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NINE WATERSHED PROJECTS RECEIVE ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS FROM PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER

HERSHEY, Pa. (May 11, 2010) – Pennsylvania American Water announced today that nine watershed initiatives across the state will receive funding through the company's 2010 Environmental Grant Program. The recipients will receive a share of grant funds totaling approximately \$34,000 for community-based projects that improve, restore or protect watersheds.

A panel of judges selected the winners from more than 55 grant applications, which were evaluated on such criteria as environmental need, innovation, community engagement and sustainability.

Pennsylvania American Water awarded its 2010 Environmental Grants to the Friends of McConnells Mill State Park (Lawrence County), Pennsylvania Environmental Council (Luzerne County), Yellow Breeches Watershed Association (Cumberland County), Audubon Pennsylvania (Montgomery County), Keystone College (Lackawanna County), South Park Township (Allegheny County) and Lackawanna River Corridor Association (Lackawanna County), Yardley Borough Environmental Advisory Committee (Bucks County), and Lemoyne Borough (Cumberland County).

“This is the sixth year of our Environmental Grant Program, which continues to build partnerships with community organizations to achieve meaningful results to protect our watersheds,” said Pennsylvania American Water President Kathy L. Pape. “The grant recipients exemplify the type of environmental stewardship that we are proud to support to ensure quality drinking water for future generations.”

The following describes the winning Environmental Grant projects:

- **Friends of McConnells Mill State Park, Lawrence County**
With the grant, the organization will help protect the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed from erosion and sedimentation by reforesting two critical areas. The project will rely on local volunteers to plant trees, shrubs and warm season grasses to enhance the sites, which have been cleared due to disease and safety issues with the established trees.
- **Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Luzerne County**
With the funding, the PEC will undertake an invasive species removal, riparian buffer planting and educational program involving Pennsylvania American Water's property along the Huntsville Creek. The project will improve the creek's water quality and educate volunteers about healthy riparian

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buffers. In addition to removing invasive Japanese Knotweed that contributes to stream bank erosion, the organization will replant the area with native species, trees and shrubs.

- **Yellow Breeches Watershed Association, Cumberland County**
The grant will enable the organization to purchase water-testing equipment for monitoring the health of Yellow Breeches Creek and its tributaries. With the new equipment, the YBWA monitoring teams, including retired science teachers, professionals and dedicated volunteers of all ages from the Capital Area Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps, will have the advanced technical capability to compile data and develop a comprehensive look at trends affecting the creek's health.
- **Audubon Pennsylvania, Montgomery County**
The organization will develop and implement an educational program called "Wild About Our Watershed" for students and adults in Montgomery County. The hands-on program will increase the students' knowledge of watersheds and local waterways, including field trips to the John James Audubon Center to monitor and evaluate the Perkiomen Creek and help restore it through clean-up events and habitat plantings. The organization will offer the program to schools across Montgomery County, with a special emphasis on the Norristown School District.
- **Keystone College, Lackawanna County**
The funding will support the college's Watershed Explorers Course for K-6 teachers. The hands-on, science-based course examines various aspects of watershed concepts and provides teachers with the training and tools necessary to inspire their students to be good stewards of the environment. Course topics include human impacts on the watershed, applied stream ecology and water quality monitoring.
- **South Park Township, Allegheny County**
The community launched a stream clean-up program nearly seven years ago, and the grant will enable township officials to expand the clean-up of creek beds and banks along the Piney Fork and Peters Creeks. The grant will provide the tools to be used by volunteers for clean-up activities, as well as help fund the tire and trash disposal.
- **Lackawanna River Corridor Association, Lackawanna County**
The association, its partners and volunteers will clean up illegal dumpsites along the Lackawanna River, including a 4.3-acre former railroad parcel in Scranton and a three-acre abandoned mine site in Dickson City. After removing debris and recycling tires and scrap metal, the organization will seed and mulch the sites.
- **Yardley Borough Environmental Advisory Commission, Bucks County**
The funding will assist the borough in establishing a rain garden at the Orchard Hill basin. The project will reduce the impact of the residential development's stormwater run-off on the local watershed. The rain garden is a landscaped area that contains native plants and vegetation, replacing lawn areas. It fills with water during rain storms and allows the water to gradually filter into the ground instead of running off into storm drains.
- **Lemoyne Borough, Cumberland County**
With the grant, the borough will support volunteers in applying markers and stencils on approximately 300 stormwater inlets. The project will help raise public awareness about how pollutants reach the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay, while helping prevent unwanted dumping of contaminants in the municipal storm sewer system. The borough will partner on the project with the Boy Scouts, including a local Eagle Scout candidate.

Pennsylvania American Water is a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water, which initiated the Environmental Grant Program in 2005 in Pennsylvania to support projects that protect or restore drinking

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water sources and surrounding watersheds. Since then, American Water has expanded the annual program to many of its state subsidiaries across the nation.

Pennsylvania American Water, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest investor-owned water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 2.2 million people. Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest investor-owned U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs more than 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to approximately 16 million people in 35 states, as well as Ontario and Manitoba, Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

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