Innovative Approaches to Improve Water Quality

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Regional Watershed Restoration Specialists
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UM College Park UM Eastern Shore
U of MD Sea Grant Extension
Watershed Protection & Restoration Program
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Watershed Protection & Restoration Program
Watershed Assistance Collaborative

• Started in 2008
• A partnership that provides services and technical assistance to communities to advance restoration activities and projects.
• Leverages resources of existing programs to provide coordinated capacity building opportunities to local implementers.
Watershed Protection & Restoration Program

Regional Watershed Restoration Specialists

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Watershed Protection & Restoration Program

• **Goal:**
  
  build programs to assist local governments and non-profits in achieving measureable improvements in water quality.

• **What a Watershed Specialist does**
  
  – Capacity building
  – Grants assistance
  – Project implementation
  – Education and outreach
• **Capacity Building**
  – Research Funding Opportunities
  – Facilitation
  – Watershed Planning
  – Project/Grant Development
  – Connect State Resources to the Local Level
• Grants Assistance
  – Grant Development
  – Grant Review
  – Online Assistance Directory
  – Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund
  – Chesapeake Bay Trust
  – New Partnerships
• **Project Implementation Assistance**
  – Technical Assistance
  – Project Management
  – WIP Implementation
• **Education and Outreach**
  
  – Events
  
  – Public/Residential Workshops
  
  – K-12 Professional Development
  
  – Social Marketing
  
  – General Bay and Watershed Programs
  
  – Publications
• Promote the use of water-quality enhancing best management practices (BMP)
  – Rain Gardens / bio-retention practices
  – Conservation Landscaping
Cecil County Watershed Stewards Academy

- Partnership between Cecil County and University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension.
- Started in September 2014.
- Installed WIP-creditable bioretention at the County Admin Building for half the cost
- 9 trained stewards will do Capstone projects in the community for additional stormwater management
- Goal is to identify barriers and benefits to proper septic maintenance and to use the information to craft appropriate messages for target audiences to encourage maintenance of septic systems.

Partners include:
• Dorchester County Environmental Health
• Wicomico County Environmental Health
• Dorchester Citizens for Planned Growth
• Wicomico Environmental Trust
• Nanticoke Watershed Alliance
The Goal is to assess local stormwater issues, develop long-term funding solutions to address them, and educate residents.

- Partners include the Town, the Environmental Finance Center, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, and University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension.
Healthy Waters Roundtable

- Goal is to bring together elected officials to share information and promote clean water activities on the Eastern Shore.
- Partnership involves the CBF, the Hughes Center for Agro-Ecology, University of Maryland Sea Grant Extension, and Eastern Shore Land Conservancy.
MDE Non-point Source (NPS) 319 Program

- Must have an EPA-approved watershed plan

- Antietam Creek
- Casselman River
- Corsica River
- Lower Jones Falls
- Middle Gwynns Falls
- Lower Monocacy River
- Sassafras River
- Spring Branch
- Tidal Back River
- Upper Back River
- Upper Choptank River
Caroline County Dept. of Planning & Codes utilized NPS funds to install BMPs on highly developed sites:

• Porous pavement near Denton
• Micro-bioretention facilities in Denton and Greensboro
• Additional BMPs at the Greensboro Volunteer Fire Company
The project aims to work with a wide diversity of stakeholders developing restoration and adaptation approaches to increase the resilience of habitats and communities on the Deal Island peninsula.
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation provides grants to approved technical assistance providers.

- Priority investments focus on agricultural conservation, restoration & community stewardship, and stormwater.

Funds not intended for ‘on-the-ground’ work:
- To develop training and social marketing programs.
- To do stormwater assessments and plans for retrofits.
- Develop sustainable financing strategies.
- Develop tools and models.

http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake/Pages/technical-capacity.aspx
In Summary

...there seems to be a pattern.

- Innovative and diverse partnerships
- Working closely with communities
- Tapping into local knowledge and resources such as NGOs
- Diverse sources of funding
Questions?

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