



Grantee Organization Name: North Jersey District Water Supply Commission

Grant Number: X7 -982727-00-0

Project Title: Wetland Acquisition Priorities for the Purpose of Source Water Protection in the Wanaque River Watershed Basin

Project Period: 01/01/2004-12/31/2005

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Reporting Period: 2nd Quarter (April/May/June 2004)

1. **Project Description:** The purpose of the project is to develop a land acquisition plan in which priority wetland and transition areas would be held as open space for the purpose of source water protection solely by the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) or in cooperation with state, county or local agencies. This project will focus on, and also include an analysis of the role of wetlands in controlling NPS runoff, analysis of existing state and local wetland regulations and a public education program.
 - a. **Task 1:** Develop a wetland/water resource priority based open space acquisition list (and Final Report) using criteria developed in consultation with the stakeholders for Watershed Management Area 3 (WMA 3) {of which the Wanaque River Watershed is part}.
 - i. NJDWSC staff met with WMA 3 stakeholders on March 23, 2004 at the Wanaque Academic Center – Passaic County Community College. As an example, staff presented three representative maps using the water resource criteria :
 1. Water Resource Ratings of entire WMA3
 2. Water Resource Ratings of Feinbloom property in Pompton Lakes
 3. Water Resource Ratings of Saddle Mountain property in Ringwood
 - ii. We have begun communicating with the municipalities in order to create the wetland/water resource priority based open space acquisition list. As a result, we are faced with an interesting challenge - either the availability of Tax Maps (block and lot information) in digital format is not readily available or there is a lack of willingness on the part of some local municipalities to share the

information. This will require more personal contact with the municipalities than had been initially anticipated. In the event that Tax Map information is not available for a municipality, we will utilize the data obtained through the Watershed Management process. The stakeholders participated in prioritizing their open space priorities.

- iii. These municipalities include: Bloomingdale, Mahwah, Oakland, Pompton Lakes, Ringwood, Wanaque, and West Milford.
- iv. **ACTION ITEM:** Continue working with the stakeholders/municipalities to seek out and address their concerns. Our activity may include partnering with local GIS departments to obtain needed Tax Map information.

b. **Task 2:** Public Seminars:

- i. Stephen J. Souza, Ph.D., president of Princeton Hydro, LLC, will be conducting three (3) public Seminars scheduled for October 4, 2004, February 14, 2005 and June 2005 (date to be announced). The Seminars will take place at the Passaic County Community College, Wanaque Academic Center, in Haskell, New Jersey. Elected and appointed officials as well as the general public will be invited.

d. **Task 3:** Website:

- i. A new web page was set entitled “The Wetland Acquisition Priorities for the Purpose of Source Water Protection in the Wanaque River Watershed Basin” has been established. The address is:
<http://www.njdwsc.com/prbwmp/wapp/index.htm>. The site will contain topics that NJDWSC will communicate to the Wanaque River Watershed stakeholders as well as dates and details about upcoming seminars and events.
- ii. A mailbox (wappinfo@njdwsc.com), for the purpose of sending and receiving information through the site has been created.
- iii. A GIS link to direct Web Page users to the “Maps and Downloads” section of the Passaic River Basin Watershed Management Program website
<http://www.njdwsc.com/prbwmp/maps.htm> has also been created.
- iv. The Wetlands Acquisition Project Newsletter in PDF format has been made available at <http://www.njdwsc.com/prbwmp/wapp/newsletter.htm>.

d. **Task 4:** Newsletter:

- i. Volume 1, Issue 1 of “Every Drop Counts” has been published and circulated to local municipalities and libraries within the Wanaque River Watershed Region. We are presently working on Volume 1, Issue 2 which will be published and distributed by August 2004.

2. **Location:** County: Passaic
Watershed: Wanaque River

3. Contact Information:

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