



## **Healthy Waters Coalition Update August 2016**

*The Healthy Waters Coalition is a diverse group of municipal and state water and wastewater organizations, and conservation and sustainable agriculture organizations working in Washington DC and in communities throughout the country. The Coalition is focused on strengthening links between our working agricultural lands and the quality of our Nation's waters with a specific focus on nutrients. Please feel free to circulate this list to your members and let us know if you have any colleagues who would find this monthly update informative. If you do not wish to receive these updates, we can remove you from our lists.*

*Below is an overview of the related press coverage and other materials from the month of August.*

### **National Activities**

#### [EPA and USDA Pledge Actions to Support America's Growing Water Quality Trading Markets](#)

*EPA Connect (Blog)*

Over the last decade, states and others have discovered that they can meet their water quality improvement goals through lower costs and greater flexibility by using a voluntary water quality trading program.

#### [USDA to Fund Agricultural Wetland Mitigation Banks in 10 States](#)

*USDA News Release*

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Chief Jason Weller today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is investing more than \$7 million to fund agricultural wetland mitigation banks in 10 Midwest and Northern Great Plain states.

#### [More than a Century of USGS Water Quality Studies in National Parks](#)

*USGS Press Release*

Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey have investigated water quality in national parks for over 100 years, providing specialized information that helps park officials balance the often competing goals of preserving nature and broadening visitor experiences.

### **Regional and Local Activities**

#### [As Toxic Algae Bloom Spreads, Will Michigan Add Lake Erie to Impaired List?](#)

*Mlive*

As this summer's harmful algae bloom in Lake Erie grows in toxicity, Michigan environmental regulators are still reviewing whether to add the state's portion of the lake to a list of impaired waters that was supposed to be in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's hands this spring.

### [Bay Cleanup Effort Gets Nearly \\$11 Million Infusion](#)

*The Chesapeake Bay Journal*

Nearly \$10.9 million from the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund will go to nonprofits, local governments, universities and state agencies for activities as varied as promoting living shorelines on Virginia's Northern Neck, fostering "watershed covenant communities" in churches and introducing phosphorus balances on farmlands.

### [California Agriculture is the Largest Source of Nitrogen Pollution in the State](#)

*Capital Public Radio News*

Nitrogen is essential for growing crops and producing food, but too much of it pollutes the water and air. A new assessment looks at nitrogen's impact in California and how it's affecting human health and the environment.

### [Lake Okeechobee: A Time Warp for Polluted Water](#)

*The Miami Herald*

Despite decades of planning and promises, Florida lawmakers, governors and agencies have never gotten close to cleaning up the largest lake in the Southeast U.S. — the "liquid heart" of South Florida's water supply system.

### [Dirty Water: Good And Bad News About The Future Of The Charles River](#)

*WBUR: Boston's NPR Station*

The good news is that the river got a B+ this year. The Environmental Protection Agency has graded the Charles River on its water quality each year since 1995 when it earned a D.

## **Research and Studies**

### [Researchers analyze how nutrient pollution can negatively impact important ecological relationships](#)

*Phys.org*

To cope with nutrient deficiencies in their respective habitats, certain plants, animals and fungi have evolved partnerships by which they can swap resources. According to a new study by UC Santa Barbara researchers Deron Burkepile and Andrew Shantz, excess nutrient input—or [nutrient pollution](#)—creates an imbalance in the interactions between partner species across a variety of ecosystems.

### [New Breakthrough Helps Trace River Pollution](#)

*The National Environment Research Council*

Scientists are developing a new way to track the origins of phosphorus pollution in our rivers and understand how it behaves once it gets there.

### [Riparian Buffer Zones Help Remove Excess Nitrogen from Agricultural Runoff](#)

*AZO CleanTech*

The surplus nitrogen that flows out from agricultural runoff enters the surface waters, and as a result leads to destructive outcomes. Some of the devastating effects include fish kills and algal blooms. A twelve-year research study has now discovered a location in the riparian buffer zones that lies between farmlands and rivers or streams, and can help overcome this problem.

### [Reducing Water Pollution with Microbes, Wood Chips](#)

*R&D Magazine*

Simple technologies like woodchip bioreactors can help meet both goals by helping farmers maintain good drainage and providing cleaner water downstream.

### [The California Nitrogen Assessment](#)

*UC Davis Agricultural Sustainability Institute*

Nitrogen, in various reactive forms, is indispensable to the productivity of California agriculture. And yet, only about half the nitrogen applied ends up where we intend; the balance leaks, polluting our air and water, with detrimental effects on our environment and human health.

### [Reducing Runoff Pollution by Making Spray Droplets Less Bouncy](#)

*MIT News*

When farmers spray their fields with pesticides or other treatments, only 2 percent of the spray sticks to the plants. A significant portion of it typically bounces right off the plants, lands on the ground, and becomes part of the runoff that flows to streams and rivers — often causing serious pollution. But a team of MIT researchers aims to fix that.