

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN COMMISSION
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**“GETTING THE INSURANCE COVERAGE
YOUR WATERSHED GROUP NEEDS”
REGISTRATION OPEN**

Conference Includes Workshops, Real Examples and Experiences

Harrisburg, Pa. – The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) and the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds & Rivers (POWR) today announced that registration for “Getting the Insurance Coverage Your Watershed Group Needs” is open, and will close on May 7.

The conference will take place on May 13, 2004 at the Four Points Sheraton in Harrisburg, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. SRBC and POWR are co-sponsoring the conference, to assist nonprofit watershed organizations and their volunteers, conservation districts and other groups in the Pennsylvania portion of the Susquehanna and Potomac River Basins. The conference is funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s Growing Greener Technical Assistance Grant Program. Please visit <http://srbc.net/legal/index.htm> for more information or to download the conference registration form, or contact Ann Devine at SRBC, ph. 717-238-0423, x314 or adevine@srbc.net to register.

Representatives from watershed organizations including Twin Walker Creeks Watershed Association, Swatara Creek Watershed Association, Watershed Alliance of York County, Powell and Armstrong Creeks Watershed Association, and the Watershed Alliance of Adams County will share their real life experiences relating to group insurance coverage – both challenges and successes.

“Each spring, nonprofit groups take ambitious measures to restore and protect their environments. As such, it’s important for them to have the insurance coverage they need for their volunteers, who are doing this important work” said Paul Swartz, SRBC executive director.

Judy Jordan, executive director of POWR, said, “Sometimes volunteer organizations don’t have the legal expertise needed to address liability and legal issues that come up

when they're conducting their activities. This conference will provide a lot of valuable information for the board members and volunteers of organizations.”

Several professional experts will address the various insurance and liability issues facing watershed organizations and other nonprofit groups, including general liability and liability of directors, officers and volunteers.

The breakout sessions include:

- *General Liability Concerns* – This will be a discussion of the liability of nonprofit group officers, directors and volunteers, and civil and criminal liability. The speakers will be Steve Schiffman, Law Offices of Serratelli, Schiffman, Brown and Calhoun; and JoEllen Litz, Swatara Creek Watershed Association.
- *Legal Protections* – This will be a discussion of the Volunteer Protection Act, Pennsylvania's Good Samaritan Act and the Directors' Liability Act. The speakers will be Dr. John Becker, Penn State University; and Robert Hughes, Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation.
- *Insurance Coverage* – This will be a discussion of liability insurance for directors and officers. The speakers will be Brian Barrick, Non-Profit Insurance Services; and Linda Cioppa, Twin Walker Creeks Watershed Association.

In addition to conference handouts, participants will receive a free copy of the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Handbook and D & O: What You Need to Know resource books.

SRBC is the governing agency established 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.

POWR advocates for the protection, restoration and enjoyment of our commonwealth of water resources, and conducts programs that foster stewardship, communication, leadership and action.

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