



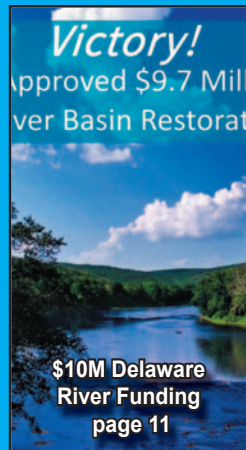
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L-R Steve Reider, Slate Belt Rising Dir. Eric Andreus, Nestle Waters

Nestle Waters Donates to Slate Belt Rising

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - "Slate Belt Rising would like to thank Eric Andreus and Nestle Waters North America Inc. for their generous contribution of \$2,500 to our program. Support like theirs can make a profound difference as we work to make the Slate belt a better place through our continued investment into various projects and programming" said Steve Reider, Slate Belt Rising Dir.

"At Nestlé Waters, we firmly believe that proactive, long-term commitments and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders are needed to define, implement and evaluate solutions to the complex challenges involved in managing a shared resource such as water. The interrelations between water, environment, agriculture, and community has never been clearer. We are just one of the players within a larger community. This leads us to develop a long-term vision of both our operations and the communities where we work" says Nestle.

Much has been done to educate consumers about eating the right foods, but people are less aware of the impact of what they drink on nutrition and health. While there are policies targeting the over-consumption of sugary drinks, there is a lack of clear strategies that include water consumption as a core component.

We support any communication effort that helps individuals and families reach daily recommended fluid intakes and adopt healthy hydration habits.



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

By Herb Kreekson

WASHINGTON D.C. - The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was best known for his role in the civil rights movement and nonviolent protests. His life's work has been honored with a national holiday, schools and public buildings named after him, and a memorial on the National Mall in Washington.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a social activist and Baptist minister who played a key role in the American civil rights movement from the mid-1950s until his assassination in 1968. King sought equality and human rights for African Americans, the economically disadvantaged and all victims of injustice through peaceful protest. He was the driving force behind watershed events such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the 1963 March on Washington, which helped bring about such landmark

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Slate Belt Says Good Bye To Chief Mettin

By Michael Ortoski

PLAINFIELD TWSP - Last week the Slate Belt said good bye to one their community leaders, Slate Belt Regional Police (SBRP) Chief Dave Mettin.

Hired by SBRPC in 2014 as the Consultant to form SBRPD, then became the first Chief of the department.

Fellow officers, community leaders and friends attended the monthly SBRP meeting that ended with a good luck send off for the chief.

Mr. David Hess, Chairman SBRP Comm. Presented Mettin with a plaque that read 'This is in recognition of your vision, years of service and dedication to the formation and implementation of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department from the Police Commission.'

He was also given an American flag made out of wood with one stripe painted in blue.

Rep. Marcia Hahn spoke briefly thanking Mettin for his service and dedication to the safety of the community.



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Plan Slate Belt Takes a Big Step Forward

By Matt Assad / Managing Editor LVPC

SLATE BELT - The future of the Slate Belt is beginning to come into focus.

The ten Slate Belt communities partnering together on a single comprehensive plan have developed an Issues and Opportunities Report and draft goals that will serve as the foundation for how the Slate Belt area can manage its growth, while maintaining its unique character and quality of life.

The report is the latest step in a two-year effort in which the boroughs of Bangor, East Bangor, Pen

Argyl, Roseto, Portland and Wind Gap and the townships of Plainfield, Washington, Lower Mount Bethel and Upper Mount Bethel work to develop the first ever Slate Belt Multi-Municipal Comprehensive Plan.

"The people of the Slate Belt are exemplified by their strong work ethic, courage and passionate sense of community pride," said Tom Petrucci, Chairman of the Plan Slate Belt Steering Committee. "The completion of the Issues and Opportunities Report is a milestone achievement that will serve as the foundation for developing the Plan Slate Belt.

With much of the hard work still ahead, the Steering Committee members are looking forward to receiving input from Slate Belt residents to help build the future community together.

The \$190,300 project is funded by Northampton County, the ten municipalities, the Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley, Fulton Bank through the Neighborhood Assistance Program Special Program Priorities of the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission.

"The County of Northampton is pleased to see Slate Belt municipalities working together to develop a regional plan," said County Executive Lamont McClure. "This is the only way for the communities to be able to control their own fates."

The Issues and Opportunities Report, now available at <https://planslatebelt.org/>, contains information on demographics, housing, economy, land use, development and transportation for the area. A key finding is a significant shift in the area's

PennDOT Offers Summer Maintenance Program to College Students

By Rep. Joe Emrick

NAZARETH - This year, PennDOT will sponsor an extensive Summer Maintenance Program (SMP) for college students. The program runs May through August 2020 to supplement the department's permanent workforce.

These students assist in completing summer maintenance work and sign upgrade services, provide maintenance and custodial services at roadside rest facilities, and perform laboring and flagging duties in maintenance organizations and highway worksites. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must be eighteen years of age, enrolled full-time in college for the next semester, and have a valid Pennsylvania Driver's License. The hourly payment rate is \$13.97.

Interested students may to apply online to the PennDOT Summer Maintenance Program by going here http://links.pahousenews.com/q/hIO__fZQxhMnn_tTtAWGHqK-EkhY99HN_KajaQLwYdrbiX8MyIDR43SS2r2w

economy over the past decade, but data in the report shows there's tremendous opportunity to grow the local economy by taking advantage of the Slate Belt's historic, cultural, rural and location assets.

A key component of the past six months was setting a draft vision and developing goals during charrettes, steering committee meetings, public events and an online survey. Along with the report, these goals will serve as a foundation for developing strong policies, actions and implementation items that

address issues that cross municipal borders.

"These communities have developed an identity together and they have a history of working together. We can build on that," said LVPC Executive Director Becky Bradley. "Developing the Issues and Opportunities Report helped these communities prioritize their goals, and over the coming months, they'll refine that into a vision for the future."

The Plan will be designed to help the municipalities to use their combined assets to work more efficiently, save money and ultimately better manage the growth in their communities as they plan for the future.

But much of that work will happen in the coming months during special events and in steering committee meetings, scheduled for 7 pm, the first Wednesday of every month at the Weona Park Community Center in Pen Argyl.

"The Slate Belt will rise or fall together," said Alan Jennings, executive director of the Community Actions committee of the Lehigh Valley. "This planning process to date makes it very clear: The Slate Belt will rise and it will rise because its leaders understand the stakes and have the vision to make sure nobody is left behind. They are in this together and CACLV will be there with them."

More information, including meeting dates, data for every community, resources and ways anyone can get involved, can be found at <https://planslatebelt.org/>.

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