

# SAN CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2024

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# Upcoming SAN Workgroup Meetings



## [Stormwater + Pathogens & Point Source Workgroup join together for a Tour](#)

June 10th from 10am - 12pm

Explore Stormwater GSI at Venice Island and learn about Pending Water Quality Improvements along Manayunk Canal from Freshwater Mussel Reintroduction Work and the Flat Rock Dam project.

## [Watershed Land Collaborative](#)

June 13th 11:30 am - 2pm

Join us in-person at Berks Nature

## [Agriculture](#)

July 11th from 10:30am - 12pm

Join us in-person at Berks County Ag Center or on Zoom

After the meeting stay for lunch with workgroup partners at the County Fair!

## Welcome to our new Engagement Assistant Coordinator!

Marguerite DiGiorgio



Warm welcome to our new Engagement Assistant Coordinator Marguerite DiGiorgio! Marguerite DiGiorgio is PDE's Engagement Assistant Coordinator. In this role, Marguerite supports the coordination of the Schuylkill Action Network and engages the public through stormwater education and community events organized by PDE.

Before joining PDE, Marguerite worked for the National Park Service, where she organized regional and national professional development programs for landscape-based park staff. Additionally, as a part of the Frederick Law Olmsted Center of the National Park Service, she consulted on horticultural issues at National Park sites across the region.

When not at work, Marguerite loves to craft. She has a rotating list of crafty hobbies that include embroidery, knitting, and watercolor painting. One of Marguerite's favorite places to visit in the Delaware Estuary is the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Philadelphia.

# WATERSHED LAND COLLABORATIVE

## Reconvening Partners for Land and Water Protection

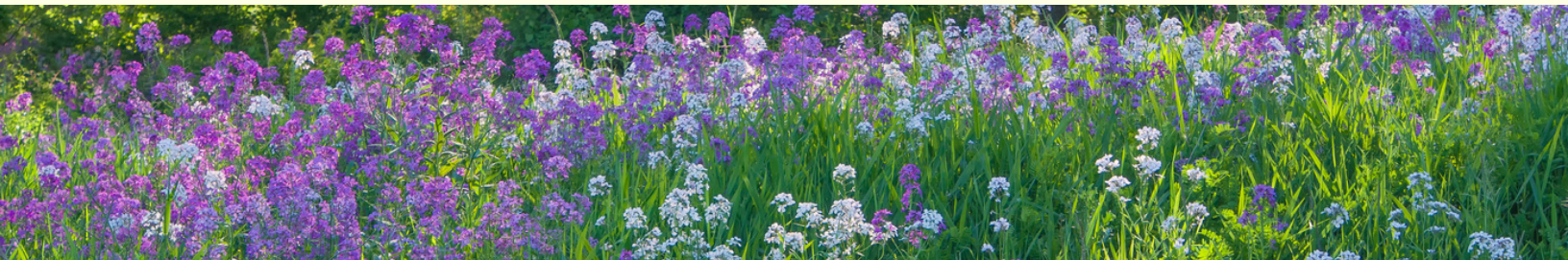
As the Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI) concludes, the Schuylkill Highlands and Middle Schuylkill Partners are actively charting the next path forward. We've heard the call to action! The SAN Team recognizes a pressing need to reconvene the Watershed Land Collaborative Workgroup. The resurgence is not simply a continuation of the efforts of the DRWI Cluster members but an expansion of scope and inclusivity, broadening the geographical focus and partner organizations beyond the bounds of the DRWI's framework.

The collaborative aims to harness the momentum built over the years and leverage it to further sustainable land and water

protection strategies. Working together, we will begin to zero in on shared land protection priorities and strategies to further source water protection and climate resiliency within the Schuylkill watershed and work together to figure out the best plan of action for the region.

Partners from the Schuylkill Highlands Cluster and the SAN Watershed Land Collaborative will meet in a joint grouping on Thursday, June 13th 11:30 am - 2:00 pm at the Berks Nature in the Rookery meeting space.

All are welcome. A detailed agenda will be shared soon. -- [Register today.](#)



## PATHOGENS & POINT SOURCE

### Share your utility funding success story in our upcoming Water Utility Forum!

Attention to All Water and Wastewater Utilities and Industry Service Providers!

We're seeking case studies and planning subcommittee members to join us in organizing a forum to enhance networking and highlight available resources for utilities around the southeastern PA within the Schuylkill and Delaware River watersheds in mid September. Our next planning meeting is in the process of being scheduled. [Click here and respond to the Doodle poll](#) by Friday, May 17th to share your input and make your voice count!

# ENGAGEMENT & STEWARDSHIP

## Schuylkill Scrub is NOW Mar 1 - May 31

Each year from March 1 - May 31st the SAN promotes the Schuylkill Scrub, a part of the larger Pick-Up Pennsylvania initiative, organized by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. The Scrub is a collection of clean-up initiatives in the Schuylkill Watershed to 'Clean Before it's Green' and remove litter in our communities that may find its way into rivers and streams, impacting wildlife, recreation and our drinking water.

## 2024 Scrub and Pub

On March 21, SAN partnered with Upper Merion Township to host the 2024 Scrub and Pub in collaboration with partners from Schuylkill River Greenways, Aqua, and EPA Region 3.

Each volunteer received a coupon for a free beer following the event courtesy of Conshohocken Brewing and an ice cream coupon thanks to Frosty Falls

We welcomed over 50 volunteers who came out and picked up 3,600 lbs of trash and 8 tires from approximately 3 miles of local parks and streams!

Thank you to all our partners who joined the clean up: Aqua, EPA Region 3, Schuylkill River Greenways, PA American Water along with the Upper Merion Community!

### How can you get involved in the Scrub?

- Help promote awareness about the importance of litter clean-up initiatives using our social media [tool kit](#).
- Plan your own clean-up event and let us know about it so we can cross-post on social media. [Click here to register your event](#).
- Join a cleanup. See the list of registered events on [Keep PA Beautiful's website here](#).



[Click here to see more photos](#)



# STORMWATER

## Inaugural Perkiomen Stormwater Symposium is a Success!

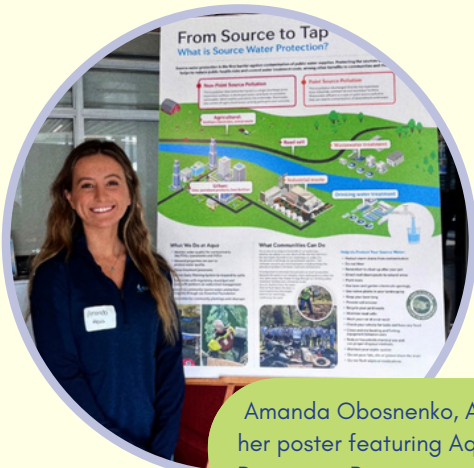
On March 9 the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy (PWC) hosted their first ever watershed-wide Stormwater Symposium at Ursinus College in collaboration with event sponsors HRG, Gilmore & Associates, Woodrow & Associates and Jobsite Products, Inc. Over 100 people attended representing municipal staff, consulting engineers, water utilities, nonprofits and passionate residents.



Jessie Kemper, PWC Director of Conservation, outlines the benefits and support provided by PWC's Municipal MS4 Program



Ryan Beltz, PWC Executive Director, welcomes the group and outlines the agenda for the day



Amanda Obosnenko, Aqua, poses with her poster featuring Aqua's Source Water Protection Programs

Following a poster and networking session, participants engaged with a series of 'lightning round' presentations before and after lunch. Topics covered a range of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) related topics including illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE), construction site stormwater runoff control, tips for streambank restoration projects seeking MS4 credit, and the importance of regional collaboration to fund and implement maintenance. Additional topics included a thorough review and update on PFAS regulations, upcoming opportunities to participate in the Perkiomen Flood Reduction Plan, and updates on PWC's MS4 Membership program and award-winning restoration project at Jacob Reiff Park in Lower Salford Township.

It was an energizing event, jam-packed with valuable information for anyone interested in stormwater and/or implementing a municipal MS4 program. If you missed it this year make sure to check it out next year!

# SBN Highlights Regional Success Stories at their 2024 Achieving Climate Resilience Through Water Symposium

The Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia (SBN) hosted over 100 attendees at its inaugural Achieving Climate Resilience Through Water Symposium on March 20th at the Science History Institute in Philadelphia, PA. This event showcased a robust dialogue among water experts, green stormwater infrastructure practitioners, environmental nonprofits, and industry leaders.

Highlighting the region's focus on climate resiliency, made possible in large part to the Philadelphia Water Department's Green City, Clean Water initiative, the symposium featured twelve sessions across three tracks. Participants delved into innovative financing methods, inter-municipal collaboration, stormwater management, innovative solutions, and community engagement strategies.

One notable session discussed the concept of treating the establishment period for green infrastructure (GI) projects as a capital cost rather than a maintenance expense. This approach allows access to financing options like the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). A case study from Hoboken, NJ, demonstrated successful financing of green infrastructure periods through the CWSRF, offering actionable recommendations for project managers and decision-makers interested in adopting this approach.



Kaitie Evers, PDE, Maggie Reilly, Aqua, and Amanda Obosnenko, Aqua -- Photo by Kara Foran

Other sessions explored various aspects of stormwater management and resilience, including municipal stormwater retrofits, circular soils for green infrastructure projects made possible through innovative partnerships, and strategies for community engagement and equity in stormwater initiatives. Speakers from various sectors, including government officials, private practitioners, and researchers, shared insights and best practices to address urban flooding, water quality challenges, and climate resilience.

The symposium provided a platform for water utility professionals to exchange innovative ideas, showcase successful projects, and collaborate on effective strategies to achieve climate resilience through water management in the Greater Philadelphia region and the buzz throughout the museum that day reflected the great energy around these conversations. Congrats to the team at the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia (SBN) on a fantastic event!

# Partner Resources, Funding and Events

## Partnership for the Delaware Estuary launches the State of the Estuary Report Online

Did you know that the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary released an online report in December 2023 entitled "[The State of the Estuary?](#)"

This report is a condensed, user-friendly companion to the [2022 Technical Report for the Delaware Estuary and Basin \(TREB\)](#), and offers insights into the health of the Delaware River Watershed by highlighting 14 of the 60 indicators evaluated in the TREB. These indicators serve both as benchmarks for ecosystem health and guide strategies outlined in the Delaware Estuary Program's [Comprehensive Conservation & Management Plan](#). As the largest tributary to the Delaware Estuary, the Schuylkill watershed plays a key role in the Estuary's ecological integrity so this report offers a lot of context for the health of the Schuylkill watershed as well!

The [report](#) provides background on some of the indicators used to assess the health of the Delaware Estuary as holding steady at a 'Fair' rating since 2012, despite increasing pressures from population growth and climate change. In addition to highlighting the status of the 14 indicators, the report encourages individual action, such as proper waste disposal and participation in local programs, to collectively contribute to enhancing the region's water quality and ecosystem health.

**"...the Delaware Estuary is holding steady at a 'Fair' rating since 2012, despite increasing pressures from population growth and climate change."**

[Click here to view the report](#) and please help us spread the word about actions we can all take to improve the quality of the Schuylkill and Delaware Rivers and our vibrant and ecologically rich Delaware Estuary downstream! Interested in learning more about the State of the Estuary report? Contact John Harrod, PDE's Director of Engagement at [jharrod@delawareestuary.org](mailto:jharrod@delawareestuary.org).





# 2024 Status and Needs Survey of Environmental Education in Pennsylvania



Educators & Environmental Enthusiasts of Pennsylvania!

We need YOUR voice to shape the future of Environmental Education (EE) in our state! Take part in the 2024 Pennsylvania Statewide Environmental Education Survey and help us understand the current status and needs of EE.

Your insights will guide us in:

- Identifying professional development needs
- Enhancing knowledge of watershed education practices
- Growing our environmental education capacity

[Click here to view survey!](#)

It's a quick 15-minute survey, and your input will have a lasting impact. Plus, your privacy is guaranteed—personal details are for follow-up only and will remain confidential.

## Who Should Respond?

We are seeking one response from each non-formal environmental education provider organization. Classroom teachers are encouraged to respond individually.

Survey closes on May 15, 2024


Calling formal and nonformal **educators** working on **MWEEs**

**TEACHING GREEN SYMPOSIUM**

Tuesday, June 18th  
10am - 2pm  
Fairmount Water Works

Act 48 Credits Available  
FREE Event - Includes Lunch and Raffles

**Register today!**  
[bit.ly/TeachGreen24](https://bit.ly/TeachGreen24)



[Click Here to Register!](#)

**REGISTER NOW**



EPA MID-ATLANTIC REGION  
2024 VIRTUAL SUMMIT

**EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY**

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024 • 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. ET | VIA ZOOM

All are welcome to join the **FREE** summit, but you must register.

REGISTER ON THE SUMMIT WEBSITE:  
[HTTPS://CVENT.ME/2WAZ8Q](https://cvent.me/2waz8q)



[Click Here to Register!](#)

Save the Date



2024  
DELAWARE RIVER WATERSHED FORUM

September 26-27 | Wind Creek, Bethlehem, PA

**Application Deadline: May 31st**



**Now Open! Application  
Deadline: June 21st**



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION

For more information , visit [www.dep.pa.gov](http://www.dep.pa.gov)  
Search: Growing Greener

**\$1.5 Billion in Funding Available for  
Conservation and Climate-Smart  
Agriculture. Application Deadline July 2nd**



We are honored to have some proceeds from this event go toward the SAN.

Mark your calendars, and spread the word!  
This event is also seeking vendors in Pottstown!

**JUNE 21 • 8PM- 2AM**  
**COSMIC ARTS STUDIO**

**\$20**

**18+**

**LAURA AND THE STORM PRESENTS**

**THE LUNAR YEAR**

**SACRED MONSTERS • UNCLE T**  
**HEAVY MEADOW • KIKASHIMA**  
**ORAH RUTH • SEAN DANGER SMITH**  
**STAIRCASE TWO NOWHERE**

**TWO STAGES • PLANT SWAP • INTERACTIVE ART •**  
**BYOB • ART VENDORS • FLOW ART • FEST**  
**COSTUMES • HAMMOCK ROOM • BALCONY**  
**TEA BAR • ACOUSTIC OPEN MIC**

**Schuykill Action Network**

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS EVENT GO TOWARD PROTECTING THE LOCAL WATERSHED