

**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COHANSEY  
WATERSHED**

**May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

**WORKSHOP REPORT**



# **PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COHANSEY WATERSHED**

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**This workshop was sponsored by the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine  
Research Reserve and the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary**

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE COHANSEY WATERSHED

### Issue/Background

It is difficult to know what factors will ultimately shape the growth and development in your community. However, by using the mapping and modeling tools of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), we can predict how future development will occur if the zoning and regulations used today are still in place. Using GIS, estimates of both future development and impervious cover were developed under several growth scenarios. The results of this build-out will be the focus of the workshop. In addition, a summary of the Ecological Characterization Report conducted by the Watershed Management Area 17 Task Force will be presented to address the status of the ecological resources in the Cohansey Watershed. Further, we can use this information to extrapolate how these changes will impact water resources.

The Partnership for a Delaware Estuary, Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis and the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences (both at Rutgers University) have teamed up to develop a build-out analysis of the Cohansey Watershed. This information will be presented during two workshops to be held in Bridgeton on May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

This workshop will also provide information on some of the watershed protection tools that could be implemented in the Cohansey Watershed. Presenters will explain the methodology that can be used to estimate water availability in the watershed, how to minimize nonpoint source pollution input from agricultural and urban areas, and methods to provide permanent protection to sensitive lands.

#### Workshop Objectives:

density of development.

Participants will see the cumulative effect of current zoning on the future of the Cohansey Watershed.

Participants will be informed about the ecological health of watershed.

Participants will gain insight into where to development should occur and land that should be prioritized for protection.

Participants will gain insight into the water budgeting process.

Participants will learn how to implement cost-effective nonpoint source pollution controls.

Participants will learn about a range of land protection options.

Participants will be introduced into the smart growth and land protection efforts underway in the Cohansey Watershed and surrounding areas.

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### **Workshop Summary**

The JCNERR joined up with the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary to host a two-part workshop based on a build-out analysis of the Cohansey Watershed. These build-out projections were completed by Rutgers' Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis (CRSSA). This workshop was directed at local officials, environmental groups, landowners, developers, real estate professionals and citizens that are interested in the future of the Cohansey watershed.

The first part of the workshop was entitled "Looking into the Future of the Cohansey Watershed" and provided information about the build-out analysis. By using GIS, estimates of both future development and impervious cover were projected, using various growth scenarios.

The second part of the workshop, "Smart Growth in the Cohansey Watershed", provided information on some of the watershed protection tools that could be implemented in the Cohansey watershed. Presenters explained the methodology that can be used to estimate water availability in the watershed, how to minimize non-point source pollution input from agricultural and urban areas and methods to provide permanent protection to sensitive lands.

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### **Workshop Agenda**

**Introduction** - Lisa Weiss, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences (IMCS-Rutgers)

**10:00 -10:15 Project Background-** Joe Matassino, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary

**10:15 -10:45 Watershed Planning Primer-** Tina Bologna, IMCS-Rutgers

**10:45 -11:00 Break**

**11:00 -11:30 The Regulatory Framework for Growth and Development in a Coastal Watershed-** Jay Springer, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

**11:30 -12:30 Summary of Cohansey River Watershed Build-Out Analysis-** Tenley Conway, Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis (CRSSA-Rutgers)

**12:30 -1:15 LUNCH**

**1:15 -1:45 Using a Water Budget to Guide Growth: The Hopewell Twp., Case Study-** Matt Mulhall, M<sup>2</sup> and Associates

**1:45- 2: 30 Workgroup activity**

**2:30- 2:50 Watershed Planning Activities in Cumberland County-** Bob Brewer, Cumberland County Planning Dept.

**2:50- 3:00 Synthesis and Wrap-Up**

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### **Resources**

**The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary**  
<http://www.greenworks.tv/delawareestuary/>

**The Smart Growth Network**  
<http://www.smartgrowth.org>

**The Center for Watershed Protection**  
<http://www.cwp.org/>

**Rutgers Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis**  
<https://www.crssa.rutgers.edu>

**NJ Department of Environmental Protection: Division of Watershed Management**  
<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/index.html>