

Matthew J. Ehrhart
Director of Watershed Restoration
Stroud Water Research Center
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Director of Watershed Restoration

2013-Present

Stroud Water Research Center, Avondale, PA

- Build and lead a new Watershed Restoration Program at Stroud Water Resource Center (SWRC), including planning, funding, management, budgeting, implementation, evaluation, and coordination of activities with other initiatives at SWRC.
- Coordinate with SWRC staff and external groups on the development and deployment of SWRC initiatives.
- Lead efforts and programs designed to promote watershed restoration from both a policy and an on-the-ground implementation of best management practices perspective.
- Organize and undertake strategic discussions with federal, state, and local agencies, elected decision makers, NGO's, and other parties, as appropriate to develop and refine watershed mitigation practices (e.g., riparian forest buffers).
- Conduct outreach on behalf of Stroud Water Research Center and the Watershed Restoration Program when pursuing partnerships/commitments/agreements.
- Collaborate with Stroud Center staff on initiatives that focus on efforts to integrate watershed restoration into basic science and education projects.
- Lead and participate in education activities for advancing the training of conservation professionals and, to a lesser degree, conservation group members and private landowners in watershed restoration and management.

Pennsylvania Executive Director

2002-2012

Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Harrisburg, PA

- Provide leadership for the Pennsylvania Office including planning, management, budgeting, implementation, evaluation, and coordination of activities to further the Foundation's goals in Pennsylvania.
- Serve as the primary spokesperson for CBF in Pennsylvania and represents CBF positions to Executive and Legislative offices.
- Develop positions, goals, priorities, and strategies for advocacy efforts on various environmental issues.
- Provide input on a number of State and Regional committees.
- Present CBF activities at National, Regional and State conferences. Provide technical lectures for a variety of University courses.
- Provide scientific, policy and administrative expertise for PA staff as well as organization-wide as member of CBF Agenda Setting Team.

PA Assistant Director / Watershed Restoration Manager

2001-2002

Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Harrisburg, PA

- Assist the director in providing leadership for the PA Office and developing positions, priorities, goals, and strategies on assorted environmental issues.
- Develop and implement CBF's restoration program in Pennsylvania and assist in developing organization-wide restoration policy and program.
- Assist in the formation of CBF, PA, and Regional riparian and wetland restoration & protection policy and goals.
- Write and coordinate grant applications and implementation of funding for restoration activities.
- Develop new relationships with potential restoration partners in PA and Bay Region (ex. NRCS, FSA, Trout Unlimited, Future Farmers of America, etc.)
- Plan and present workshops and trainings on restoration issues (ex. hydrology, soil stability, riparian buffer plantings, wetland planting, etc.) for groups ranging from professionals to high school students.
- Site, design, coordinate, & implement riparian and wetland restoration demonstration projects.

PA Watershed Restoration Scientist**1996-2001**

- Site, design, coordinate, & implement riparian and wetland restoration demonstration projects.
- Assist in the formation of CBF, PA, and Regional riparian and wetland restoration & protection policy and goals.
- Write and coordinate grant applications and implementation of funding for restoration activities.
- Develop new relationships with potential restoration partners in PA and Bay Region (ex. NRCS, FSA, Trout Unlimited, Future Farmers of America, etc.)
- Work with existing organizations to assist them in developing their own restoration programs to “wholesale restoration”.
- Organize, plan, conduct, and present workshops and trainings on restoration issues (ex. hydrology, soil stability, riparian buffer plantings, wetland planting, etc.) for groups ranging from professionals to high school students.

Senior Environmental Scientist**1992 - 1996**

Landstudies, Inc., Oxford, PA

- Designed and supervised installation of wetland mitigation, stream restoration and dredge spoil restoration projects.
- Project management.
- Conducted wetland delineations and prepared the corresponding reports.
- Designed and coordinated aquatic macroinvertebrate studies.
- Prepared erosion and sedimentation plans and stormwater calculations for mitigation design and site planning.
- Prepared and obtained permits in compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Sampled surface groundwater and analyzed the water chemistry results.

Graduate Research Assistant**1991**

Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

- Responsible for sampling and identifying aquatic macroinvertebrates.
- Interpreted and integrated the results of chemical and biological stream surveys.
- Conducted multivariate statistical analysis to determine correlations between communities and ecoregions.

EDUCATION

M. Eng. in Engineering Science. 1996. The Pennsylvania State University.
Research Paper: Restoration of Goose Point Dredge Spoil Deposition Area.

B.S. in Environmental Resource Management, cum laude, 1991. The Pennsylvania State University.
Senior Honors Thesis: "Correlation Between Benthic Macroinvertebrate Populations and Ecoregions in Five Pennsylvania Ecoregions."

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Society for Freshwater Science
- American Water Resource Association

BIOGRAPHY

Matthew J. Ehrhart, Director of Watershed Restoration
Stroud water Research Center

Matt is the Director of Watershed Restoration at the Stroud Water Research Center. In January 2013 Stroud launched a new restoration initiative. As Director, Matt will be focused on building a restoration program integrates current science and technology into a restoration program that demonstrates how to maximize ecological and water quality outcomes while serving the needs of farms and communities. Further objectives include effectively leveraging federal and state resources and demonstrating how to improve public programs and public spending on natural resource restoration work.

Prior to moving to Stroud in January, 2013, Matt served as the Executive Director for the Pennsylvania office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) for over 18 years. Prior to working at CBF he worked as a private environmental consultant.

Matt's prior work included guidance and oversight for a multimillion dollar agricultural restoration initiative in Pennsylvania that established over 2200 miles of forest buffers, 4500 acres of wetlands Recently securing \$14.8 M in federal funding for agricultural best management practices in conjunction with conservation districts and private business. He has worked to build partnerships and funding for alternative uses of manure and implementing precision dairy feeding. He has worked with numerous partners and funders to integrate science, policy and delivery mechanisms to build functional "on-the-ground" programs to address these and other issues.

Ehrhart has worked extensively on state and federal policy issues. He was instrumental in building the Fair Share for Clean Water Coalition which included CBF, the PA Farm Bureau, PA Municipal Authorities Assoc., PA Builders Association, and the PA Assoc. of Conservation Districts. This group successfully lobbied for the \$10 Million dollar REAP tax credit and the establishment of \$1.2 Billion in bond funding to address Pennsylvania environmental issues.

Matt has received the PA Governor's Award for Watershed Stewardship and was named to the 2011 Pennsylvania Governor's Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission. He chairs the PA DEP Chesapeake Bay Advisory Committee and is a member of the PA Water Resource Advisory Committee. In 2010 Matt was named a Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences Outstanding Alumni and he serves on the Board of the College of Agricultural Sciences Ag Council.

Mr. Ehrhart received his undergraduate degree in Environmental Resource Management and his Master of Engineering in Engineering Science from the Pennsylvania State University.