

Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District



*“Working together to
protect OUR lake”*

A Brief History

In September 1979, Pike and Wayne Counties and the 14 townships in the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed formed the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District (LWWMD). LWWMD was formed with the purpose of providing guidance in the protection and improvement of water quality in Lake Wallenpaupack and its tributaries. LWWMD is a multi-governmental, 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation and was the first watershed management district in Pennsylvania. They have continued to work toward improved water quality for more than thirty years and have proven to be a leader in the community and a model for success.



Founding ceremony, September, 1979

In 1998 and 1999, the LWWMD received a total of \$2,200,000 from two U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants. These grants were used for watershed investigations, the development of pollutant budgets for Lake Wallenpaupack, additional lake and stream water quality monitoring, public education seminars and workshops, and the design and construction of Best Management Practices (BMPs) throughout the watershed to control nonpoint sources of pollution to Lake Wallenpaupack.

In 1990, the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management Plan won the "Watershed of the Year" award from the Conservation Districts of Pennsylvania. It also won first place in "Take Pride in Pennsylvania". An environmental education curriculum developed for the Wallenpaupack Area School District under a separate EPA Section 319 Grant Project won the 1998 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence in Environmental Education.

RECENT HISTORY

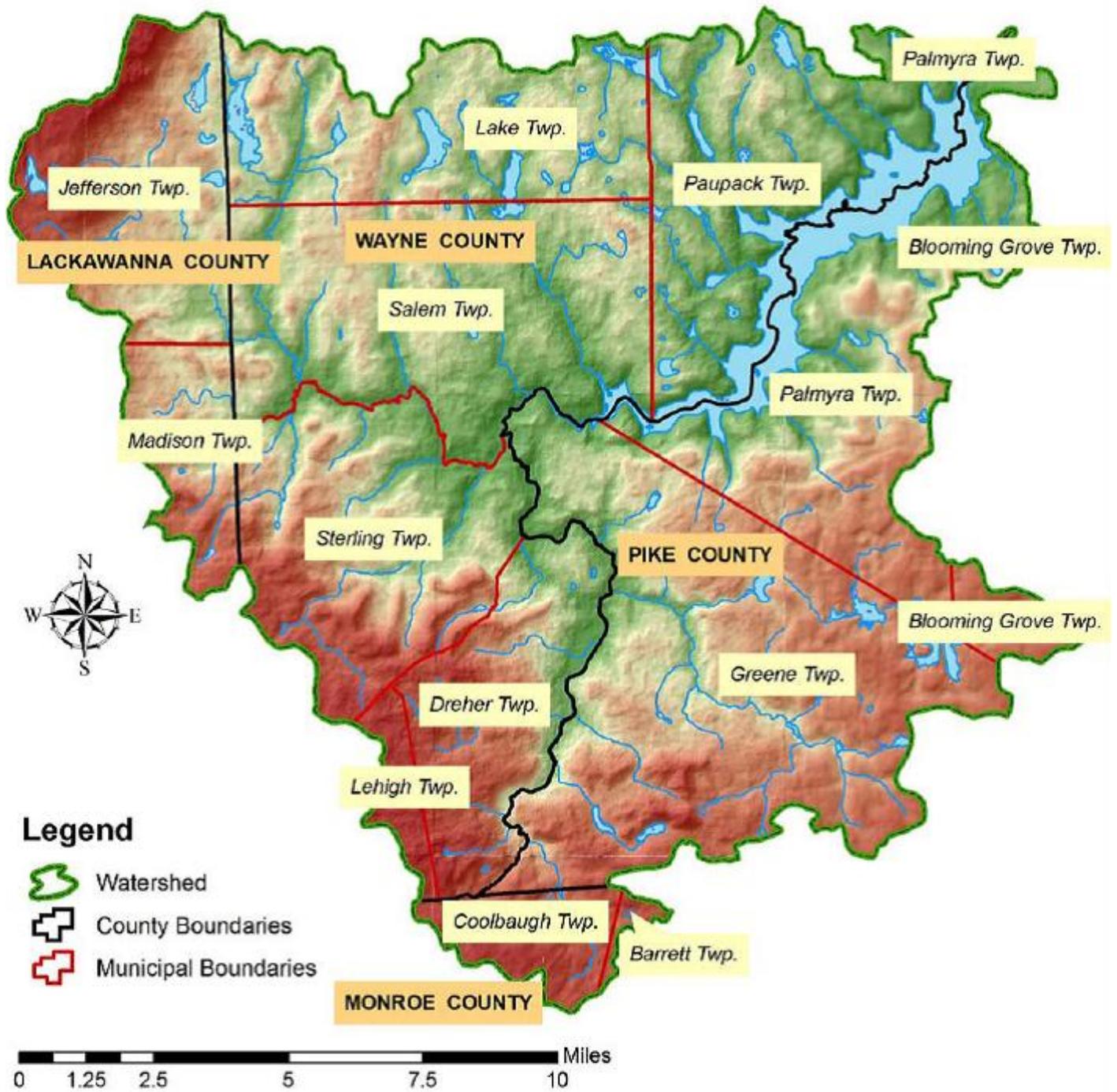
In December of 2006, an updated Watershed Management Plan was completed, through the EPA Grants and presented to the LWWMD. The Plan outlined existing accomplishments and made twenty-two recommendations for future action and priority areas. Many of the actions recommended in the plan are ongoing at present.

In 2007, the LWWMD discontinued its relationship with long-time consultant, FX Browne, Inc. A strategic planning session was held in 2008 to aid in reorganization of the District and numerous recommendations were made. The plan addressed the mandates, stakeholders, capacity, mission, and future vision of the LWWMD.

In late 2009, LWWMD secured Aqua Link, INC. of Doylestown, PA to compile all water quality data from 1980 through 2007 in one database for the purpose of analyzing long-term trends. They remain the District's contracted consultant at present.

In mid-2010, LWWMD acted on a key recommendation of the 2008 Strategic Plan to "employ an adequate, qualified, and effective staff". A new Executive Director's position was created and Nick Spinelli was hired in August, 2010. At the Board's direction, Nick is continuing to carry out recommendations and goals made in the 2006 Watershed Management Plan and the 2008 Strategic Plan. Planning for 2012 and beyond is currently ongoing.

Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed



The Lake Wallen-What!?

WHO WE ARE

“So... what exactly does the LWWMD do?” It’s a question often asked but not so easily answered. The shortest possible answer we can give is, “We protect the lake.” But that’s the same answer given by the PA Fish and Boat Commission, PPL, the local Dive Teams, and Lake Watch. Why are we unique? What do we do that’s different than those other entities?

What sets us apart and makes us unique is how we protect the lake. We have an all-volunteer Board of Directors. We’re twenty individuals—all leaders in our respective fields—representing the diverse population of our entire watershed. We’re elected officials, conservation experts, and educators. We’re builders, bankers, and realtors. We’re farmers, engineers, and business owners. Most importantly, we’re your neighbors. We don’t make regulations, nor do we enforce them; and we don’t patrol the lake. Our task and mission is to affect a cultural and societal change in the way people think about the lake and its watershed. We foster a responsible and balanced conservation ethic, educate our residents and visitors, and lead by example in managing what happens in our watershed.



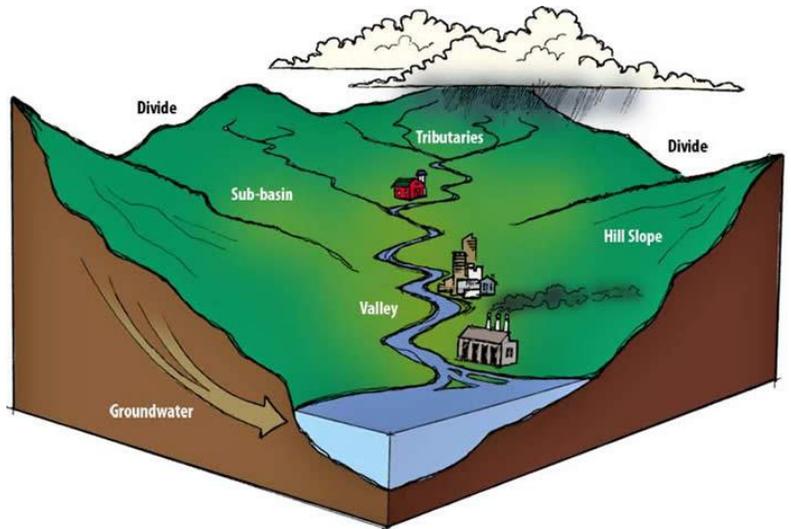
MISSION STATEMENT

The Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District, a community-based nonprofit corporation founded in 1979, is committed to protecting, maintaining, and enhancing the water quality of Lake Wallenpaupack and its tributaries through leadership, public education and promotion of public awareness, scientific studies, and development and implementation of a comprehensive watershed management program, including the installation of watershed improvement projects. This will ensure high quality of life in the community, the protection of the natural environment, and the sustainability of the regional tourism and recreation economy.

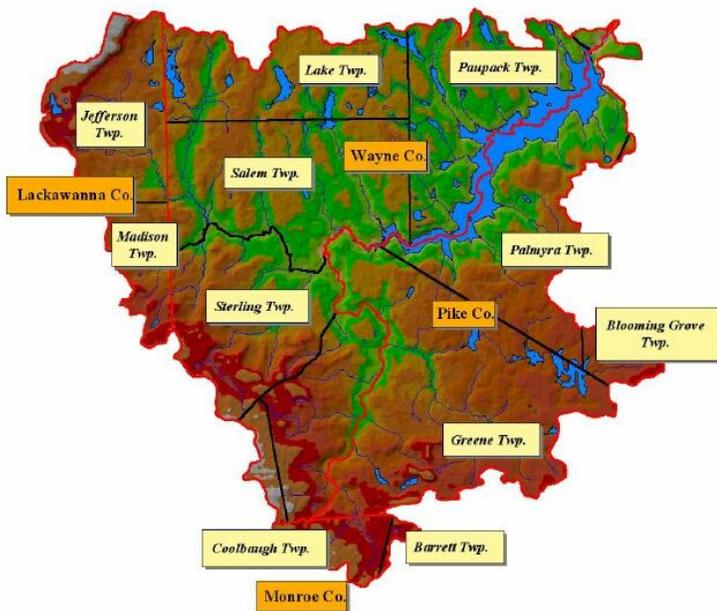
Our mission statement guides our actions and accomplishments and serves as a “macro view” of why we exist. How we meet the requirements of the mission statement is the “micro view” and the more complicated answer to the question: “So... what exactly does the LWWMD do?”

WHAT WE DO

We manage the watershed. Easy enough, right? It's a simple enough sentence, but the theory itself is complex. It's important to remember that everything in the natural world is connected through countless intricate relationships. Each action has a cause and effect. If we're aware of even a few of these relationships, we can take action to responsibly manage them and to maintain the environment they support (and upon which we depend). The first thing we have



to talk about in watershed management is the watershed concept. A watershed is essentially a drainage basin in which all water drains to a single common outlet. Watersheds are defined by topography and range from a few square yards to thousands of square miles.



In our case, a landmass of 219 square miles drains any precipitation to a single common outlet which we know as Lake Wallenpaupack. What we do within that 219 square miles directly affects water quality in our tributaries and the lake. As precipitation and surface water flows over the land, the nutrients, chemicals, and soils it encounters are picked up and transported to the lake. These "hitch hikers" are what affects the quality of our water. On any given day, approximately 90 million gallons of water flow into the lake through tributaries and direct runoff. The lake itself contains somewhere around 40 billion

gallons of water during most of the year. Treating the water through filtration, chemical applications, or biological augmentation just isn't feasible due to the sheer volume. The costs would be so great and the threats so constant that we'd go broke and be fairly ineffective at keeping the lake clean. Our most effective and economically-viable option is to control pollution by stopping it at the source, or preventing it altogether.

HOW WE DO IT



Step 1 in managing the watershed is to know what processes are at work and what threats we're facing. We accomplish this through research and water quality monitoring. We sample water quality every summer and we've studied the lake for over 30 years. We know what our pollutants are and we know from where in the watershed they originate.

Step 2 in preventing pollution is education. We take what we know from our research and we talk about it. We reach thousands of people every year and provide education and advice on stopping pollution before it starts. We try to work hand in hand with our municipal officials and county conservation districts to ensure that regulations and zoning help control pollution problems or prevent them before they start. It's a big part of our daily operations and one of the most effective management tools we can put together. Unfortunately it can't fix the pollution that already exists. What education can't fix must be fixed with other management tools.



Step 3 is Best Management Practices (BMPs). These management tools are designed to stop or reduce the flow of pollutants to the lake. We help to install and fund BMPs throughout the watershed. BMPs can address agricultural waste, stormwater, pesticides, fertilizers, sewage, and erosion. If we can fund, install, or encourage the use of BMPs, we can keep the lake clean. Much of this is accomplished through grant-writing, project management, and working with the regulatory community on responsible land-use management.

FUNDING

“So...how do you fund all that work?” It’s another common question and easier to answer than the first. We’re extremely fortunate to have dedicated sources of funding from some of our partners, and to have received significant amounts of grant funding over the years. A summary follows:

Annual funding is provided by:

Wayne County

Pike County

Paupack Twp.

Palmyra Twp. (Pike)

PPL for Water Monitoring

YES, Put my money to work to keep our Lake Wallenpaupack the "GEM" of the Poconos.

Name _____ Amount \$ _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____

DONATE BY CHECK OR USE YOUR CREDIT CARD

VISA MASTER CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

Expiration Date Month/Year

Credit Card Security Code

Signature _____

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This funding covers most of the daily operations of LWWMD. It’s the bulk of our operating expenses, but it isn’t enough to fund projects that keep pollution out of the lake. Any other funding is secured through donations or grants. Over the past few years we’ve been able to use most of the donation money to directly fund BMPs. Grants have become scarce in the current economic climate but are another source we have successfully used over the years. Future plans at LWWMD include establishing our own fundraisers to help make more BMPs possible. Frankly, we need your financial support to continue protecting the lake.

LEADERSHIP

We represent the watershed, the people who live here, and those who visit. Our status as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit entity makes it easy for us to work with everyone. So many of our partners are restricted by the political boundaries in which they work. We’re able to cross those boundaries and provide connections and cooperation. Our board members are leaders in their respective fields. As an organization we’re a leader too. We’re leaders in research, education, and managing pollution to protect and maintain Lake Wallenpaupack, our watershed, and our quality of life. Together we’ll lead the future management efforts of LWWMD and become an example that others may emulate. When that day comes, our hard work and success will have paid off. No longer will someone ask, “So... what exactly does the LWWMD do?” They won’t have to ask, because they’ll know how...

“We protect the lake”



For more information, or to support the valuable work of the LWWMD, please contact Executive Director, Nick Spinelli or visit the District Office at PPL Drive near the Dam and Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center.