

MENTORING ASSISTANCE FOR WATERSHEDS

INTRODUCTION

River science isn't rocket science; it's much more complex. Our rivers, streams, and wetlands are dynamic systems. Rivers are chemistry, biology, and physics moving through geology, topography, and climate. Many watershed groups recognize that a good watershed plan considers not only the chemistry, biology, and physics of a watershed but also addresses the variety of problems seen in a river system.

To help local watershed groups achieve their goals of watershed protection, a variety of organizations have joined forces to form the Consortium for Scientific Assistance to Watersheds (C-SAW). C-SAW is a team of scientists available to provide technical assistance to your watershed group. Depending on the needs of your group, C-SAW can provide technical assistance in three main areas: Mentoring Assistance, Watershed-Specific Technical Assistance, and Quality-Control Assistance for water-quality and macroinvertebrate monitoring programs. **C-SAW assistance is provided at no cost to eligible groups.** This fact sheet focuses specifically on the Mentoring Assistance offered by C-SAW.

C-SAW REPRESENTATIVES

The consortium consists of many individuals, who are considered experts in the field of watershed studies and assessments, working for the following organizations:

- Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM)
- Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN)
- Pennsylvania Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D's)
- Pennsylvania Lake Management Society (PALMS)
- Stroud Water Research Center (Stroud)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (WPCAMR)
- Wilkes University-Center for Environmental Quality

MENTORING ASSISTANCE

A small number of watershed organizations in each river basin will be provided with a unique experience—intensive individual watershed mentoring. Mentoring assistance is designed for groups who need intensive, long-term assistance rather than targeted short-term help and will focus on helping groups interested in starting or improving volunteer monitoring programs for watershed assessments, assessing restoration projects, or developing protection plans.

Watershed groups selected for mentoring can receive assistance from C-SAW for up to 3 years or as long as funding exists and there is still a need. A C-SAW representative will be assigned to your group and will serve as the conduit between your group and other scientists within the C-SAW team.

Your C-SAW representative will meet regularly with your group to discuss the group's needs and projects and help guide you through the steps necessary to achieve your goals. When specialized expertise is needed from another member of the C-SAW team, your C-SAW representative will coordinate this assistance.

Mentoring is meant to develop a relationship between a watershed group and a small group within the C-SAW team to meet intensive and continuing needs. Groups should view the C-SAW representative as a long-term partner and technical resource dedicated to guiding your group to achieve its watershed-protection goals. Mentoring will be specific to the needs of the individual group. Mentoring assistance includes all the areas listed under Watershed-Specific Technical Assistance and Quality-Control Assistance and can include:

- Consultation on determining water-resource issues
- Monitoring study-design development and selection of appropriate equipment
- Strategies for volunteer recruitment and retention
- Database design and data-management assistance
- Data interpretation and utilization assistance
- Assistance to groups in scientific aspects of assessments or monitoring where gaps exist in current watershed group capabilities
- Monitoring assistance
- Training (chemical, biological, and visual) in proper methodologies/protocols for successful monitoring efforts based on study design
- Quality assurance/quality control assistance



Under the guidance of C-SAW, members of the Conodoquinnet Creek Watershed Association learn how to interpret water-quality data.

ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION PROCESS

Selection of groups to be mentored will be based on group need, watershed issues, and application information provided by the watershed organization. Local watershed organizations interested in starting or improving volunteer monitoring programs for watershed assessments, assessing restoration projects, or developing protection plans will be considered first for receiving mentoring assistance. Because mentoring is the most time-intensive type of assistance offered by C-SAW, this process will be competitive and limited to a small number of watershed organizations in each river basin.



Mentoring assistance is available from C-SAW for a variety of watershed activities. Here, staff from the Delaware Riverkeeper Network train members of the Maiden Creek Watershed Association how to use field kits for water chemistry.

HOW TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE

Requests will be processed upon receipt and your group should know the status of its application within a month of submission. If your watershed group does not qualify for Mentoring Assistance, it may be eligible to receive assistance on a more limited basis through Watershed-Specific Technical Assistance.

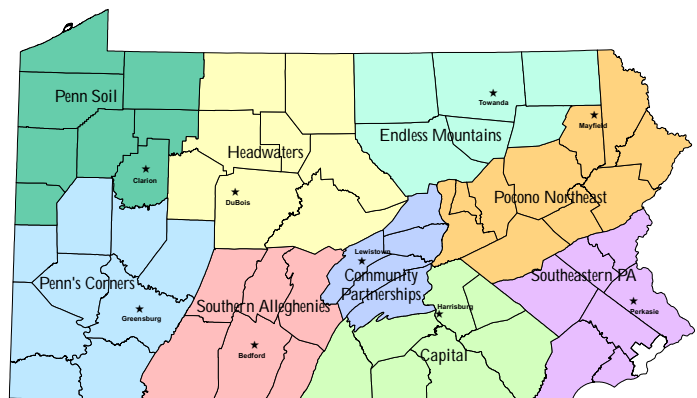
Applicants for mentoring should demonstrate:

- A strong commitment to watershed protection
- A strong base of volunteers available and interested in assisting with project implementation or the ability to acquire a volunteer base from the local community
- An organizational group structure to ensure the success and sustainability of the group
- A commitment to developing a watershed plan to protect and/or restore the local waterway and follow through with steps needed to achieve successful project completion
- The ability and interest to apply for grants and obtain funding for monitoring equipment
- A definite need for long-term scientific technical support from C-SAW
- A commitment to meeting/corresponding with the C-SAW representative on a regular basis for the long-term

Contact Information

To obtain assistance, please contact the RC&D Council in your area. The RC&D Councils are nonprofit organizations authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide administrative support to watershed groups across the state. The RC&D Council in your area will give you instructions for filling out a C-SAW one-page application for assistance. If you are unsure of the appropriate RC&D contact, you may call the Pocono Northeast RC&D and they will put you in contact with the correct office.

Capital Area RC&D	717-724-0009
Endless Mountains RC&D	570-265-5288 ext. 5
Headwaters RC&D	814-375-1372 ext. 4
Community Partnerships RC&D	717-248-4901
Penn Soil RC&D	814-226-8160 ext. 5
Penn's Corner RC&D	724-834-9063 ext. 3
Pocono Northeast RC&D	570-282-8732 ext. 4
Southeastern PA RC&D	215-453-9527 ext. 5
Southern Alleghenies RC&D	814-623-7900 ext. 5



HOW DO WE FIND OUT MORE?

Visit the C-SAW web site at:

<http://pa.water.usgs.gov/csaw/>

NOTE: This project is funded in part by a Growing Greener Grant provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The views herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the PADEP.

