



**June 17, 2026, Minutes of the Meeting
Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission**

TIME: 10:00 a.m.
DATE: June 17, 2026
PLACE: Prallsville Mills, Stockton, New Jersey

ATTENDING COMMISSIONERS:

Vice-Chairman Robert Bostock and Commissioner Phillip Lubitz attended the meeting in the Commission Office. Commissioner Designee Robin Madden, Commissioner Matthew Walsh, Commissioner Douglas Palmer, Commissioner Randy Jones, and Commissioner Caryl “Chris” Shoffner participated via online platform and teleconference.

STAFF: Executive Director John Hutchison, Deputy Attorney General Jordan Viana, and Executive Assistant Erica Vavrence attended the meeting in the Commission office. Commission Engineer Joseph Ruggeri, Communications Director Darlene Yuhas and Administrative Assistant Megan Black participated via online platform.

GUESTS: Michael Sellar, Facilities Manager, New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA); Bob Barth, D&R Canal Watch; Linda Barth, D&R Canal Watch; Brian Friedlich; Kyle Clonan, NJWSA; Frank Santos; Dino Spadaccini; Sharif Aly; Heather Desko, NJWSA; Neeraj Raghavan; Jim Waltman; Vicki Chirco; and Jared Pape.

Vice-Chairman Bostock announced that this was a monthly meeting of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission and that the provisions of the “Senator Byron Baer Open Public Meetings Act” (OPMA) had been complied with in the scheduling of the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Bostock announced that the meeting was being taped pursuant to the exception set forth at Section C.(1) of DEP Policy & Procedure 2.85 “Prohibition of Recording in the Workplace” Policy adopted on September 18, 2019.

Since some Commission members were participating via telephonic device pursuant to Article III, Section 4 of the Commission Bylaws, Vice-Chairman Bostock asked Executive Director Hutchison to call the roll:

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Vice-Chairman Bostock	Yes
Commissioner Designee Madden	Yes
Commissioner Jones	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Absent
Commissioner Walsh	Yes

Director Hutchison stated that a quorum was present.

Administrative Items

Confirmation of July 15, 2026, Meeting Date

Vice-Chairman Bostock announced that the next meeting of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission was scheduled for July 15, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes

Approval of the Minutes of the May 20, 2026, Commission meeting

The Vice-Chairman inquired if any of the Commissioners wished to propose edits or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, Vice-Chairman Bostock asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2026, Commission meeting as prepared by staff. Commissioner Lubitz made a motion to approve, which was seconded by Commissioner Jones.

At the request of the Vice-Chairman, Director Hutchison then called the roll:

Vice-Chairman Bostock	Yes
Commissioner Designee Madden	Yes
Commissioner Jones	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Walsh	Yes

The motion was approved.

Director Hutchison noted that Commissioner Shoffner joined the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

Review Zone Actions

Zone A Projects

#26-3627B 26 Bridge Street -- HVAC (Lambertville City)

#25-6325 300-356 Enterprise Avenue -- Warehouse Development (Trenton City/Lawrence Township)

#26-6393 6 Risler Street -- Addition (Stockton Borough)

In response to a request from Vice-Chairman Bostock, Director Hutchison provided a brief overview of the three projects located in Review Zone A.

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Vice-Chairman Bostock asked if the Commissioners, and then the public, had any questions. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the three projects in Zone A. Commissioner Shoffner made a motion to approve the projects, which was seconded by Commissioner Jones.

The Vice-Chairman asked Director Hutchison to call the roll:

Vice-Chairman Bostock	Yes
Commissioner Designee Madden	Yes
Commissioner Jones	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Walsh	Yes

Zone B Projects

#25-4310E	The Watershed Institute -- Green Infrastructure Demonstration Project (Hopewell Township)
#20-4720A	Sourland View -- Residential Subdivision (Montgomery Township)
#25-4777B	17 Hillside Terrace -- Proposed Residence (Montgomery Township)
#26-6389	Disbrow Hill Road -- Residential Development (Monroe Township)

In response to a request from Vice-Chairman Bostock, Director Hutchison provided a brief overview of the three projects in Zone B.

Vice-Chairman Bostock asked if the Commissioners and then the public had any questions. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the three projects in Zone B. Commissioner Lubitz made a motion to approve the project, which was seconded by Commissioner Shoffner.

The Vice-Chairman asked Director Hutchison to call the roll:

Vice-Chairman Bostock	Yes
Commissioner Designee Madden	Yes
Commissioner Jones	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Walsh	Yes

Executive Director's Report

Director Hutchison reported on the workload for the period encompassing May 19, 2026, to June 16, 2026. In addition to the 7 projects listed on the agenda, the staff completed 10 deficient staff reports, 13

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jurisdictional determinations, 17 certificates of approval and 10 general permits. In addition to those matters, staff organized and conducted 9 pre-application meetings related to proposed and pending projects. As of June 16, 2026, 23 projects were undergoing review.

The Director said that fee collections totaled a robust \$66,800 for the month and included the \$7,500 adjustment from Mercer County that did not arrive in May due to a clerical error processing an application. This amount was better than the \$33,550 collected in 2025 and was in line with the \$62,300 collected in June of 2024. He noted that at the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2026, the Commission collected \$424,387.50, which was nearly \$40,000 in excess of the \$385,000 anticipated appropriation amount.

Director Hutchison noted that the Commission project file digitization project continued to move toward a successful conclusion. Ten boxes of files were scanned by Megan Black, which brought the year-to-date total to 75. He noted that staff could state with growing confidence that the project would be concluded in the current calendar year.

With respect to the Commission Master Plan revision project, Director Hutchison reported that the staff continued to make progress. Since the last Commission meeting, staff and master plan consultants have focused on fine-tuning a public engagement strategy and have finalized a series of digital “postcards” that would be used to encourage participation at five public sessions that will be held this summer in the counties and municipalities within the Commission Review Zone. Each postcard included a QR code that would enable members of the public who are unable to attend the sessions to offer their views.

Mr. Hutchison said that the Commission had made robust and inclusive public participation a key goal of the Master Plan initiative and noted that this was a requirement under the “Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Law of 1974” (N.J.S.A. 13:13A-13.a.). To that end, the Director said that staff was collaborating with colleagues in the New Jersey Office of Information Technology (NJOIT) to create a special “landing page” on the Commission website that would feature useful information on the Master Plan and will be promoted on the website and by other informational tools of the DEP. The landing page will include a link to allow for public comment on the plan. The comments would be collected by the public outreach subconsultant and would inform strategic recommendations included in the updated Master Plan update.

The Director reported that in the coming week, all members of the Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) would meet to discuss key goals that will help shape materials to be presented during the public engagement sessions.

Director Hutchison also noted that he would make a presentation on the Master Plan update at the annual meeting of D&R Canal Watch on Sunday, June 28, at 2 p.m. at the Fellowship Hall behind of the Griggstown Reformed Church, 1065 Canal Road, Griggstown. He said he very much appreciated the opportunity to raise greater awareness about this important work.

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Commissioner Lubitz asked the Director if he would provide details on the dates, times and locations of all the public engagement sessions, as well as a listing of those subject matter experts who are participating on the TACs. Commissioner Lubitz said the Master Plan process would benefit greatly from obtaining the expertise and perspectives of individuals who serve outside of State Government. Director Hutchison stated that he would provide the requested information at the conclusion of the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Bostock asked for a follow-up to the discussion during the Commission's May meeting regarding the removal of standing dead and dying trees along N.J. State Highway Route No. 29 (Route 29) paralleling the Feeder Canal in the area south of Lambertville through the Titusville section of Hopewell Township. Director Hutchison reported that he was in contact with New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) staff who had offered to explore whether that agency could provide assistance. He noted that NJDOT indicated that their activities would be limited to removal of trees located within the right-of-way of Route 29. The Director said it was likely that a meeting would need to be arranged with all impacted agencies prior to and tree removal activity.

Park Superintendent's Report

Commissioner Designee Madden provided the report for Superintendent Maggie Mitchell-Strehl who was unable to attend the meeting.

Commissioner Designee Madden stated that with the onset of storms during the summer months, State Park Service maintenance staff had been busy clearing fallen trees in the park. Maintenance staff also had been working to trim vegetation along the multiuse trail, and had repaired boards on the pedestrian bridge of the Millstone Aqueduct, which carries the Delaware and Raritan Canal over the confluence of Carnegie Lake and the Millstone River in West Windsor Township, Mercer County.

Ms. Madden also reported that the concessionaire for the Delaware River tubing and water recreation concession at the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park located at the Cooley Tract on Route 29 in Kingwood Township, Hunterdon County, had commenced full operations.

Commissioner Designee Madden further reported that the exterior restoration and stabilization project at the Rockingham Historic Site, the former Revolutionary War headquarters of General George Washington, was nearing completion, and was expected to be concluded before planned Independence Day festivities. Commissioner Designee Madden also noted that interpretive programs were being offered throughout the State Park System, and that the public should check the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park social media platforms for programming information and updates.

Mrs. Barth asked Commissioner Designee Madden if the new Washington Crossing Visitors Center would be open from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on July 4 in time for Independence Day. Ms. Madden stated that she could not confirm that information, and that Mrs. Barth's inquiry was best directed to the State Park Service.

New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) Report

Mr. Sellar reported that the contractor for the Prallsville Mills culvert pit and wastewater modification project continued to make preparations for work onsite, and would mobilize equipment when the precast

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culvert was ready for delivery, rather than leaving equipment onsite.

The Prallsville culvert pit is located at the north side of the Delaware and Raritan Canal between the canal and the multiuse trail, and immediately upstream of the Prallsville Lock near the Prallsville Mills complex. In September 2021, extreme rainfall from Hurricane Ida heavily damaged spillway sluice gates and caused the collapse of a stone wall of the culvert pit.

Mr. Sellar said the NJWSA continued its work to resolve an outstanding property ownership issue before implementing plans to replace an inoperable rear sluice gate at the back race of the Lambertville Lock. He noted that the back race and an adjacent property were being surveyed in order to determine the scope of any acquisition needed to effectuate repairs to the back race.

Mr. Sellar reported that siphons had been installed at the Lambertville Lock, and that if anyone observed that water was not flowing, they should contact NJWSA, and he would dispatch a repair crew to examine the pipes to ensure that they were functioning.

Mr. Sellar deferred comment on Hydrilla, which was the subject of presentation by his NJWSA colleague Kyle Clonan.

Mr. Sellar said that to his knowledge, no harmful algal blooms (HABs) had been observed or reported in the Delaware and Raritan Canal.

He further reported that NJWSA maintenance crews continued to be busy with grass mowing and the removal of debris and fallen trees along the canal.

Executive Session

None.

New Business

2026 New Jersey Water Supply Authority Aquatic Vegetation and Water Quality Monitoring Briefing. Mr. Kyle Clonan, NJWSA Senior Watershed Protection Specialist, provided the Commission with briefing on the NJWSA program to manage Hydrilla in the Delaware and Raritan Canal.

Old Business

None.

Public Comment

Mr. Barth posed several questions to Mr. Sellar regarding the location of the siphons at Lambertville Lock, the opening of the multiuse trail along the Delaware River embankment of the Feeder Canal in Stockton Borough, and timeline for NJWSA to commence the project to repair the riverside embankment of the canal between the Bulls Island Recreation Area and Prallsville Mills.

Mr. Sellar responded by stating that siphons are located at the back race of the Lambertville Lock. With respect to the reopening of the multiuse trail along the canal in Stockton Borough, he observed that the NJWSA had completed its work at that location, and that reopening the trail was a decision for the State

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Parks Service. With regard to the embankment repair project for the area from Bulls Island to Prallsville Mills, Mr. Sellar indicated that no specific timeline had been determined. He noted that the NJWSA had submitted information and data related to the project to DEP Division of Watershed & Land Management to obtain the necessary permits, and that this process would take some time.

Commissioner Designee Madden suggested that regarding the reopening of the multiuse trail in Stockton Borough, that Mr. Barth should first contact the State Park Service; but if the issue needed to be raised to her office, she would respond in due course.

Written Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

There being no other business, Vice-Chairman Bostock entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Lubitz made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Walsh.

Vice-Chairman Bostock called for a vote on the motion to adjourn, which was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hutchison", written in a cursive style.

John Hutchison, Secretary

Aquatic Vegetation Management in the Delaware & Raritan Canal



Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission Meeting
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Hydrilla verticillata peregrina (monoecious)

- Native to Korea & Japan
- Means of introduction: aquarium plant
- Recent invader to Mid-Atlantic (1980s)
- Dense Mats Impact:
 - Native Ecology
 - Water chemistry
 - Water flow
 - Recreation



D&R Canal at Scudders Falls September 2016

Hydrilla – “the perfect weed”

- Adapts to variety of conditions
 - Water depths – inches to 20+ ft, can reach 25 ft in length
 - Lakes/ponds & rivers
 - Tidal/Brackish water tolerant
 - Low light tolerance
- Reproduces by fragmentation, tubers, & turions
 - Tubers can remain viable 6+ years



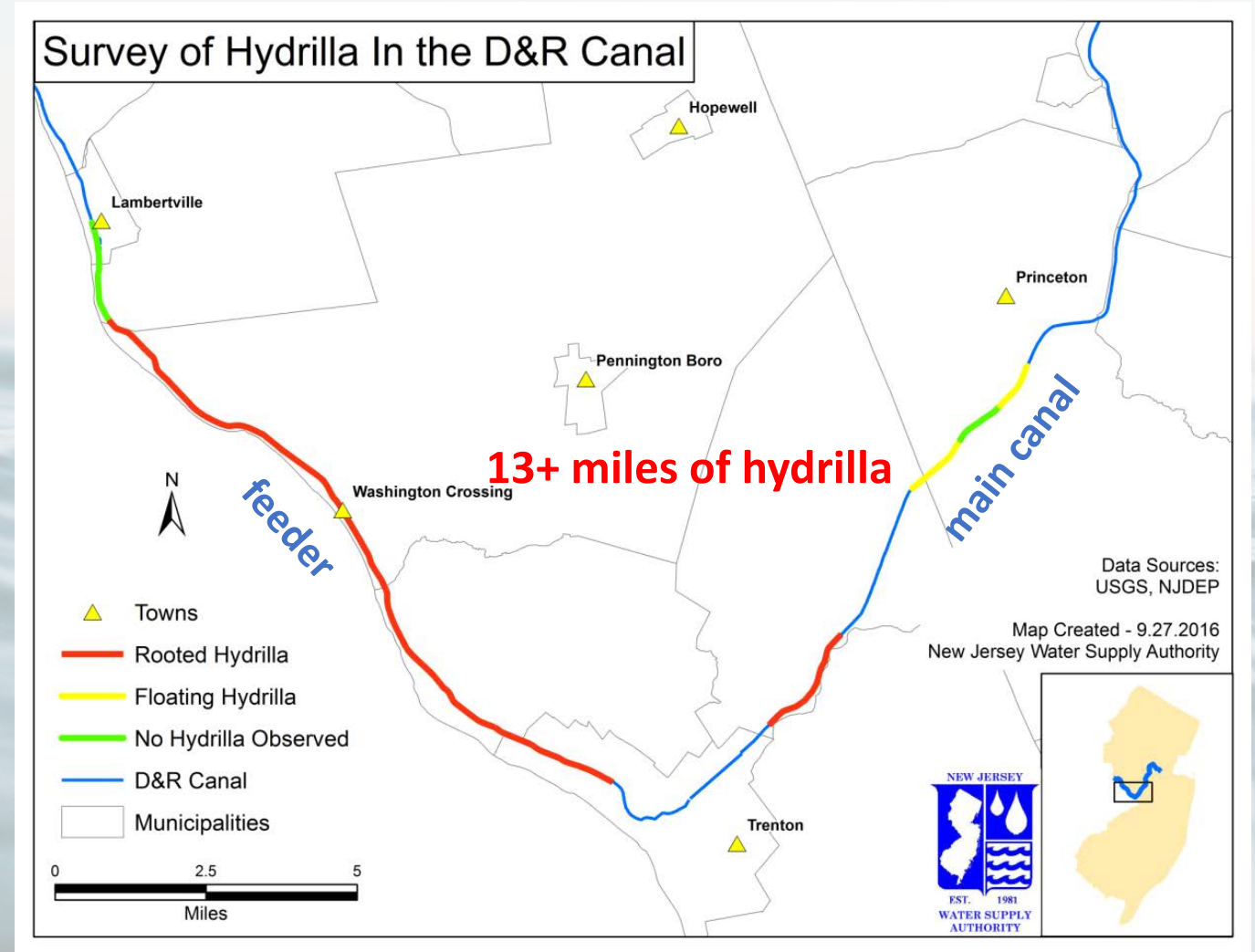
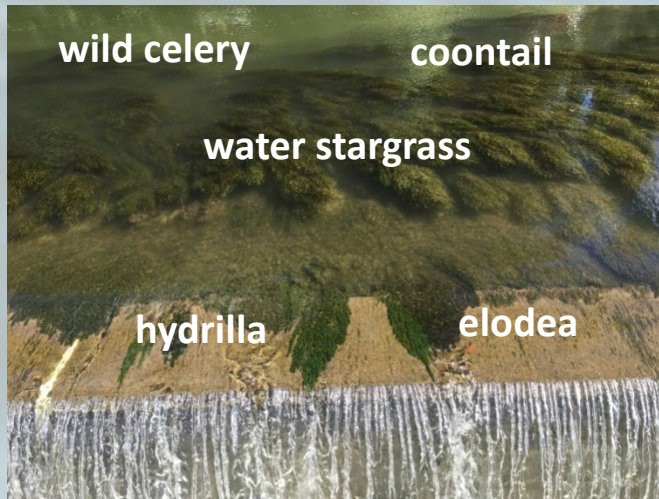


Hydrilla & Eelgrass

Photo by: Chris Doyle,
SOLitude Lake Management

2016 SAV survey

18.31 miles – 597 sites



Hydrilla Management

Methods of control:

- **Mechanical:** cutting, harvesting, dredging
- **Physical:** benthic mats, hand-pulling, drawdowns
- **Biological:** Grass carp, insects, pathogens
- **Chemical:** selective vs. broad spectrum, systemic vs. contact

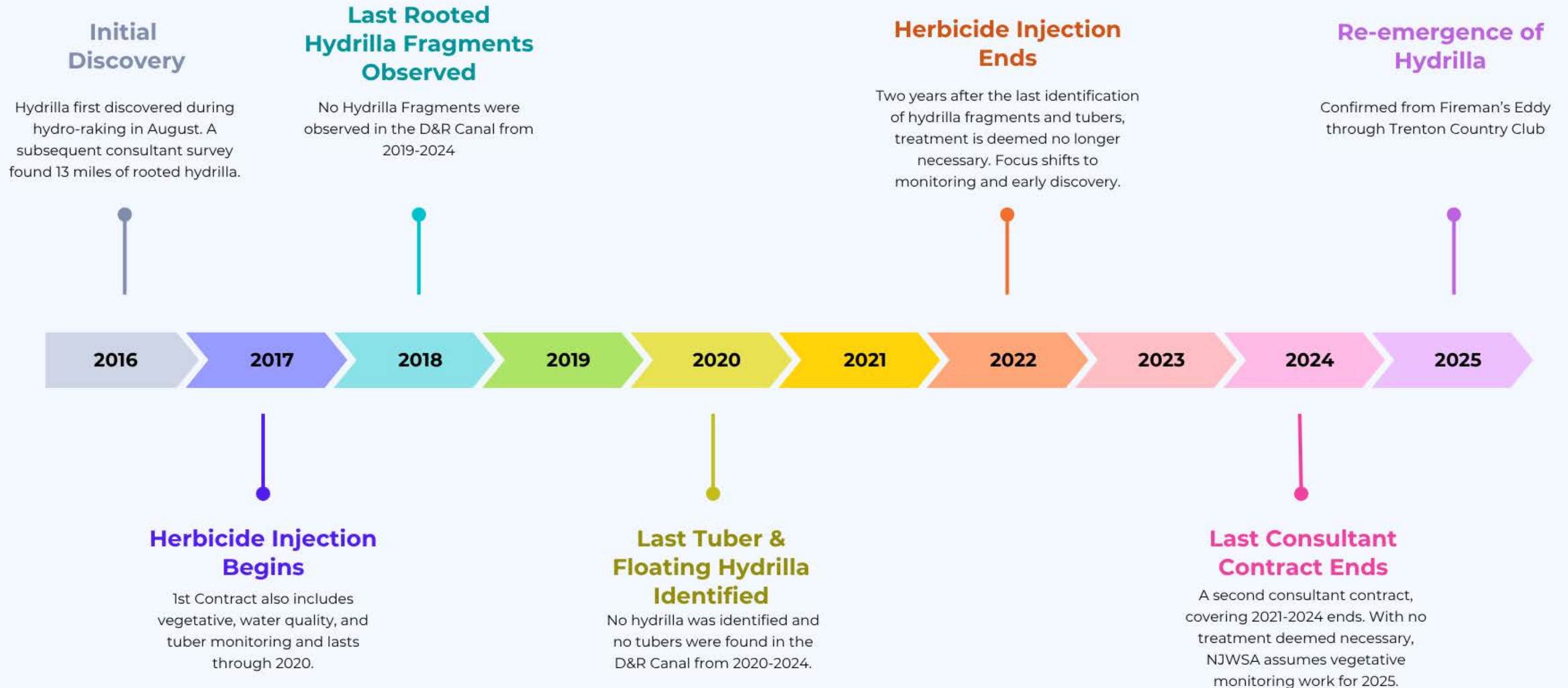
26 options evaluated in the
2017 Canal SAV Management Plan
Available at www.njwsa.org/hydrilla



Photo: CT Agricultural Experiment Station

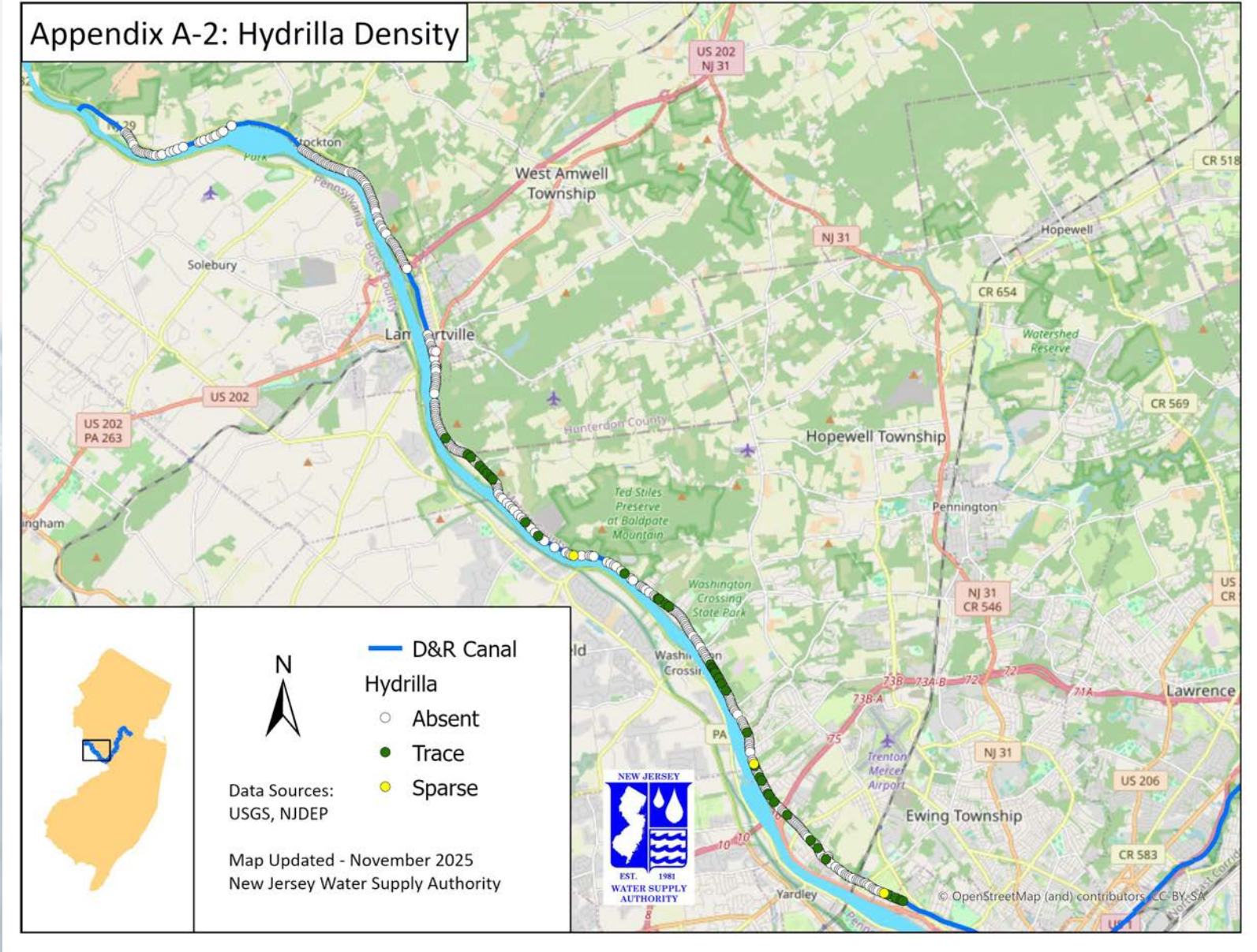


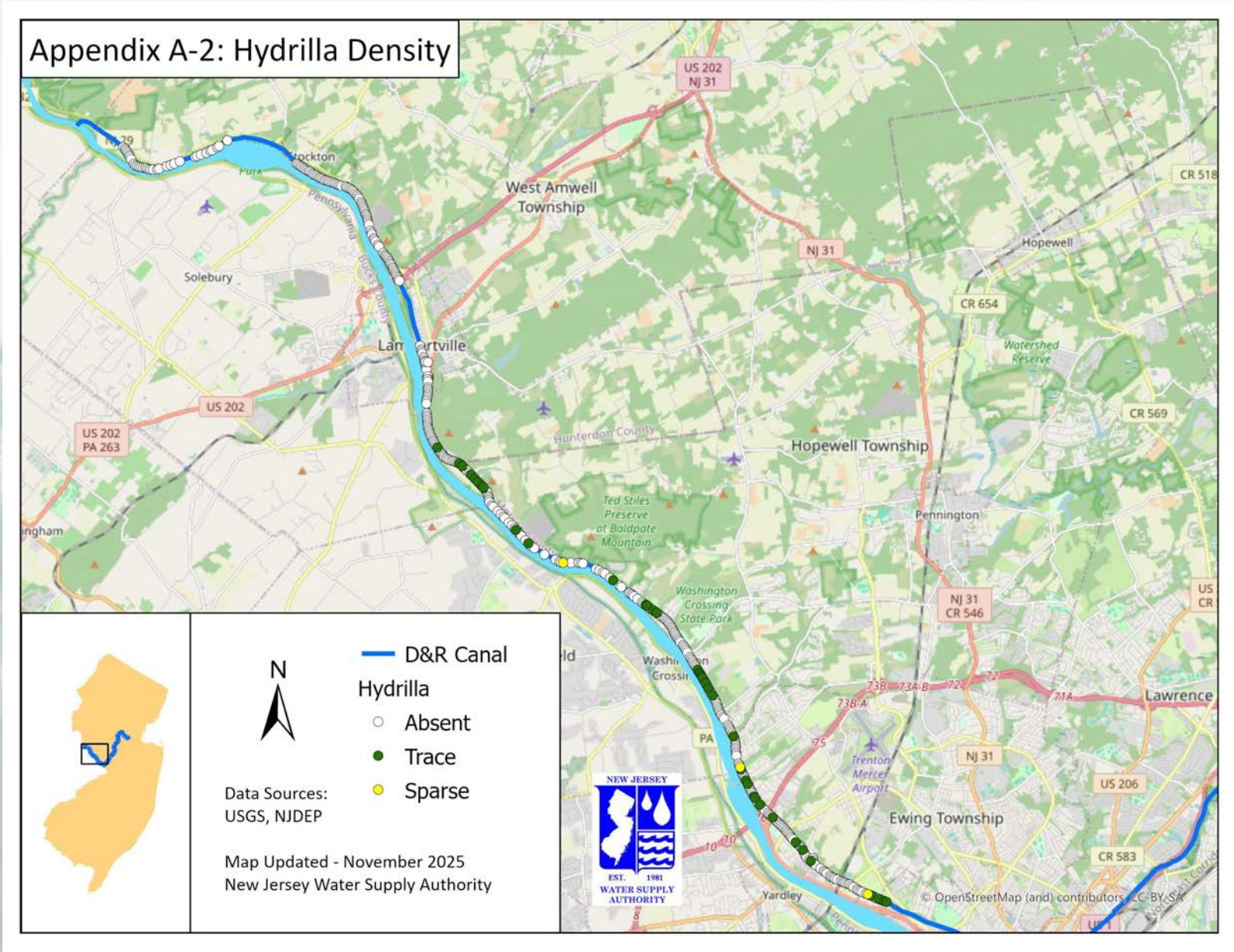
Hydrilla in the D&R Canal

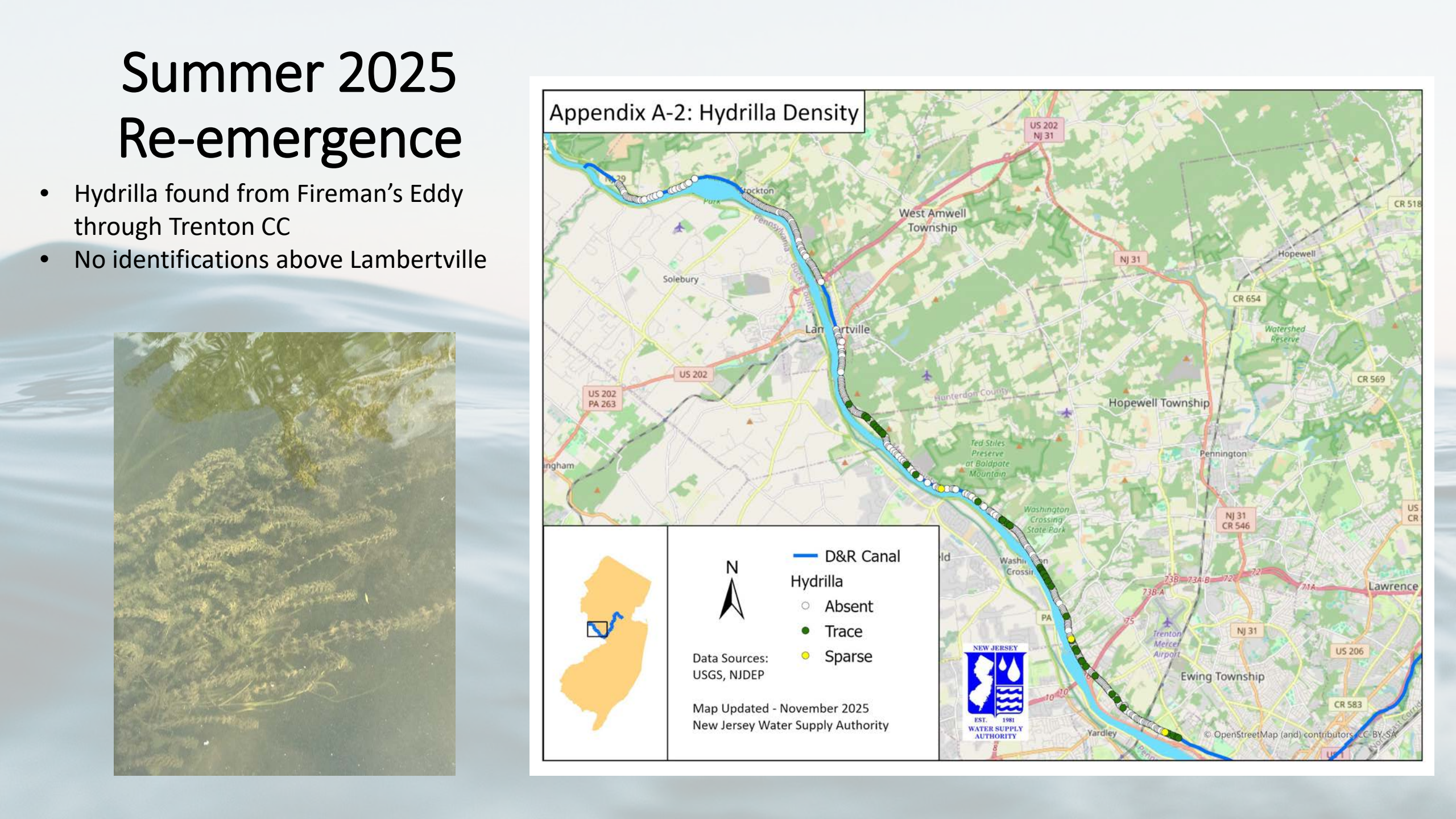
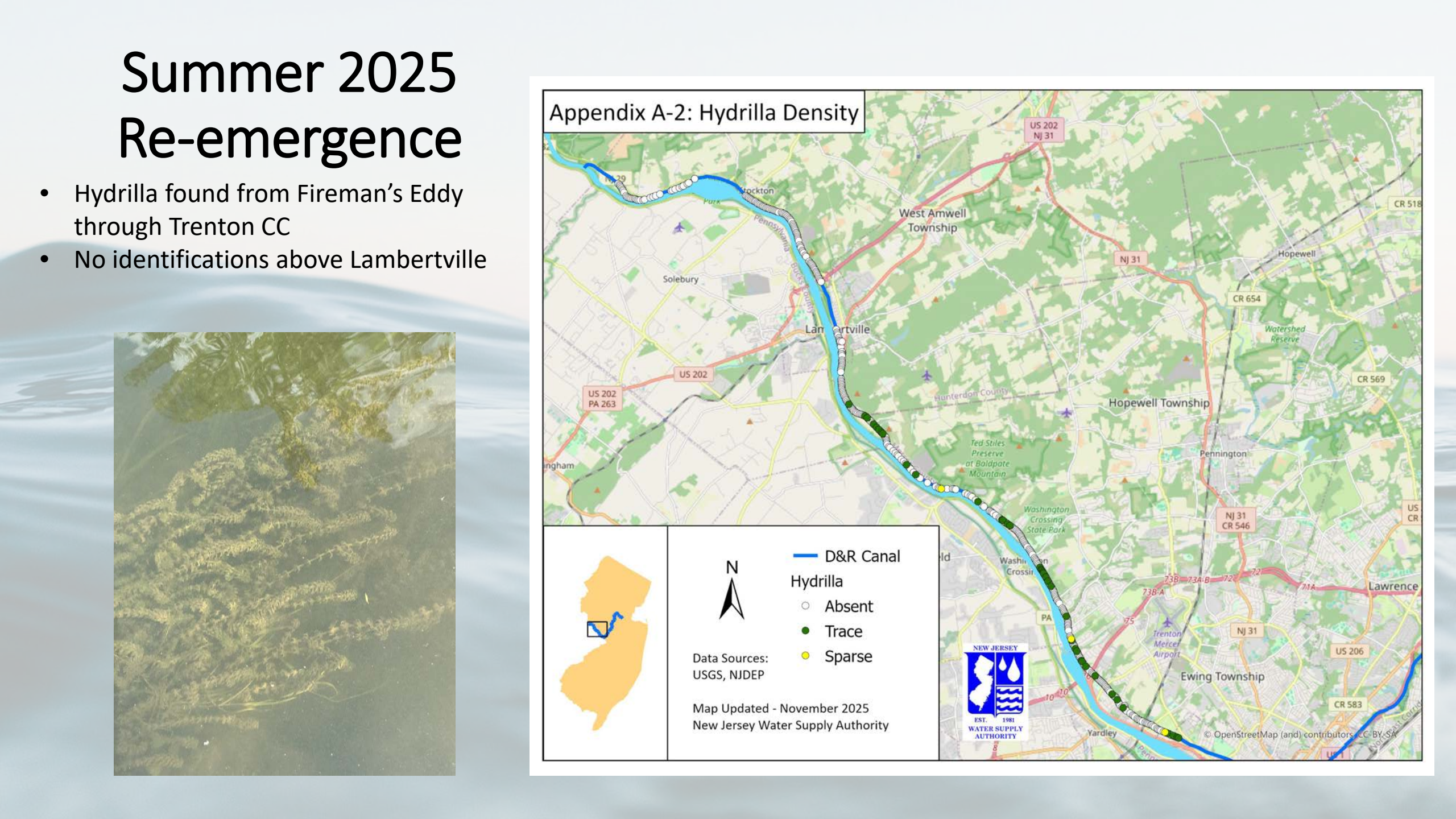


Summer 2025 Re-emergence

- Hydrilla found from Fireman's Eddy through Trenton CC
- No identifications above Lambertville

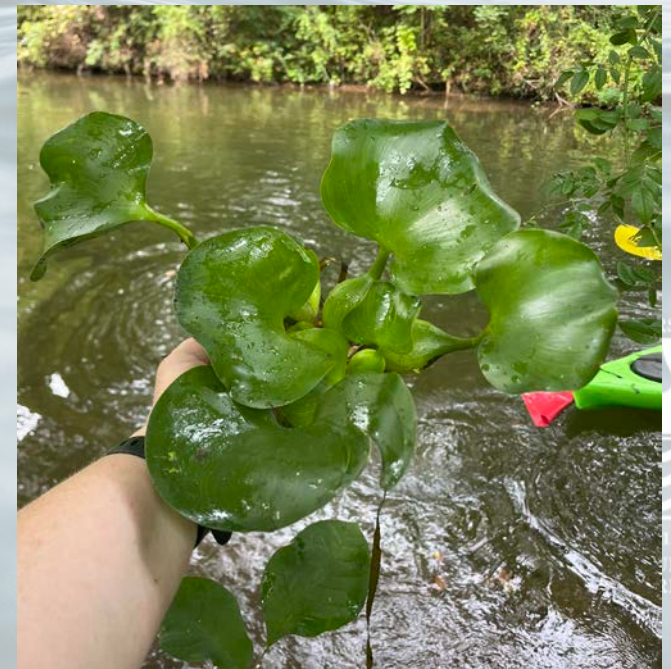


- # Summer 2025 Re-emergence
- Hydrilla found from Fireman's Eddy through Trenton CC
 - No identifications above Lambertville
- 
- 



Other 2025 AIS Finds in the Canal

- Water Lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) & Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*)
- Popular water gardening plants – likely means of introduction with significant vegetative reproduction during one season
- Free-floating perennials that can form dense floating mats; spread by fragmentation
- Not believed to be able to over-winter in NJ climate...
- Physical removal: hand-pulling



2026-2028 Work Plan

- 4 Task Contract awarded to Little Bear Environmental
- 1. Herbicide (Sonar Genesis – a fluridone) application:
 - July through September (90 days) in 2026-2027, 60-90 days in 2028
 - 2026 Plan: Monday, July 6 through October 4
 - Target dose rate: 2.5 ppb

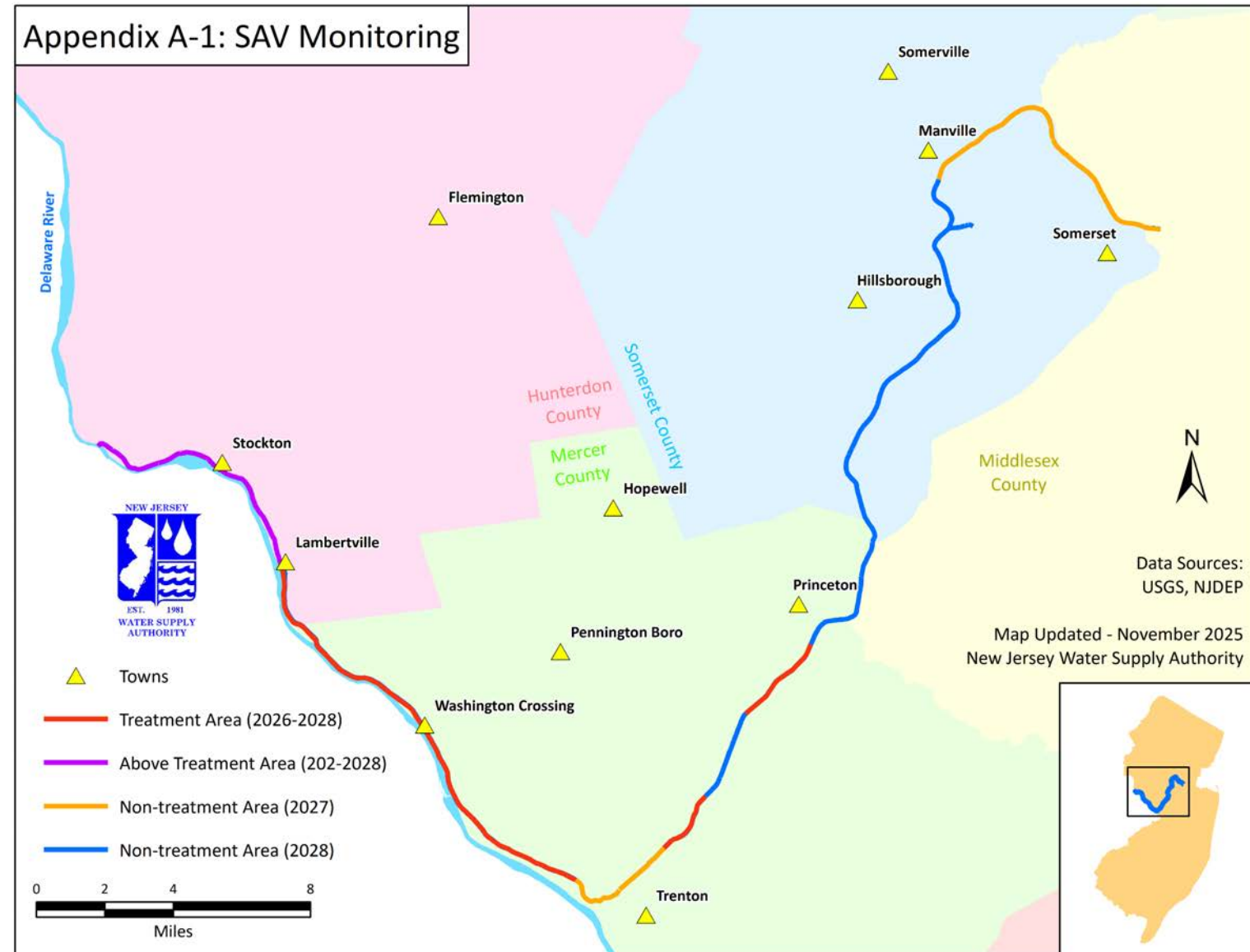


Hydrilla fragment found
in June 2020

2026-2028 Work Plan

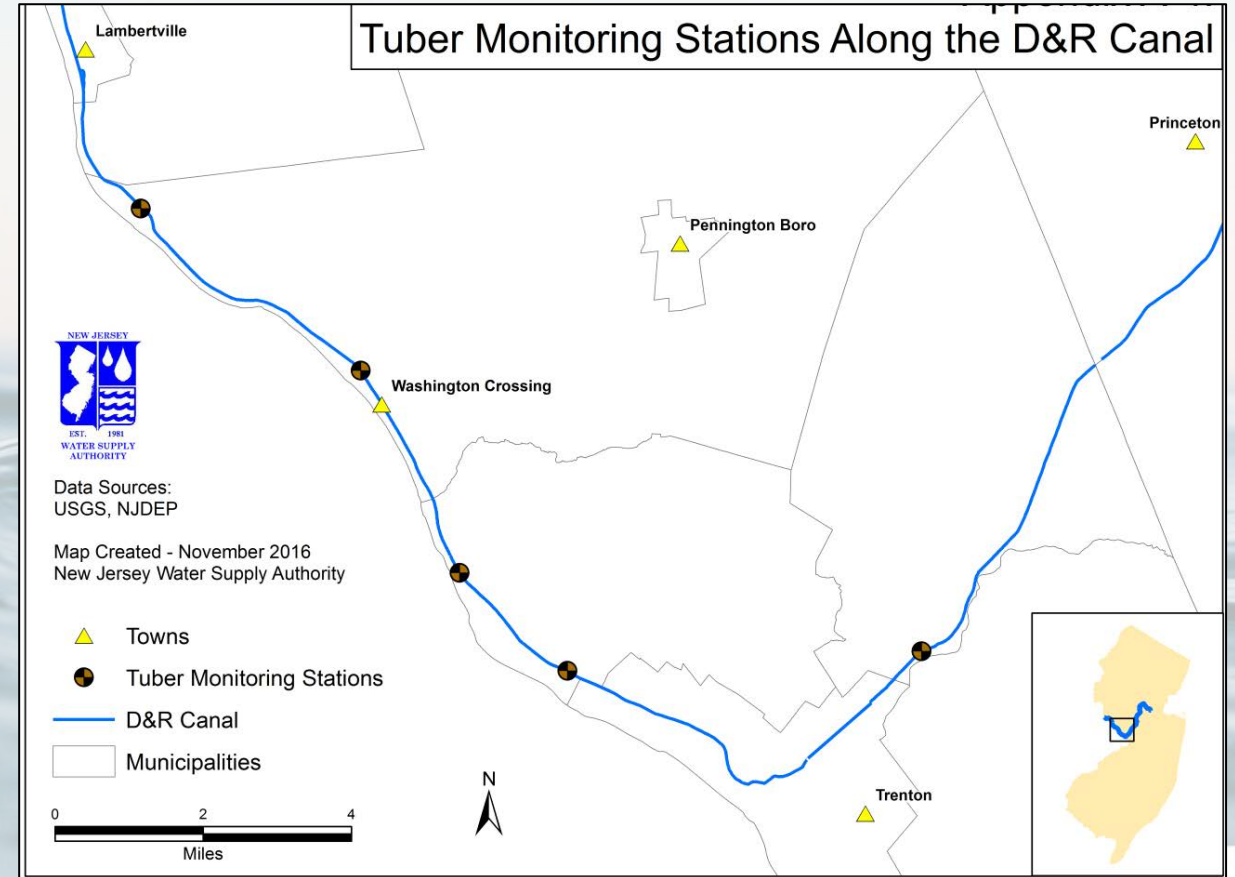
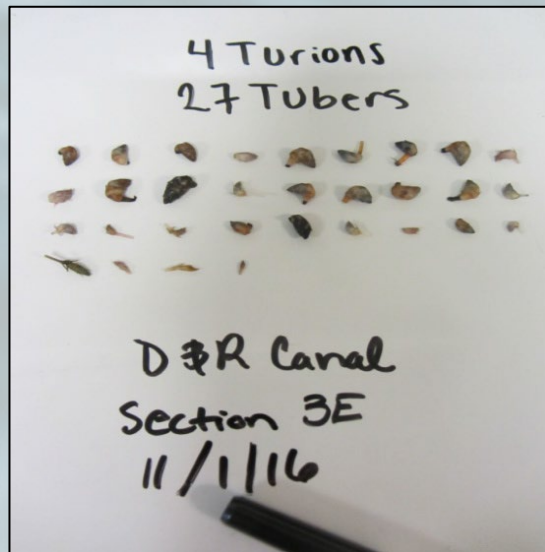
2) Vegetative Monitoring

- Annual Monitoring from Bulls Island through Alexander Road (purple + red)
- 2027 monitoring of orange area (Hermitage Ave. to Mulberry St. & Manville Causeway to Landing Lane)
- 2028 monitoring of blue area (Carnegie Rd. to Province Line Rd.; Alexander Rd. to Manville Causeway)
- Annual Tuber Monitoring



Hydrilla Tuber Monitoring

- Conducted in late October
- Purpose: to monitor tuber bank depletion for treatment efficacy
- 5 stations that have been monitored annually since 2016
- No tubers found since 2020

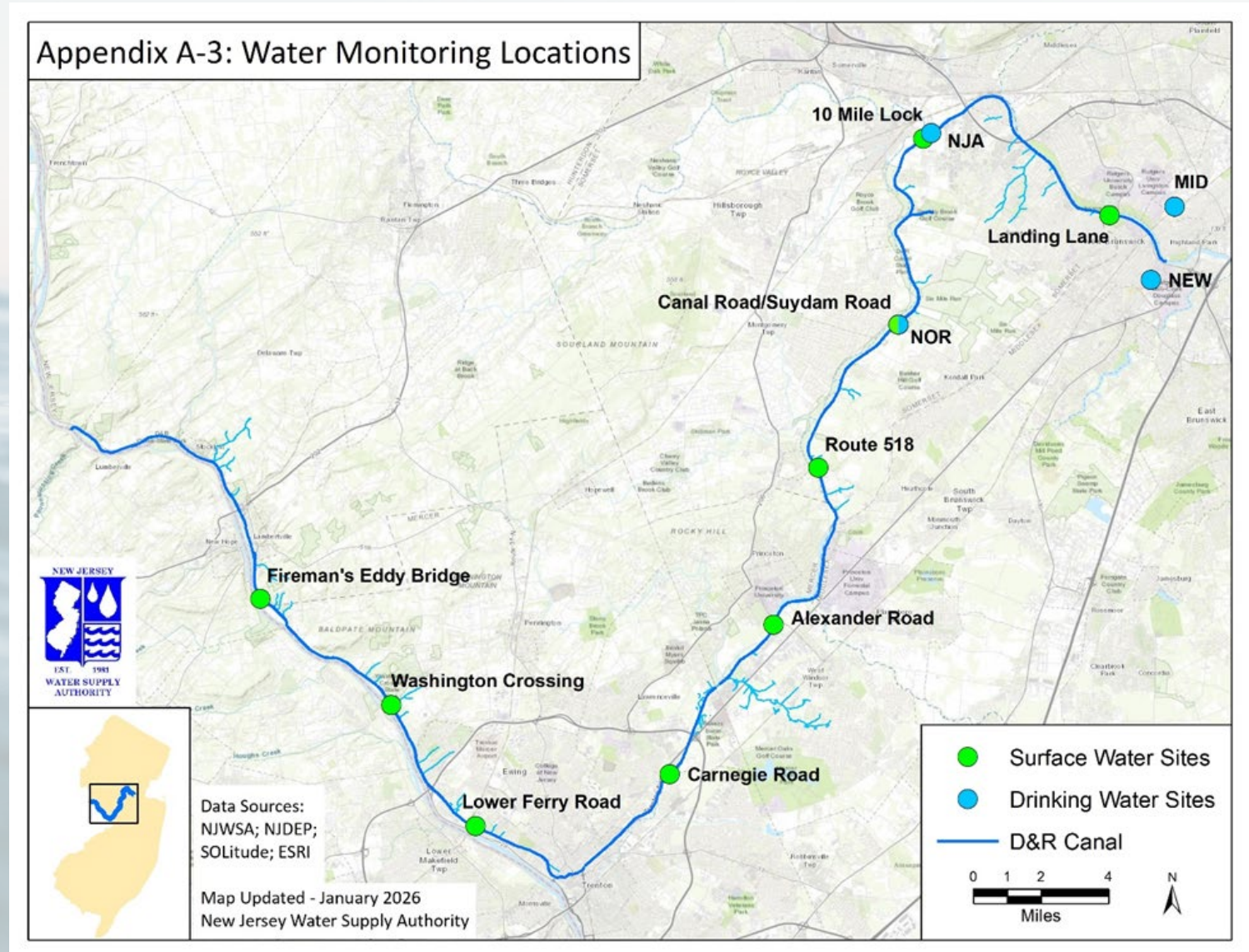


2026-2028 Work Plan & Contract

3) Weekly fluridone concentration monitoring

- Sampling: every other day for first 2 weeks, then weekly
- 9 surface water sites + finished water treatment plants
- 1 week turnaround time
- Shared online via Sharepoint

4) Administrative Tasks (Reports & Meetings)



Fluridone

- 2026 Canal Target dosage: 2.5ppb
- Works by disrupting the target plant's photosynthetic ability
- Use Restrictions:
 - Fluridone is not regulated in water supply (no federal or NJ state MCL or other required limits) (New York State has MCL of **50 ppb**)
 - US EPA label maximum application rate of 20 ppb within 0.25 miles of potable water intake
 - No restriction on swimming, fishing or recreating in fluridone-treated waters
 - Irrigation concerns exist for >10ppb on established trees, row crops, plants or turf
 - 5 ppb restriction for irrigation of newly seeded crops, vegetables and newly seeded grasses such as overseed golf greens.
 - 1.0ppb restriction for hydroponic farming. NJWSA addressed this with a research facility in 2017. Please alert us to any known hydroponic users.



2026 Water Treatment Plant Benchtop (Jar) Testing

- Originally Conducted in 2017
- Contract with SePro
- Test up to 2 treatment chains per WTP at starting fluridone concentrations of 1.5ppb, 2.5ppb, & 4ppb (2.5ppb is target Canal concentration)
- Hope to conclude by June 15
- SePro will need your help with oversight & some materials for appropriate accuracy



2026 Treatment Dates to Remember

- July 6 – planned treatment start date
- October 4 – planned treatment end date
- Any questions please contact us:
 - Kyle Clonan kclonan@njwsa.org 908-730-0270 x2223
 - Heather Desko hdesko@njwsa.org 908-730-0270 x 2231