

WATERSHED ASSISTANCE COLLABORATIVE

PUTTING RESOURCES AT THE LEVEL WHERE THE WORK GETS DONE



MARYLAND

Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Mark Belton, Secretary



Chesapeake
& Coastal Service

Background

In recognition that not all jurisdictions currently have the capacity to implement large-scale non-point source restoration and protection efforts, Maryland's state agencies, the Chesapeake Bay Trust, University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) joined together to create the Watershed Assistance Collaborative (the Collaborative) in the fall of 2008.

The Collaborative is a partnership that provides services and technical assistance to communities to advance restoration activities and projects. By leveraging resources of existing programs, the Collaborative exists to provide coordinated capacity building opportunities to local implementers.

Goals of the Collaborative

In order to meet the challenge of Chesapeake Bay restoration, every local government, every business and every citizen will have a significant role to play. The Collaborative offers the tools, resources and outreach needed to work toward large nonpoint source pollution implementation and restoration efforts.

Services Offered by the Collaborative

Watershed Assistance Grant Program

Lead by Chesapeake Bay Trust, the Collaborative provides planning and design grants which are needed before large scale restoration can begin. Visit cbtrust.org for grant information.

Regional Watershed Restoration Specialists

The Collaborative is providing "on-the-ground" personnel to local and county governments and their partners to accelerate nonpoint source pollution reduction efforts. Working through the University of Maryland's SeaGrant Extension, five regional watershed restoration specialists are supported by the Collaborative and assigned to different regions of the state.

Impact by the Numbers

168

Acres of coastal wetlands or stream side forest restored planning and design projects supported by technical and financial assistance from the Watershed Assistance Collaborative partners

41

Communities assisted in the planning, design and engineering of shovel-ready bay restoration projects

\$8.1M

Grant dollars awarded through the Watershed Assistance Grant Program

5

Regional Watershed Restoration Specialists serving Maryland's coastal communities, in partnership with the University of Maryland and NOAA

100+

Acres planned for forested buffer plantings on the Eastern Shore, Western Shore and in Southern Maryland as identified by the Watershed Restoration Specialists

10

New stormwater financing programs in development for Maryland communities



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Financing Strategies and Stakeholder Development

The University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center and other consultants through the Collaborative are providing watershed planning, financing and stakeholder development to prepare groups for project implementation.

Stormwater Financing and Outreach Unit (SFOU)

Continuing its partnership with the University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center, the SFOU was created to help local governments create strategies for financing stormwater management. The SFOU is committed to working with up to two Maryland communities per year and will also hold a series of workshops for municipal stormwater managers throughout the State. To date, the SFOU has worked with Anne Arundel County, Baltimore, Berlin, Bowie, College Park, Calvert County, Federalsburg, Ocean City, Oxford, and Salisbury.

Key Accomplishments

The Watershed Assistance Grant Program to date has awarded over \$8.1million for 168 planning and design projects throughout Maryland.

The UMD Environmental Finance Center worked with the Sassafras River Association and the Middle Chester partners to develop implementation action plans. EFC completed a financing strategy for the Sassafras River Association for future implementation options.

The towns of Ocean City and Berlin in Worcester County completed stormwater financing strategies with assistance from the EFC Stormwater Financing and Outreach Unit (SFOU). To date, the SFOU has also worked with Anne Arundel County, Baltimore, Bowie, College Park, Calvert County, Federalsburg, Oxford and Salisbury.

Regional Watershed Specialists helped to establish Watershed Stewards Academics in Anne Arundel, Howard, Cecil and Harford Counties. The Academy produces stewards that collaborate with neighbors, businesses, schools and each other to install hundreds of projects that reduce pollution in our rivers and streams.

Regional Watershed Restoration Specialists by Region

Jennifer Dindinger
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Mid- and Upper Shore
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Jackie Takacs
Southern MD
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Kelsey Brooks
Northern Maryland
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SPOTLIGHT: Town of Berlin Approves Groundbreaking Stormwater Utility

On January 28, 2013, the town of Berlin passed historic legislation that will help reduce flooding and clean up area rivers and streams. The new ordinance will create a stormwater utility for Berlin, dividing the cost of managing stormwater among the town's property owners and helping the town leverage federal and state grants for additional, related enhancements.

The utility will generate \$570,000 annually for capital projects to help curb flooding, reduce erosion and polluted runoff, and combat property damage. Berlin decided to institute a utility in response to a University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center (EFC) study on how the town should best handle stormwater and flooding issues.

The study - financed by the state's Collaborative and Town Creek Foundation - showed that Berlin's stormwater problems stem from inadequate infrastructure that cannot handle runoff nor protect against flooding. With no sustainable source of funding, the report recommended that the town divide the cost among all of its property owners in order to provide maintenance, upgrades and improvements to its stormwater conveyance system.

Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and its partners recognized that some jurisdictions don't have the capacity to create large-scale, non-point source restoration and protection efforts. DNR along with other State and federal agencies created the Watershed Assistance Collaborative in 2008 to provide services and technical assistance to communities to advance restoration activities and projects. Partners include the Chesapeake Bay Trust, University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension Program, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center, NOAA and the EPA. For EFC's full report, visit: efc.umd.edu/berlin.



Photo from EFC's Photo Contest held at the Town's Chamber of Commerce