

SEPA RC&D

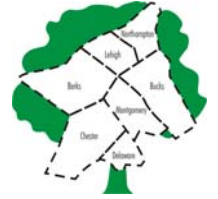
~COUNCIL BRIEFINGS~

A periodic update providing information on the programs and the activities of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Resource Conservation and Development Council (SEPA RC&D).

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STREAM SIGNAGE

A Growing Greener Grant from Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection will allow PENNDOT approved signs to be placed on roads that cross over waterways. These signs will identify streams, rivers, and creeks in Pennsylvania. Identifying local waterways will connect people to their watersheds and encourage them to protect their water resources.

The Pennsylvania RC&D Councils in conjunction with POWR have received an overwhelming response to participate in this program. Projected requests in Southeastern Pennsylvania were for 152 sites. SEPA RC&D actually received applications for over 475 sites! The signs will be ready and available for installation in spring of 2004.

PROJECT GRASS

The Southeast Chapter of Project Grass is proud to announce that a dairyman from Berks County, Forrest Stricker, has been selected as the Southeast's 2003 Grazer of the Year! Upcoming on-farm programs are being planned for 2004.

RURAL FIRE PROTECTION

Through a generous grant from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and the U.S. Forest Service, SEPA RC&D is working with local fire companies and municipalities to install dry fire hydrants. Dry fire hydrants are non-pressurized heavy duty plastic pipes that are permanently installed in streams and ponds. They allow for quick and safe access to water in rural areas that are not served by public water systems. With a dry fire hydrant, firemen simply attach a hose to the hydrant head and through suction refill a water truck in a matter of minutes. Strategically placed, dry fire hydrants can provide a continual supply of water to fire companies.

DIRT AND GRAVEL ROAD TRAINING PROGRAM

In conjunction with Berks County Conservation District, SEPA RC&D sponsored a Dirt and Gravel Road Training Program was held October 27th & 28th at the Berks County Agricultural Center. The environmentally sensitive maintenance of dirt and gravel roads provides better roads and cleaner streams. Municipalities are required by the State Conservation Commission to attend this training program in order to apply for and receive grant funds. Representatives from Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Lancaster, Lehigh, Schuylkill, Montgomery and Northampton Counties participated in the two day training and assistance program.

ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN CAMPAIGN

Over 20 organizations and municipalities in seven counties have worked together installing approximately 18,000 storm drain disks on curb inlets. This is the first phase of a two part effort to make the public aware of pollutants entering streams through storm drain inlets.

Starting in the Spring and Summer of 2004 an informational campaign will raise the public's awareness about pollutants in the water and its negative effects to aquatic life and lower water quality. The Only Rain in the Drain Campaign is encouraging people to take action to protect Pennsylvania's water resources and look for more ways to keep water clean. Look for the disks on inlets in your community!

RIDLEY CREEK DAM REMOVAL

In our ongoing efforts to protect and improve the region's water resources, SEPA RC&D received a grant from the William Penn Foundation to assist with efforts to remove old dams on Ridley Creek in Delaware County. Removing the dams will allow Ridley Creek to revert back to a free flowing stream, thus improving aquatic conditions and allowing for upstream migration of fish for spawning. SEPA RC&D will be partnering with the Delco Anglers, PA Fish Commission and American Rivers on this project. Steve Kosiak of Delco Anglers has been instrumental in this project.

TIME AND THE RIVER

Combining an artistic and environmental message, artist Vincent Carducci will be painting scenes of prominent Pennsylvania Rivers as well as conducting local painting workshops for interested students. Mr. Carducci will be creating 10 large landscape paintings and multiple prints of these rivers in an effort to foster a love and awareness of Pennsylvania Rivers. SEPA RC&D is seeking funding for this multi-media educational project and looking forward to working with Mr. Carducci in recognizing Pennsylvania's waterways as precious resources not to be taken for granted.