



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **STATEWIDE WATER COALITION AND RI WATER SUPPLIERS PRESENT WATER SUPPLY FORUM ON MONDAY, MARCH 30**

#### **“RI’s Water Supply: Conservation and Competitiveness”**

The **Coalition for Water Security (CWS)**, a partnership of many of the state’s leading environmental and economic groups, will join the **Rhode Island Water Works Association (RIWWA)**, an association of water supply professionals in RI, to host a special forum on water supply issues in RI. **The forum will be held on Monday, March 30 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM at the Save the Bay Center.**

The forum will look at the challenge of managing our state’s shared water supplies in a way that supports a vibrant economy and a healthy environment, with a focus on the tremendous potential of efficiency and conservation to help to meet Rhode Island’s water needs.

Henry Meyer, President of the RIWWA notes that “water suppliers have long been aware of the need to conserve and to protect the State’s water resources. This program gives us a chance to explore how to maximize the benefits of efficiency and sound management.” Sheila Dormody, CWS coordinator, adds, “Conservation and efficiency are quick, cost-effective ways to increase the water available. Conservation must be a priority for successful water management.”

**The keynote address will be given by Mary Ann Dickinson**, the Founder and Executive Director of the Alliance for Water Efficiency, based in Chicago, IL. Dickinson will discuss the top trends in water use and cost effective options for water conservation. Dickinson is an international expert on water conservation, whose experience includes work with the California Urban Water Conservation Council, the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Dickinson brings a deep familiarity with New England’s water supply issues. She also brings experience working with California water suppliers coping with severe supply limitations, burgeoning populations and growing industrial and agricultural water demand.

**A three member panel will then address Rhode Island water supply challenges.** The panel consists of: Pam Marchand: General Manager and Chief Engineer of the Providence Water Supply Board; Chris Woodcock, President, Woodcock & Associates, Inc., a water finance and rate expert; and Scott Wolf, Executive Director, Grow Smart Rhode Island.

Marchand will provide an overview RI's water supply system and trends in water use. She will provide the perspective of the State's largest supplier on the challenges and opportunities that face the state in meeting demand, maintaining infrastructure and fostering conservation.

Woodcock will discuss the economics of water supply and conservation and some of the financial mechanisms needed to maintain our water supply systems and create incentives for conservation.

Scott Wolf will put the issue of RI water resources in the context of the State's future economic development and the need to protect the natural and economic assets which determine our quality of life.

**To register** contact: Jane Austin [jaustin@savebay.org](mailto:jaustin@savebay.org) or (401) 272-3540 x123  
For more information, go to: [www.coalitionforwatersecurity.org](http://www.coalitionforwatersecurity.org)  
For directions: go to [www.savebay.org](http://www.savebay.org).

- **The Coalition for Water Security(CWS)** is composed of: Aquidneck Land Trust, Audubon Society of RI, Clean Water Action , Conservation Law Foundation , Environment Council of RI, Environment Rhode Island, Grow Smart RI, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program, Narrow river Preservation Association, RI Economic Policy Council , RI Land Trust Council, RI Natural History Survey, RI Public Expenditure Council, Sierra Club RI Chapter, Save The Bay, The Nature Conservancy , Trout Unlimited, Trust for Public Land, Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association. The Coalition is supported by The Rhode Island Foundation; the Prince Charitable Foundations; and the Jessie B. Cox Charitable Trust.

- The Rhode Island Water Works Association (RIWWA) is a group of Rhode Island water supply professionals. The organization supports water supply professionals in their mission to provide reliable supplies of high quality water; to protect public health, safety and welfare; and promote environmental stewardship and integrated water resource management.