



Healthy Waters Coalition Update September 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 September.

National Activities

[Partnering with States to Cut Nutrient Pollution](#)

EPA Connect- Blog by Joel Beauvais

EPA Office of Water Deputy Assistant Administrator, Joel Beauvais, signed a memorandum that asks states to intensify their efforts on making sustained progress on reducing nutrient pollution.

[USDA Unveils New \\$328 Million Restoration Strategy for Gulf-area Agricultural Lands](#)

USDA News Release

A new three-year, \$328 million restoration strategy aims to improve water quality and help coastal ecosystems heal following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill by strategically directing existing and anticipated Farm Bill funds for technical and financial assistance

[USDA Announces \\$26 Million Investment to Spur Agricultural Innovation](#)

USDA Press Release

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the investment of \$26.6 million in Conservation Innovation Grants into 45 projects that will spur innovative conservation initiatives on both rural and urban farms across the country.

[Poisonous Algae Blooms Threaten People, Ecosystems Across U.S.](#)

NPR

Serious algae outbreaks have hit more than 20 states this summer.

[Clinton Emphasizes Great Lakes Issues](#)

The Sandusky Register

The Clinton and Trump campaigns were both invited to speak at the Healing Our Waters- Great Lakes Coalition convention and both campaigns sent surrogates.

[Trump Surrogate says Donald Would Make the Great Lakes 'Great Again'](#)

Michigan Live

Trump surrogate, Mike Budzik, past Ohio Division of Wildlife Chief, spoke at a Great Lakes conference in Ohio last week along with a counterpart from Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

Regional and Local Activities

[2015 Bay Water Quality was Fourth Best since 1985](#)

The Chesapeake Bay Journal

Dry conditions over much of the Bay watershed helped to make 2015 the fourth-best year for overall Bay water quality in three decades, according to figures released Wednesday by the Chesapeake Bay Program.

[Mississippi River Healthier, But Threats Loom](#)

KARE Minneapolis | St. Paul

The latest report card on Minnesota's waterways features a mix of positive signs and concerns about looming threats to the ecosystem.

[Without Regulations, It's Up to Midwest Farmers to Reduce Water Pollution](#)

KCUR

While federal regulations have successfully cut back some types of water pollution, like raw sewage and industrial waste, the landmark Clean Water Act, now 44 years old, has little muscle in combating what is one of the Midwest's biggest environmental problems: agricultural runoff.

[Hidden Streambed Phosphorus Key to Lake Cleanup, County Says](#)

Wisconsin State Journal

A county study found that even if no additional nutrients washed off the farm fields - something nobody expects - stream bottoms by themselves for the next 60 years would ooze phosphorus into the lakes at levels exceeding the maximum now allowed under state law.

[DC Ready to Ramp Up its Stormwater Trading Program](#)

The Chesapeake Bay Journal

An unusual strategy designed to slash the amount of stormwater pouring off the District of Columbia's buildings and pavement into its streams and rivers is bearing fruit and might be poised for major growth.

Research and Studies

[Measuring 'Best' Practices to Curb Farm Pollution](#)

Inside Science

Thomas Fisher, an environmental scientist at the Horn Point Laboratory of the University of Maryland, and his colleagues are ending year three of an ambitious five-year, \$1.5 million study aimed at figuring out which agricultural practices work best at protecting Chesapeake Bay tributaries.

[Changing Salt Marsh Conditions Send Resident Microbes into Dormancy](#)

National Science Foundation

Scientists are working to discover how the marsh - and the microbes in it - change over time when outside influences, such as nitrogen, are introduced to the ecosystem.

[Nutrient Pollution is Changing Sounds in the Sea](#)

Science Daily

Nutrient Pollution emptying into seas from cities, towns and agricultural land is changing the sounds made by marine life - and potentially upsetting navigational cues for fish and other sea creatures.