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2017 National Watershed and Stormwater Conference Re-Cap

On April 4th, the Center for Watershed Protection hosted the second National Watershed and Stormwater Conference. This unique conference united online participation via national webcast with in-person discussion at our local hubs in Baltimore, Maryland; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Omaha, Nebraska. We wanted to share a quick wrap-up and testimonials about this annual event!

Who was there

In total, more than 230 people attended came more than 25 states from California to Connecticut and even from Puerto Rico and Canada!



More than 165 registrants from federal, state and local government agencies, consulting firms, universities and non-profits came to participate and learn face to face. The conference also attracted 65 online attendees.

Laura Walker, from Savannah, Georgia attended online and said: "This is the second of the Center's conferences that I've gone to and the topics were really, really good. It's one of the better and more innovative workshops that I have attended."

What we learned

According to one in-person attendee: "The material was interesting, and the speakers were all very well-qualified and organized."

Major national topics included:

- The State of Our Watersheds
- Innovation in Practice – Integrated Water Resources Management and Implementation
- Emerging Tools in Watershed Protection, Restoration, and Implementation

The local hubs also included presentations on local stormwater and watershed concerns. Some of these topics included:

- The Future of Urban Watershed Management
- Chesapeake Bay TMDL 2017 Midpoint Assessment: Building the Capacity for Success in the Phase III WIPs
- A Pilot Assessment of Stream Temperature for an Impaired Waterway
- Road Salts in the Baltimore Reservoir Systems
- Scaling Up Green Infrastructure in Washington, DC
- Agriculture's Role in Maryland's Nutrient Trading Program
- Local Stormwater Funding Opportunities – A Panel Discussion
- Green Infrastructure in New Jersey

How the conference was made possible

Support from 14 industry sponsors helped make the annual conference a great success. Thanks to:

Anderson, Davis & Associates; Chesapeake Bay Trust; Day Deadrick Marshall Insurance Agents; Ecotone; Environmental Quality Resources, LLC; Furbish; Red Chair; Resource Environmental Solutions, LLC; Straughan Environmental, Inc.; Stormwater Maintenance; Storm Water Systems, Inc; The Hatcher Group; Watershed Consulting Associates; Wetlands Studies & Solutions

The Center looks forward to planning another successful conference in 2018!


Center Works to Reduce Pet Waste Pollution in Frederick, Maryland

The Center recently launched and completed a Scoop the Poop Challenge with Water Words That Work, LLC and the City of Frederick, Maryland. The goal of the Scoop the Poop Challenge was to increase the number of dog owners in Frederick who clean up after their pets in public areas, as well as their own yards, and help rid the environment of pet waste.

Households pledged to properly dispose of their pet waste by putting it in the trash instead of leaving it on the ground. The City of Frederick ran the pledge drive last Fall, with residents assigning their pledges to one of 12 Neighborhood Advisory Councils (NACs) around the city. The winning NAC received two pet waste stations and all residents that took the pledge were entered into a drawing to win prizes from local business sponsors.



Photo Credit: Eric Eckl



The Scoop the Poop Challenge was devised by the Center, Water Words that Work and the City of Frederick in 2015 as a result of frequent complaints about pet waste downtown followed by a study to determine the best approach to tackle the problem. The Center worked with Water Words that Work to develop and advertise the Scoop the Poop Challenge through public outreach during the City's "In the Street" event, posters and yard signs, email marketing, social media, news articles and broadcasts, and Google and Facebook advertisements.

Follow-up surveys showed that the Scoop the Poop Challenge encouraged City dog owners to make small positive changes in their pet waste pickup practices. This project provides a solid foundation for the City's future pet waste reduction efforts, and results of the Scoop the Poop Challenge will be used to inform the development of a Park Master Plan for the City. The contest materials provided on the [Scoop the Poop Challenge website](#) may offer a model for other communities to address pet waste pollution.

This project was funded by the Chesapeake Bay Trust. For more information, contact Lisa Fraley-McNeal at lfm@cwpp.org.

Center's Green Jobs Training Program Launched in Baltimore to Provide High-Quality Training to Unemployed or Underemployed City Residents

Launched in 2017 in Baltimore, Maryland, the Clean Water Certificate Training Program helps participants gain green infrastructure installation, maintenance and inspection skills.

The inaugural Certificate Training program — a partnership between Civic Works and the Center for Watershed Protection with input from stormwater industry professionals — will benefit the environment, Baltimore City's economy and, especially, the lives of the 10 city residents selected to participate. It also satisfies a critical need in the stormwater industry: employers have significant hiring needs for skilled individuals, which they expect to be met by this training program.

[Click here to learn more about the program's launch.](#)

New Videos and Field Guide Available from the Center on Illicit Discharges

The Center recently released some training resources to help communities find and fix their illicit discharges. First is a video series on illicit discharges in the coastal plain.

Part 1 of the series focuses on [identifying illicit discharges](#). Part 2 of the video series addresses [how to track down the source of an illicit discharge and take steps to correct it](#).

Also available is an [Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Field Guide for the Coastal Plain](#). This guide can help communities identify and quickly report pollution problems and can be adopted by municipal governments by adding the relevant contact information for their IDDE program.

These resources were produced with partners Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and Lori A. Lilly Environmental Solutions through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Meet the Center's New Office Manager and Watershed and Stormwater Technician!



Marlyn Arqueta

The Center welcomed Marlyn Arqueta to our team this month. As Office Manager, Marlyn will provide support on operations, membership, communications, Board of Directors' activities, and more to help the organization function effectively. A born and raised Marylander, Marlyn graduated from the University of Maryland Baltimore County with a bachelor's degree in history and an associate's degree in business administration. Before joining the Center, he was the office manager for a construction company. After hours, you can find him at a DC United soccer game or coaching the South River High School soccer team. His passion for soccer and helping the community propelled him to be a finalist in the 2015 Major League Soccer Community MVP Award.



Jordan Fox

We are also happy that Jordan Fox has joined the Center as a Watershed and Stormwater Technician. Jordan interned for the Center over the past year and in her new role will provide project assistance on field monitoring, data entry and management, as well as field assessments, research and GIS. Jordan is a recent graduate of Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland. She double majored in Biology and Environmental Science and minored in Chemistry. Jordan loves the environment and is thrilled to continue her work with the Center. Her extensive field and lab experience make her well-suited to help the Center with monitoring and other watershed and stormwater projects.

Neely Law Appointed Director of Education and Training

Neely Law, who joined the Center for Watershed Protection in 2004, has been promoted to Director of Education and Training. In this newly created role, Neely will manage and enhance the Center's stormwater and watershed training, including the annual conference, webcasts, workshops and other training programs. [Read more about Neely's new role here.](#)

Register for the Center's June Webcast on Making Urban Trees Count

June 21, 2017, 1-2:30 PM EST

The water quality benefits of forests are widely accepted, yet very few studies have successfully quantified the runoff and pollutant-reducing impacts of trees in the urban landscape. Using everything from individual street trees up to small patches of forest as a stormwater best management practice (BMP) is hampered by this uncertainty of how to "credit" urban trees for runoff and pollutant load reduction. This webcast will review the available stormwater crediting systems for urban tree planting and will present a new crediting system that includes a design specification for urban tree planting that can be integrated into state and local compliance systems for stormwater management, TMDLs and other water quality requirements.

[**Register for this webcast!**](#)