



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: 3rd Quarter (July, August, September 2005)

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.

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}.

- A) The letters sent out to mayors resulted in a number of properties being identified in the Borough of Ringwood. Tax maps for the Borough of Ringwood were acquired and the identified properties were located on the tax maps. Those tax maps with identified properties on them have been scanned into digital format and the Commission staff is in the process of georeferencing those images using a method called rubbersheeting. Once the tax maps are georeferenced then the boundaries of those identified parcels can be digitized and the parcels can be evaluated based on the GIS analysis.
- B) The Commission staff met with Tom Carroll, the Borough Administrator of Wanaque, with regard to the grant. The purpose of the grant and the need for

identified parcels that the Borough may wish to preserve were discussed. Mr. Carroll made mention of two parcels within Wanaque in which Green Acres is in the process of purchasing and preserving. A large portion of the Borough is either developed or protected already and the Administrator did not know of any additional parcels that should be incorporated into our analysis.

- C) There was an interest on the part of the Borough of Bloomingdale to invite Commission staff members to a Council meeting in order for the Mayor and Council to review the information requested and ask questions. A letter has been sent to the Mayor indicating the willingness of the Commission staff to attend and respond.

- D) The analysis has been completed for those undeveloped parcels in West Milford larger than ten acres. The Commission staff is working on completing the analysis for those smaller West Milford parcels within the watershed.

E) **ACTION ITEM:** Continue to process, digitize, and incorporate those parcels identified by Ringwood into the analysis as well as parcels identified by other municipalities. Complete the application of the analysis, assemble data, construct metadata, and write the final report.

Task 2: Public Seminars:

- A) Stephen J. Souza, Ph.D., president of Princeton Hydro, LLC, conducted the third of three Seminars on Stormwater Rules and Regulations on June 6, 2005 at the Passaic County Community College, Wanaque Academic Center, in Haskell, New Jersey. Elected and appointed officials as well as the general public were invited. Representatives from West Milford, Ringwood, Wanaque, Pompton Lakes and Mahwah attended. Participants representing Ridgewood, Roxbury, Lake Hopatcong Commission, Skylands Clean and the Greenwood Lake Commission also attended.

Task 3: Website:

- A) A web page 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 contains topics that NJDWSC will communicate to the Wanaque River Watershed stakeholders as well as dates and details about upcoming seminars and events.

- B) A mailbox (wappinfo@njdWSC.com), for the purpose of sending and receiving

information through the site has been created.

C) 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.

D) The Wetlands Acquisition Project Newsletter in PDF format has been made available at: <http://www.njdwsc.com/prbwmp/wapp/newsletter.htm>.

Task 4: Newsletter:

Volume 1, Issues 1, 2 and 3 and Volume 2 Issues 1, 2 and 3 of "Every Drop Counts" have been published and circulated to local municipalities and libraries within the Wanaque River Watershed Region. We are presently working on Volume 2, Issue 4 which will be published and distributed by October 2005.

2) Location: County: Passaic
Watershed: Wanaque River

3) Contact Information:

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