

Susquehanna River Basin Commission 2008 Annual Report



2008 COMMISSIONERS, ALTERNATES AND ADVISORS

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Pennsylvania

Vacant, Commissioner
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Officers

Paul O. Swartz, *Executive Director*
Thomas W. Beauduy, *Deputy Director*
Duane A. Friends, *Chief Administrative Officer*
Stephanie L. Richardson, *Secretary*

FY-08 FISCAL SUMMARY

Revenues

Signatory Members - \$1,426,786
Grants & Projects - \$2,194,858
Fees & Others - \$1,092,999

Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits - \$3,107,645
Capital Outlay - \$182,345
Operating - \$1,577,414

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The following select accomplishments are categorized based on the Priority Management Areas of the Commission's Comprehensive Plan

1. WATER SUPPLY

Key Accomplishments:

- Completed Deer Creek Water Availability Study (www.srbc.net/planning/DeerCreek.htm).
- Completed Consumptive Use Management Plan (www.srbc.net/planning/CUMP.htm), and began implementing recommendations, including approving a multi-year plan to increase consumptive use fee and initiating reservoir studies with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).
- Made significant advancements in the regulatory program (www.srbc.net/programs/projreview.htm):
 - Met many challenges from natural gas well drilling, including issuing two determinations, participating in numerous meetings, improving the environmental oversight of surface water withdrawal projects by formalizing the aquatic resource surveys, and providing training to staff of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.
 - Approved 82 applications at four business meetings.
 - Revised the Project Review fee schedule and adopted them.
- Made significant progress on Whitney Point Lake Section 1135 Project Modification, including construction activities and establishment of baseline monitoring (www.srbc.net/programs/whitpoint_proj.htm).
- Initiated "Preliminary Assessment of Optimizing Use of Commission-Owned Water Storage at Cowanesque and Curwensville Lakes" with USACE.

2. WATER QUALITY

Key Accomplishments:

- Made significant progress on the demonstration sites for the Paxton Creek Stormwater Project (www.srbc.net/programs/paxton/index.asp).
- Completed the West Branch Susquehanna AMD Remediation Strategy (www.srbc.net/pubinfo/techdocs/publication_254/techreport254.htm).
- Assisted with the completion of the Phase I treatment system and Phase II design for the Bear Run AMD Restoration Project (Pennsylvania Watershed Renaissance Initiative), and collected pre- and post-restoration water quality data showing measurable improvements as a result of the Phase 1 system (www.srbc.net/pubinfo/factsheets.htm - scroll down to Water Quality).
- Completed intake monitoring equipment setup and data transmission for Elmira and Binghamton Early Warning System stations, and started work on establishing the upstream remote monitoring stations (www.srbc.net/pubinfo/factsheets.htm - scroll down to Water Quality).
- Completed total maximum daily load (TMDL) assessment/support work for the Maryland Department of the Environment in select watersheds within the Lower Susquehanna Subbasin in Maryland.
- Carried out monitoring and assessment activities and produced reports, including:
 - TMDL-related projects for Conestoga Watershed, Newport Creek, Bennett Branch, and Octoraro Creek
 - Sediment and Nutrient Monitoring data collection and report
 - Interstate Streams Water Quality Network data collection and report
 - National Rivers and Streams Assessment, Year-1 data collection
 - Susquehanna Large River Assessment Project data collection and report
 - Subbasin survey-related projects for Chemung, Upper Susquehanna, and Middle Susquehanna
 - Paxton Creek Stormwater Project data collection
- Established baseline monitoring for the Whitney Point Lake Section 1135 Project Modification.

3. FLOODING

Key Accomplishments:

- Coordinated the installation of three new stream gages and four new rain gages in the Upper Susquehanna Subbasin and other monitoring recommendations and improvements stemming from the review of the June 2006 flood event (www.srbc.net/programs/floodinfo.htm - select June 2006 Flood Summary).
- Produced draft flood inundation maps and demonstrated them to county and community leaders and emergency managers in New York.
- Provided coordination and support in the multi-agency effort to sustain gaging in the Susquehanna basin (www.susquehannafloodforecasting.org/ff-ws/index.asp).

4. ECOSYSTEMS

Key Accomplishments:

- Initiated a Section 729 Low Flow Management Study with USACE (and The Nature Conservancy) to determine flow needs of the aquatic ecosystem while allowing for water use demands to be met.
- Worked with state and federal fishery agencies to initiate revision of the Migratory Fish Management and Restoration Plan for the Susquehanna River Basin.

5. CHESAPEAKE BAY

Key Accomplishments:

- Participated in the Chesapeake Bay Program's (CBP) Scientific Technical Advisory Committee Monitoring Review workshops to determine potential changes to the CBP's monitoring activities.
- Provided information/support for efforts related to improving strategies for dealing with nutrient and sediments loads from developed/developing areas.

6. COORDINATION, COOPERATION, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

Key Accomplishments:

- Coordinated with SRBC commissioners and federal agencies for input toward the revision of the Comprehensive Plan, conducted public hearings, and adopted the revised Plan (www.srbc.net/planning/compplanfiles.asp).
- Made significant improvements to the Water Resources Program, including enhancing coordination with federal agencies, and adopted the 2008 Water Resources Program.
- Conducted successful Federal Coordination Summit.
- Conducted two separate workshops for homeowners and local officials related to the Paxton Creek stormwater management project.
- Made improvements to web site to enhance information dissemination and completely revised the Map and Data Atlas (www.srbc.net/atlas/index.asp).
- Made significant progress toward setting up a new water quality database and continued transitioning technical reports from paper to user-friendly web site products where users can view and download data (example: Interstate Streams Assessment report - www.srbc.net/interstate_streams/).
- Conducted press conference to announce deployment of the Early Warning System in New York.
- Participated with other resource agencies in coordinating requirements for proposed Holtwood Expansion Project and re-licensing of other hydroelectric dams.
- Collaborated with a university to reactivate the "State of the Susquehanna" report effort.