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## **Municipal Land Use Center to embark on regional water resource protection**

In December of 2005, MLUC was notified by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation of a successful grant application submitted by MLUC earlier in the year. The \$30,000 grant will allow MLUC to team up with six Hunterdon County communities and collectively develop watershed protection strategies for their section of the Delaware River watershed.

Beginning in the spring of 2006, MLUC will facilitate a process in which the six communities will undertake a number of activities including the following:

- Share planning issues, needs and priorities with each other
- Learn about the plethora of federal, state and regional watershed-related initiatives that affect local planning and that are in turn affected by local land use decisions
- Identify data and mapping needs that can help inform local planning decisions
- Identify areas of consistency and inconsistency among municipal plans and between municipal plans and regional, state and federal plans
- Identify critical policy actions that must be taken to advance long-term watershed based protection in the future
- Create an ongoing forum – called a regional watershed coordinating council - in which the communities continue to meet and collaborate on watershed-based initiatives.

The six municipalities that will participate in this effort include the Boroughs of Stockton, Frenchtown and Milford and the Townships of Delaware, Kingwood and Alexandria. Several additional project partners will lend assistance in this year-long endeavor. The Delaware River Basin Commission will assist MLUC in project management. A Technical Advisory Committee, consisting of the D&R Canal Commission, New Jersey Water Supply Authority and New Jersey Section of the American Water Resources Authority will help guide the development and presentation of mapped data relevant to the Delaware River watershed. The Delaware River Greenway Partnership will lend support to a Project Steering Committee that will consist of representatives from the six municipalities.

The project will be underway once contracts are signed between MLUC and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. In the meantime, MLUC held a kick-off meeting in late February with municipal representatives to apprise them of the successful grant application and anticipated schedule of activities beginning in the spring of 2006.

To learn more, we encourage you to read the grant proposal narrative submitted to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation or click on the introductory powerpoint presentation. Additional information will be posted as we move ahead. Also, please feel free to call 609.771.2832 if you would like to speak to MLUC staff.