

Progress in Implementing Clinton's Wetlands Plan

Since the release on August 24, 1993 of President Clinton's wetlands plan—*Protecting America's Wetlands: A Fair, Flexible and Effective Approach*—implementation efforts have been underway. Much progress has been made on several of the President's major objectives including addressing Alaska-specific concerns regarding the section 404 program, clarifying delineation of wetlands for purposes of section 404 and the Food Security Act (FSA), and developing guidance for mitigation banking.

The Administration plan contained two provisions for the State of Alaska. Due to the potential significant adverse environmental consequences associated with issuance of a final Alaska 1% rule, the Administration announced that the proposal would be withdrawn. However, recognizing the need to address Alaska-specific concerns in a fair, flexible, and efficient manner, the Administration plan committed EPA and the Corps of Engineers (Corps) to meeting with Federal resource agencies, state and local governments, representatives of Native villages, industry groups including oil and fishing interests, and environmental groups to consider other environmentally appropriate means to assure regulatory flexibility and the feasibility of alternative permitting procedures in Alaska.

On October 12, 1993, the Federal agencies in Alaska announced the Alaska Wetlands Initiative and invited a diverse and comprehensive group of stakeholders to participate in two series of independently facilitated meetings in Juneau, Bethel, Fairbanks, and Anchorage. In addition, the public was invited to attend these meetings, to submit written comments, and to participate in a Statewide teleconference linking 20 locations throughout

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Three NEPs Achieve Milestones

During the fall of 1993, three National Estuary Programs (NEPs) reached major milestones. On September 24, Assistant Administrator Bob Perciasepe approved the Management Conference Agreement for the Peconic Bay Estuary Program. Then on November 30, the Policy Committee for the Albemarle-Pamlico Sound Program transmitted their final Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) to the Governor of North Carolina for concurrence and to Administrator Carol Browner for approval. As Fall 1993 came to a close, Administrator Browner, on December 9, approved the CCMP for the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary Program making it the fourth NEP with a final CCMP in place.

The Peconic Bay Estuary Program (PEP) is the first of the four estuaries that were added to the NEP in the fall of 1992 to have an approved Management Conference Agreement. Threats to Peconic Bay include nuisance algal blooms, nutrients, and pathogens. The PEP Conference Agreement documents the commitment of the Management Conference to fulfill the requirements, as described in section 320 of the Clean Water Act. The Agreement commits the participants to early demonstration of potential CCMP action plans, a preliminary CCMP to be submitted by July 1994, a draft CCMP to be available for public comment and Agency-wide review by July 1995, and a final CCMP to be submitted for Administrator approval by July 1996. If the PEP meets this schedule, it will be the first program to surpass EPA's 1992 guidance for completing CCMPs in four years or less. Actions being considered and undertaken include planting grass buffer strips to control pathogen contamination due to road runoff, replanting scallops to recovering areas, and remediating wetlands.

Development of the Albemarle-Pamlico Sound CCMP has involved thousands of officials and citizens over the last five years. The final CCMP is consistent with North Carolina's Watershed Protection Approach. Among the issues addressed most aggressively by the program were agricultural and forestry practices. Activities to implement the CCMP are already underway; for example, the Governor has designated 1994 as the Year of the Coast and has established a Coastal Futures Committee to review the 20 years of coastal management in North Carolina. The CCMP implementation will be carried forward by a Coordinating Council and five regional sub-councils, the latter also corresponding to the watershed regions in the study area.

The CCMP for the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary is the culmination of the efforts of over 100 representatives from the private and public sectors, including government, industry, business, and environmental interests, as well as elected officials from all 12 Bay-Delta

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Working Group Established to Improve Dredging Process

At the direction of Secretary of Transportation Pena, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) has set up an inter-agency working group to study and make recommendations to improve the process for sediments dredging. The dredging permit process is suffering from difficulties and delays in proceeding for a number of reasons including the complex and lengthy process for obtaining all required federal and state approvals; the lack of practicable disposal alternatives; the lack of long-term, coordinated disposal strategies; and the absence of any formal mechanisms for developing coordinated strategies. The working group has begun working on 11 issue papers which will be modified based on information received from 11 public meetings being held around the country. These issue papers will discuss the major issues related to dredging and provide options for improving management of the dredging process. Among the issues being addressed are:

- Should there be a national dredging policy?
- Coordination issues including inter-agency, intra-agency, federal and state;
- Administrative inefficiencies;
- Dredged material management strategies;
- Contaminated dredged material; and
- Economic and sustainable development issues.



The Ocean and Coastal Protection Division has the lead in the MARAD work group for drafting two issue papers—contaminated sediments and intra-agency coordination, and will seek input from the Wetlands Division and the Office of Science and Technology. Contact Dave Redford, 260-9179.

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counties. EPA established the San Francisco Estuary Project in 1987 in response to growing public concern for the health of the San Francisco Bay and Delta. The CCMP contains 144 specific action items that will foster the improvement and maintenance of the Bay-Delta Estuary. Actions identified are to utilize funds from section 319 and Titles II and VI of the Clean Water Act. Actions include forming partnerships to foster pollution prevention and sustainable agriculture in the Central Valley and restoration activities throughout the Bay-Delta.

Focus for the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary is now shifting toward implementation of the Plan resulting in project reorganization. The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board in Oakland now has the primary lead for project management instead of EPA Region IX. However, EPA is providing staff for implementation activities and for supporting the Administrator's approval of the CCMP. The Association of Bay Area Governments is continuing to provide staff for the public involvement program. Contact Betsy Tam, 260-6466 (Peconic Bay), Eric Slaughter, 260-1051 (Albemarle-Pamlico Sound), or Steve Taylor, 260-6578 (San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary).

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL SYMPOSIUM NOVEMBER 1994 ASHLAND, OR

*****CALL FOR POSTERS***
DEADLINE--AUGUST 1, 1994**

The Watershed Management Council Symposium, being held in November 1994 in Ashland, Oregon, will address issues of integration and communication in watershed management. The deadline for submission of posters for the Symposium is August 1, 1994. For more information, contact Hannah Kerner, University of California, ESPM Extension Forestry, (510) 642-2360; Internet kerner@nature.berkeley.edu.

Meetings

Shared Resources Conference, October 24-26 - This conference for resource managers from the Gulf of Maine to North Carolina examined four "shared resources" - the coastal ocean, the airshed, the flyway, and migratory fish - and explored the status of our knowledge base on each of the resources, as well as management issues and opportunities for collaborative action. Contact Darrell Brown, 260-6426.

London Dumping Convention Meeting, November 8-12 - The major topics discussed at this meeting were amendments to the Convention and its Annexes on banning industrial waste dumping, incineration-at-sea, and low level radioactive waste dumping. Contact John Lishman, 260-8448.

California Releases Wetland Conservation Policy

On August 23, 1993 California Governor Wilson released his Wetland Conservation Policy and Executive Order to increase the extent and quality of California's wetlands and to increase the consistency and cohesion of State and Federal programs and policies that affect wetland resources. The objectives of the Policy are to reverse the current decline in California's wetlands base, to achieve an overall increase in the quantity, quality, and permanence of wetlands throughout California, and to reduce procedural complexity and confusion in the administration of wetlands conservation programs. The California Resources Agency has projected that the state's wetlands acreage and quality could be increased under the Governor's policy by as much as 30 to 50 percent by the year 2010.

The key components of Governor Wilson's program include a comprehensive statewide inventory; establishment of regional and statewide goals to increase wetland acreage and quality; promotion of landowner incentive programs to preserve, restore, and enhance wetlands; adoption of a single regulatory definition for wetlands; increased state role in implementation of section 404; enhanced efficiency and coordination in the permitting process; support for a natural resource bond measure for acquisition, restoration, and enhancement; support for mitigation banks; and an interagency task force for implementation of the Policy. These steps will be achieved through Executive Order, administrative actions, cooperative agreements, and legislation.

Region IX and OWOW provided funding for the development of the Policy through the Near Coastal Waters Program and the State Wetland Development Grants. A stimulus for the Policy was the National Wetlands Policy Forum which advocated the need for State Wetlands Conservation Plans. In developing the Comprehensive State Wetlands Policy, the Wilson administration worked cooperatively with many public and private organizations involved in wetlands issues, including the agricultural community, business and development concerns, conservation organizations, and state and local agencies. Acting Regional Administrator John Wise praised the policy as a "giant step forward for U.S. EPA and the state in providing protection of existing wetlands. U.S. EPA is most pleased to support

the California Wetlands Conservation Policy as a key tool in protecting California's vital wetland resources." Copies of the Policy can be obtained from the Wetlands Hotline (1-800-832-7828). Contact Stephanie Wilson, Region IX, (415) 744-1968.

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Alaska. Eleven draft issue papers for public review were distributed on December 17, 1993 by EPA and the Corps, in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), as a result of the first meetings held and public comments received. The draft issue papers served as the focus of further, refined discussion at a final set of stakeholder meetings that were convened in January 1994. The second public comment period closed February 4, 1994, and the four federal agencies will now revise the draft issue papers and develop a final summary report for release in March in coordination with the Administration's Interagency Working Group on Wetlands Policy.

On January 6, EPA and the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Army, and Interior entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) concerning the delineation of wetlands for purposes of section 404 and the FSA. This MOA carries out another of the President's initiatives—making the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) the lead federal agency responsible for identifying wetlands on agricultural lands under both section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Conservation Title of the FSA. This initiative as laid out in the President's Wetlands Plan is intended to benefit American farmers by reducing duplication and inconsistencies between CWA and FSA programs. The MOA specifies the manner in which wetland delineations made by SCS under the FSA will be relied upon for purposes of section 404 of the CWA. EPA and SCS staff are incorporating the MOA's provisions in the upcoming Third Edition of the National Food Security Act Manual. This manual provides guidance to SCS field staff in implementing the FSA.

As identified in the President's Wetlands Plan EPA and the Corps, in coordination with FWS and NMFS, issued interim guidance to field staff on August 23, 1993 to clarify the manner in which wetland mitigation banking is appropriately used within the section 404 regulatory program. In a follow up effort, an interagency work group is currently developing additional guidance to provide more detailed technical and procedural guidelines for the establishment and use of mitigation banks in the section 404 regulatory program. The guidance is scheduled to be completed later this year. Contact John Goodin, 260-9910 (Alaska), Mike Fritz, 260-6013 (MOA), or Tom Kelsch, 260-8795 (mitigation banking guidance).

"Quarterly Highlights" is prepared by the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW). Its purpose is to share information with our Headquarters and Regional counterparts on major events that occurred during the past quarter, to provide an update on specific topics, and to advise you of key personnel changes and upcoming activities. Any questions or suggestions concerning "Quarterly Highlights" should be directed to Anne Robertson of OWOW at 202-260-9112.

EPA/NOAA Conduct First Three CZARA Threshold Reviews

EPA (AWPD) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (Coastal Programs Division) have completed threshold reviews of coastal nonpoint pollution control programs for three states: South Carolina, New York and Maryland. EPA and NOAA established the threshold review process to assist coastal states in developing the coastal nonpoint programs required by the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (CZARA). This voluntary process is intended to provide states with early feedback on their proposed approaches to their coastal nonpoint programs. It also encourages early public participation and promotes direct dialogue between EPA, NOAA and the state coastal zone and water quality agencies responsible for program development and implementation. The two-day reviews are conducted by a team comprised of staff from NOAA, EPA Headquarters and the appropriate EPA Region.

In the national program guidance issued by EPA and NOAA a year ago, states were urged to utilize existing state and local programs and authorities to the maximum extent possible in developing their coastal nonpoint programs under CZARA. The initial thresh-

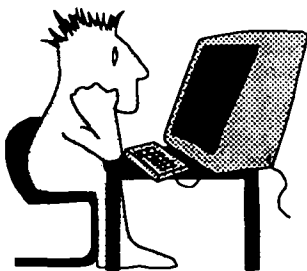
old reviews indicate that states are doing just that, attempting to fill gaps by revising technical guidance and regulations and/or introducing new legislation to bring existing programs into conformity with CZARA requirements. To date, states seem to be furthest ahead in addressing CZARA requirements with respect to urban sources and marinas. As expected, agriculture is proving to be a challenge, in large part because CZARA requires enforceable policies and mechanisms to ensure implementation of the specified management measures and most agricultural programs to date have depended upon a voluntary approach based upon education, technical assistance, and cost share.

A fourth threshold review, with Maine, is scheduled for February 24-25. Five other states have formally requested reviews over the next three months and several more have informally indicated their interest in participating. EPA and NOAA expect that most of the 29 states and territories covered by CZARA will request reviews over the next year. Final state programs must be submitted to EPA and NOAA by July of 1995. Approval of the programs must occur within six months of submittal. Contact Dov Weitman, 260-7100.

STORET Returns

On October 1, 1993 the STORET Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Activities returned to AWPDP from the Office of Information and Resource Management's Program Systems Division, where it had been located since 1984. STORET's return to AWPDP included the transfer of six staff (see page 8). The return of STORET to AWPDP will speed the moderniza-

The STORET system includes the City and Daily STORET and tax-of BIOS along related programs that access and manipulate these files. STORET supports approximately 250 regular users. The goals of the STORET modernization process include the creation of a flexible water quality information system which supports local, state, and federal efforts to clean up ground and surface waters; allows these agencies to determine if their programs are working; allows water quality trends to be determined over time; will help describe water quality conditions to the public; allows the display of water quality conditions geographically; and allows the easy sharing of data with other agencies and the public. Modernization is expected to be completed by 1998. Contact Robert King, 260-7028.



STORET
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Human Resources Corner *Streamlining*

The Office of Water Streamlining Plan is addressing the following issues:

- Strategy for reducing Grade 14 and above positions by the end of FY 1995;
- Flattening the organization (approach to achieving the Agency's goal of a 1:11 ratio);
- Delegations, empowerment, and accountability;
- Diversity and employee development; and
- Improvement in work processes and systems (including relationship to the National Performance Review initiatives).

In early November an OW employee work group was formed to begin a discussion of the issues and options for addressing them. The process OW followed to develop the Plan featured extensive involvement of staff from all of OW's organizational units and our employee Unions. Office Directors and the staff-level work group met independently on specific issue areas, then in joint sessions to reach agreement on their major issues and approaches in the Plan. The OW Plan was submitted to the Agency on February 15. The next step calls for an Agency Review Team to discuss AA-ship Plans relative to evaluation criteria, identify Agencywide issues, and develop papers on major issues.

Recent Releases

Managing Wastewater in Coastal Urban Areas - This National Research Council report describes key issues relating to wastewater and storm water management and presents case histories for Boston and San Diego. Current wastewater management approaches in the context of complex coastal issues, such as increasing population pressures, significant nonpoint source pollution, and decreased public funding are examined. An integrated coastal management framework for evolving coastal environmental management strategies to successfully consider multiple sources, cost-effective controls, and regional differences is recommended. This report is available in hardback for \$49.95 from the National Academy of Press, (202) 334-3313 or 1-800-624-6242.

Using Nonprofit Organizations to Advance Estuary Program Goals - This paper examines the role nonprofit organizations (NPOs) can play in carrying out the recommendations for action identified in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plans that are being developed for the 21 estuaries in the National Estuary Program. The paper covers the ability of NPOs to attract funding and carry out implementation, oversight, and federal consistency activities. Types of NPOs and advantages and disadvantages of using an existing NPO versus a new NPO are also discussed. The issues and recommendations in this paper are also relevant to most ecosystem and watershed management programs. Contact Betsy Tam, U. S. EPA (4504F), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

Water-Related GISs (Geographic Information Systems) Along the United States-Mexico Border - This looseleaf catalog identifies 26 existing or proposed GISs within about 62 miles of the border. The catalog is intended to help border governments better manage water resources and share GIS information that may help solve border environment problems. Contact Betty Ford or Eliot Tucker, U.S. EPA (4204), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20460.

WETLANDS AND HIGHWAYS: A Natural Approach - This 40-page, full-color brochure on wetlands mitigation and mitigation banking published by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) focuses on the problem of vanishing wetlands and 10 state "success stories." Contact FHWA, Office of Environment and Planning, (202) 366-2069.

Luck Isn't Enough: The Fight for Clean Water - This video explains the causes and effects of nonpoint source pollution, and suggests ways that individual citizens and municipalities can combat it. Examples are drawn from the greater Long Island Sound region, but the information is applicable to any locale. Copies are \$10 each. Call (203) 789-6454.

Office of Wastewater Enforcement and Compliance (OWEC) Primer (EPA830-K-93-001) - This document

gives an overview of the integrated water pollution control, permitting, and enforcement program activities of OWEC. Contact EPA's Office of Water Resource Center, (202) 260-7786.

Progress Report: Texas Colonias Sub-Group Provides an overview of progress to date in the development of a coordinated approach to implementing assistance to colonias, unincorporated neighborhoods and subdivisions on the U.S. side of the U.S. - Mexico border. The Texas Colonias Sub-Group, chaired by the U.S. EPA and including representatives from several other federal and state agencies, is charged with exploring options for financing drinking water and wastewater infrastructure for the colonias. Contact Oscar Cabra, (214) 655-7110.

The National Environmental Benefits of the Clean Water Act (EPA842-K-93-001) - This brochure highlights national statistics and progress made in 14 case studies through the secondary treatment of municipal wastewater. Contact Ray Hall, 260-1998.

A State and Local Government Guide to Environmental Program Funding Alternatives (EPA 841-K-94-001) - This pamphlet provides an overview of traditional funding mechanisms and introduces state and local governments to innovative alternatives to traditional funding. The focus is on nonpoint source pollution, but funding sources and mechanisms can be applied to environmental programs in general. Contact Pamela Harris, 260-8077.

Common Groundwork: A Practical Guide to Protecting Rural and Urban Land - This handbook for making land-use decisions describes over 30 growth management tools for protecting land such as zoning, agricultural districts, and land trusts; contains histories that show different ways to protect land; and explains the benefits of land conservation. Contact the Institute for Environmental Education, 1-800-484-7949, ext. 1993.

1992 Clean Lakes Annual Program Report - This document outlines regional highlights and current Clean Lakes Program projects. Contact Susan Ratcliffe, 260-5404.

Lake Smarts, The First Lake Maintenance Handbook - This document is a do-it-yourself guide for citizens to solving lake problems. Contact Terrene Institute, (202) 833-8317. The charge for the document is \$18.95 plus shipping and handling.

Toward a Watershed Approach: A Framework for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration, Protection, and Management - This document defines watersheds; presents several case studies; summarizes state initiatives, non-governmental efforts, and federal efforts; and presents a vision of the future. Contact Anne Robertson, 260-9112.

News Bits

NJ Becomes Second State to Assume 404 Program - On December 22, EPA approved New Jersey's application to assume the section 404 program. New Jersey will formally assume the section 404 program following notice in the *Federal Register* in February. As part of the approval package, New Jersey, EPA Region II, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 5 signed a Memorandum of Agreement to ensure protection of endangered species following New Jersey's assumption of the program. Contact Jeanne Melanson, 260-6073 or Lori Williams, 260-5084.

Shore Protection Act (SPA) Work Group Closure - At the January 18 work group closure meeting for the SPA regulation development work group all offices concurred, although a few concurrences were contingent on comments or conditions being addressed prior to Red Border review. The SPA mandates that EPA develop waste handling regulations for vessels transporting municipal or commercial waste in U.S. waters. Contact Joel Salter, 260-8484.

Taxonomic Database Set for Wider Use - EPA water programs have long used a taxonomy organized by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Oceanographic Data Center (NODC), and OW's Lee Manning has been instrumental in providing data management support to keep it organized and available to users. While the taxa contained in the system has grown to about 200,000 entries, the database technology is old and cannot keep pace with the needs of increasingly active biological monitoring programs. Staff from EPA have been working with NODC, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the new National Biological Survey (NBS) to convert the NODC taxonomic file into a relational database useful to the data systems of these and other agencies. OW's version of this database is maintained by Lee on the EPA mainframe and will soon be available as an upgrade to the BIOS data system where it will become one of the first products to support the modernization of STORET. Contact Lee Manning, 260-6082.

1994 CWA Section 303(d) Guidance Issued - On December 10, guidance for the 1994 Clean Water Act (CWA) section 303(d) rulemaking was issued. The guidance discusses the major total maximum daily load program goals for 1994. They are: to develop fully approvable section 303(d) lists; to integrate the section 303(d) listing process more completely into other state programs; and to ensure consistent application of the national section 303(d) requirements. The guidance also clarifies several issues which arose during development of the 1992 lists. Contact Mimi Dannel, 260-1897.

Work Group on Water Quality Monitoring During Flood Events Established - In December, the Working Group for Interagency Flood Event Water Quality Monitoring was established. The Work Group will

develop an implementation plan for water quality monitoring during flood events and intends to have a draft plan available in the Spring of 1994. EPA will vice-chair the Work Group and representation from both Headquarters and the Regions is being sought. Contact Mary Belefski, 260-7061.

Coastal America to Continue Under Clinton Administration - The White House confirmed that Coastal America will continue under the current Administration. Coastal America will coordinate and promote interagency efforts to protect the coast. Earlier this year, Coastal America held a national workshop to highlight lessons learned in Coastal America projects; created a mid-Atlantic region; and agreed to enhance the involvement of state and environmental groups through an outreach effort. Currently an invitation is being extended to the Departments of Energy and Education to join Coastal America. Contact Marian Mlay, 260-1952.

Coordination Between NEP and EMAP-E Being Advanced - The Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program for Estuaries (EMAP-E) has committed to assist OWOW and the Office of Science and Technology (OST) in the development of estuarine bioassessment protocols and biological criteria. The intent is to use these proposed protocols to guide state programs in conducting assessments of the biological integrity of estuarine waters. In addition, a Coordination Team has been formed to promote cooperation between the National Estuary Program (NEP) and EMAP-E. This Team will promote technical transfer of EMAP data and tools to coastal managers and provide a vehicle for continued communication between EMAP-E and the NEP; promote several Regional collaborative projects between EMAP-E and the NEPs that will be spotlighted in an upcoming NEP guide on EMAP; and distribute an EMAP-E document list to NEP directors. Contact George Loeb 260-0670.

Coastal Region/Watershed IAG with NOAA Signed - Over the summer, EPA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) signed an Interagency Agreement (IAG) to expand cooperative projects in coastal regions and watersheds of mutual concern including the National Estuarine Research Reserves, the National Estuary Programs, south Florida, and coral reef systems in the Atlantic and Pacific. Projects focus on nutrient over-enrichment, nonpoint source pollution impacts, strategies for sustaining biodiversity, and in the case of coral reefs, development of biocriteria for monitoring the health of reefs. Contact Eric Slaughter, 260-1051.

FY93 Mini-Grants Awarded to TMDL Projects - Over the summer, OWOW and OST together awarded \$150,000 in small grants to Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) projects throughout the country. The Mini-Grant Award process was established in fiscal year (FY)

News Bits

1992 to provide states with support as they undertake implementation of TMDL projects. These projects serve as useful demonstrations of techniques and methods that can be applied nationally as part of the TMDL program. Contact Peggy Michell, 260-5378.

Work Group Incorporating Watershed Protection Into 319-106 Grants - This work group is reviewing how grant administrative requirements under sections 106 and 319 of the Clean Water Act should change to reflect and support programmatic changes already taking place to support the watershed protection approach. This work group is co-chaired by Jane Ephremides of OWEC and Don Brady of OWOW and includes representatives from EPA Headquarters and Regional Offices as well as the states. Contact Don Brady, 260-7074.

Know Your Watershed Campaign Hires Full-time Coordinator - The Conservation Technology Information Center (CTIC) has hired Karol Keppy to guide and promote the "Know Your Watershed" campaign. Karol has an extensive background in the agricultural community including past membership in 4H and FHA, a degree in agricultural journalism from Iowa State University, and experience in marketing and communications with a farm equipment manufacturer. Karol has developed an ambitious plan of action for the campaign. She is currently completing a workbook to assist local farm leaders in initiating local watershed alliances. Also, she has been asked to make presentations to leading business, farm, and state organizations including the National Agricultural Marketers Association and Agricultural Relations Council, the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and the Illinois Farm Bureau Leadership Conference. Contact Joan Warren, 260-7796.

ITFM Highlights - In December 1993, the Intergovernmental Task Force on Monitoring Water Quality (ITFM) completed the second year of its 3-year life. In 1993, the eight ITFM subcommittees developed "building block" products to help implement the national water monitoring strategy. Products include a Framework for Water Monitoring Programs, selection criteria and recommended environmental indicators to measure water quality goals, a performance-based methods policy, and draft Charters for a permanent ITFM successor and a Standards and Methods Comparability Council. In 1994, the ITFM will further define the national strategy by detailing recommendations for how compliance monitoring fits with ambient monitoring needs, regional implementation of a national strategy, a monitoring handbook for watershed managers, and integrated training in methods and data management. The first and second year ITFM reports are available from: USGS, Office of Water Data Coordination, 417 National Center, Reston, Virginia 22092, 703 648-5023.

National Strategy for Private Wetlands Finalized - EPA and the National Wetlands Conservation Alliance

have developed a national strategy to promote wetlands conservation and restoration programs on private lands. The goal of the strategy is to establish state alliances and train field staff to market the advantages of voluntary protection and restoration of wetlands and to provide assistance to landowners. Contact Marjorie Wesley, 260-1905.

OWEC Developing Watershed Strategy - The Office of Wastewater Enforcement and Compliance (OWEC) is working with EPA Regions, states, and other Headquarters' offices to develop a specific strategy for a closer integration of the National Permit Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program into the larger OW watershed protection initiative. The key themes of the NPDES Watershed Strategy are refocusing permit issuance, technical assistance, and oversight activities, and reaching out to other key OW programs to build a stronger watershed partnership. The strategy components address Statewide coordination, NPDES permits, monitoring and assessment, programmatic measures and environmental indicators, public participation, and enforcement. Contact Ephraim King, 260-9541.

Upcoming Events

Local Government Workshop Series to Continue in 1994 - These workshops are designed to familiarize state and local decisionmakers and planners with the regulatory and non-regulatory tools available to them for protecting their coastal resources, as well as the financing mechanisms available. Upcoming workshops will be held in Boston, MA; Norwalk, CT; coastal North Carolina; Orlando, FL; San Juan, PR; Portland, OR; and Portland, ME. Specific dates and workshop sites are being arranged. Contact Macara Lousberg, 260-9109.

Fourth National Volunteer Monitoring Conference, Portland, OR, April 10-14 - This conference will include hands-on workshops, working field trips, and discussion sessions. Contact Alice Mayo, 260-7018.

Empowering Watershed Stakeholders, Chicago, IL, May 2-3 - This workshop will explore proven approaches for reaching watershed stakeholders through four intensive training sessions—Public Awareness, Balancing Natural Resource Uses through Conflict Resolution, Stakeholder Participation in Implementation Programs, and Effective Communication Tools. Each workshop will be led by an experienced team of instructors and practitioners. Contact Bob Kirschner, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, (312) 454-0400.

Enhancing the States' Lake Management Programs, Chicago, IL, May 4-6 - This conference will focus on ways to improve partnerships among state lake programs, statewide lake associations, and local lake management initiatives. Program topics will integrate the highly successful interactive workshops and leadership/organizational training sessions held during previous conferences. Contact Bob Kirschner, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, (312) 454-0400.

People

Reassignments

The following STORET staff have joined OWOW from the Office of Information and Resource Management (OIRM):

Phil Lindenstruth	Tommy DeWald
Lee Manning	Dan Parker
Clarence Tutwiler	Joyce Boyd

To address changes in staffing needs, OWOW has recently shifted several people from their current roles in OWOW to the Wetlands Division. The Wetlands Division is welcoming the following to its ranks:

- **Anne Weinberg** from AWPD is taking a permanent position in the Wetlands and Aquatic Resources Regulatory Branch;
- **John Ettinger** from BPMS joins the Wetlands and Aquatic Resources Regulatory Branch on a one year detail;
- **Kevin Perry** and **Reggie Parrish** from OCPD are taking permanent positions in the Wetlands Strategies and State Programs Branch; and
- **Mary Hinton** from BPMS is taking a permanent position in WD's immediate office

New arrivals

- ***Tom Mortenson** has joined AWPD, **Katie Benedict** has joined PCS, and **Melanie Evans** and **Heather Malec** have joined WD for 4 month internships. All four are undergrads at Indiana University.
- ***Nancy Roth** and **Abby Friedman** have joined WD and **Jessica Cogan** has joined OCPD for 1 year as Sea Grant Fellows.
- ***Elizabeth Zinecker** has joined WD as a National Network for Environmental Management Studies (NNEMS) intern.
- ***Steve Taub** and **Jack McClure** have joined OCPD as Senior Environmental Employees (SEE).

Details

- ***Karen Klima** is on a six month detail to OIRM.
- ***Will Garvey** is on detail to the Office of Federal Facilities Enforcement.
- ***Ed Liu** joins AWPD from Region IX for 8 months.
- ***Captain Franz Schmidt** joins AWPD from the U.S. Air Force for 8 months.
- ***Chris Faulkner** of AWPD is on an 8 month detail to Region IX.
- ***Mimi Dannel** is on detail to AWPD from Region VI.

Departures

- ***Sherri Fields** moves to OWEC as Jim Elder's special assistant.
- ***Peter Keller** moves to the Department of the Interior.
- ***Menchu Martinez** becomes special assistant to Bob Perciasepe.
- ***Judy Johnson** moves to Underground Storage Tanks as a branch chief.
- ***Mark Jen** departs for Alaska to work on wetlands issues in the field.
- ***Vic Pyle** completed his 1 year NNEMS internship and has returned to Louisiana State University to complete his masters.
- ***Jane Freeman** has transferred to Region IX's wetlands program.
- ***Glenn Eugster** has moved to the Chesapeake Bay Program to work on watershed protection on Bay tributaries.
- ***George May**, a SEE, has retired. He served as OCPD's PC support person.

Births

- ***Doreen Robb** gave birth to a boy—Ian Bradley Robb—on December 22, 1993.
- ***Cory Giacobbe** gave birth to a girl—Maya Teresa Giacobbe—on January 22, 1994.

United States Environmental
Protection Agency (4501F)
401 M Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20460