



Topics Discussed

- Borton Lawson / Skelly & Loy / Haested Methods selected to perform Watershed Assessment.
- Exeter Borough & HCWA awarded DEP Grant for Wetlands Cleanup.
- HCWA Spring Cleanup Project scheduled for May 15th.
- Earth Day Streamside Cleanups Scheduled for April 24th.

How to Contact Us

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Points for Next Mtg

- Organizing Spring Cleanup Project
- Volunteers needed for DEP's Flood Damage Inventory Forms
- Set date for initial stream walk for assessment project.
- Karen Szwast named LCD's Conservation Steward of the Year.

Check out our website:
www.hickscreek.org

TOPICS DISCUSSED AT HCWA MARCH MEETING

Hicks Creek Watershed Association (HCWA) has partnered with the Luzerne Conservation District (LCD) and the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR) to develop the Hicks Creek Watershed Assessment Project. The project is being funded through a \$46,440 Growing Greener Grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). Seven firms submitted proposals for the assessment. The firms of Borton Lawson, Skelly & Loy and Haestead Methods joined to submit the best proposal and were selected unanimously for the project.

The watershed assessment is set to begin April/May 2004 and be completed by January 2005. There will be several public meetings and a steam walk to gather information for the assessment. Everyone interested is welcome to attend and provide input.

Organizing the May 15th Spring Cleanup Project is underway. In order to make this event successful your support and input is necessary. Help is needed in many different areas: passing out flyers, soliciting donations, walking & inventorying the clean up site, assisting with registration, picking up trash, driving volunteers to and from various sites. For the

On Friday February 13, 2004, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty presented two Growing Greener grants totaling \$100,000 to address standing water problems, flooding, mosquitoes and trash dumps at two ponds located along the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority (LCRA) railroad line in West Wyoming (Ferritti Drive area) and Exeter Borough (the Exeter Park area).

A grant of \$93,000 was awarded to West Wyoming to install a drainpipe and a pump to prevent water levels from reaching the elevations that flood Anthracite and Lehigh Streets in Exeter.

A second grant of \$7000 was awarded to Exeter to work with HCWA to clean up illegally dumped trash from around the ponds and along the railway in West Wyoming & Exeter.

HCWA Spring Cleanup Project is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 2004. The

cleanup will address the area along the Luzerne County Redevelopment Authority railroad from Sixth St. in West Wyoming to Schooley Ave. in Exeter. We encourage all members to join in the effort to clean up our watershed. If you are interested in volunteering your time or services, attend the next meeting or contact Karen Szwast at 654-0093.

The Wyoming Valley Watershed Coalition (WVWC) is partnering with the Nanticoke Conservation Club and Forty-Fort Borough to clean four area streams as part of this year's Wyoming Valley Streamside Cleanup Program. Targeted areas are Abraham's Creek in Forty-Fort, Solomon Creek in Hanover Twp., Susquehanna River in Nanticoke and Toby Creek in Dallas. Anyone interested in volunteering call Karen Szwast or check our website or WVWC's website (<http://wvwc.org>) for additional information and registration forms.

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, APRIL 5 AT 7PM EXETER BOROUGH BUILDING, 1101 WYOMING AVENUE

past 2 years we have had very successful cleanups – help us to continue that trend.

At least 15 volunteers are needed to go door to door and fill out Flood Damage Inventory DEP Forms List. Street addresses will be provided and a short training on filling out forms will be held. This is a vital point in prioritizing DEP's funding of flood protection projects.

A date will be set in April or May for the initial stream walk for the watershed assessment. Karen will try to try to get several dates for this from Paul Debarry.

At the 39th Annual Tri-Ag Banquet on March 9, 2004, Karen Szwast was named "Conservation Steward of the Year" by the Luzerne Conservation District for her work with HCWA. Congratulations to Karen!