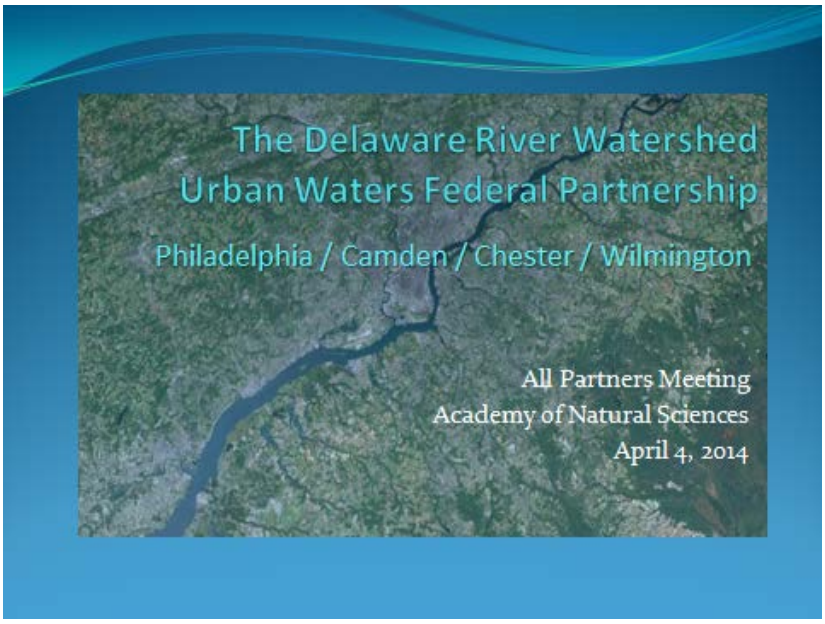
# Urban Waters Federal Partnership
# Greater Philadelphia Area/Delaware River Watershed
# "All Partners" Regional Meeting

**Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University**

**Philadelphia, PA**

**April 4, 2014**

## – Summary –




*Meeting planned and coordinated by locally based staff from:*

USDA Forest Service
NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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**For more information, visit** Delaware Urban Waters Partnership**.**

**Watch this video about meeting**: http://youtu.be/ionrAl4bfuQ


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## – Introduction –

The Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) aims to foster cross-sector networks and support localized revitalization efforts to reconnect urban communities with their waterways. The goals of this partnership are to break down intra-agency silos and promote regional collaboration in order to transform overlooked and neglected assets into drivers of urban and ecological revival. The initiative includes 14 federal agencies, with seven pilot sites launched in 2011, and 11 more sites added in 2013 – including the Delaware River Watershed. Our site covers four major urban areas across three states: Philadelphia, PA; Chester, PA; Camden, NJ; and Wilmington, DE.

In June 2013, the Greater Philadelphia Area/Delaware River Watershed Partnership conducted listening sessions in each partner city to introduce our initiative and to gather the needs, activities, and interests of stakeholders. From these sessions, we identified five areas of common concern: ***Water Quality and Quantity; River Protection and Restoration; Climate Resilience; Brownfield Revitalization;*** and ***Trails, Parks and Open Space*****;** with several additional cross-cutting themes: education and outreach, community and economic development, environmental justice, youth engagement, and enhancing trees and gardens. That fall, we organized the 1st Annual Wilderness Inquiry Paddling Event, which engaged some 440 students with their local waterways by sending them onto the Schuylkill, Christina, and Delaware Rivers in 24-foot Voyageur canoes. The Delaware River UWFP also launched its public website.

The purpose of the April 4, 2014 "All Partners" regional meeting was to reflect on lessons learned and proceed with next steps – specifically, the proposed establishment of individual "communities of practice" for each area of concern. (A Community of Practice is essentially a group of individuals who share interest in a specific topic and expand their knowledge, expertise, and effectiveness in this area through ongoing collaboration.) From the full partner contact list of about 300 people, 120 attended the event, representing a wide range of multi-level government agencies and organizations across the tri-state area: 10 federal agencies, 4 state agencies, 5 municipal agencies, 5 regional agencies, 28 nonprofit organizations, 6 research institutions, and 4 private firms. Thirty-nine of those participants came from Pennsylvania, 21 from Delaware, 14 from New Jersey, and 7 covered the entire region; 35 participants were regionally based federal employees.

The all-day meeting was structured around the five areas of concern, with a series of "lightning round" presentations (maximum 5 minutes and 5 slides limit per presenter) and brief panel discussions in the morning, followed by breakout sessions in the afternoon. This summary report presents abbreviated content from the various presentations and discussions. Additional detail is available on request.

Moderators: Michael Leff (michael.leff@davey.com): Ambassador, USDA Forest Service/Davey Institute
Dave Lange (david_a_lange@nps.gov): Northeast Program Manager, National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance

### Welcoming Remarks

**Roland Wall,** Director of the Center for Environmental Policy, Academy of Natural Sciences (www.ansp.org)
The Academy can contribute various resources to the UWFP, including services from the recently formed AJ Drexel Institute for Energy and Environment, which will help examine and mitigate human impact on water resources.

**Rachel Jacobson,** Principal Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, US Dept of the Interior
The DOI recognizes that local communities are key to improving urban stewardship. This partnership can transform water resources by restoring habitat and waters, daylighting urban streams, replacing or supplementing gray infrastructure with green infrastructure, creating green spaces, increasing trail access for recreation, and providing outdoor experiences for youth groups. These efforts will benefit property values, public health and safety, ecosystem function, local economies, and climate resilience. The partnership reflects the region's strong history of innovative collaboration between the federal government and regional entities.

**Andy Johnson,** Senior Program Officer, Watershed Protection, William Penn Foundation (www.wpf.org)
The WPF, a family fund committed to serving Philadelphia, has launched a multi-state investment of $35 million in grants for the protection of the Delaware River Watershed. In partnership with the Academy, the Foundation is determining where and how to allocate funds in order to channel collective energies into making the greatest possible impact. Working over such a large area with complex water quality problems provides many opportunities for creative solutions; the planning and implementation of these solutions will require the sharing of resources. In addition to the great collaborative work enabled by the UWFP communities of practice, the Foundation is excited about their potential to provide feedback and monitoring on the effectiveness and progress of its programs.

## – Meeting Agenda Overview –

**8:00am** **Registration and Light Breakfast Networking**

**8:30am** **Welcoming Remarks**
8:30 Roland Wall, Academy of Natural Sciences
8:35 Rachel Jacobson, Principal Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Dept. of the Interior
8:50 Andy Johnson, William Penn Foundation

**9:00am** **Overview of Urban Waters Initiative and Orientation to Today's Meeting (PDF)** (7 pp, 985K)
Three "lightning round" presentations and brief panel discussion on each of five topics below.
Moderators: Michael Leff, Ambassador, USFS/Davey Institute; Dave Lange, National Park Service (Urban Waters co-lead)

**9:30am** **Panel 1: Water Quality and Quantity**
1. Engaging Stewards in Green Stormwater Management (Alix Howard or Julie Slavet, Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership)
2. Using Policy to Change Behavior (Erin Williams, Philadelphia Water Department)
3. Green Infrastructure (Amanda Tolino, City of Wilmington)

**10:00am** **Panel 2: River Protection and Restoration**
1. Daylighting a Stream in Camden (Meishka Mitchell, Cooper's Ferry Partnership)
2. Federal Role in Dam Removal and River Restoration (Heather Jensen, Army Corps)
3. Creating Living Shorelines (Jennifer Adkins, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary)

**10:30am** **Break**

**10:45am** **Panel 3: Climate Resilience**
1. Federal Resources for Climate Resilience (Rachel Muir, U.S. Geological Survey)
2. Chester Prepares for Storm Surges (Jaclyn Rhoads, PA SeaGrant)
3. Bringing Climate Resilience into Practice at the Municipal Level (Sarah Wu, Philadelphia Office of Sustainability)

**11:15am** **Panel 4: Brownfields Revitalization**
1. Greening Delaware Brownfields (James Poling, DE Dept. of Natural Resources & Envr Control)
2. Superfund Philly (Bruce Pluta, Environmental Protection Agency)
3. Creating Phoenix Park (Andy Kricun, Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority)

**11:45am** **Panel 5: Trails, Parks, and Open Space**
1. The Circuit (Chris Linn, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission)
2. Chester Parks (Lisa Gaffney, Chester Planning and Shade Tree Commission)
3. Urban Wildlife Refuge Initiative (Mariana Bergerson, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge)

**12:15pm** **Lunch and Networking @ Moore College of Art** (next door to Academy)

**1:15pm** **GreenTreks short film on "Green City, Clean Waters"** (back at Academy auditorium)

**1:20pm** **Developing Communities of Practice – Facilitated Breakout Discussions** (rooms to be listed)
Participants are self-assigned to specific groups, one for each of the five panel topics:
- Group 1: Water Quality and Quantity
- Group 2: River Protection and Restoration
- Group 3: Climate Resilience
- Group 4: Brownfields Revitalization
- Group 5: Trails, Parks, and Open Space

**3:30pm** **Closing Summary and Next Steps** (back in auditorium)

**4:00pm** **Adjourn**

## – Panel 1: Water Quality and Quantity –

**Presentations**

1. ***"Engaging Stewards in Green Stormwater Management"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 764K) – Julie Slavet (julie@ttfwatershed.org), Director, Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Partnership (www.ttfwatershed.org)

   The TTF Watershed Partnership aims to improve community engagement, restoration, education, and advocacy across the 30 square miles shared between Philadelphia and Montgomery County. The partnership faces challenges resulting from the disconnect between the public and the watershed network due to covered creeks, culverts, and pipe diversions; the high poverty rate that competes with conservation efforts for public attention; and the land ownership surrounding the rivers and creeks it seeks to protect. Success will depend on a campaign-based approach that focuses on local partnerships, effective communication, and engagement with the public using on-the-street and social media methods.

2. ***"Using Policy to Change Behavior: Philadelphia Stormwater Billing"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 1.2MB) – Erin Williams (erin.williams@phila.gov), Philadelphia Water Dept (PWD) (www.phillywatersheds.org)

   In pursuit of more equitable stormwater billing in dense urban areas, the PWD has transitioned from a meter-based fee to a parcel-based billing approach over the past four years. With local government support of rate reallocation, this revenue-neutral transition established a standalone statement that assured more complete recovery of treatment costs and greater equity in calculating stormwater impact and water demand. Stormwater billing data, available on www.phillystormwater.org, shows the parcel-based rates for all properties, which are based on total property area and impervious cover. PWD offers several assistance programs for its diverse customer base, including subsidies, incentive credits, and grants for green infrastructure.

3. ***"Green Infrastructure"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 1MB) – Amanda Tolino (atolino@wilmingtonde.gov), Urban Forest Administrator, City of Wilmington (www.wilmingtonde.gov/residents/citytrees)

   Wilmington received a Surface Water Planning Grant from DE Dept of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNREC) to conduct a feasibility study for green infrastructure based on Philadelphia's model, identifying potential sites for pilot projects. The 23rd & Locust tree trench pilot project and the Spencer Plaza partnerships are examples of projects that successfully leveraged funding and expertise from various regional and federal sources. However, these projects struggled with securing approval from different departments, finding suitable locations that did not interfere with the city's scattered utilities, relying on a small staff for neighborhood outreach, maintaining cross-departmental collaboration, and managing conflicts between design and functionality. These pilot projects demonstrated the importance of advance planning, integrating knowledge between experts on engineering, landscaping, and plants and soil, ensuring community support, and collaborating to leverage funds.

**Panel Discussion**

***Opportunities to advance:*** To ensure a smooth transition for any kind of policy change, especially in small municipalities with few experts, it is important to find the best medium for communication, outreach, and engagement. Green infrastructure designs must include plans for maintenance and monitoring, choosing species, operations and functionality, and the presence of underground utilities.

***How UWFP can help:*** Partnerships with private customers, local institutions, and universities; providing incentives; advertising and outreach; designating fund structures; project management; advocacy with legislature; public education about human impact on waterways; acquiring funding for sewer system and water quality models; mobilizing citizens to participate in water quality monitoring.

**<u>Breakout Session</u> – Water Quality & Quantity**

Facilitators: Megan Mackey (EPA Region 3) & Carol Collier (Academy of Natural Sciences)
Note-taker: Michelle Kondo (USFS)

**Introduction**

- Attendees:
  - Jim Campbell
  - Mario Cimino
  - Denise Coleman
  - Liz Deardorff
  - Asia Dowtin
  - Beth Garcia
  - Todd Keyser
  - Andy Kricun
  - Megan Mackey
  - Cherie Miller
  - Ken Najjar
  - Mary Neutz
  - Anna Shipp
  - Amanda Tolino
  - Angela Wenger
  - Erin Williams
  - Lisa Wool

**Identifying Challenges**

- Monitoring & Data Collection:
  - Technical capacity
  - Make comprehensive plan
  - Reduce redundancy, fill gaps: sometimes 4 different agencies are monitoring same thing at same time
  - Expensive monitoring
  - PA doesn't have monitoring council
- Legacy Contamination:
  - No regulation for non-point sources of PCBs
  - Legacy soils and sediments
  - Lack of communication and inconsistent standards between different departments, everyone is silo'd but everything ends up in the same water
    - E.g., PCBs going into air, then settling on ground and getting in water. Air Dept didn't want to touch it because no standards for PCBs in air
- Community Education & Outreach:
  - Change paradigm of thinking
  - Community buy-in and support
  - Stormwater education
  - Safety and river access
  - Communicating importance of changing behavior
- Finances & Funding:
  - Complicated funding models
  - Public and private partnerships drive funding agencies
  - Informing municipalities about sustainable financing
  - Stakeholder investment in value of water, support for long-term planning
  - Sustainability P3s
- Policies:
  - Changes in rule-making and policy
  - Incentivizing accomplishments
- Climate change

**Resources**

- Monitoring & Data Collection:
  - Collaborative monitoring to develop better quality gauging, find funding
    - US Geological Survey has idealized network analysis
    - Collaboration between Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Dept Environmental Protection
  - Del. River Basin Commission has info on who's collecting data

  - Del. Riverkeeper Network: share expertise on data collection with working groups, can improve outreach
  - Urban Waters Initiative
  - PWD data clearinghouse
  - Note geographic borders and crossing over
  - People only take action when gauging is threatened to be cut (e.g. by Army Corps of Engineers), will be more engaged if informed of what, where, why
  - Green Pattern Book (Baltimore pilot website)
    - Patches of areas that if improved could enhance watershed
    - Use to ID strategic improvements (e.g., abandoned properties, former industrial properties), can tie to outreach

- Legacy Contamination:
  - Transformer buyback
  - Add third Grant Program for legacy cleanups
  - Watershed Approach to Toxics And Restoration (WATAR) and DE Dept of Natural Resources and Envr Control (DNREC) Initiative: new collaboration: hazardous substance program
    - Assess risk, clean up, find source
    - Documented release of PCB in to program
    - Brought in people from Watershed Assessment Program
    - Helped find source, helped remediate
    - Have an outreach component where scientists go out and talk about their work
    - Sought and obtained funding to create a plan (went through sediment data, did outreach, developed web-based utility, provided data to responsible parties)
    - Working with City of Wilmington, discovering problems with facilities
    - Try to create partnerships to voluntarily address unrecognized sources of PCBs (without regulatory authorities)
    - Combine two DNREC authorities? No regulatory authority, so need to partner with Wilmington
    - High-profile projects in Dover get politicians' attention
    - Potential solution: Maryland's flush-tax, everyone pays a little
  - Sources of PCB contamination in Del. River determined by inexpensive monitoring devices
    - Worked with Air and Streets Depts to solve
    - Relevant to people getting PCBs with CSO runoff

- Community Education & Outreach:
  - Schuylkill Action Network (SAN)
    - Professionals on committees found on Phila Sourcewater Assessment
    - Project based format, not regulatory
    - Silver, acid mine drainage, etc.
    - Quarterly meetings
    - Mix of nonprofits, feds, other agencies
    - Communication between funders/regulators and active agents
  - Focus groups and briefings
  - Partnerships with local groups with similar mission and additional funds for community connections, spread resources (human and funding)
  - Adaptive planning
    - Join with other infrastructure agencies (transportation, utilities)
    - PA Dept of Transportation (PennDOT) needed convincing to support GSI
    - Develop sustainability initiatives that can pass through PA legislature
    - Example of positive framework: GSI can mitigate air pollution
  - Web: information dissemination, data clearinghouse
  - Township education workshops about rivers and streams
  - Increase access to research tools
  - Educating children to reach parents
  - Brochures and public meetings, tree plantings

- Funding:
  - Schuylkill Restoration Fund (SRF): looks at existing projects to maximize benefit to water quality
  - Green Project Reserve (GPR)
  - William Penn Foundation – where else?
  - Sustainable Business Network (SBN)
  - Apply to National Science Foundation (NSF) model
    - E.g., USHYDRO with USREC, received $750K, Sue Brantley at Penn State
- Policies:
  - Forming partnerships for stronger advocacy voice
  - Support maximizing triple-bottom-line report
  - Focus groups, building inter- and intra-business networks: must understand stakeholders' needs
  - Stormwater authority should start impervious fees and create roadmap for authorities
    - Legislation went into effect July 2013, only Philly has instituted
    - In suburban areas, new fee represents a "new tax"
    - Examples: Radnor Township just started very low fee, small but affluent community, needs support, gradual intensification; Lancaster just went through 3 years process to pass ordinance, now developing credit system; Newcastle County has impervious surface charge for new developments
    - Regulation is the driver, many different types
    - Entities want to share costs via services
    - Should provide operations & maintenance guidelines

**Community of Practice (CoP) Discussion and Next Steps**

- Form monitoring council
- Integrate with other CoPs
  - Example: Classify brownfields as legacy source sites with potential to impact river
- Improved dissemination of existing best practices through networks and CoPs
- Stormwater authority

## – Panel 2: River Protection and Restoration –

**Presentations**

1. ***"Daylighting a Stream in Camden"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 1MB) – Meishka Mitchell (meishka@coopersferry.com), Vice President of Neighborhood Initiatives, Cooper's Ferry Partnership (www.coopersferry.com)

   Camden has a combined sewer system and buried waterways, which result in heavy flooding that negatively impacts quality of life and economic development. As part of the Camden SMART Initiative, the Von Neida Stormwater Management & Park Improvement Project will separate stormwater from sewer water and daylight Baldwin's Run, a historical filled-in tributary. A combination of grey and green infrastructure will enhance stormwater management and water quality through retention and detention basins, expanded wetlands, bioswales, and recreating a section of Baldwin's Run for improved drainage. The project required collaboration with the county and city for land rights, and with various organizations such as the William Penn Foundation, NJ Green Acres Program, NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust, and Recreational Trails Program for funding and technical resources.

2. ***"Federal Role in Dam Removal and River Restoration"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 990K) – Heather Jensen (heather.n.jensen@usace.army.mil), Biologist, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Philadelphia District (www.nap.usace.army.mil)

   Some of the primary missions of the USACE in the Philadelphia District include ecosystem restoration, watershed planning, navigation, and flood risk reduction. These missions are accomplished by using various authorities to partner with cost-sharing non-federal sponsors to plan, design, and construct projects. Examples of projects at various stages of completion include: fish ladders along dams on the Cooper River in Haddonfield, NJ and on the Schuylkill in Fairmount Park, completed in 2000 and 2009, respectively; daylighting of the Indian Creek to realign the stream away from the combined sewer to a more natural state, completed in 2014; and an ongoing study of Cobbs Creek to remove a dam and restore the adjacent stream in Fairmount Park. These projects restore wildlife habitat, mitigate potential public safety hazards, and provide opportunities for citizen education and engagement.

3. ***"Creating Living Shorelines"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 378K) – Jennifer Adkins (jadkins@delawareestuary.org), Executive Director, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (www.delawareestuary.org/living-shorelines)

   The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE) is a regional nonprofit organization working on collaborative and science-based efforts to improve the tidal Delaware River and Bay. To this end, the Living Shorelines tactic restores tidal wetlands, wildlife populations and habitats, coastline resilience, and water quality by stabilizing erosion without degrading the environment. The plant and mussel-based living shoreline preserves the productive interactions between land and water by designing natural sills that catch sediments where plants and mussels can be seeded, building a dense substrate that prevents erosion. Surveys have revealed that the living shorelines concept can be applied to urban waters, and the Partnership is planning a project in Camden for a landfill shoreline that will recreate the natural mosaic of diverse habitats.

**Panel Discussion**

***Opportunities to advance:*** Providing an example of a healthy, functioning ecosystem is crucial for building positive associations with waterways that will promote community engagement. Tangible benefits that can help engage local residents include flooding mitigation, economic revitalization, and opportunities for recreational access to waterways. Direct outreach to stakeholders requires education about restoration and a neighborhood planning approach in order to promote citizen stewardship. Businesses and institutions often lack the same level of commitment, although they will share the benefits of stormwater and water quality management.

***How UWFP can help:*** Forming local partnerships to find and route funds and resources; acquiring appropriate permits; convincing federal organizations that focusing on coastal ecosystems overlooks the capacity of urban waterways to reconnect people with the environment and natural resources.

**<u>Breakout Session</u> – River Protection & Restoration**

Facilitators: Heather Jensen (US Army Corps of Engineers) & Sabina Pendse (EPA2)
Note-taker: Josh Moody (Partnership for the Delaware Estuary)

**Introduction**

- Attendees:
  - Kim Beidler
  - Laura Craig
  - Rachel Dawson
  - Brian Duvall
  - Jerry Kauffman
  - Eric Olsen
  - Julie Slavet
  - Joe Sieber
  - Kate Durant
  - Beth Sassaman

**Identifying Challenges**

- Education/Outreach:
  - Lack of community support
  - Landowner participation
- Policy:
  - Lack of political involvement
  - Forming correct partnerships
- Funding:
  - Confusing and difficult to acquire (finding correct agencies, overlapping territories but distinct missions, internally matching monies)
- Land owner participation
- Science & Expertise:
  - Cleaning up toxic contaminants before restoration
  - Prioritizing need
  - Dissemination of knowledge and expertise
  - Proof of design concepts (pre- and post-monitoring)
  - Identifying applicable areas and non-impacted areas
  - Gauging effectiveness of techniques
  - Dissemination of data

**Resources**

- Funding:
  - Farm bill programs, new rules coming out
  - Leverage state and local entities/resources
  - Use state grants as match for federal funding by prioritizing internal projects based on internal funds, bring in-kind funding to match on federal grants (keep a log of hours)
  - Do not assume that funding/government agencies communicate with each other – keep them informed, inclusivity builds community
- Education/Outreach:
  - Pamphlets on urban river restoration
  - Project manager training builds capacity
  - Use federal, educational, nonprofit, state, private, etc. groups to provide forums for discussion:
    - American Rivers (contact Laura Craig): floodplain management/dam removal
    - Partnership for Sustainable Communities
    - Coalition for the Del. River Watershed (contact Kim Beidler)
    - Nonprofit groups that can engage communities:
      - Adventure Aquarium
      - Dupont Nature Centers
      - Summer Camp Programs
      - NJ Academy for Aquatic Sciences

- Philadelphia/Camden Informal Science Education Collaborative (PISEC) – engage research institutions to pair up with community based organizations to enhance community education

- Policy:
  - Provide forums to bring together info and people
  - Connecting with federal community partnerships
- Science and Expertise:
  - Clean up:
    - Governor's directive for clean water
    - DNREC's Watershed approach to toxics assessment: working on watershed level can break up area of interest into more manageable regional data collection areas
  - Prioritizing need:
    - DRBC initiative: basin-wide prioritization, data available on-line
  - Innovative partnerships with universities:
    - Temple
    - Laura Craig has database of professional societies and projects that have been involved, to pair the right people with the right projects
    - William Penn Initiative collects data and modeling information
    - www.sustainablecommunities.gov

**Community of Practice (CoP) Discussion and Next Steps**

- Perspective of Federal and State Agencies: great value, but what do they hope to get out of it/how do they view the group?
  - USACE: make people aware of what they have to offer, small scale projects are available
  - New initiative to compile effects of outside projects on USACE projects to look for overlap and opportunities for partnership and help in navigating grant and partnership processes
- Scope?
  - Watershed-wide community would be most valuable since it may discourage redundancy at smaller scales and allow for more efficient interaction
- How to engage members to share and innovate together?
  - Putting on the table what resources you can offer so others know who to contact for specific issues; disseminate info about all group members, share resources and expertise
  - An experimental results outlet to inform members on the current state of scientific inquiry of restoration and protective practices

## – Panel 3: Climate Resilience –

**Presentations**

1. ***"Federal Resources for Climate Resilience"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 2.8MB) – Rachel Muir (rachel_muir@usgs.gov), Science Advisor, Northeast Region, US Geological Survey (USGS) (www.usgs.gov)

   Understanding the impact of climate change on water quality and quantity relies on various types of knowledge: groundwater resources, surface water, water quality, water usage, eco-flows, climate change, evapotranspiration, and modeling support. The Delaware estuary and watershed have diverse and abundant living resources, but watershed planning that focuses on land use is important to ensure their adaptability to climate change. Green infrastructure for stormwater management, such as green roofs and community gardens, can improve urban resilience, flood mitigation, and air quality while providing opportunities for environmental education. The most important component of climate resilience is social coherence and the community's appreciation for shared natural resources, which will promote both public and private partnerships and harness the opportunities provided by diverse stakeholders.

2. ***"Chester Prepares for Storm Surges"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 699K) – Jaclyn Rhoads (jaclyn_rhoads@yahoo.com), PA Sea Grant (www.easternpaseagrant.org/chester)

   Through a grant to PA Sea Grant, a host of partners helped the City of Chester identify and plan for future vulnerabilities to climate hazards and incorporate planning elements in Chester's Vision 2020 comprehensive plan. Community engagement sessions incorporated Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) models to better inform community discussion of future flooding risks to the environment, infrastructure, and residents; out of this engagement came possible solutions and next steps. The Chester Climate Task Force, which included City Council members, residents, and City staff, worked to fine-tune policy and planning elements for specific sites. Working with Chester required framing climate adaptation in the context of local economic issues, such as the legacy of industrial development on existing infrastructure, and the potential for redevelopment and city growth.

3. ***"Bringing Climate Resilience into Practice at the Municipal Level"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 675K) – Sarah Wu (sarah.wu@phila.gov), Policy and Outreach Manager, Philadelphia Office of Sustainability (www.phila.gov/green)

   In the last five years, climate planning has expanded from focusing on mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions to incorporating adaptation. To use the most accurate climate science available, the Mayor's Office of Sustainability (MOS) hired a consultant to complete downscaled climate projections for temperature and precipitation, the results of which project a hotter and wetter future for Philadelphia. Next, MOS is sharing this information with City agencies that manage assets and run programs that the changing climate will influence. This will encourage these agencies to take action on impacted assets by analyzing where they should invest time and money into identifying vulnerabilities.

**Panel Discussion**

***Opportunities to advance:*** Tangible examples of climate adaptation failures such as Superstorm Sandy can be used to mobilize other municipalities to develop similar plans, which can be informed by the experience with the Chester project. At the federal level, natural resource management and science research agencies are beginning to understand the centrality of urban environments, since the higher human impact on these areas results in conditions that reflect overall future climate change. This will result in increased funding and research energies being directed towards adaptation programs.

***How UWFP can help:*** Compiling and increasing access to the various resources and capacities offered by partners; acquiring funds for research, modeling, and projections; communicating the results to city planners and the public; acting as liaison between local communities and federal programs for risk reduction, such as FEMA's community rating system, by holding workshops and building on the public's existing acceptance of climate change and the need for adaptation.

**<u>Breakout Session</u> – Climate Resilience**

Facilitators: Rachel Muir (USGS), Jaclyn Rhoads (PA Sea Grant)
Note-taker: Priscilla Cole (Partnership for the Delaware Estuary)

**Introduction**

- Attendees:
  - Joan Blaustein
  - David Campbell
  - Michael Dunn
  - Ann Faulds
  - John Kennel
  - Catherine King
  - Sylvia Kovacs
  - Ray Kruzdlo
  - David Marable
  - Susan Marquart
  - Stephanie Miller
  - Rachel Muir
  - Mark Nardi
  - Jaclyn Rhoads
  - Flavia Rutkosky
  - Scott Schreiber

**Identifying Challenges**

- First, define 'climate resilience': adaptability, redundancy
- Integration/Decision-making:
  - Integrating climate into other urban problems
  - Law enforcement
  - Informed application of resources/interventions
  - EPA's traditional regulatory programs to address climate change
- Funding:
  - Lack of funds for public health, social issues
  - Need resources within organizations
  - Long, tedious application process
  - Need to project vision for future onto a community
- Communication/Outreach:
  - Communicate urgency of changing our plan of action
  - Finding best, most effective way to communicate science and consequences of climate change to public
  - Opposition:
    - Assumption that climate resilience is too expensive
    - General disbelief
    - Violates property rights
    - Only Sandy-type events will mobilize response
- Science & Research:
  - Measuring outcomes

**Resources**

- Highlights from draft IPCC report:
  - Climate risks to infrastructure systems are concentrated in urban areas
  - Urban adaptation can combine with mitigation
  - Housing locations affect risk, but also pose means of adaptation
  - Urban governments are key to climate resilience
- Integration/Decision-making:
  - Include resilience in enforcement action settlements:
    - Law schools, nonprofits such as Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
  - Science and public values used to inform decision support tools
  - Partnerships between different organizations: with federal/state/local NGOs, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

  - NASA, US Fish & Wildlife Service – developed "Earth to Sky" to build CoP around climate issues, engaged social scientists

- Funding:
  - Second round of Sandy resilience funding
  - Climate Resiliency Evaluation Awareness Tool (CREAT) software of EPA pilot program
- Communication/Outreach:
  - "Earth to Sky" climate and science communicative CoP
  - Use social sciences to understand best way to convey message (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association)
  - Frame the issue in a way that makes sense to public, use effects of past storms and events on community to plan for future resilience
  - Tools: canvassing, online tools, surveys
  - Media: most newspapers don't tend to have environmental reporters anymore
- Science & Research:
  - Use data from past storms: What vulnerabilities were exposed? Which areas flooded? What infrastructure is at risk?
  - Current resilient organisms can be used as model: higher biodiversity supports climate adaptability
    - E.g., oak trees enhance complexity and increase resiliency
  - Use cluster of models
  - Collaborate with universities to provide resources for research and monitoring
  - Integrate with social science research
  - NRCS – required to adapt current framework based on new releases of climate science
  - EPA Climate Change Taskforce – climate evaluation tool for wastewater
  - Existing journals and publications, established methods
  - Participatory research:
    - Use citizens to monitor restoration, offer in-depth training

**Community of Practice (CoP) Discussion and Next Steps**

- Communication – how to convince people of public safety risks
  - CoP might be missing the mark with the topics brought up so far:
    - Focus on social sciences
    - Define the impacts of events/changes
    - Social media during Hurricane Sandy
- Identify existing groups: PDE, NASA, USFW, EPA, Park Service, universities
  - Do we link up with some of these current efforts or create a new CoP?
  - Do we need new models?
- Delaware water resources already very resilient in spite of our best efforts to ruin this system (freshwater mussels)
- Drexel and other universities could improve methods for sharing and disseminating research and tailor research to meet demand
  - CoP could link scientists at local universities with other entities
- Websites are nice, but meetings are more helpful
- Assemble communication plan/materials to leverage next major weather event
- Focus on solving existing problems, not identifying potential new problems
- Transportation vulnerability: evaluate transportation infrastructure, housing design, possible vulnerability to extreme events
- Energy sector: decide where to move power plants and other structures to improve resilience to storm events

## – Panel 4: Brownfields Revitalization –

**Presentations**

1. ***"Greening Delaware Brownfields"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 1MB) – Jim Poling (jim.poling@state.de.us): Brownfields Coordinator, Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control (www.dnrec.delaware.gov)

   Brownfields revitalization needs to expand its site-specific, market-driven programs to include ecological/non-economical and regional benefits. Delaware provides brownfield developers with the liability protection and funding they need to mitigate the environmental damage that can be caused by landowners and to remediate groundwater issues. A risk-based evaluation program looks at the quantity and quality of contaminants, pathways and receptors of contamination (sediments, surfaces, groundwater), and effects on ecological diversity. Some common obstacles include lack of funding, political will, adequate planning, risk management, and consensus of priorities. To address these obstacles, the Brownfields Community of Practice should engage stakeholders as soon as possible, rally around a champion, recognize its assets, understand grant conditions in order to leverage EPA area-wide planning grants, and integrate multiple-use solutions with diverse benefits.

2. ***"Superfund Philly"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 3.5MB) – Bruce Pluta (pluta.bruce@epa.gov), Coordinator, Mid-Atlantic Biological Technical Assistance Group, US Environmental Protection Agency (www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/bf-lr)

   Contaminated sites, including brownfield sites, represent continuing sources of environmental contamination, but also opportunities to make a beneficial cumulative ecological impact on the region. Many Superfund projects have successfully integrated ecological components into the solution. Some examples in EPA Region 3 include: remediation of a former dumpsite in downtown Erie which integrated wetlands restoration, remediation of forested wetlands, and integration of a trail; a disposal area at a naval station in Virginia Beach was transformed into tidal wetlands, a trail system, and wildlife observation areas; a site on the Wissahickon Creek in Montgomery County, PA was re-contoured and re-vegetated with native species. Depending on the location, brownfields restoration projects can also incorporate green infrastructure for stormwater management. Imagination and creativity are crucial to overcoming site-specific limits and developing solutions that can integrate parks and recreational areas with commercial/residential areas.

3. ***"Creating Phoenix Park"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 1.4MB) – Andy Kricun (andy@ccmua.org), Executive Director/Chief Engineer, Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (CCMUA) (www.ccmua.org)

   The Camden Collaborative Initiative Brownfield Remediation Program addresses citywide environmental issues through six working groups: air quality, flooding, brownfields and contaminated sites, education, recycling, and environmental justice. It involves various cross-sector groups to plan and fund redevelopment projects and recapture green space. The Waterfront South Rain Gardens Park project replaced a contaminated gas station with a rain garden that served as a gateway park into the neighborhood, simultaneously accomplishing pollution elimination, community benefit, and green infrastructure. The Phoenix Park project plans to convert a contaminated former factory site on the Delaware River into a 5.5-acre waterfront park that may include a living shoreline concept. The project has secured funding assistance from the NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust.

**Panel Discussion**

***Opportunities to advance:*** Area-wide planning that includes transportation, open space, and community involvement will have a greater impact than remediating individual sites. The commercial mindset pervasive among developers overlooks opportunities to use recent innovations in green engineering and remedial options for community enhancement. Green initiatives with economic benefits are more attractive to the community, potential buyers, and state developers. The community of practice should compile a portfolio of potential sites and plans for redevelopment to expedite new projects, should funding become available.

***How UWFP can help:*** Bringing in diverse entities to facilitate brainstorming and synergy; involving and incentivizing more private stakeholders; reducing obstacles to investment and simplifying the approval process by providing developers with a coordinator who can navigate bureaucratic red tape; improving metrics for economic analysis and nonmarket factors such as community benefits; disseminating best practices; leveraging funds to support larger projects; breaking down silos for a broader perspective.

**<u>Breakout Session</u> – Brownfields Revitalization**

Facilitator: Frank McLaughlin (NJDEP), Kristeen Gaffney (EPA3)
Note-taker: Jason Henning (Davey Institute)

**Introduction**

- Attendees:
  - Bobbi Britton
  - Paul Fritz
  - Kristeen Gaffney
  - Simeon Hahn
  - Julie Mawhorter
  - Frank McLaughlin
  - Bruce Pluta
  - Jim Poling
  - Alice Wright-Bailey
- Agencies represented: EPA, NJ Dept of Environmental Protection, USFS, NOAA

**Identifying Challenges**

- Integration and Policy:
  - Incorporating broader goals:
    - Habitat restoration, water quality, resilience
  - Political will and turf rules
  - Getting away from cookbook approach
  - One agency can't solve a community's problems
  - Lack of consistency across jurisdictions but pollutants cross boundaries
  - Engaging the private sector (developers, attorney, real estate professionals)
  - Identifying missing key players (e.g., real estate)
  - Community/economics and jobs
  - Environmental justice
  - Creating/communicating necessity for holistic approach
  - Need to change mindset: Gray infrastructure is easy and historically established, but green may be more cost-effective to install
- Scale:
  - How to expand throughout area
  - Across community area-wide applications
  - Working more efficiently and consistently across jurisdictional boundaries (state and federal)
- Innovation:
  - Engage/empower communities in greening sites and jobs
  - Encourage greening/trees on brownfield projects
  - Better methods to recognize non-economic benefits of brownfields redevelopment
  - Lack of technical guidance/training on use of trees
  - Managing contamination in place
  - Integrating environmental/ecological components into grant competition
- Funding:
  - Complex problems require multiple sources
  - Funding with longer term solutions in mind
  - Grassroots funding for organizations
  - Need to package concept to obtain foundation and match private funding
  - Need to provide incentives
  - Agency funding is not proportional to urban areas, residents don't contact congressional reps about issues
  - Number of stakeholders complicates
- Community Education/Outreach:
  - Prioritizing environmental justice concerns
  - Connecting and community education:
    - Find a champion
    - Explain federal resources

        - Increasing community involvement requires bigger picture thinking and interconnected planning, may be summarized as single site approach
    - Define and emphasize value of green over gray approach to solutions
    - Need to get to them where they are
    - Communication of risks from background/residual levels of contamination
    - Perceived exclusion
    - Complacency and disempowerment
    - Diversity
    - Fostering trust:
        - Commitment to honest involvement (both community up and agency down)
    - Transient neighborhoods
    - Must provide evidence for small-scale problem solving
    - Paralysis by analysis:
        - Action over planning, focus on bigger picture
        - Get projects out of queue to apply solutions in timely fashion

**Resources**

- Integration and Policy:
    - Corporate partnerships, sponsorships
- Scale:
    - Single-site approach
    - Getting more brownfield involvement in UWFP
        - Multiple players and diverse goals (e.g., GSI/ecological restoration) can overwhelm brownfield approaches
    - EIS area-wide planning models
    - Use area-wide plan as platform for cross-agency solutions:
        - Neighborhood-scale economic development
        - Land use
        - Transportation
        - Riverfront restoration
        - Recreation asset on water
- Innovation:
    - Better metrics for understanding economic and non-economic goals
    - Environmental Infrastructure Trust (EIT)
    - State Revolving Loan Fund
    - Connect brownfields w/ urban tree canopy and green infrastructure efforts
    - Promote green: professional organizations, brownfields conferences, trainings
    - Request assistance from EPARJ, BTHG
    - University research studies
    - Biological Technical Assistant Groups as partner to switch from gray to green solutions
- Funding:
    - Congressional involvement/political influence
    - EPA care grant and gov grants
    - Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund (HDSRF)
    - Natural Resource Damage Assessment Funds/Restoration Trusts
    - Sources earmarked to green development:
        - EPAs green infrastructure trusts
        - State Revolving Fund (Environmental Infrastructure Trust)
        - State Revolving Loan Fund
- Community Education/Outreach:
    - Local partnership should include community groups to listen and provide input, even if unable to provide funds
    - Form Community Benefits Agreements with polluting facilities

- Local Collaborative Initiative (Camden)
- Encourage mentoring and research-sharing among communities

**Community of Practice (CoP) Discussion and Next Steps**

- Community of practice is relevant to brownfields because of the variety of players and parameters (e.g., air, water, soil and all the agencies involved in permitting and planning.
- Unanimous interest in building on and continuing CoP
- Engage more people, recruit additional agencies, communities
- Integrate with other CoPs
- Establish educational program on what brownfields are, what development is possible
- ID more funding partners
- Quarterly in-person meetings rotating through four cities, must address all issues considered by the UWFP beyond attendees:
  - Increase agency support
  - Determine who else we need to reach (additional agencies – e.g., DOT, US Dept of Housing and Urban Development, Del. Valley Regional Planning Commission, and mayoral representation from each city)

## – Panel 5: Trails, Parks, and Open Space –

**Presentations**

1. ***"The Circuit"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 6.3MB) – Chris Linn (clinn@dvrpc.org), Senior Environmental Planner, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) (http://connectthecircuit.org/)

   The Circuit Coalition brings together builders and advocates to connect multi-use trails into a planned 750-mile trail network throughout the Delaware Valley over the next 20 years, with a focus on Philadelphia and Camden as hubs of the system. So far, 280 miles of trails are complete, including those on the Schuylkill Banks, Kelly Drive, Tacony Creek, and in Radnor and Chester Valley; 60 are in progress, including Penn Street on the Delaware waterfront, Lawrence Hopewell in Mercer County, and Lardner's Point Park; with 400 yet to be built, such as the Manayunk Bridge and Spring Garden Street Greenway. As a backbone on which a larger system of trails, paths, and bike facilities will ultimately connect, the Circuit can act as an engine for urban revitalization, reconnection with waterways, and community engagement.

2. ***"Chester Parks"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 596K) – Lisa Gaffney (lrg@ceda.cc), Housing Director, Chester Planning and Shade Tree Commission, Chester Economic Development Authority (http://www.chestercity.com/index.php/chester-resources/chester-shade-tree-commission)

   The goals of the Commission are to increase tree canopy and improve viability, use green infrastructure for stormwater management, and improve underutilized parks. In partnership with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS), the Commission has coordinated bare root tree plantings by youth volunteers to foster environmental appreciation, and developed the Chester Pruning Club to teach proper maintenance techniques. With a Green Region grant from PECO's Open Space Program, the Crozer Park/Chester Creek Trail comprehensive plan will control erosion, plant native species, stabilize the bank, and add amenities such as benches, lighting, and ADA accessibility. The Commission hopes to encourage investment in more user-friendly parks as a resource for neighborhoods that can increase housing values and support economic development.

3. ***"Urban Wildlife Refuge Initiative"*** (PDF) (5 pp, 1.9MB) – Mariana Bergerson (mariana_bergerson@fws.gov), Deputy Refuge Manager, John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge (www.fws.gov/refuge/John_Heinz/)

   In partnership with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), the Initiative seeks to engage urban communities in its mission to conserve, protect, and enhance species diversity and habitats. Under the Initiative, national refuges will connect urban people with nature via stepping stones of engagement, build partnerships that can meet the challenges of working with urban audiences, ensure long-term resource sustainability, and provide equitable access and a safe and welcoming space for visitors. With 993 acres, the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge protects the largest remaining freshwater tidal marsh in Philadelphia and provides recreational opportunities. The "Creating Refuge Naturally in Philly" proposal for federal funding will support the Refuge's goals to educate youth in environmental ethics, improve infrastructure, support smaller-scale sites and parks, and contribute to other regional initiatives.

**Panel Discussion**

***Opportunities to advance:*** State and federal programs can offer new funding sources for planning, design, and construction of trails. Many projects need to start from the bottom by cultivating community support before moving forward. These isolated projects can then be connected via trails to achieve more ambitious and comprehensive goals. New forms of outreach, such as social media, are a valuable way to reach new audiences. Trail development projects can also incorporate themes from other UWFP communities of practice, such as green infrastructure for stormwater management and encouraging pride in a community's natural resources.

***How UWFP can help:*** Streamlining the process for acquiring permits and compliance; meeting liability and maintenance concerns; coordinating between numerous groups and partners; ensuring motivated leadership, elevating discourse, and heightening priorities; partnering with powerful entities (PHS, DVRPC) to help small grassroots groups build capacity; sharing technical knowledge and experiences; accessing and leveraging a broader pool of funding that can be distributed across various smaller projects; avoiding duplication of efforts.

**<u>Breakout Session</u> – Trails, Parks & Open Space**

Facilitator: David Lange (NPS), Sophie Sarkar (NPS)
Note-taker: Lara Roman (USFS)

**Introduction**

- Attendees:
  - Glen Abrams
  - Mariana Bergerson
  - Joseph DiBello
  - Kim Fries
  - John Harrod
  - Peter Hickman
  - Andrew Homsey
  - Peter Kroll
  - Barry Lewis
  - Chris Linn
  - Maggie McCann
  - Allison Ostertag
  - Lara Roman
  - Ursula Reed
  - Cathy Reuscher
  - Kate Schmidt
  - Maurie Smith
  - Rick Tralies
  - Theresa Ziegler

**Identifying Challenges**

- Land acquisition:
  - Put trails into larger system
  - Rights-of-way for trails, working with railroads and utilities
- Maintenance and liability:
  - Coordination with administrations
  - Crime, vandalism
- Community engagement and stewardship:
  - Proper use and stewardship necessary for success, can't rely on public dollars for maintenance
  - Local investment to prevent crime/vandalism
  - Capacity to steward the area once it's been preserved
  - Securing ongoing stewardship and maintenance:
    - Funding, staff planning and volunteers
  - Building social value of green spaces
  - Public buy-in
- Physical connections to space:
  - Context – connection to larger system
  - Lack of access to parks / open space in urban areas
  - Social values and stewardship described above
  - Multi-use spaces and conflicts between multiple stakeholders and varied interests
    - e.g., White Clay Creek Wild & Scenic Area
- Coordination among agencies / stakeholders:
  - Meaningful connections between research & practice, institutions & agencies
  - Coordination with administration, stakeholders, community partners
  - Balancing multiple goals (that may be contradictory or complementary)
- Funding & staffing:
  - Initial and ongoing support
  - Staffing and money
  - Capacity to get things done (with money), scale up and grow a successful program
- Red tape:
  - Bureaucracy
  - Culture worried about liability
  - Difficulties with public design process and permitting

**Resources**

- Land acquisition:
  - Technical assistance

        - Rails-to-Trails Conservancy in Haverford
        - Data available through state GIS clearinghouse (e.g., PA Spatial Data Access) and DVRPC, which can help identify needs and land acquisition
        - Work with local college students in GIS classes to make maps for acquisition projects
    - Land trusts as resources:
        - Natural Lands Trust: use lands trust as partner, consultant or intermediary for acquisition
            - To achieve complicated land deals
            - Act as temporary landholder as needed – nonprofits aren't eligible for certain grants that land trusts would be eligible for
        - Clarification between Trust for Public Land and Natural Lands Trust:
            - TPL: national, does not hold land, has urban program and participatory design process for school green spaces in Philly
            - NLT: regional, does hold land, does consulting
            - Lands Trust Alliance: national resource for land acquisition
        - Neighborhood Garden Trust, nonprofit land trust focused on urban gardening

- Maintenance and liability:
    - Volunteer groups for maintenance:
        - Use Ambassadors through AmeriCorps for maintenance
        - AmeriCorps staff that specialize in trail work
        - Use NJ Tree Foundation and other orgs that have plant maintenance expertise for training
        - NJ has AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassadors Program for environmental education with schools, supported for many years by NJDEP

- Community engagement, stewardship, and physical connections to space:
    - Extending partnerships to include local, state, federal, volunteers
        - Example: Delaware River Sojourn – annual paddling trip down the river, worked with Park Service and nonprofits, sometimes local business leaders have participated in planning the trip as volunteers
    - Engaging artists as part of community engagement:
        - Art in the Open
        - Art in the Park
        - Mural Arts
        - Schuylkill Center Widener Trail
    - Use story-telling about personal meaning of trail, park or open space (e.g., GreenTreks)
        - Video projects to share personal stories
        - Distribute/share stories through partnerships and social media
    - "Friends" groups to increase community involvement (e.g., Friends of Del. Riverfront Greenway)
        - Encouraging people to use trails
        - Outreach and programming (e.g., movie night in park, 5K run)
    - Volunteer stewardship and training programs

- Coordination among agencies/stakeholders:
    - Cooperative Extension at state land grant universities to connect research with practice:
        - Rutgers
        - Penn State
        - 4H also under Extension
    - University professors and students doing research projects
    - Studying good practice examples with research

- Funding & staffing:
    - Group funding applications: cobbling together funding sources, depending on who can apply for a specific project, work around requirements w/ multiple partners, examples:
        - Camden lacked city agency for stormwater management – talked to Cooper's Ferry, Rutgers, state DEP, NJ Tree Foundation, to look for funding sources to plan and implement projects
        - Chris Linn, DVRPC regional trails grant – to leverage other funds for The Circuit, William Penn Foundation provided funding (fewer strings attached than federal dollars)

  - Funding matches for state money from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), examples from both Chester and Philly:
    - Need to show that project is in a census tract with low to moderate income
    - Federal money from HUD, for urban communities of certain size, must be for appropriate census tracts
    - CDBG money can be used for various purposes (new projects, tree planting, but not maintenance of past projects)
  - Money from states or fed for water and park programs:
    - Federal budget proposal to increase budget for both urban waters and urban parks programs
    - Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program may receive funding again – potential future bigger funding source
  - Increasing capacity by partnering with university students doing research projects (especially design studios for masters students, provides real-world problems for their courses)

- Red tape:
  - Partner with organizations with experience (see list above of land trust resources)
  - Streamline process within federal agencies and states
    - Requires top-down changes within the federal agencies
    - One point of contact for applications, rather than 5 or 6 different applications to various unconnected/uncoordinated organizations
    - Suggestion for facilitators that can help navigate red tape (e.g., economic development organizations, land trusts, engineering firms); may require physical meetings
  - Public support can ease red tape, helps at municipal level (but not necessarily utilities or USACE red tape); liability drives red tape from government/bureaucracy at federal and state level

**Community of Practice (CoP) Discussion and Next Steps**

- Useful to physically gather people with experience and expertise:
  - Share with individual townships and municipalities
  - Open discussions where everyone faces same problems

- Other groups to invite:
  - Reach out to more “Friends” groups
  - Local grassroots community organizations
  - Other clubs that might not be part of partnership but use spaces (e.g., running clubs, bicycle coalitions)
  - Local hiking clubs, hiking/biking meet-up groups
  - Universities and schools in need of volunteer projects
  - Historical societies and planning commissions (people interested in historic trails)
  - Involve DOT people and other permitting agencies
  - Tourism – connecting w/ tourism offices about open space and regional recreation opportunities

- Avoid redundancy, duplicating efforts:
  - The Circuit Coalition hosted by DVRPC – already focused on trails, but park development / land acquisition is a different focus

- Ways to continue dialogue:
  - In-person meetings
  - Getting on appropriate newsletters
  - World Heritage City designation – many groups are already working together, could be a way to reach their members
  - Identifying a hub of communications and information or clearinghouse about the trails / parks / open space info – e.g., Pennsylvania Land Trust Alliance, Pennsylvania Highlands Coalition
  - Coalition of coalitions – to organize the collective group of people