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The Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals

PAEP Newsletter

Winter 2005

And the Winner Is? Congratulations to the Newly Elected and Re-elected PAEP Board of Directors

From November 7 to December 15, PAEP conducted an election to fill the 5 open seats on the Board. Brian Pancher, Dr. Sue



Thompson, Mark Fedosick, Jason Minnich, and Jeff Prawdsik have been elected to the 2005 PAEP Board of Directors -- congratulations, and we look forward the leadership each of you will bring to the organization during your respective terms! An election is not possible unless people vote, so *thank you* to all of you that took the time to participate in this election!

THE EASTERN SECTION WOULD LIKE TO CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE PAEP 2005 ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

May 12th & 13th, 2005



Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel Scranton

700 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton PA 18503, Telephone: (570) 342-8300 Fax: (570) 342-0380

This years annual meeting will be held on May 12th & 13th at the Historic Radisson Hotel in Scranton, PA. This year's program will start informally on Wednesday afternoon with your choice of several technical tours, a golf outing and an evening reception with the PAEP Board and new Members. We will have technical presentations and agency workshops on Thursday (all day) and Friday (morning). There will also be a keynote lunch with the Karl Mason Awards and an evening Business Meeting with Dinner. We look forward to seeing you there.

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TRADE TALK

PPL, LLC (PPL) of Allentown, Pennsylvania recently renewed its Vegetation Control contract with Mid-Atlantic Associates, Inc. (Mid-Atlantic) of Colmar, Pennsylvania for 2005. Under the initial 2004 contract, Mid-Atlantic provided environmental oversight and management of PPL's seasonal vegetation control program at four PPL Pennsylvania power facilities. Mid Atlantic's contract responsibilities included contractor screening and subcontracting, herbicide and application rate selection, application management, health and safety, project control and monitoring, community/public liaison and final reporting/documentation.

By utilizing Mid-Atlantic, PPL was able to reduce: 1) scheduling complications at four generation facilities, 2) ineffective applications, 3) overall program costs by eliminating site revisits and 4) program related incidents. Additionally, Mid-Atlantic provided a comprehensive environmental approach to herbicide use and management in environmentally sensitive areas on and adjacent to PPL's operating properties.



To learn more about how Mid-Atlantic can reduce your herbicide application program costs, call Tom Gresko at 610-935-1021.

EASTERN SECTION NEWS

The Eastern Section Program Committee wants your input!

What types of programs would you like to see more of (or less of)?

Do you know an environmental professional who would be interested in presenting a topic for PAEP? We're always on the lookout for good speakers!

We'd also like to offer more networking opportunities for our members- such as weekend outings, "power lunches", and/or happy hours. Let us know what most interests you, and if you would like to plan an event!

Please contact one of the co-chairs, Marc Radell (Marc_Radell@URSCorp.com) or Deborah Poppel (dpoppel@ensr.com) for further information. Help make the most of your membership by sharing your ideas with us!

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The general framework established by Karl Mason serves as the foundation for Pennsylvania's environmental protection programs to this day. Karl Mason believed and put into practice the notion that environmental protection is primarily the business of professionals who have the skills by virtue of their scientific training to manage the technical and scientific complexities of maintaining a safe, healthy and clean environment.

PAEP continues to maintain the stewardship of the Karl Mason Award. Each year, at the PAEP Annual Meeting and Conference, the prominent Karl Mason Award is awarded to selected nominees whose project or program has demonstrated prestigious environmental management.

KARL MASON AWARD.

The Karl Mason Award will be granted in two individual categories:

- One award will be granted for outstanding environmental project by a group or company,
- One award will be granted for outstanding environmental work or project by an individual.

Nominations are now being accepted until **February 25, 2005**, at which time the PAEP Board Members will vote and select the victorious 2005 candidates.

Entries should be forwarded to the PAEP for review, with a detailed one page description of a well managed, successful, environmental project or work. Please forward entries (email preferred) to:

PAEP

P.O. Box 7202, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050 OR efarrell@farrell-assoc.com

Granting of the award will take place at the PAEP Annual State-Wide Conference, May 11th-13th, in Scranton, hometown of the Steamtown National Historical Site.

To lean more about the legacy of Karl Mason, visit the PAEP web-site: http://www.paep.org/mason_award.htm



Ecological Construction Treads Lightly

MORE TRADE TALK

There are many contractors who can move earth, and lots of it. The trick is to find a contractor who can move earth in sensitive, often watery environments with minimal negative impact.

Ecological Construction was born in 2004 to fill that niche. The fledgling Lititz-based company combines highly trained operators with specialized equipment to provide an uncommon level of environmental construction and excavating services for projects such as stream and floodplain restoration, wetland restoration and creation, bridge crossings, pond restoration, dam removal, and emergency work, including rip-rap installation. They also focus many of their efforts on agricultural best management practices such as stabilized stream crossings, invasive-plant removal and reforestation, grass waterways and terraces, and manure-storage lagoons.

The company's general manager, Dan Guy, likens Ecological Construction's operators to carpenters. "Just like most excavators, we do the 'roughing out," he says, "but unlike many operators, we excel when it comes to the 'finishing.' Our operators have lots of experience and specialized training to work gently and precisely in areas where that kind of expertise is critical. But they also have a real talent for that kind of work, and that's not something that can be taught.

"What really pleases me about this company," Guy continues, "is our ability to look at a design, look at the site, and be able to provide feedback to the designer before problems arise in the field. We're also in the habit of planning days and usually weeks ahead, not only for construction sequencing, which is required by the regulatory process, but also for materials that will be needed on the job site. This is another way we save our clients time, money, and unnecessary hassles.

"Once we're ready to go, we like to keep moving because of the nature of our work. When we excavate in areas of surface water or high water tables," he explains, "we move the earth, do the grading, and stabilize, usually with sod mats, as we go. It's more efficient, and it keeps the water table from infiltrating the site."

Specialized equipment such as their crawler carrier helps Ecological Construction operators work in fragile conditions. The crawler carrier, Guy explains, "can run through mud and water three feet deep. Rubber tracks and low ground pressure prevent ground compaction, even in soft soils. We select our equipment carefully, always looking for features that allow us to operate in nearly any kind of conditions with the least amount of impact."

Ever since Ecological Construction officially opened its doors last March, they have been working on one project after another. "We feel as though we are providing a much-needed service," Guy says, "and we want environmental professionals around the region to know we're here."

Ecological Construction can be reached at 717-625-2696.

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"PAEP's Conservation Heritage Initiative Gets a Boost"

On the evening of November 15, 2005 on the floor of the Pennsylvania State Senate, Senator Jane M. Earll and 25 Senators successfully introduced Senate Resolution 324 encouraging the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) to "work with other public and private organizations to help promote local and regional elements of the conservation heritage of the Commonwealth."

The PAEP Conservation Heritage Committee was instrumental in drafting the resolution in cooperation with the PHMC. The full text of the resolution is on page 7.

As a follow up to the Senate's adoption of the resolution, members of the Conservation Heritage Committee along with PHMC staff met with Senator Earll on February 2, 2005 to personally express appreciation for her strong support of the resolution and its successful introduction and to discuss next steps in advancing conservation heritage initiatives. During the meeting, Wayne Kober, Chair of the Conservation Heritage Committee, and Dave Hess, former DEP Secretary,



answered the Senator's questions about PAEP and the genesis of the idea of capturing and promoting conservation heritage education. Also, Marilyn Levin, PHMC Legislative Liaison, and Beth Hager, PHMC Director of Development, reviewed existing PHMC programs which promote conservation heritage education and ideas for new initiatives.

Senate Earll encouraged the group to continue to work together and keep her posted on the progress on promoting the Commonwealth's conservation heritage.

As a next step, the Conservation Heritage Committee plans to meet with Barbara Franco, Executive Director



of PHMC, and her key staff to develop a plan for strategically approaching joint PAEP/PHMC efforts to pursue new conservation heritage initiatives and to vitalize existing PHMC programs.

The members of the PAEP Conservation Heritage Committee are: Robert Hosking, Senior Environmental Scientist, McTish, Kunkel and Associates; Dave Hess, Director of Policy and Communications, Holston and Crisci; Jim Wilson, Grants Project Management Division of DCNR's Bureau of Recreation & Conservation and Wayne Kober, President, Wayne W. Kober, Inc., Transportation and Environmental

Management Consulting.

Any PAEP members who are interested in serving on the Conservation Heritage Committee should contact Wayne Kober at: wwkpa@earthlink.net.



Are your streams healthy? How is the water quality? Is there any flooding or stream bank erosion? Are there any fish in the stream? Can you wade I it? Do you have the tools to assess the water quality and stream channel protection in your watersheds? Are you or someone you know interested in a FREE user-friendly water-quality and surface runoff assessment tool available over the internet? If so, we would like to invite you to attend any one of a series of training workshops to be held at Penn State to acquaint members of the water resources community with a new web tool (Stream Health and Runoff Potential, SHRP) we have recently designed. The purpose of SHRP is twofold: (1) to estimate stream health, such as yearly nutrient yields, for any user-selected stream basin or watershed in Pennsylvania, or the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and (2) to estimate peak and total volume of storm water runoff for a chosen stream or watershed in Pennsylvania and a design storm. It is really two tools in one!

The SHRP can be extremely useful for members of the watershed and water resources community in identifying impaired stream, assessing the effects of future development on stream health and runoff, designing methodologies to address channel altering flows and estimating how much storm water retention should be required for a given program of housing or road construction. Since it is available over the internet, you can use it anywhere you have a connection to the world-wide web. It requires no additional software, hardware, or storage space on a computer. Therefore it is truly free. However, use of the SHRP will require just a few hours of instruction. It's really quite simple once you know how to operate its components.

We are organizing this workshop as a service to the community because we believe that technology should be shared with the public. Such sharing must involve a direct interaction between the scientist or engineer who develop the technology and the user. As such we are grateful to our sponsors (Agricultural and Natural Resources Programs (Penn State Cooperative Extension), Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection through its Watershed Academy, Alliance for Chesapeake Bay, and the Department of Meteorology, Penn State) who have helped to make this public service a reality.

We would like to invite members of the private sector, watershed specialists, members of the university community, GIS specialists and anyone interested in water quality and storm water runoff to come to Penn State for a one-day tutorial in the use of the SHRP during May, 2005 (see calendar below). Hands on instruction in the use of the SHRP will be provided in one of the campus computer labs by our three instructors. Each group will consist of 6-10 people. If necessary, overnight accommodations will be arranged. Lunches will be provided but, to cover our expenses, we request a participation fee of \$100 per person. No charge is required for individuals from non-profit organizations or those affiliated with the Penn State Outreach program.

We sincerely hope that you and/or your associates will participate in the training sessions and that such involvement will benefit your organization and its goals in protecting our streams. Our reward will be to help you meet these goals. If you have any questions please contact us by phone at 814-865-1582, by e-mail at tnc@essc.psu.edu or by fax at 814-865-3663. Once you have registered, we will send you more detailed information on the program, including materials you will need to bring.

Below, I've attached a table of prospective dates. Please indicate which day you would like to attend, including both your first and second choices of dates, in order that we can schedule a more or less equal number of attendees at each session. (We will do everything within reason to honor your first choice, however.) Instructions on where we will hold the sessions and a map of how to get there will be provided in a later communication and on our web site. The format for the sessions is as follows:

<u>9 - 10 am</u>	Introductory Plenary Session
10 - 12 am	Water Quality Module Instruction
12 – 1 pm	Lunch
1 - 3 pm	Stormwater Runoff Module Instruction
3 - 4 pm	Wrap up Plenary Session

Please register for the workshop online or respond by mail using the enclosed form so that you can reserve your spot for the workshop. An application form is shown below.

Toby N. Carlson Professor of Meteorology 619 Walker Bldg Penn State University University Park, PA 16802

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The Senate this week unanimously passed Senate Resolution 324, sponsored by Sen. Earll (R-Erie), Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) and others, encouraging the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to create a special Conservation Heritage Initiative to recognize the citizens, events and historically significant places in Pennsylvania that have contributed to the environmental heritage of the Commonwealth and the United States.

The resolution was an initiative of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals which approached Sen. Earll with the proposal. Sen. Earll represents the Senate on the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Board. The full text of the resolution follows:

A Resolution Encouraging the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to create a Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Initiative.

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has been home to people with a deep and abiding respect for the natural bounty and resources of this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, William Penn, proprietor of the Province of Pennsylvania, wrote our first conservation law; and

WHEREAS, Gifford Pinchot, Rachel Carson, Jerome Rodale, Mira Lloyd Dock, Otto Emery Jennings, Rosalie Barrow Edge, Dr. Maurice Goddard, Joseph Rothrock, Gertrude Fox, Hilda Fox, Ned Smith, John Bartram, J. Horace McFarland, Ralph Abele and many others contributed through science, academia, government and private organizations to the protection and enhancement of our natural and wild resources; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians have been pioneers in developing innovative policies and programs to protect our natural resources, having developed the first botanical gardens, the first scientific study of agriculture, the first water filtration plant, the first trained foresters, the first sanctuary for birds of prey, the first Envirothon environmental education program and the first trail in the National Trail System; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has won more national and international awards for environmental protection and natural resources programs than any other state in the United States for redeveloping brownfields, reducing pollution, mandating compliance reporting, protecting watersheds, instituting environmental education programs, encouraging senior citizens in the protection of the environment and promoting public involvement in environmental initiatives; and WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is home to historic places relating to conservation history, including: Mill Grove, which inspired John J. Audubon; Donora, site of one of our nation's worst air pollution disasters; Grey Towers National Historic Landmark, home to Gifford Pinchot; the Rachel Carson Homestead; the Hawk Mountain Preserve; Drake Oil Well; Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant; Bartram Gardens; Mont Alto School of Forestry; the Lumber Museum of Pennsylvania; the Knox Mine near Wilkes-

Barre; and the Johnstown Flood Museum; and

WHEREAS, The people, places and programs in this Commonwealth which have contributed to our conservation history inspire greater natural resources stewardship; and

WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has already taken significant steps in recognizing the people and places involved in our conservation history; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to create a Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Initiative which further educates the public about the contributions Pennsylvanians have made to conservation history; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to build on its existing efforts and conduct research to identify the people, places and organizations which have made a significant contribution to Pennsylvania's

conservation heritage and make that information available through educational displays, curriculum materials, online resources and workshops; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to review its existing museums and historic sites to identify and create conservation education elements at those facilities; and be it further RESOLVED, That the Senate encourage the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to work with other public and private organizations to help promote local and regional elements of the conservation heritage of this Commonwealth.

Third Party Funding for Natural Resource Mitigation

Almost every project that impacts a wetland, a stream, or an upland habitat requires some type of compensatory mitigation. That is, the project sponsor must, in some way, replace the resource functions and values lost due to the impacts. Mitigation for natural resources has become increasingly difficult to accomplish due to a variety of issues. Finding and acquiring a suitable project site competes with everincreasing development pressures and costs for usable land. Because of concerns over such things as mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus, property owners adjacent to proposed mitigation sites are becoming more skeptical of "environmental improvement projects".

Meeting project sponsor design, construction, and approval standards not originally developed for natural resource projects are all factors making compensatory natural resource mitigation more and more difficult.

Traditionally, compensatory mitigation has involved the construction project sponsor conducting the siting, design, and construction of natural resource mitigation on their own. Several options to this traditional independent approach are presently being evaluated and utilized. Some of these options include wetland

banking, in-lieu fee agreements, research funding, and preservation projects. Recently, third party funding has become an option pursued by many project sponsors.



This 1.45 acre wetland was created through the traditional process to mitigate impacts associated with a roadway improvement project.

Third party funding, simply described, is paying someone else to complete the required mitigation efforts. This approach often includes different aspects of the afore-mentioned options but involves an organization not directly associated with the project

sponsor or regulatory community. Local government agencies (municipalities, counties, conservation districts) and environmental organizations (conservancies, watershed associations) are the main focus of third party arrangements. These groups often have projects or programs established for environmental restoration or improvement but lack sufficient funding to complete them. Their projects are sometimes ecologically better than potential project sponsor mitigation due to the understanding of local environmental needs. Reduced design standards and local resident contact also provide improved project potential.

Third party funding usually follows one of two paths; either direct funding of a specific local project or development or enhancement of a program funding agreement. Local entities often have a specific environmental project identified

But do not have any or complete funding for the project. Mitigation funding is then supplied directly to these projects for completion. Other times funding is supplied to the local entity to develop or increase funding for a program that identifies and completes a series of environmental improvement projects. Several examples of such programs include County Conservation Districts streambank fencing programs, Watershed Association streambank stabilization programs, and the Land Conservancy's conservation easement acquisition programs.

While third party funding can be rewarding and beneficial to both the local organization and the project sponsor, it is not always easy or feasible to accomplish. Many constraints exist to completing this approach to mitigation:

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Continued from Page 8

Project Timing- Both the local project or program and the mitigation requirements must be on similar time schedules. Usually required mitigation must be accomplished within a project-related timeframe i.e. before construction completion. Therefore, the local organization must be able to show that their project can be completed within a similar timeframe.

Project Compatibility – The local project or program must reasonably replace the functions and values lost due to the construction project. For example, if a wetland is impacted, there should be

some wetland construction as part of the mitigation. If a stream is being straightened or relocated and therefore shortened, there should be some additional stream length created by the mitigation.

Regulatory consensus – The regulatory agencies overseeing the mitigation must approve the entire mitigation scenario in order for the construction project sponsor to obtain their permits.

Funding transfer – After all the issues above are taken care of, executing the agreement can be the final obstacle. Developing a legal agreement for funding and identifying a mechanism to transfer the money from the project sponsor to the local organization can be difficult and time consuming.



This stream improvement project included riparian and in stream habitat improvements conducted adjacent to a community park. The trees planted along the stream help improve the stream and also improve the park scenery.

As environmental regulation continues to strengthen and mitigation becomes more difficult, more creative ways to obtain project clearance needs to be developed. Utilizing local organizations can help satisfy mitigation needs and improve the overall success of the mitigation.

For addition information Kenneth E. Stockert can be contacted at 412-355-2097, or via email at kstockert@admarble.com



Grants Available for Water Resources Education Projects

Applications due April 1, 2005

To receive application send email to wren@pa.lwv.org or call 800 692-7281 ext 10.

Application package may also be downloaded from websites: http://www.pa.lwv.org/wren or http://www.drinkingwaterwise.org

The WREN Project is a program of the League of Women Voters of PA Citizen Education Fund



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Gannett Fleming

Gannett Fleming Inc., a leading Architectural & Engineering Consulting firm, seeks the following experienced professional for our Camp Hill office:

ENVIRONMENTAL GIS ANALYST

Qualified candidates will possess a BS (Master's pref.) in Environmental Science, Planning, Geography, or related field; experience using GIS analyses and mapping software to support impact assessments and planning studies; knowledge of NEPA compliance and document preparation standards; proficiency using ESRI ArcGIS software; and strong written and verbal communication skills. GIS application development and/or GPS exp. is a plus!

SENIOR PLANNER/PROJECT MANAGER

Requires a Bachelor's Degree in Planning or related field (Master's preferred); 15+ years of transportation and/or community planning; and diverse knowledge of PA planning and programming processes. Experience with transportation funding and innovative finance concepts desired. In addition to managing projects and overseeing technical efforts; the position requires experience in Business Development and Marketing.

SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER/SCIENTIST

Individual will serve as Site Remediation Program Manager. Requires a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Engineering, Geology, or related field (Master's degree and PE or PG preferred); and 15+ years environmental consulting experience including both public and private sectors for environmental assessments, site investigations and remediation projects. Knowledge of related PA laws and regulations is a must. In addition to managing projects and overseeing technical efforts; the position requires experience in Business Development and Marketing.

We offer competitive compensation and benefits. Send resume to: Gannett Fleming, Inc., HR Manager - CK, P.O. Box 67100, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7100. FAX: 717-763-8150 Email: employment@gfnet.com.

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NEW GENERAL MEMBERS:

David M. Bell – Dave is a new Eastern Section general member who has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lehigh University and a Ph.D. from Stanford University, both in Biological Sciences. Mr. Bell is a Senior Project Manager at Barry Issett & Associates, Inc., in Trexlertown.

Sarah L. Dunmyre – Sarah is a new Central Section general member who has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Gannon University. Ms. Dunmyer is employed as an Environmental Scientist at Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc., in Mechanicsburg.

Robert E. Hughes – Robert is a new Eastern Section general member who has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Resource Management from the Pennsylvania State University. His certifications include ARC GIS 9.0, Master Well Owner, Rosgen Level I (GFM), Non-Profit Management, USACOE Reg III Wetland's Delineation and Identification; and his specialties include Abandoned Mine Reclamation; Mine Drainage Remediation; Grant Writing, and Restoration. Mr. Hughes is the Regional Coordinator of the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation in Shavertown.

Christopher J. Johnson – Chris is a new Central Section general member who has a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from the Pennsylvania State University. His certifications include PADLT Lead Risk Assessor and 50-Hour HAZWOPER. Mr. Johnson is an environmental specialist at The EADS Group, Inc., in Altoona.

Sharon S. Yates – Sharon is a new Eastern Section general member who has a Master of Science degree from Virginia Tech and a Master of Science degree from West Chester University. Ms. Yates is a Senior Environmental Scientist at STV in Douglassville

WESTERN SECTION NEWS

The Western Section is sponsoring a "PNDI Search on Your Desktop" Seminar. This event will be on February 23, 2005 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Coraopolis, PA. The event will begin at 6:00 P.M. with hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. The presentation will begin at 8:30 P.M. Michael Bialousz, Central Data Manager of the Pennsylvania Natural

Heritage Program will be the speaker. The cost is \$10.00 per person and will be collected at the door. Please call for reservations. Contact Tammy Sherwin at (724) 452-8242. For additional information, contact Brian Pancher at (724) 981-0155. This event is co-sponsored by Women in Transportation and the Southwest Section of the Pennsylvania Planning Association.



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