

STREAM SAMPLES: Updates on Delaware Basin Science

THE ACADEMY
OF NATURAL SCIENCES
of DREXEL UNIVERSITY

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May 13, 2015

As last year's field season concluded, ANS staff held a series of meetings with DRWI partners to better understand the successes and challenges of project monitoring. It was exciting to see the energy and creativity that are going into the planning and monitoring of cluster projects. It was also important to hear that there are ways that the monitoring process can be made even more expansive and effective with additional resources and planning.

Recognizing that there have been many developments in the DRWI since monitoring funds were awarded 18 months ago, we asked for feedback on areas where cluster groups could use additional monitoring funding, were such funding to become available. We are now pleased to announce that the William Penn Foundation will be supporting a new **DRWI Supplemental Monitoring Fund**, administered by the Academy of Natural Sciences. This fund is intended to build on the great work already being done in the clusters by directing strategic support to specific project-related monitoring.

These funds will be made available based on consultations with each of the monitoring groups that are interested in expanding their current monitoring plans. The funding will be distributed in stages, starting with near-term and time-sensitive goals and then moving to specific capacity needs. There will be special emphasis on expanding capacity to utilize the new, Three Tier monitoring system that we described in the [April issue](#) of *Stream Samples*, and to monitor projects that weren't anticipated in

Upcoming Events

[Tapping our Watershed](#)

ANS' Seminar Series

May 18, 2015

at 6 p.m.

[National Mechanics](#)

22 S. 3rd St.

Philadelphia, PA



On May 18 at 6 p.m. we look forward to hearing **Chris Crockett**, deputy commissioner of planning & environmental services at the Philadelphia Water Department, speak on "Green

January 2014.

We look forward to this exciting addition to DRWI's monitoring resources and to working closely with all the cluster partners to implement the supplemental funding. Next week the cluster monitoring partners will receive an email describing this process in greater detail and inviting participation. Thanks again for all the hard work that the cluster partners are putting into this unique monitoring effort.

- Roland Wall

Partner Spotlight: TNC in the NJ Highlands



Upper Paulins Kill restoration site. Credit: SCMUA - WRWMMG

When the DRWI was initiated, The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) New Jersey chapter staff saw a great opportunity. They were already focusing much of their freshwater work in the Paulins Kill watershed, which aligned perfectly with the **NJ Highlands cluster**. In the Upper Paulins Kill in particular, TNC was engaged with the Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority - Walkkill River Watershed Management Group. Together they were undertaking riparian buffer plantings and reforestation efforts aimed at reconnecting forested riparian habitat and improving water quality.

DRWI funding has allowed TNC to establish 25 monitoring sites in the NJ Highlands cluster, spread among four areas. The sites are strategically located, with one site upstream of all of the NJ

Cities, Clean Waters: What's Been Achieved and What's to Come in the Future."

Come learn about implementation of the most ambitious green infrastructure program in the U.S., right in our backyard.

[Tapping Our Watershed](#) lectures aim to engage students, scientists, and interested citizens in discussions about issues pertaining to the Delaware River Watershed and other aquatic ecology topics. Contact [Allison Stoklosa](#) with questions or suggestions for future speakers.

Call for submissions

Have a **cool photo to share** with DRWI partners? Need help spreading some important news? Send it to [Kathryn Christopher](#) for possible inclusion in an upcoming issue of *Stream Samples*.

DRWI Mapper

Highlands cluster partners' conservation interventions, one downstream from the suite of project sites, and the remainder directly downstream of existing and prospective project locations.

Currently, TNC samples the sites twice each year for temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, and turbidity, and once each year for macroinvertebrates, freshwater mussels, and odonates. Ellen Creveling, TNC-NJ's director of freshwater programs, notes that a key lesson learned already is that TNC needs to expand its monitoring program to include more frequent sampling. As Allen Barlow, TNC's monitoring lead for the cluster, quickly realized, a few snapshot assessments each year cannot capture daily, weekly, and monthly fluctuations. Continuous data loggers for use in the NJ Highlands cluster are at the top of TNC's monitoring wish list.

Though it might take time for that wish list to get fulfilled, Ellen happily observes that the DRWI has catalyzed substantial additional investment by other funders. With some of that funding, TNC is working to establish a network of monitoring sites across the Paulins Kill watershed.



Drone-produced image of Upper Paulins Kill restoration site. Credit: TNC.

It may take some years before definitive change is observed as a result of the restoration activities, but NJ Highlands partners are active on a number of fronts in this cluster. This includes an investment by TNC in the Upper Paulins Kill in additional science-driven efforts: a phosphate tracing study, to get a better understanding of the various sources of phosphorus; and a floodplain investment tool, which combines field surveys and GIS modeling to quantify the benefits of floodplain restoration and identify where future restoration efforts might be optimally located.

For more information on TNC's freshwater work in the NJ Highlands, contact Ellen Creveling (ecreveling@tnc.org). For more information on TNC's monitoring in the NJ Highlands, contact Allen Barlow (abarlow@tnc.org).



Quick Link

The [DRWI Mapper](#) is available whenever you need it. Contact [Lin Perez](#) with any questions or comments.

Stream Samples Archive

Miss an issue?

Access past *Stream Samples* updates on the [newsletter page](#) of our website.

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If you want to see your cluster's work highlighted in *Stream Samples*, contact [Kathryn Christopher](#).

ANS Team Addition

We are pleased to introduce ANS' newest DRWI project member, **Allison Stoklosa**. Allison is part of our fisheries group and can often be found in the field catching and measuring fish and taking habitat measurements, but she wears other important hats as well. Most prominently, she organizes the [Tapping our Watershed](#) seminar



Allison Stoklosa

series, using her networking and communications skills to line up excellent speakers and introduce them to the assembled audience. She also helps with algae and lentic macroinvertebrate sampling and with running data quality assurance programs.

Allison comes to us from Mississippi State where she earned a master's in forestry. She's a Delaware Basin native excited to be working close to home once again. She's happy to answer questions related to any of her work and can be contacted at ams844@drexel.edu.

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