

## FAQS on the current (suspended) status of the Delaware Adopt-a-Wetland (AAW) Program

### *What does it mean to say that the Adopt-a-Wetland program is suspended?*

This means that no new adoption requests will be entertained and that existing adopters will not be able to call for support as AAW has provided in the past. More specifically, this means that AAW will no longer be able to provide adoptions signs, supply or replenish monitoring kits and other resources, make site visits, present workshops and trainings, exhibit or speak at events, and provide any of the myriad of other services it has provided to adopters over the previous two decades of AAW program operation.

### *Can current AAW adopter participants continue to care for and watch over their adopted sites?*

Yes – assuming the landowner permission is still there to do so – adopting groups are free to continue visiting, stewarding and/or monitoring their wetland as they have done in the past. They can also continue to keep their sign posted at their wetland site. Please realize however, that AAW will no longer be able to replace signs or provide other forms of logistical support, resources and training such as they provided previously.

### *Can adopters continue to send in reports of their activities, site visits and hours volunteered?*

Yes, they are welcome, and can be sent to us via any of the following venues: (302) 653-3431 (FAX), ARE Center, 4876 Hay Point Landing Rd., Smyrna DE 19977; [vickie.henderson@state.de.us](mailto:vickie.henderson@state.de.us) or [gary.kreamer@state.de.us](mailto:gary.kreamer@state.de.us). All reports received will be kept on file for future reference (should the program revitalize), but please realize that in the meantime, AAW will not have staff there to send out reminders or responses for such reporting.

### *What about use of kits for monitoring wetlands?*

There are numerous monitoring kits out there. If you have one (or more) and are using them, please continue to do so (and feel free to send in reports of your results). If you're not using the kits you have, or when you finish using them, please return them to us at the ARE Center at your earliest convenience.

### *Why is the Adopt-a-Wetland Program being suspended?*

Throughout most of the last two decades, the AAW program has been largely funded by federal grants, including funds provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Program to Delaware's Aquatic Resources Education (ARE) Program, and intermittent grants (for special projects) provided through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Non-regulatory Wetland Grants Program. In recent years, declining trends in funds available through those federal sources – along with a lack of state funding sources to pick up the slack - have challenged the ARE's budget in sustaining the variety of programs it offers, necessitating such measures as winter closure of facilities, cuts to seasonal and contractual staff hours, and judicious trimming of programs, including, but not limited to, the Adopt-a-Wetland Program.

### *Is there anything you can do to help?*

The need for public awareness of the many benefits wetlands provide, and the role we can all play in their conservation, remains, and for that we encourage you to keep yourself informed and engaged with the issues. A good resource for doing that can be found at: <http://de.gov/delawarewetlands>. For those wishing to redirect their time and energies to other aspects of caring for Delaware's environment, check out the volunteer opportunities profiled at: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/volunteer](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/volunteer), [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/volunteers/Pages/Volunteer.aspx](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/volunteers/Pages/Volunteer.aspx) or <http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/Admin/DelawareWetlands/Pages/Volunteer-Opportunities.aspx>. For social media enthusiasts, check out: [www.facebook.com/delawarewetlands](http://www.facebook.com/delawarewetlands) or [www.facebook.com/DelawareFishWildlife](http://www.facebook.com/DelawareFishWildlife). Feel free as well to address any questions, suggestions or concerns about the Adopt-a-Wetland program or Delaware wetlands in general to: [gary.kreamer@state.de.us](mailto:gary.kreamer@state.de.us). We appreciate your interest and attention!