



The Watershed Congress Along the Schuylkill River

March 10, 2018

Montgomery Co. Community College - West Campus, Pottstown, PA

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

Help us protect and conserve our natural resources by sharing your expertise with a concerned and active audience. Past participants requested the following topics, but we will consider all suggestions:

The current state of environmental regulations • Environmental justice • Model My Watershed v2 • Macroinvertebrates • Municipal outreach • Riparian restoration • Overview of shale gas drilling • Watersheds & wildlife • Plastics in the environment • Climate change & water quality • New stormwater management techniques • Lessons from failures • Algal blooms • Environmental education • Wetland research • Dam removals • Health of fish populations • Climate change & native plants • Perfluorinated compounds • Jobs in the environmental field • Site plan evaluation • Sediment monitoring • Watersheds & demographics • Farmer perspectives on best management practices • Delaware River Watershed Initiative • Low-flows & water scarcity • Volunteer recruitment • Data sharing • Ecotoxicology • Flood resilience • Low cost environmental monitoring solutions • Infiltration • Sustainable design • Actions and adaptations for homeowners • Restoration effectiveness • Invasive plant removal • Endocrine disruptors • Watershed-based recreation • MS4s.

Session proposals

All session proposals should include:

- ✓ Presentation title (*10 word limit*)
- ✓ Level (e.g., *Introductory, Intermediate, Advanced*)
- ✓ One sentence summary
- ✓ Abstract body (*not to exceed 200 words*)
- ✓ Preferred format (*plenary, concurrent, or poster*)
- ✓ Relationship to Rivers Conservation Planning
- ✓ Presenter(s), affiliation(s), address(es)
- ✓ Daytime telephone number(s)
- ✓ Email address(es)
- ✓ Presenter bio(s) (*not to exceed 100 words*)

Submit proposals via an online form: http://bit.ly/2018WC_CallforPresenters. (See instructions below).

Deadline: October 31, 2017.

Proposal submission does not guarantee inclusion in the Watershed Congress program. Following the proposal format provided will greatly aid the Organizing Committee in the tough decision-making process. If you have any questions, please call 215-369-1188, ext. 109.

Comments on the 2017 Watershed Congress

“I found the whole day to be informative and useful! ... One of my must attend conferences. ... The Congress was terrific, so much fun! ... The conference was very engaging for me. ... My first Watershed Congress was fantastic, and your organization was so smooth. ... I really learned a lot from many of the presenters. ... Congresses like this are critical for maintaining focus on these much needed topics. ... Enjoyed it and made some good connections. ... Thank you for all of your hard work in making the Schuylkill Watershed Congress a fantastic event. I’m happy I was able to participate and see what the Congress is like. I’m also psyched to have won a door prize.”

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ABOUT THE WATERSHED CONGRESS

The Watershed Congress Along the Schuylkill River (the Congress) advances the best available information and techniques for protecting and restoring watersheds. The focus on networking across disciplines means that the Congress melds science, policy and practical applications into one program. Every year, a growing and changing group of individuals attends to gain new knowledge, acquire tools, and practice techniques that will allow them to take active roles in the stewardship of their natural resources.

The Congress is organized by the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and its partner organizations. Current partners represent: Berks County Conservation District; Berks Nature; Cadastral Consulting, LLC; Center in the Park/Senior Environment Corps; Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association; Delaware Valley University and Temple University; A.D. Marble & Company; Montgomery County Community College; Montgomery County Conservation District; Partnership for the Delaware Estuary; Penn State University, Pennsylvania Sea Grant; Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources; Reading Area Community College; Schuylkill River Heritage Area; Stroud Water Research Center; Sustainable Choices, LLC and Philadelphia Water; and The Write Beat.

OUR AUDIENCE

The Congress audience represents a diverse community interested in protection and restoration of water resources. Participants hail primarily from Pennsylvania, but New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland are regularly represented; New York and Virginia are occasionally represented.

The table below, with information from the 2017 conference evaluations, characterizes the Congress audience. Participants are asked to indicate the capacity in which they attended (*participants are encouraged to check all that apply*). The percentage shown is based on the number of selections each answer received compared to the total number of answers.

Non-Profit	12%	Consultant	5%	Conservation District	2%
Private Citizen	11%	Engineer	5%	Technical Expert	2%
Watershed Advocate	11%	Government Agency	4%	Contractor	1%
Educator	10%	Municipal Official	4%	Funder	1%
Student	10%	Angler/Paddler/Rower	3%	Landscape Architect	1%
Scientist	8%	Land Manager	2%	Power Utility	1%
Academic	6%	Water Utility	2%	Waste Management	1%

THE PROGRAM

New information is consistently cited as the factor that most motivates audience attendance. As a result, **the Organizing Committee prefers to present to our 200+ attendees recent work and work that is not being presented elsewhere.** Networking opportunities and the diverse program also are cited as important factors motivating attendance.

For past Congresses, continuing education credits have been approved for attorneys, certified floodplain managers, landscape architects, recreation and park professionals, pesticide applicators, and Uniform Construction Code re-certification. We have also provided certificates of attendance for engineers, surveyors, geologists, and professional wetland scientists seeking continuing education credit.

PROPOSAL FORMAT & GUIDELINES

Information for Potential Presenters

Presenters receive complimentary registration for the Congress; however, presenters are required to register. A separate registration link will be sent to all presenters in January 2018.

The Organizing Committee does not compensate presenters. Presenters are responsible for the cost of their travel and accommodations.

Those chosen to present at the Congress must provide a copy of their presentation to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network by March 2, 2018.

Presenters are required to complete a simple time log documenting the time spent preparing for, traveling to, and presenting at the Congress. This information is required for our reporting for nonprofit record keeping.

Session Formats

All sessions, regardless of format, must include a question-and-answer component.

Hands-on, interactive presentations are encouraged.

Proposals that discuss lessons learned will be viewed favorably.

Plenary – A plenary session is presented as the first session of the Congress. To select plenary speakers, the Organizing Committee considers proposals on topics of broad interest to our audience. A plenary session may include a single speaker or multiple speakers. Audience size: approximately 200.

Breakout Sessions – The total number of concurrent sessions offered each year varies based on decisions made by the Organizing Committee. The program has featured as many as eight concurrent sessions in one time slot. A maximum of three time slots will be available. As presented at the Congress, concurrent sessions are talks or media presentations on a single topic or program, followed by a question and answer component. Audience size: 20 - 40.

Session Length and Schedule

All sessions are 60 minutes long.

Presentations are scheduled by the Organizing Committee. The Organizing Committee will try to accommodate presenters who are traveling a distance to present; however, presenters cannot be given a preference or choice of time slots.

Audio-Visual Equipment

Rooms for all breakout sessions are equipped with a PC laptop, LCD projector, and SMART Board. Presentations must be provided to the Delaware Riverkeeper Network by March 2, 2018, so they can be loaded onto the PC laptops in advance.

Poster Sessions

Poster dimensions should be in the range from 36" x 48" to 42" x 52". DO NOT mount posters on any type of backing or foam-core. For more details about presenting posters in 2018, please email chari@delawariverkeeper.org.

Key Dates

- Proposal submission deadline: **11:59 pm, October 31, 2017**
- Presenter notification: **5:00 pm, December 1, 2017**
- Presenter's registration / Revised abstract deadline: **5:00 pm, February 9, 2018**
- Presentations due: **5:00 pm, March 2, 2018**
- Watershed Congress: **March 10, 2018**

Should you have any questions or wish to contact the committee, email chari@delawariverkeeper.org.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

Submission deadline: **11:59 pm, October 31, 2017.**

This document is a template PROVIDED FOR YOUR PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.

All applications must be submitted online at: http://bit.ly/2018WC_CallforPresenters

Although you can move backward and forward in the online form, it does not allow you to save your work and return later or to edit your proposal after it has been submitted. This template is being provided so that you may prepare your proposal off-line, and then copy and paste the required content online.

Sessions are limited to three presenters. If more than one presenter is involved, the lead presenter should be identified as the contact.

Session Title (Session titles should be compelling, but accurately convey the topic to be presented. Please limit to 10 words)
Audience Experience Level Expected (<i>multiple choice</i>)
Introductory, intermediate, advanced, all, or other. If other, please explain.
One-Sentence Summary
Abstract Body (<i>should not exceed 200 words</i>)
Preferred Format (<i>Check all formats in which you are willing to present</i>)
Plenary, concurrent, poster, or other. If other, please explain.

Relationship to Rivers Conservation Planning.

Does the topic covered in the session advance a recommendation(s) from a Rivers Conservation Plan? If yes, please list the plan and recommendation.

For more information, see the Pennsylvania DCNR rivers registry at:

<http://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Conservation/Water/RiversConservation/RiversRegistry/Pages/default.aspx>.

Additional information: Questions, comments, or special information pertaining to your session

Presenter Information

Presenter 1 Salutation (*Mr., Mr., Ms., Mrs., etc.*)

Presenter 1 First Name

Presenter 1 Last Name

Presenter 1 Position Title

Presenter 1 Affiliation

Presenter 1 Address 1

Presenter 1 Address 2

Presenter 1 City

Presenter 1 State

Presenter 1 Zip

Presenter 1 Work Phone (*Please use this format: ### - ### - #####.*)

Presenter 1 Home Phone (*Home numbers are only for internal use by the Watershed Congress Organizing Committee. Please use this format: ### - ### - #####.*)

Presenter 1 Email

Presenter 1 Bio *(Please limit to 100 words)*

Additional Presenters

Presenter 2 Salutation *(Mr., Mr., Ms., Mrs., etc.)*

Presenter 2 First Name

Presenter 2 Last Name

Presenter 2 Position Title

Presenter 2 Affiliation

Presenter 2 Address 1

Presenter 2 Address 2

Presenter 2 City

Presenter 2 State

Presenter 2 Zip

Presenter 2 Work Phone *(Please use this format: ### - ### - #####.)*

Presenter 2 Home Phone *(Home numbers are only for internal use by the Watershed Congress Organizing Committee. Please use this format: ### - ### - #####.)*

Presenter 2 Email

Presenter 2 Bio *(Please limit to 100 words)*

Presenter 3 Salutation *(Mr., Mr., Ms., Mrs., etc.)*

Presenter 3 First Name

Presenter 3 Last Name

Presenter 3 Position Title

Presenter 3 Affiliation

Presenter 3 Address 1

Presenter 3 Address 2

Presenter 3 City

Presenter 3 State

Presenter 3 Zip

Presenter 3 Work Phone *(Please use this format: ### - ### - #####.)*

Presenter 3 Home Phone *(Home numbers are only for internal use by the Watershed Congress Organizing Committee. Please use this format: ### - ### - #####.)*

Presenter 3 Email

Presenter 3 Bio *(Please limit to 100 words)*