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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Water Resources Education Network Announces 2015 Source Water Protection Collaborative Grants Now Available

HARRISBURG, PA (February 10, 2015) - The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund, through its Water Resources Education Network (WREN) Project is pleased to announce the opening of the 2015 grant round for Source Water Protection (SWP) Collaborative projects.

“Clean drinking water doesn’t just appear from the faucet. We need to do everything we can to protect our streams, rivers, lakes and aquifers - the sources of our drinking water - not only for us now, but for future generations,” according to Julie A. Kollar, Director of WREN. “Government leaders, water professionals, business owners and residents are encouraged to join together and apply for a WREN grant. Funding may be used to help launch or strengthen community partnerships that will raise awareness and educate citizens about better ways to care for their water supply.”

WREN is offering **Source Water Protection Collaborative Grant awards up to \$8,000** per project to foster and support the formation of coalitions that will educate local officials and residents about ways to protect public drinking water resources from contamination, improve emergency response coordination and ensure the community water supply will be sustainable. **The deadline for submitting applications is March 20, 2015. Details about Source Water Protection Grants, Grant Guidance information and application forms are available at the WREN website at the [Source Water Protection Grants page](http://www.waterwisepa.org/grants/our-grants/source-water-protection-grants), <http://www.waterwisepa.org/grants/our-grants/source-water-protection-grants>.**

For 2015, applicants can select from among three tiers for source water protection grants:

Local Project- Application submitted by a partnership (comprised of at least one community water system and one or two additional organizations) that form a Local Source Water Collaborative to conduct source water protection public education and implement a priority protection action within the recharge or aquifer area. Maximum funding: \$3,000/project.

Expanded Local Project - Application submitted by a partnership (comprised of two or more community water systems and one or two additional organizations) that form an Expanded Local Source Water Collaborative to conduct source water protection public education and implement a priority protection action within a shared aquifer recharge area or upstream/downstream watershed intake area. Maximum funding: \$5,000/project.

County SWP Collaborative Project - Application submitted by a partnership comprised of two or more community water systems and two additional organizations, one of which must be a county level entity. The partnership will form a County Source Water Collaborative (with commitment of County Commissioners and/or County Planning

Department, etc.) to conduct source water protection public education and implement a priority drinking water protection action within the County. Maximum funding: \$8,000/project.

To learn more about protecting the sources of drinking water and to see examples of source water collaborative projects, visit WREN's source water website at sourcewaterpa.org.

Download Grant Guidance information and application forms at the WREN website at the [Source Water Protection Grants page](http://www.waterwisepa.org/grants/our-grants/source-water-protection-grants), <http://www.waterwisepa.org/grants/our-grants/source-water-protection-grants>.

WREN is a nonpartisan informal collaboration of organizations and public officials working for the protection and management of Pennsylvania's water resources, through grass-roots education and informed policy-making. WREN provides training and grants that support community coalitions raising public awareness of water resources. WREN projects empower communities to take action to develop and implement public policies to protect Pennsylvania water resources.

The source of funding for WREN Source Water Protection Grants is the PA DEP Source Water Protection Program through Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996 administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

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