



Stormwater Conference Will Help Communities Prevent Flooding, Reduce Costs, and Prevent Water Pollution

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DIGHTON, MA – Communities throughout southeastern Massachusetts have been facing increasing challenges related to managing stormwater runoff from rain events. Costs related to preventing and cleaning up from flood events, protecting water supplies from polluted stormwater runoff, and meeting new federal stormwater standards have created new challenges for municipal leaders.

In response to these challenges, Mass Audubon is pleased to announce “Putting Stormwater in Its Place in Southeastern Massachusetts,” a free conference to be held on Wednesday, April 20th, 2011 from 1pm-5pm at Bristol County Agricultural High School, 135 Center Street, Dighton, MA. “In recent years the region has experienced frequent and intense storms and flooding, a trend likely to continue with climate change, so there is even more need for municipalities, developers and homeowners to take strong action to better manage stormwater,” said Heidi Ricci, Mass Audubon Senior Policy Analyst.

In the half-day conference, participants will learn about several available solutions to stormwater challenges. Keynote speaker, Dr. Robert Roseen, P.E., Director of the University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center, will talk about costs to municipalities and how to minimize and manage them. Scott Horsley, President of the Horsley Witten Group, will discuss decentralized and natural stormwater management techniques known as Low Impact Development (LID) practices, and how to design and maintain LID systems. Todd Richards, Fisheries Biologist with Mass Wildlife will present information on the impacts of current practices on streams and aquatic life.

Of special interest to municipalities who are struggling to understand and comply with new federal MS4 stormwater permits, Thelma Murphy, from the US EPA Office of Ecosystem Protection, will present information about the program and answer questions. Other speakers will include Beth Lambert, Division of Ecological Restoration, Department of Fish and Game; Fred Civian, MA Department of Environmental Protection; and Lorraine Joubert, Director, Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials at the University of Rhode Island.

Conference co-sponsors include: Horsley Witten Group; Massachusetts Rivers Alliance; Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD); Taunton River Watershed Alliance (TRWA); and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).