

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
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SRBC PRESENTS ANNUAL, QUARTERLY AND SERVICE AWARDS TO STAFF
Clarion, Cumberland, Northampton and Westmoreland County Natives Recognized

HARRISBURG (May 19) – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) recently presented its annual and quarterly employee excellence awards, as well as its service awards. The Annual Staff Excellence Award went to Andrew Gavin, Chief of the Restoration and Protection Section. SRBC’s Annual Staff Excellence Award is the highest employee recognition and is presented to the staff member who consistently promotes SRBC’s mission and goals. Beth Dillon, Water Quality Chemist, and Donna Gavin, GIS Analyst, received quarterly Spotlight Awards. The quarterly Spotlight Award is given to employees who demonstrate excellence in service during a specific 3-month period. The recipients of SRBC’s annual and quarterly employee awards are nominated and selected by their peers.

SRBC also presented its service awards to JoAnn Painter, Administrative Specialist, for 25 years of dedicated service, and to Gilbert Hirschel, Environmental Outreach Coordinator, for 20 years of service. Painter is a native of New Cumberland, Cumberland County, Pa., and Hirschel is a native of Bath, Northampton County, Pa.

SRBC Executive Director Paul Swartz noted that the Commission truly values its employees and places a high priority on recognizing them for their excellence and for dedicating their professional years to public service.

“The Commission is extremely fortunate to have a dedicated team of employees who strive for excellence year-round,” said Swartz. “Our most recent award recipients, Andy, Beth, Donna, JoAnn and Gil, have earned their recognition and I personally look forward to their continued excellent service to the Commission and to the public.”

Andy Gavin, who has been with SRBC for nearly four years, is a native and current resident of Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County. Gavin has a Bachelor’s degree in Geology from The College of Wooster, Ohio and a Master’s degree in Geology from Northern Arizona University. He received the annual excellence award for his hard work and leadership in several major water quality projects,

including Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP), Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), and abandoned mine discharge (AMD). Gavin has helped to make SRBC a leader in water resource management. He is extremely responsive to the needs of the member jurisdictions and to the public, and he completes his tasks promptly and always strives for the highest quality. As a supervisor, Andy serves as an excellent role-model for his employees.

Beth Dillon, who has two years of service to SRBC, is a native of Derry Township, Westmoreland County, and currently resides in Harrisburg, Dauphin County. Dillon has a B.S. in Biology, with minors in Chemistry and Geology from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. She received the quarterly Spotlight Award for producing three TMDL documents for watersheds with complex and difficult problems, including the first combination of AMD and nonpoint source TMDL. Dillon is an integral part of SRBC's TMDL team, where she has been serving as an AMD sampling project manger. As a project manager, she writes the annual AMD sampling report, selects new monitoring areas, coordinates the sampling teams, and contacts the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the public.

Donna Gavin, who has been with SRBC for five years, is a native of Clarion, Clarion County, and currently resides in Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County. Gavin has a B.S. in Geography from the Clarion University of Pennsylvania. She received the quarterly Spotlight Award for her creativity and technical expertise in geographic information systems (GIS). Through her expertise, SRBC continues to add new GIS datasets for staff work and for the public. She provides assistance in the setup and layout of GIS components associated with time-sensitive projects, and demonstrates exceptional initiative, not only in completing her own projects but in assisting others. Donna Gavin's attention to detail and high standards have made a significant contribution to the professional image of SRBC.

Andy Gavin, Beth Dillon and Donna Gavin are members of SRBC's Watershed Assessment and Protection Division. Gil Hirschel is a member of the Public Information Division, and JoAnn Painter is a member of the Administrative and Staff Services Division.

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is the governing agency established by a compact signed on Dec. 24, 1970 by the federal government and the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland to protect and wisely manage the water resources of the Susquehanna River Basin. The Susquehanna River starts in Cooperstown, N.Y., and flows 444 miles to Havre de Grace, MD, where the river meets the Chesapeake Bay.