

## PA Roundup

### Harrisburg Patriot News, May 5, 2010

#### Clean Water Act would benefit region

There were 79 municipalities in south-central Pennsylvania recently ordered to fully implement the Federal Clean Water Act. One of those cases, in East Pennsboro Twp., was highlighted in a recent Patriot-News article. ("[EPA orders action on pollution control](#)," April 30).

Storm water is one of the leading causes of water pollution to the state's rivers and streams and to the Chesapeake Bay. Storm water carries chemicals, sediment, fertilizers and other pollutants directly into our waters; a source of drinking water for many Pennsylvanians.

While progress is being made reducing pollution from sewage-treatment plants and agriculture, storm water has not been given the same attention because of the complexity, expense in fixing the problem and our fragmented governmental structure.

EPA has the authority to enforce the Clean Water Act, and it has said it might tighten controls further to reduce storm-water pollution. While all of this comes during a tough economic time, there are options.

The Chesapeake Clean Water Act, now before Congress, authorize \$1.5 billion to help local governments pay for projects to reduce storm-water runoff. We support it and need help. Visit [cbf.org/ccwa](http://cbf.org/ccwa) for more information.

#### HARRY CAMPBELL

Pennsylvania Senior Scientist  
The Chesapeake Bay Foundation

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### Chambersburg Public Opinion, May 1, 2010

#### Letter to the Editor: Clean water benefits the state

Here in southcentral Pennsylvania, we are fortunate to have thousands of streams and rivers for fishing, swimming, and paddling. As Jim Hook said ("Chesapeake Bay effort expands," April 26): This water flows downstream, eventually making its way to the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, 7,000 miles of our streams and rivers here in Pennsylvania are impaired due to pollution from our city streets, sewage treatment plants, and farm fields running untreated into our waterways.

New legislation before Congress recognizes the tremendous effort necessary to meet our clean water goals and provides help to get the job done. The Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act makes it clear that no one has the right to pollute our waterways. The bill calls on federal, state and local governments to work together, and with each of us, to improve water quality. The legislation limits the amount of pollution permitted to flow downstream, holds polluters accountable, and provides funding for stormwater management and technical assistance for farmers.

Yes, the bay needs help. No one will deny that. But cleaning up local rivers and streams helps Pennsylvanians, our economy, and our communities. It's up to all of us to ensure clean water here at home and downstream.

Tanya Dierolf

PennFuture

Harrisburg

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**Centre Daily Times, April 22, 2010**

## **Support Clean Water Act**

As someone who owns a farm and who also cares deeply about the quality of our rivers and streams, I'm asking all farmers and conservationists in Centre County to contact Sens. Arlen Specter and Bob Casey and Rep. Glenn Thompson to support the Chesapeake Clean Water Act.

My wife and I have owned a 33- acre crop farm in Potter Township for almost 24 years, and we deeply appreciate the beauty and benefits of agricultural and conservation practices.

We have been involved in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program for two years and thoroughly enjoy seeing it work on our property. Our cattle no longer walk in the stream and pollute the waters, but instead now drink from a water trough.

We marvel at how the growth of the seedlings planted will yield about 170 trees and 75 shrubs. There is no way we could have afforded to do this project ourselves without funding and technical assistance.

Pennsylvania is a wonderful place to live and work, but we have real problems with water pollution that comes from many sources.

U.S. Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., has introduced legislation that will establish clear standards for the bay and its tributaries, help Pennsylvania finance some of the costs of the strategy, and ensure that everyone does their fair share. Pennsylvania agriculture as a whole has made great strides in water quality, but more progress is needed.

Without this legislation, Pennsylvania will not have the federal support that is so clearly needed to meet the new clean-water standards that the Environmental Protection Agency will put into place by the end of 2010.

The legislation authorizes funds to assist local communities in upgrading local stormwater management systems, as well as technical assistance to farmers to help them reduce polluted runoff. It also provides for an interstate nutrient trading program that could bring additional resources to farmers and augment the cleanup effort.

The proposed legislation provides resources and accountability for all sources of pollution so that it can be fair and effective.

I urge you to contact our federal legislators from Pennsylvania and ask them to support S 1816, the Chesapeake Clean Water Act.

**Robert J. Booz** Centre Hall

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**York Daily Record, May 5, 2010**

## **Public-private partnership at city sewer plant**

Many people complain about government regulations - and often, rightly so. Sometimes regulations can be onerous, costly and not accomplish much.

But some regulations, while perhaps burdensome and costly, are necessary and worthwhile.

And sometimes, regulations can actually have a silver lining: They can lead to innovations that open up new business opportunities.

A good local example of that comes from regulations designed to clean up the Chesapeake Bay. The bay has been hammered with pollutants over the last century and is today at a critical point. If we don't soon clean up our act, this unique natural resource could be irreparably damaged.

The federal government has recently implemented stringent new regulations to achieve cleanup goals we've been talking about for decades but not doing enough to achieve.

Bay states, and those in the Susquehanna River watershed, must reduce the pollutants nitrogen and phosphorus - nutrients that foster aquatic-life-smothering algae blooms in the bay.

Wastewater treatment plants are major sources of those pollutants, and many need significant upgrades to meet the new regulations.

That, of course, means costs - passed on to taxpayers and sewer users. And no one is ever happy about that.

But the York City Wastewater Treatment Plant has latched onto a nifty plan to turn that cost into cash.

It has partnered with Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies to implement a process that can remove phosphorus from the treatment system and turn it into fertilizer.

The company can take a mineral called struvite that builds up in the treatment plant's pipes and use that as a base compound to make fertilizer pellets for commercial applications.

City and company officials estimate the process could save up to \$1 million in operational costs in its first decade.

It's an ingenious idea - spurred by necessary regulations designed to clean up the bay.

The only concern is that overuse of the fertilizer made from the struvite could just put more phosphorus back into the system, and it will just have to be removed again.

Still, this seems like a win, win, win situation.

Congratulations to company and city officials for partnering on this innovative process - which should be up and running later this year.

Remember that regulatory silver lining? Make that a struvite lining.