Musto (Luzerne), Democratic Chair Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee and Senators Kasunic (Somerset), Kukovich (Westmoreland), Kitchen (Philadelphia), Connie Williams (Montgomery), and Ferlo (Allegheny).

House Republicans- 8: House Majority Leader Sam Smith named Rep. William Adolph (R-Delaware), Majority Chair House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee, and Representatives Argall (Schuylkill/Berks), Rubley (Chester), Hutchinson (Venango), Ross (Chester), Miller (York), Harper (Montgomery), and Richard Stevenson (Mercer). Smith is an ex-officio member.

House Democrats- 4: House Minority Leader Bill DeWeese named Rep. Bud George (Clearfield), the Democratic Chairman of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Representatives Surra (Elk), Leach (Montgomery) and Levdansky (Allegheny).

Rendell Administration- 3: Kathleen McGinty, secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection; Michael DiBerardinis, secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and Roy Kienitz, deputy chief of staff to the governor.

No meetings of the Commission were scheduled by publication time.

In Other News

PEC Wins Federal Grant for “Reverse Auction” of Pollution Reduction Credits

The federal Department of Agriculture this week announced the Pennsylvania Environmental Council will receive a \$939,734 federal grant to design and implement a “reverse auction,” which allows the lowest bidder to receive funding for one or more best management practices (BMPs) that reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment runoff on farms.

The goal of the project is to use incentives to assist farmers, communities and industry to meet and exceed state and federal water quality goals. Trading has long been a staple of state and federal air quality programs. The Conestoga Nutrient Trading Program, created four years ago, is among the first to apply this strategy to water quality.

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The practice will also stretch limited conservation dollars by allowing the market to set a price, as opposed to grant administrators setting a fixed price for BMPs in a watershed.

The Department of Environmental Protection is involved in a pilot project with PEC, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, World Resources Institute, The Conservation Fund and Natsource LLC to customize a nutrient trading website and platform that will enable farmers to post offers for cost-effective BMPs to reduce nutrient loading to the Conestoga Watershed in Lancaster County.

Market-based programs such as trading provide incentives for entities to create credits by going beyond statutory, regulatory or voluntary obligations and goals. These programs provide a structure where environmental improvement credits can be traded to others to help them more cost effectively meet their obligations or goals.

NewsClip: [DEP Congratulations PEC on Grant Award](#)

DEP Proposes Increase in Underground, Aboveground Storage Tank Fees

The Storage Tank Advisory Committee's Fee Subcommittee discussed a proposal this week by the Department of Environmental Protection to increase registration fees going into DEP's Storage Tank Fund for underground and aboveground storage tanks.

DEP projects a deficit of over \$1 million in the Storage Tank Fund beginning in fiscal year 2006-07 increasing to \$12 million in 2008-09. With the proposed increase, DEP would have a growing carryover balance in the Fund building to \$10.7 million in 2009-10.

The proposed new rate structure would be:

Aboveground Tanks	Now	New	Increase
250 to 5,000 gallons	\$50	\$100	\$50
5,001 to 50,000	\$125	\$250	\$125
50,001 to 500,000	\$300	\$500	\$200
500,001 to 2,000,000	\$300	\$750	\$450
Over 2,000,000	\$300	\$1,000	\$700

Underground Tanks	Now	New	Increase
110 to 5,000 gallons	\$50	\$100	\$50
5,001 to 10,000	\$50	\$250	\$200
Over 10,000	\$50	\$500	\$450

DEP is also proposing an automatic cost of living adjustment for fees in the future.

Registration fees account for about \$3.2 million in revenue now for the Fund. That would increase to about \$9.5 million after the proposed changes. DEP's total revenue for the Fund in 2004-05 is expected to be \$11.7 million, including variable income from cost recovery actions, with expenditures of about \$10 million.

DEP noted the fees have not been changed since the Storage Tank and Spill Reduction Act was passed in 1989.

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Any fee increase would have to be proposed in the form of a regulation that would go through the regulatory review process beginning in June 2005, according to DEP's schedule. No new fees would be collected until the regulation was finalized in August of 2006, again according to DEP's schedule.

DEP expects to schedule a follow up meeting of the Fee Subcommittee on October 13 to continue work on the proposal.

EPA Water Administrator to Address 6th Annual Wet Weather Conference

Benjamin H. Grumbles, acting Assistant Administrator for the EPA's Office of Water will address nearly 300 municipal officials, engineers, managers and public works directors as the keynote speaker for the [3 Rivers Wet Weather Sixth Annual Sewer Conference](#), September 29-30.

Grumbles will discuss the federal regulations for controlling sewer overflows as they relate to healthy, well-managed watersheds, and he will share his vision of the federal role in helping to set water quality standards through strong national and state programs.

Eighty-three Allegheny County communities recently signed a municipal consent order requiring extensive sewer system assessment, evaluation and repair activities to correct the sewage overflow problem that has plagued the area for decades.

The two-day conference will held at the Four Points by Sheraton North in Cranberry Township and features national experts who will share their experience on issues, such as sewer mapping and data collection, storm water management, meeting the requirements of the municipal consent orders, and provide a Washington, D.C. update on clean water issues.

More than 50 exhibitors will display and demonstrate technologies to help communities find new, cost-effective ways of restoring aging and deteriorating sewer systems that often experience sewage overflows during wet weather.

Registration is \$60, which includes a continental breakfast, buffet lunch and refreshments for both days. For more information call 412-261-4300.

Conference to Focus on Designing Greener Commercial Districts Sept. 30

The "[Trees Mean Business: Understanding the Economic Benefits of Designing Green Commercial Districts](#)" conference will be held September 30 in Wilkes-Barre.

This conference will explore recent research about tree-lined business districts and explain how communities can plan for greener business districts that provide a wealth of social, economic and environmental benefits. Presenters will also explain how to properly design downtowns where trees will flourish yet avoid conflicts with shop signs and sidewalks.

Participants will learn how shading parking lots can reduce air and water pollution, and affect energy consumption. Presenters will illustrate how low maintenance commercial landscapes are being created that provide wildlife habitat and reduce storm water.

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[Dr. Kathleen L. Wolf](#), a research scientist with the University of Washington will discuss her research in U.S. cities that focused on better understanding consumer preferences and designing commercial habitat.

Kelleann Foster, an Associate Professor and Assistant Department Head at Penn State's Landscape Architecture Department will share her expertise in community design and planning. Her work on PA Blueprints and [Penscapes](#), interactive CD Rom tools for community planners, has received national and international recognition.

Dr. Jeff Keller, a restoration ecologist with 20 years of experience will focus on designing low maintenance, natural landscapes for commercial properties. His firm, Habitat by Design, focuses on naturalization and NPS reduction of golf courses and assisting municipalities in reducing the impacts of proposed developments.

Vincent Cotrone, an Urban Forester with Penn State Cooperative Extension since 1991 will share his expertise designing and planting downtowns and parking lots. He has designed plantings in New York City, downtown Sunbury, Towanda, Jim Thorpe and other communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The conference was developed in cooperation with DCNR's Bureau of Forestry; Penn State School of Forest Resources; USDA Forest Service, Pennsylvania Urban & Community Forestry Council; and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business & Industry.

For more information about the conference or how to register, contact Penn State Cooperative Extension at 570-825-1701 or via email - vjc1@psu.edu

Social Venture Institute 2004 Set for November in Philadelphia

The Social Venture Institute is an interactive conference designed to connect socially minded entrepreneurs in the region to nationally renowned [New Profiteers](#), local business resources, and each other.

This years' SVI will include "True Confessions" from successful New Profiteers, relevant case studies, and individual feedback on issues regarding marketing, management, and finance. Featured New Profiteers this year are Gary Erickson, CEO of Clif Bar and Luna Bar, and Melanie Marchand, CEO of Sisters in Shape.

Capping off the two-day event is the Sustainable Business Venture Fair and Competition. The [competition](#) is open to entrepreneurs with business ideas "built around the idea of respecting the environment, the community and your employees as well as making money."

\$250,000 Offered to Philadelphia's Best Socially Responsible Business Plan

A coalition of the U.S. mid-Atlantic region's leading business development advocates have launched a business plan competition designed to identify and support Greater Philadelphia's most promising "New Profiteers" -- entrepreneurs focused on creating sustainable and socially responsible businesses.

The contest -- the first of its kind in the U.S. -- will offer a number of prizes and awards, including up to \$250,000 in equity financing, to the New Profiteer who delivers the business plan that exceeds all others in three key areas: high growth potential, social responsibility, and environmental responsibility.

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To enter the competition, entrepreneurs are encouraged to visit the [New Profiteer website](#). The deadline for submissions is October 25.

The New Profiteer business plan competition is the brainchild of several regional business development organizations with a history of community involvement, environmental responsibility, and economic improvement: [Stainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia](#), Murex Investments, Science Center and Osiris Group, Inc.,

The contest is also receiving federal, state, and local support from agencies such as the Mid-Atlantic Region of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, the Pennsylvania Minority Business Development Center, and the City of Philadelphia Commerce Department.

Along with the \$250,000 equity investment grand prize, which is being offered by Murex Investments, the first runner-up will be eligible for a \$10,000 investment. Other awards valued from \$500-\$25,000 will be offered for 'Best Community Enterprise', 'Best Woman or Minority Owned Business', 'Best Life Science & Healthcare Company', and six other specialty categories. (from www.GreenBiz.com)

Ohio River Watershed Celebration Attracts Over 600

The third annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration this week attracted over 600 people for a four hour boat tour of the Ohio River below the Point in Pittsburgh. (*Our masthead photo this week is from the tour.*)

The Celebration was co-sponsored by 60 organizations and included displays and presentations from dozens of groups, government agencies and organizations. The tour featured a two-hour narration of Ohio River history, landmarks and water quality information.

More than 175 school children, many home schoolers, who had a great field trip learning about water quality, watershed protection, and working rivers.

Pre-boarding speakers included West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Stephanie R. Timmermeyer, Pennsylvania DEP Deputy Secretaries Mike Sherman (Field Operations) and Scott Roberts (Mineral Resources), Eric Carlson from EPA Region III, Dennis Tubbs and Dr. Douglas Austen Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

Three individuals and groups were also recognized for the work to improve the Ohio River Watershed as part of the festivities.

Thurman Korns and Malcolm Crittender from the [Wells Creek Watershed Association](#) for the group's work in forming the Association and starting several restoration projects;

[Quality Aggregates](#), represented by Brian Mathias, for their partnership in undertaking several mine acid treatment projects; and

John Dawes and the [Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program](#) for its financial and technical assistance efforts to promote watershed restoration.

Please find a photo scrapbook from the Celebration starting on the next page.

Bay Program Awards Grant for Builders for the Bay Partnership

The EPA Chesapeake Bay Program awarded a \$30,000 grant to the [Center for Watershed](#)

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[Protection](#) to extend the [Builders for the Bay partnership](#) to work with communities, local environmental groups, government and developers in a cooperative process to assess their current development codes and ordinances.

The overall objective of the project is to demonstrate how the local roundtable process can change local zoning codes and ordinances to incorporate environmentally sensitive development practices.

In 2002, the Center for Watershed Protection, the [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#), and the National Association of Home Builders launched the new [Builders for the Bay partnership](#). The program encourages voluntary adoption of 22 or more model development principles to reduce the environmental effects of residential and commercial development.

POWR Looking for “Grassroots Shoots” Watershed Success Stories

POWR (PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers) is currently soliciting articles for a new feature section in [Watershed Weekly](#) entitled "Grassroots Shoots". This section is dedicated to providing a voice to watershed organizations. If you have an article you'd like to submit please email the article to jcoutts@pawatersheds.org.

DEP Seeks Comments on New TMDLs, Six Other TMDLs Final

DEP is accepting comments until November 9 on proposed TMDLs (total maximum daily load) for Lititz Run in Lancaster County. There will be a public meeting on the proposal on September 28 at the Warwick Township Building, Lititz.

Public comments will be accepted until November 9 on proposed TMDLs for a tributary to Mill Run, Lancaster County. A public meeting on the proposal will be held on October 5 at the Old Leola Elementary School, Leola.

For more information on both proposals contact Lee McDonnell, 717-783-2938 or email: lmcdonnell@state.pa.us

Final TMDLs are now available for Buffalo Creek, Centre and Union counties, a tributary to Bow Creek, Dauphin County, Little Cedar Creek, Lehigh County, Stonycreek River, Somerset County, Lake Jean, Sullivan and Luzerne counties and Canonsburg Lake, Washington County.

To view proposed and final TMDLs, go to [DEP's TMDL webpage](#).

Women's Council on Energy & Environment Honors McGinty

The [Women's Council on Energy and the Environment](#) is honoring Kathleen McGinty, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, in October as their 2004 Woman of The Year Award recipient.

Secretary McGinty was recognized for her significant contributions to the environment and energy fields during the past several years, and as the first woman to head Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection.

Previous recipients of this award include Sheila Slocum Hollis (Managing Partner, Duane Morris LLP), Nora Mead Brownell (Commissioner, Federal Energy

Regulatory Commission and former Commissioner on the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission), and Katherine Fuller (President, World Wildlife Fund).

EPA Compliance Assistance Centers Invite Users to Fill Out Survey

EPA has 13- sector-specific partnerships with industry, academic institutions, environmental groups, and other agencies to operate online and telephone-based [Compliance Assistance Centers](#).

Each EPA-funded Center addresses real world issues in language that is used by the regulated entities. Through Internet websites, telephone assistance lines, fax-back systems and e-mail discussion groups, the Centers aim to help businesses, local governments, and federal facilities understand federal environmental requirements and save money through pollution prevention techniques.

Once a year, the Centers survey their users -- even first-time visitors -- on how well they are doing meeting that goal. The results of the surveys help the Centers provide resources for environmental compliance.

Surveys should not take more than three minutes to complete. The Centers are offering incentives to respond to the survey. The Centers' [surveys are available online](#).

Fish Commission Releases Fall Trout Stocking Details

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will stock 156 bodies of water in 61 counties across the state as part of the [2004 Fall Trout Stocking Program](#), releasing 118,200 legal-sized trout to provide anglers with expanded fishing opportunities during the autumn months.

The stockings will be held during the weeks of September 27 and conclude the week of October 25. During that time, the Commission intends to stock 97 river and stream sections as well as 59 lakes. A total of 97,000 rainbow trout make up the biggest portion of the stocked fish, with 12,870 brown trout and 8,330 brook trout rounding out the allotment.

The Fall Trout Stocking Program features two different components. Anglers who wish to harvest trout may take advantage of the stream sections or lakes regulated by the Extended Trout Season Rules. The Extended Trout Season, which began September 7 and runs through the end of February 2005, permits anglers to creel up to three trout of seven inches or greater daily.

The second component of the program is the stocking of stream sections managed under Delayed Harvest Regulations. Delayed Harvest allows for year-round fishing. However, no trout may be creeled the day after Labor Day until the following June 15. Anglers should consult the 2004 Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws issued with each license for a complete list of rules governing Delayed Harvest waters.

Quick Clips

[Editorial: Slag Pile a Gold Mine – Seward Generating Station](#)

[Windmill to Generate Electricity, Spark Ideas](#)

[Prevention Has Taken Life Out of West Nile](#)

[NRC OKs Westinghouse Nuclear Plant Design](#)

[Bigger Frick Environmental Center to Rise From Ashes](#)

[New York City Recommits to Recycling](#)

[Freedom Tower to be Green Giant](#)

Taking Positive Action

Pfizer’s Lititz Plant Among National Pollution Prevention Award Winners

Next week the Pfizer facility in Lititz, Lancaster County, will be announced as one of the National Pollution Prevention Round Table’s 2004 Most Valuable Pollution Prevention (MVP2) award winners.

Collectively, the 12 award winners reduced pollution by 3 billion pounds, conserved 80 million Kwh of electricity, all while cutting costs by \$30 million. Their collective efforts are equivalent to taking 3 million cars off the road.

Pfizer Lititz, the major supplier of Listerine Mouthwash brands to the world market, is being honored for their work reducing waste and instating a mouthwash reclamation process.

Through the use of a new method of cleaning tanks and product lines along with the optimization of all available resources, they were able to reduce mouthwash waste by 14 percent. Management has demonstrated its commitment to the company’s environmental goals by funding this effort despite higher initial costs over disposal.

In [2003, the Pfizer plant](#) also won a Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence for reducing energy use and being a leader in the Susquehanna Ozone Action Partnership and involved in Businesses for the Bay and the Lititz Run Watershed Alliance.

The MVP2 Awards are part of the [National Pollution Prevention Week](#) celebrations running from September 20 to 26. Previous Pennsylvania winners include [American Video Glass](#) and [Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical](#).

Reminder: [Applications for the 2004 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence](#) are being accepted through October 22.

Watershed NewsClips

[George Harvey Day at Spring Creek/ClearWater Conservancy](#)

[CBF Provides Watershed Improvement Grants](#)

[Annual Sojourn Congress Held at Ohiopyle](#)

[Potomac River Watershed Groups “Cleanup” for Public Lands Day](#)

[Green Valleys Assn. Honors Its “Heart and Soul” Ralph Heister](#)

[“Ponds for Kids” Program in Avonworth](#)

[Local Groups Ask for EV Status for Pickering Creek](#)

[Problems Can Be Pluses for Botanical Garden in Pittsburgh](#)
[Fish Commission Reviews Horsepower Limits on Lakes](#)

Regulations

The [Independent Regulatory Review Commission](#) will consider DEP’s final form regulation designating Brushy Meadow Creek and other stream designations (7-380) at their meeting on October 4. To find a copy of the final regulation, go to the [June, 2004 EQB meeting page](#).

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – September 18, 2004](#)

[Comment Deadlines Open](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)

[Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar](#)

Technical Guidance & Permits

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **Sept. 21** – [DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Harrisburg.
- **Sept. 22** – [DCNR Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Harrisburg
- **Sept. 28** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee information meeting to review the water and wastewater infrastructure needs. Harrisburg.
- **Sept. 28-30** - [3 Rivers Wet Weather Sixth Annual Sewer Conference](#) . Pittsburgh
- **Sept. 30** – PCIEP “[Links Between Human Health & the Environment](#)” Forum. Harrisburg.
- **Oct. 7 & Nov. 5** – [Land Recycling Grant Opportunities Forums](#) for Local Government Managers in Mars and Lancaster.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

Helpful Web Links

[Daily NewsClips](#) [Weekly DEP Update](#) [GreenTreks Network](#) [Watershed Weekly](#)

[DEP Press Releases](#) [DEP Advisory Committee Meetings & Agendas](#)

Contributions Invited

Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to **PA Environment Digest** - DHess@HolstonCrisci.com .

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PA Environment Digest is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service to the clients of Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Holston & Crisci call 717-234-1716.

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