

Christina Basin Clean Water Partnership

Scope: Regional/Watershed

Location: Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland

SCOPE:

- Christina Basin – An interstate watershed encompassing 565 square miles throughout Delaware, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Includes four watersheds – the Brandywine, Red Clay and White Clay Creeks and the Christina River.
- Drinking water source to over 500,000 people in New Castle County, Delaware and Chester County, Pennsylvania.
- Effort to work closely with relevant stakeholders, including nonprofit, private, government and academic entities, to address interstate water quality concerns and drinking water source protection throughout the basin.

COLLABORATIVE FORMATION:

- The Christina Basin Clean Water Partnership (CBCWP), formerly known as the Christina Basin Water Quality Management Committee, was formed in 1993 as a unique cooperative partnership to work on coordinated approaches to improve water quality and meet the water needs of the region.
- The CBCWP received an EPA Watershed Initiative Grant in 2003, which provided \$1 million for community-based projects to reduce nonpoint source runoff impacts on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries and wildlife.
- In 2006, EPA, Pennsylvania and Delaware worked together to establish watershed-based Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to address impairments for nutrients, sediment, dissolved oxygen and bacteria.
- CBCWP's 20+ member organizations work together through its Christina Basin Task Force to share information and leverage resources to reduce pollution and protect sources of drinking water. The partnership's leadership committees, the Policy and Coordinating Committees, meet on an 'as needed' basis.

MEMBERS:

- More than 20 partners including federal, state, interstate and local government agencies, universities, water utilities and non-governmental organizations. For a list of partners: <http://www.wrc.udel.edu/public-service/christina-basin-clean-water-partnership/cbcwp-the-partnership/>

WATER CONCERNS:

- Safe and abundant supplies of drinking water for Delaware and Pennsylvania residents.
- Impacts from nutrients, sediment, pathogens, toxic chemicals, and emerging contaminants that have led to impaired water quality, loss of fish and wildlife habitat and fish advisories.

STRATEGIES:

- Enhance intergovernmental and interstate communication and coordination.
- Implement Christina Basin TMDLs and drinking water source protection plans.
- Identify a sustainable source of funding for restoration and preservation projects within the basin.
- Create long-term watershed stewardship and restoration through education and outreach to stakeholders, government agencies, legislators and conservation organizations.

RESULTS:

- Developed a Christina Basin TMDL Implementation Plan (Pennsylvania) and a Christina Basin Pollution Control Strategy (Delaware) to meet the watershed-based TMDL budgets.
- Updated five source water assessments in Delaware that were originally completed in 2002.
- Assisted with the implementation of the City of Wilmington's Source Water Protection Plan.
- Partnered with Suez Water to implement their Watershed Control Plan to help reduce sources of cryptosporidium and meet Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule.
- Assisting with establishment of a "water fund" to finance restoration projects with support from the William Penn Foundation's Delaware River Watershed Initiative.
- Established and maintaining a mailing list to share timely information with watershed stakeholders.
- Leads an annual bus tour and quarterly meetings to give stakeholders the opportunity to learn about and see restoration and protection projects firsthand throughout the Basin.
- Developed a Christina Basin Trends Report (1995-2010) to show how water quality has changed throughout the Basin.
- Much of the work is being implemented by formal and informal collaborations within the basin and shared through the Partnership including:
 - Delaware River Watershed Initiative, Brandywine Christina Cluster, funded by William Penn Foundation
 - Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership (focused on municipal MS4 plans)
 - Brandywine Shad 2020
 - Individual organizations and collaborations
- Through the Delaware River Watershed Initiative, Brandywine-Christina Cluster, developed a [2018 Brandywine-Christina State of the Watershed Report](#) and presented at a one-day conference, *Clean Water: A Bi-State Solution* on May 3, 2018.
- Through UDWRA, presented workshop in Dover, Delaware, the Salt Conundrum, October 29, 2019

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Martha Narvaez
Water Resources Center
University of Delaware
mcorrozi@udel.edu
302-831-4931

Brian Winslow
Brandywine Red Clay Alliance
bwinslow@brandywineredclay.org
610-793-1090

Website: <http://www.wrc.udel.edu/public-service/christina-basin-clean-water-partnership/>