

Photo Credit: Martha Grey
Boyertown, PA



SAN Annual Meeting

November 14, 2014

Jon M. Capacasa, Chair, ESC
Water Protection Division
Director, EPA Region 3



Photo Credit: Alicia Zimmerman
Alburtis, PA



Photo Credit: Alicia Zimmerman
Alburtis, PA

THE
Schuylkill
RIVER

PENNSYLVANIA'S 2014

RIVER
OF THE
YEAR



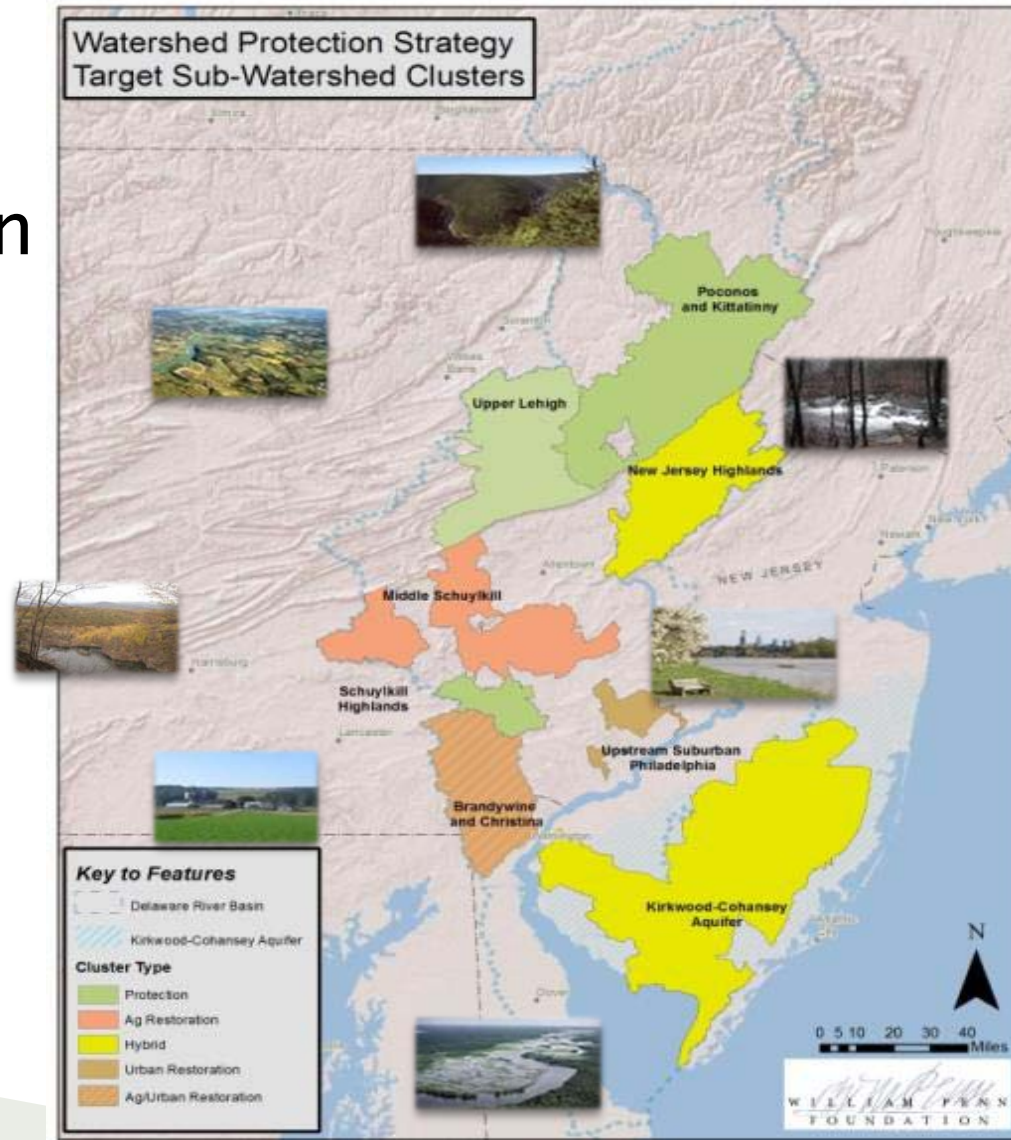
Photo Credit: Carol Brightbill
Pottstown, PA

Delaware River Watershed Initiative

\$35M+ Investment
William Penn Foundation

8 watershed clusters
focused on protection,
restoration, and
monitoring activities

50+ partners involved



Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk



“Head of the Schuylkill” Regatta

- ▶ “Founded in 1971, the Head of the Schuylkill is the **largest regatta on the river** each year,
 - 7,000 competitors
 - 23 states and six countries, from ages 13 to 89.
 - Most of the local colleges, clubs and high schools compete
 - Letter to the Editor of the Phila Inquirer – cited the incredibly positive experience for this organization in using the River and its environs for this major event
- ▶ 16th Annual Schuylkill SOJOURN
 - 100+ kayaks, 112 miles

Schuylkill River Restoration Fund



- ▶ \$330K awarded in 2014 grants for 6 projects
- ▶ Over 30 projects since 2006
 - Acid mine drainage
 - Agricultural remediation
 - Stormwater runoff improvements
 - High priority land protection
- ▶ \$2.2 million contributed from:
 - Exelon Nuclear Corporation
 - Philadelphia Water Department
 - Aqua Pennsylvania
 - Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
- ▶ \$1.1M leveraged funds

Agriculture

Davis Farm manure storage basin



BEFORE



AFTER

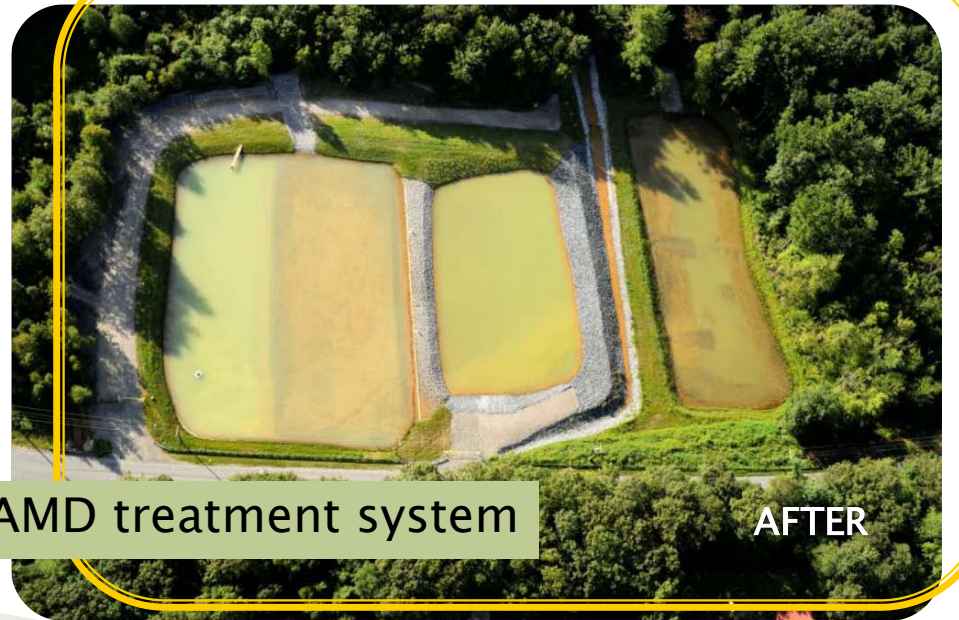
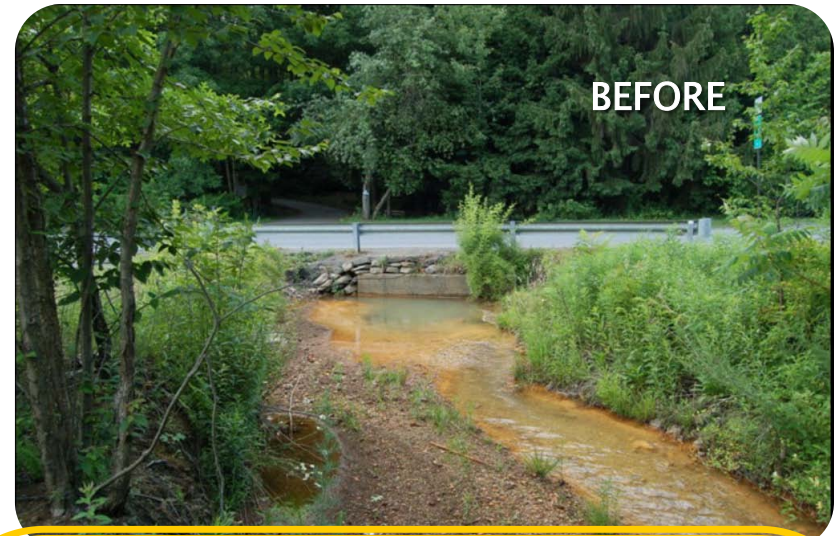


Installation of manure storage basin at Weaver farm

- ▶ Last 2 years: \$2.8M invested; 14 projects; \$378K SRRF
- ▶ Cumulatively 175 farm improvement projects
 - Streambank fencing
 - Riparian buffer plantings
 - Animal crossings
 - Manure storage basins
- ▶ \$882K Middle Schuylkill cluster

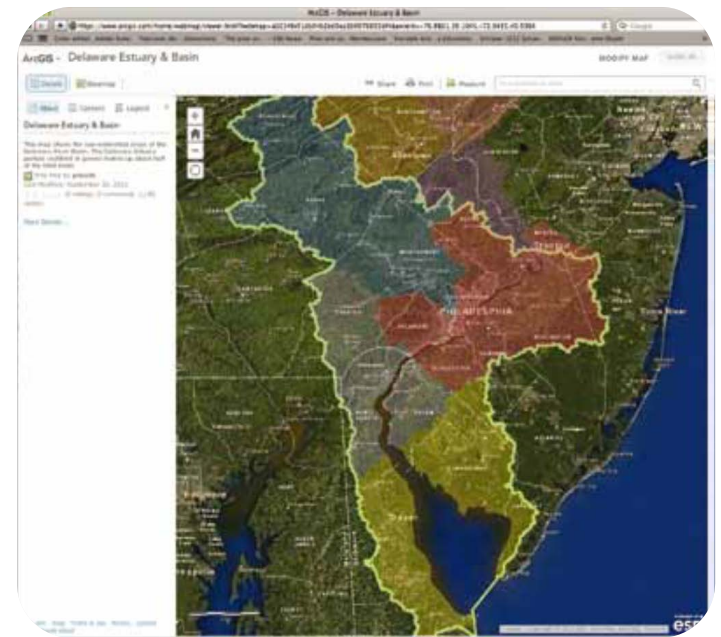
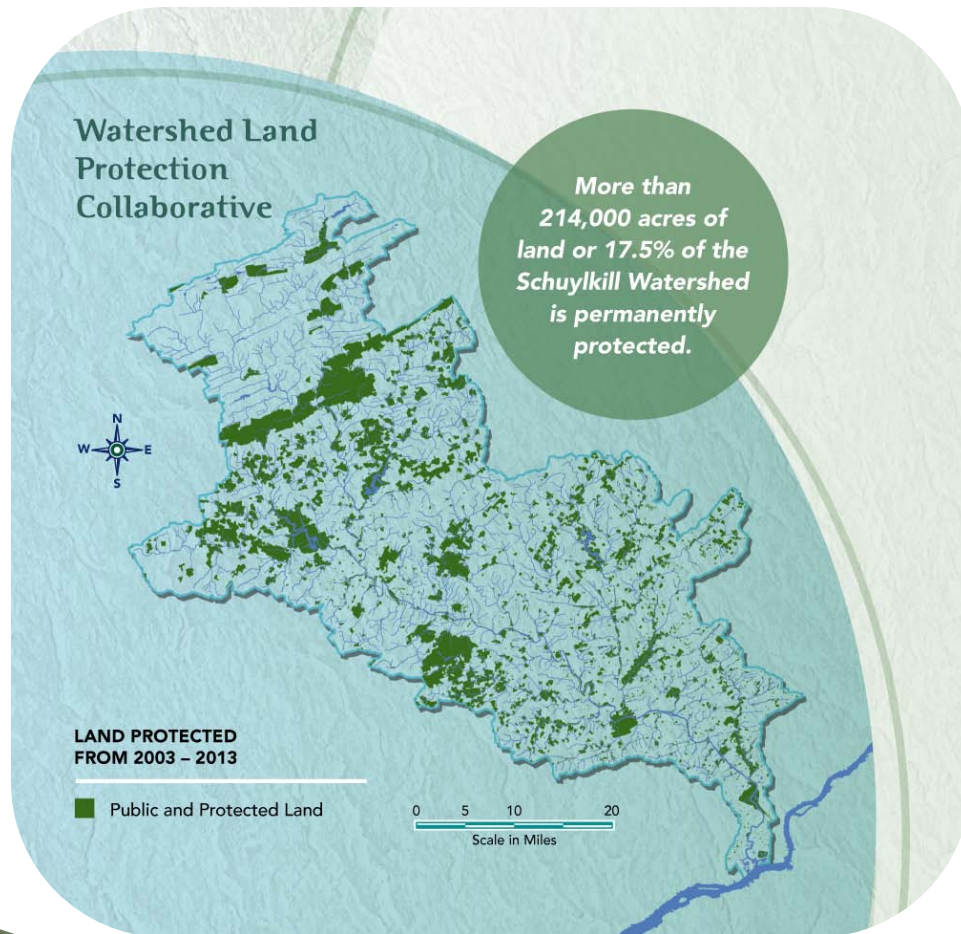
Abandoned Mine Drainage

- ▶ In 2014 \$1.2M invested; 8 projects
- ▶ Cumulatively more than \$14 million invested into nearly 45 projects
 - Coal silt stabilization
 - Infiltration abatement
 - Mine land reclamation
 - Planning
 - AMD Treatment systems
 - Watershed studies



Mary D Borehole AMD treatment system

Land Protection



- ▶ Land prioritization tool
 - Ranks land based on drinking water protection
- ▶ \$1.8M Schuylkill Highlands cluster
- ▶ Land Transaction Assistance Program
 - Last year, 4 projects funded protecting 300 acres
 - Cumulatively, 8 grants protecting 986 acres of high value land

Pathogens and Compliance



Delaware Valley
Early Warning System

Pathogen and Compliance Workgroup Projects

*More than
\$365 million worth of
infrastructure upgrades
over the past 10 years are
keeping pathogens out of
the watershed and
improving drinking
water.*



TOTAL DOLLARS SPENT BY MAJOR WATERSHED

- \$50 million – \$200 million
- \$15 million – \$50 million
- \$5 million – \$15 million
- Less than \$5 million

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Scale in Miles

- ▶ \$2.8M invested in infrastructure upgrades in 2013–14
- ▶ \$365 million cumulatively
 - Significant PennVest investments
 - Technical assistance to sewage treatment plant operators
 - Sewage discharges reduction
 - Sewer system capacity improvements
 - On-site septic system operation and maintenance improvements
- ▶ Delaware Valley EWS training, system users
 - 279 users across 50 organizations
 - Over 250 water quality events since inception

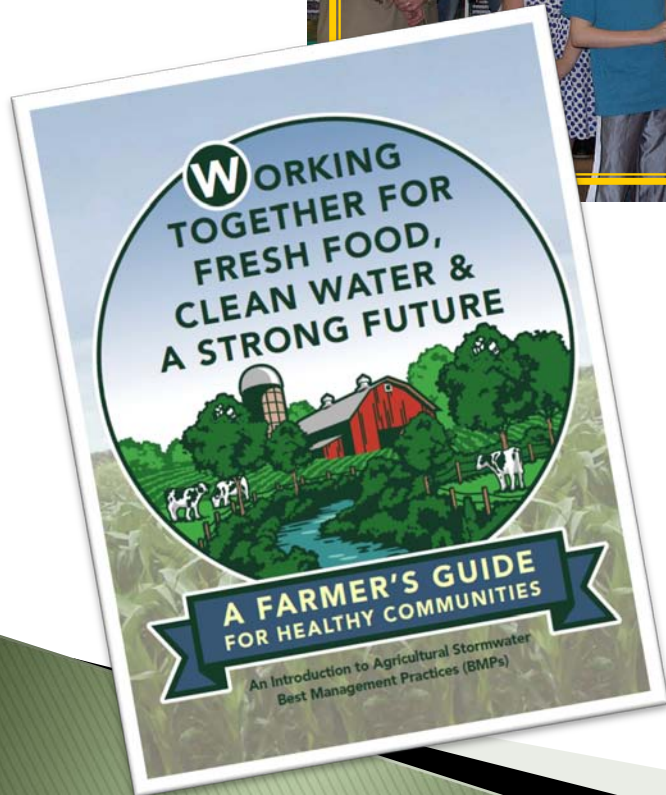
Stormwater

- \$240K funded by SRRF for 7 stormwater projects in 2013–14
- Cumulatively \$21 million invested in over 200 projects
 - Swales, Rain gardens
 - Naturalized basins
 - Green roofs
 - Tree plantings along stream
 - Streambank stabilization
- \$3.3M Suburban Philly cluster
- Schuylkill Action Students
 - 17 projects since 2011
 - \$180K grants with \$90K leveraged support
 - Stormwater solutions on school campuses

Christopher Dock High School rain garden



Education & Outreach



- ▶ Stormwater guides
 - Agricultural (NEW)
 - Homeowners
 - School campuses
 - Property management
- ▶ Schuylkill Scrub
- ▶ Drinking Water Scholastic Awards
- ▶ Schuylkill Acts and Impacts class
- ▶ Schuylkill Shots photo competition
- ▶ Storm drain art contest

SAN Moving Forward

- ▶ Strengthen the Science and Data Foundation
 - Exciting new and existing monitoring activities in the watershed lend some momentum
- ▶ Challenges
 - Need a framework to coordinate and share knowledge/data
 - Assure public access to data
 - Monitor progress and evaluate success

SAN Moving Forward

► Benefits of the Data

- Enhance targeting of future projects
- Document progress and measure our effectiveness
- Raise Public Awareness
- Increase investments in watershed

SAN Moving Forward

- ▶ Continue Seeking Results through On-the-ground Projects
 - Over \$413M overall investment in the past decade
- ▶ Building our Collaborative Efforts
 - \$200K SAN leading collaborative projects
- ▶ Strengthen Our Science and Data Foundation – theme for the day!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GREAT WORK!