



**November 19, 2025, Minutes of the Meeting  
Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission**

TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
DATE: November 19, 2025  
PLACE: Prallsville Mills, Stockton, New Jersey

**ATTENDING COMMISSIONERS:**

Vice-Chairman Bruce Stout and Commissioner Phillip Lubitz attended the meeting in the Commission Office. Commissioner Designee Robin Madden, Commissioner John Reiser, Commissioner Caryl “Chris” Shoffner and Commissioner Douglas Palmer 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 and Communications Director Darlene Yuhas participated via online platform.

GUESTS: Michael Sellar, New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA); Bob Barth, D&R Canal Watch; Christopher H. DeGrezia, Emily R. Goldman; Beth Kenderdine; Sean Savage; Kyle Clonan; Heather Desko; Anthony Suozzo; Shannon Folino; Aaron G. Feldman; Stephen Gates; Annie Orio; Vijay Kethireddy; Katherine Foster.

Vice-Chairman Stout 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 Stout 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 Stout directed Executive Director Hutchison to call the roll:

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Vice-Chairman Stout	Present
Commissioner Designee Madden	Present
Commissioner Reiser	Present
Commissioner Lubitz	Present
Commissioner Shoffner	Present
Commissioner Palmer	Present

Director Hutchison stated that a quorum was present.

**Administrative Items**

Confirmation of the December 17, 2025, Meeting Date

Vice-Chairman Stout stated that the next meeting of the Delaware and Raritan Canal Commission was scheduled for December 17, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of the Proposed Schedule of Commission Meeting Dates for 2026

Vice-Chairman Stout asked for a motion to approve the proposed schedule of Commission meeting dates for the calendar year 2026. Commissioner Shoffner made a motion to approve the proposed meeting schedule for 2026, which was seconded by Commissioner Lubitz.

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

Vice-Chairman Stout	Yes
Commissioner Designee Madden	Yes
Commissioner Reiser	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes

The motion was approved.

**Minutes**

Approval of the Minutes of the October 15, 2025, Commission Executive Session

Vice-Chairman Stout inquired if any of the Commissioners wished to propose edits or corrections to the minutes of the October 15, 2025, Commission Executive Session. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes as prepared by staff. Commissioner Shoffner made a motion to adopt the minutes as proposed, which was seconded by Commissioner Lubitz.

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

Vice-Chairman Stout	Yes
Commissioner Designee Madden	Yes
Commissioner Reiser	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes

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The motion was approved.

Vice-Chairman Stout requested a brief update on the personnel matters addressed during the October 15, 2025, Executive Session. Director Hutchison reported that the Governor’s Office had approved the promotion of Executive Assistant Erica Vavrence and the offer of full-time employment made to current hourly employee Megan Black. The Director said the personnel actions had been sent to the Civil Service Commission for processing and the necessary paperwork. Director Hutchison expressed gratitude to DEP Human Resources Director Juliet DeValle and Human Resources Manager David Rappaport for their assistance in advancing the personnel actions.

Approval of the Minutes of the October 15, 2025, Commission meeting

Vice-Chairman Stout inquired if any of the Commissioners wished to propose edits or corrections to the minutes of the October 15, 2025, Commission meeting. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes as prepared by staff. Commissioner Designee Madden made a motion to adopt the minutes as proposed, which was seconded by Commissioner Lubitz.

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

Vice-Chairman Stout	Yes
Commissioner Designee Madden	Yes
Commissioner Reiser	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes

The motion was approved.

**Review Zone Actions**

Zone A Projects

#25-2518F	1350 Easton Avenue -- Rooftop Antenna Installation (Franklin Township)
#25-2543C	Ewing Lawrence Sewerage Authority -- Vehicle Storage Building (Lawrence Township)
#25-3460I	Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park -- Map Kiosks (Trenton City)
#25-5616H	Princeton University -- Tiger Trail Woodlands Restoration (West Windsor Township)
#25-6202A	55 South Union Street -- Fence (Lambertville City)

Vice-Chairman Stout asked for a motion on the project. Commissioner Lubitz made a motion to approve the Zone A project; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Reiser. Vice-Chairman Stout asked for comment on the project from the Commissioners and then from the public. Hearing none, Vice-Chairman Stout asked Director Hutchison to call the roll:

Vice-Chairman Stout	Yes
Commissioner Designee Madden	Yes
Commissioner Reiser	Yes

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Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes

The motion was approved.

**Zone B Projects**

#25-2435E	North Road -- Southfields Parking Expansion (Hopewell Township)
#24-2436LL	311 Pennington Rocky Hill Road -- Buildings B1 and B2 (Hopewell Township)
#25-2848A	Johnson Park Elementary School -- Improvements (Municipality of Princeton)
#25-4182E	South Hunterdon Regional High School -- Turf Field Conversion (West Amwell Township)
#25-5794A	11 Prentice Lane -- Pool/Pool House/Terrace (Municipality of Princeton)
#24-6190	1-3 Executive Drive -- Warehouse Development (Franklin Township)
#24-6207	Middlesex County Utilities Authority -- Landing Lane Rehabilitation -- Phase 1 (New Brunswick City)
#24-6211	Littlebrook School Improvements -- Phase 1 (Municipality of Princeton)
#25-6251	23 Elm Ridge Road -- Subdivision/Proposed Residences (Hopewell Township)

Vice-Chairman Stout asked if any member of the Commission wished to consider any of the Zone B projects separately. Hearing none, he asked for a motion on the projects. Commissioner Reiser made a motion to approve the projects; Commissioner Palmer seconded the motion. Vice-Chairman Stout asked for comment from the Commission and then from the public. Hearing none, he asked Director Hutchison to call the roll:

Vice-Chairman Stout	Yes
Commissioner Designee Madden	Yes
Commissioner Reiser	Yes
Commissioner Lubitz	Yes
Commissioner Shoffner	Yes
Commissioner Palmer	Yes

The motion was approved.

**Executive Director's Report**

Director Hutchison reported on the Commission workload for the period encompassing October 15, 2025, to November 18, 2025. He said that in addition to the 14 projects listed on the November meeting agenda, the staff completed 19 deficient staff reports, 11 jurisdictional determinations, 7 certificates of approval, and 11 general permits. He also noted that one project had been calendared for the December 17 Commission meeting.

The Director said that in addition to these matters, staff organized and conducted 8 pre-application meetings related to proposed and pending projects, and that as of November 18, 2025, there were 13 projects undergoing review.

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Director Hutchison reported that fee collections totaled \$45,450 for the month of October. He said this was a healthy monthly fee collection, which followed up on the Commission's good fee collection in September. So far in Fiscal Year 2026, the Commission collected \$176,700 of its \$500,000 anticipated appropriation amount. Thus, with 33% of the fiscal year completed, the Commission had collected 35% of its annual anticipated appropriation amount.

Providing an update on the Commission's file digitization initiative, Director Hutchison said the project made outstanding progress in October. Last month, the contents of 16 boxes were scanned, bringing the 2025 year-to-date total to 149. A total of 368 boxes of files had been digitized, which constituted 70% of the total number of boxes. The end of the process is now coming into view, which was a welcome development.

As the days get shorter and the weather turns colder, Director Hutchison said that the staff has experienced an uptick in general permit applications, as homeowners dash to complete their repairs before the onset of winter. He said the staff was working hard to turn these applications around quickly, especially for people who need to replace their roofs.

Director Hutchison said that among the general permits approved this month was a GP-1 for the in-kind replacement of the bridge that conveys Chapel Drive over the canal at the former Pillar of Fire campus in Franklin Township, Somerset County. He said he is pleased the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) submitted an application that conformed in all respects with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between NJDOT and the Commission.

The Director observed that another NJDOT application was pending for the replacement of the bridge that conveys the Griggstown Causeway over the canal. He noted that it was not eligible for a general permit because the NJDOT proposed to widen the bridge by five feet. Director Hutchison said the project raised several Commission review and State Park land ownership and operations issues. He said Commission staff has been consulting with the State Park Service, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the NJWSA to ensure that all agencies receive the most updated information, and that any concerns expressed by the Commission's partner agencies are raised as early as possible in the review process.

#### **New Jersey Water Supply Authority (NJWSA) Report**

Mr. Sellar reported that the consultant for the culvert and wastegate modification at Prallsville Mills in Stockton, Hunterdon County, is finalizing work plans and specifications. As soon as that is completed, the NJWSA will solicit bids for the project.

The deteriorated former railroad trestle that crosses the canal near NJ State Highway Route No. 29 in the vicinity of the Mercer County Wildlife Center in Hopewell Township continued to sink into the canal. NJWSA's monitoring of the structure was ongoing, and NJWSA officials were poised to take additional photographs at the site, Mr. Sellar said. Further, he noted that the NJWSA had contracted with a consultant and intended to expedite historical documentation of the trestle.

Mr. Sellar reported that there had been no indication of any harmful algal blooms (HABs) in the Delaware and Raritan Canal.

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NJWSA work crews continued to address weather-related tasks attributed to recent rain and heavy winds. Mowing season was concluding as was leaf and weed removal from locks, gates and bar racks. Mr. Sellar said tree trimming would be conducted along the park multiuse trail this winter in an effort to raise the canopy slightly and cut back any other branches that might sag when they leaf out in the spring, which would impede the smooth passage of NJWSA vehicles.

In recent weeks, the NJWSA had been discharging up to 25 million gallons of water daily into the Millstone River from the Delaware and Raritan Canal Kingston wastegate to manage the size of a HAB in the river. Mr. Sellar reported that the NJWSA would closing the Kingston wastegate and reopening the Ten Mile wastegate and discharging water into the Raritan system, resuming normal operations.

Vice-Chairman Stout announced that there was a brief interruption of the online platform at 10:18 a.m. due to the sudden loss of electricity and Internet service at the Commission office. The meeting resumed at 10:23 a.m. following restoration of utility and Internet service.

### **Park Superintendent's Report**

Commissioner Designee Madden delivered the Park Superintendent's Report.

She reported that State Park Service staff installed hinged "Area Closed" signs on gates throughout both sides of the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park. Specifically, 15 signs on the Feeder canal side of the park and 15 signs on the Main canal were installed to be used during various emergency situations, such as downed trees and other events that could endanger trail users.

Designee Madden reported that the park has purchased 20 *Quercus alba* (White Oak) saplings that the Frenchtown Environmental Commission will plant between the multiuse trail and the Delaware River from 4<sup>th</sup> Street to 8<sup>th</sup> Street at the end of November.

While the NJDOT continued work to replace the bridge at Five Mile Lock, both the vehicle parking area and access to the multiuse trail will remain closed until construction is completed, she reported.

Ms. Madden stated that the installation of the new ADA-compliant pathway at the Rockingham State Historic Site in Franklin Township, Somerset County, was approaching completion, and that other building restoration work at the site had been finished.

She also reported that as part of a statewide grant, an electric vehicle charger had been installed at Bulls Island Recreation Area for the charging of State Park Service electric vehicles.

Commissioner Lubitz said he wished to follow up on the inquiry he made in October regarding "No Parking" which were posted signs at the Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park Fairview parking lot in Kingwood Township. He said that the signs still remained in place, and asked again whether parking was permitted, or if there was a plan to remove the signage.

Commissioner Designee Madden said the parking area should be reopened, and the fact that the "No Parking" signs remained was an oversight. She said she would remind State Park Service staff to promptly remove the signs.

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### **New Business**

Kyle Clonan, Senior Watershed Protection Specialist in the Watershed Division, presented the NJWSA annual aquatic vegetation and water quality report (a copy of which is attached to these minutes).

Following Mr. Clonan's presentation, Commissioner Reiser inquired about the presence of industrial pollution in the canal. Mr. Clonan said that the NJWSA had recently been working with the NJDEP and the Delaware River Basin Commission on sampling for PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, that are commonly known as "forever chemicals" because they can persist in the environment and in the human body.

Heather Desko, Director of NJWSA's Watershed Protection Programs, said that once additional sampling had been completed she planned to share information on findings with the Commission. Ms. Desko noted that there is a limited number of regulated pollutant dischargers into the canal, all of which have permits through the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES), and are subject to monitoring by the DEP.

Vice-Chairman Stout asked Ms. Desko if she was surprised by findings that showed Hydrilla had re-emerged in the canal. Ms. Desko noted that she had consistently been hesitant to use the word 'eradication' because the NJWSA knows that there is an ever-present threat of hydrilla from the Delaware River. However, she said, the NJWSA has a solid track record of managing hydrilla in the canal, and she remained confident their efforts would continue to be successful.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **Public Comment**

Alluding to the Commission's issuance of a General Permit for the in-kind replacement of the Chapel Drive bridge, Mr. Barth said he wished to congratulate the Commission on its application of the 2021 (MOA) with the NJDOT, which outlined key principles that guide the design of repairs and replacements of certain bridges over the Delaware and Raritan Canal. Mr. Barth said some good bridges are being replaced and that the projects represented the third generation of bridges constructed since the canal's closure to navigation.

Mr. Barth also congratulated the State Park Service on its project to install wayfinding signage in the City of Trenton that features maps so park visitors can understand more about their location, the distances along the canal and places to stop to rest and to get a meal, etc. He said such signage is tremendously helpful to park visitors, and he hoped that at some point modern signs would be installed along the entire length of the canal, and that the old signage posted by the Sierra Club many decades ago could be removed.

Lastly, Mr. Barth commented on the pending NJDOT application for the replacement of the bridge that conveys the Griggstown Causeway over the canal in Griggstown, Somerset County. He stated that the proposed bridge widening would create an opportunity to advance the repair and restoration of the nearby bridgetender's station. Mr. Barth noted that he had shared with the Commission a conditions survey prepared by HMR Architects for the restoration of the structure and an estimation of the

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anticipated cost of repairs.

**Written Public Comments**

None.

**Adjournment**

There being no other business, Vice-Chairman Stout entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Reiser made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Lubitz. Vice-Chairman Stout called for a vote on the motion to adjourn, which was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hutchison", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

---

John Hutchison, Secretary

# Aquatic Vegetation Management in the Delaware & Raritan Canal

**Kyle Clonan**

Senior Watershed Protection Specialist  
New Jersey Water Supply Authority



# *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



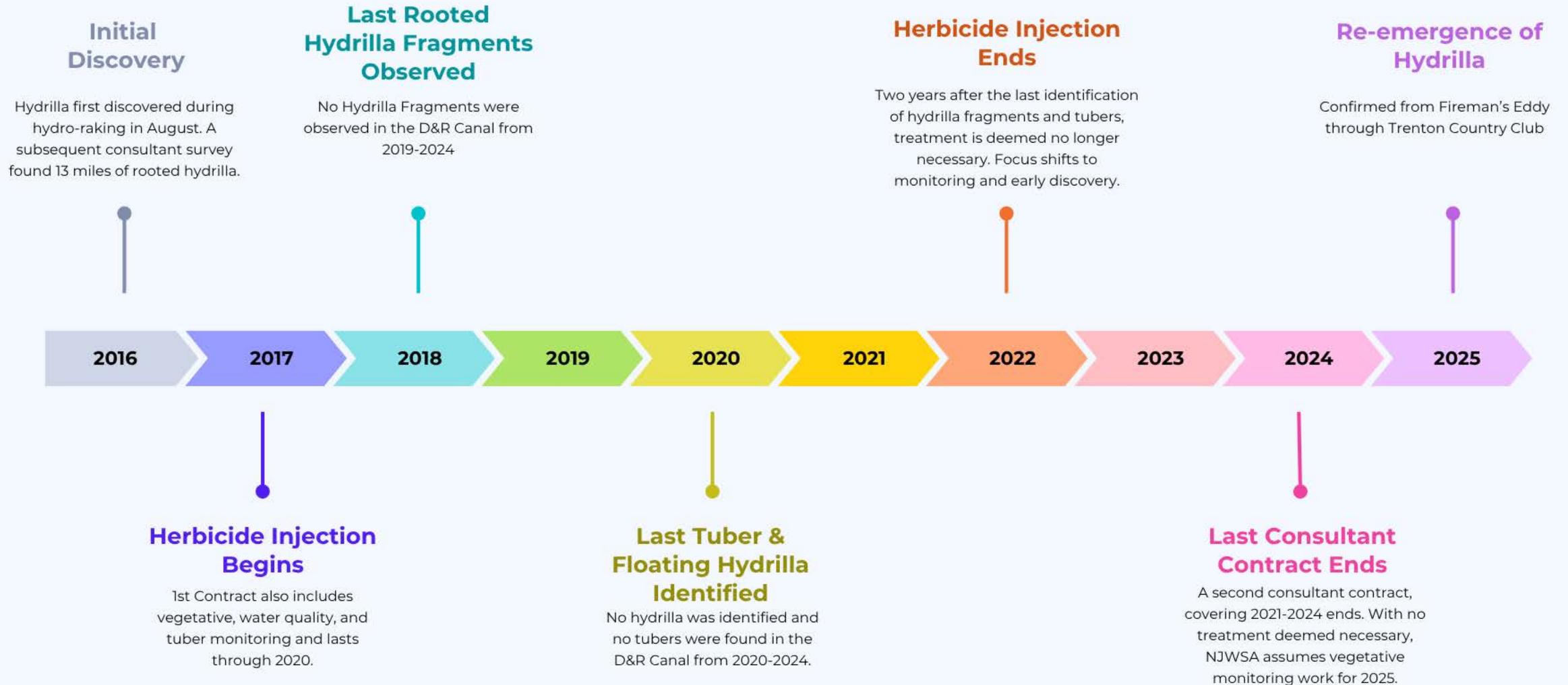
D&R Canal at Scudders Falls September 2016

# 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

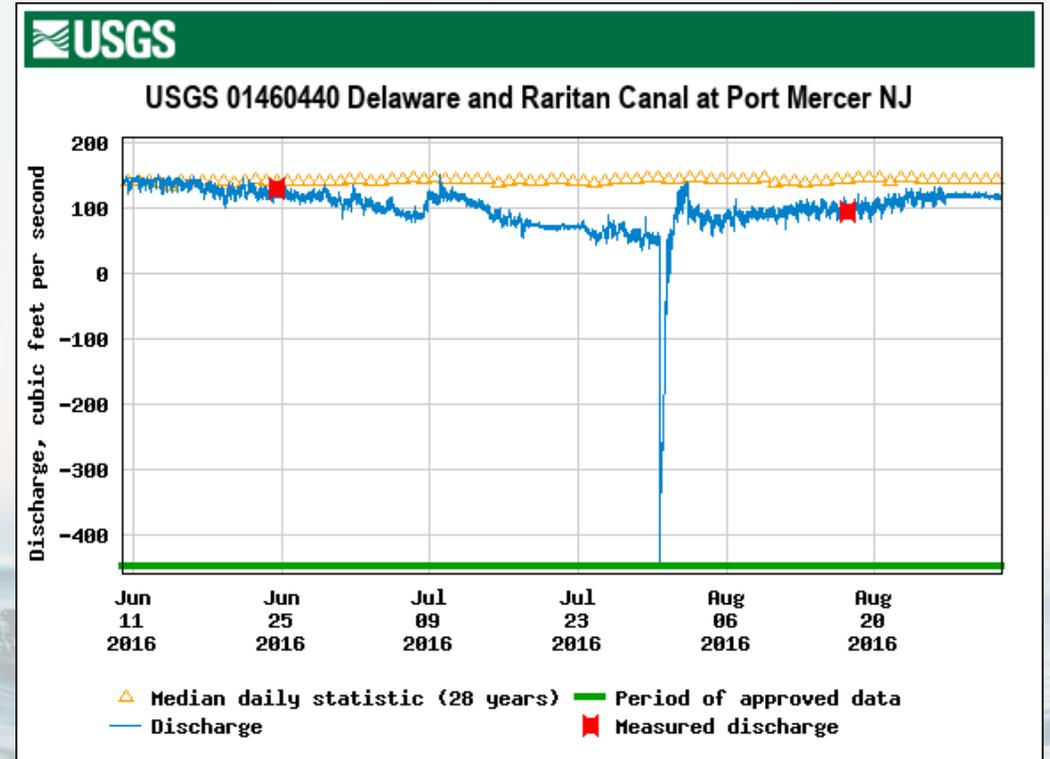


# Hydrilla in the D&R Canal



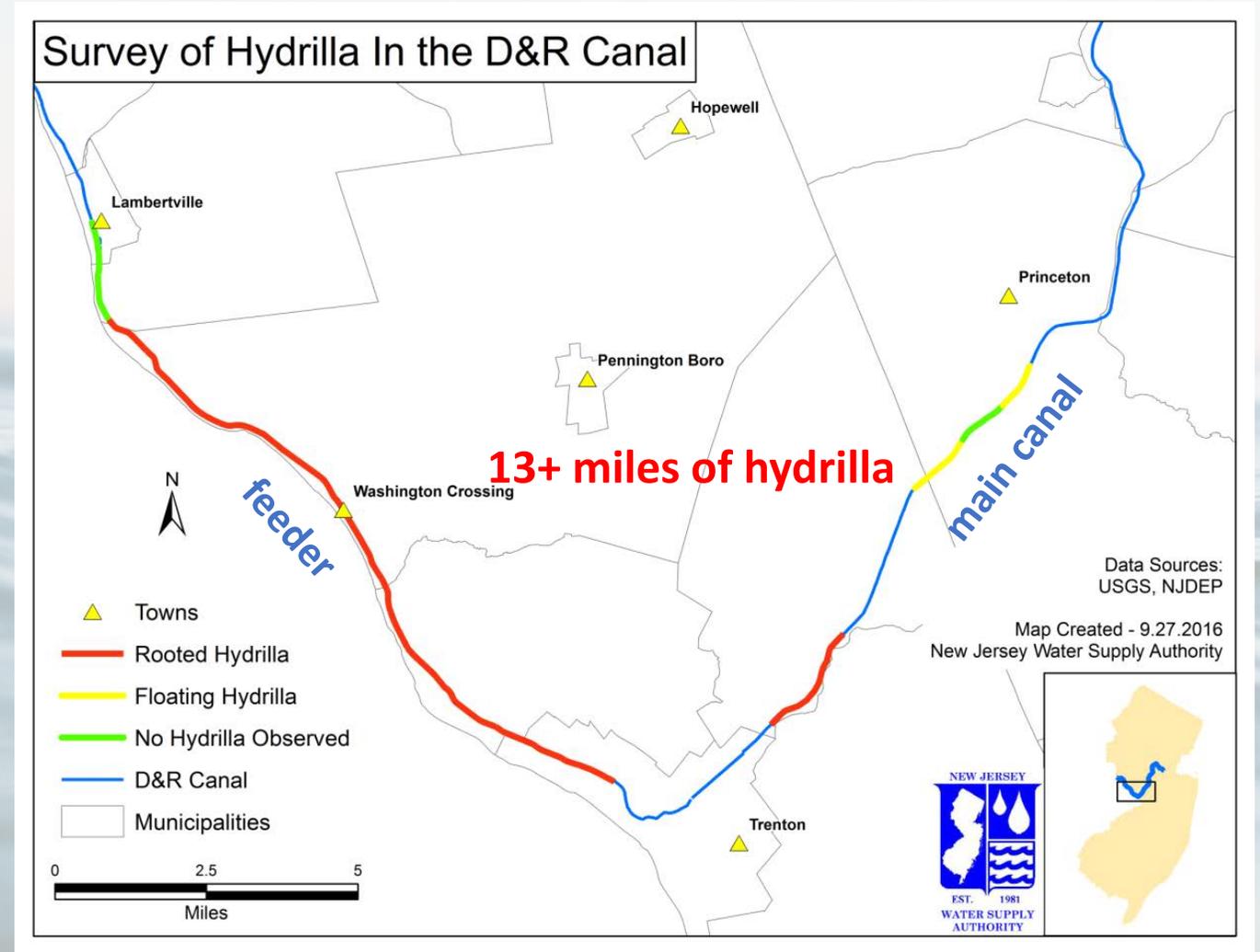
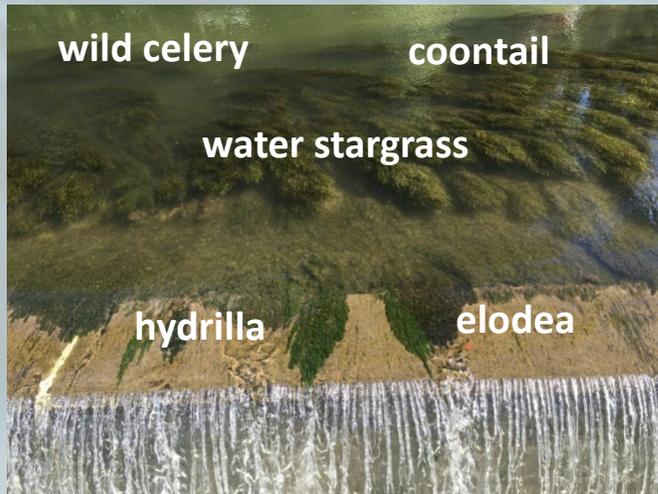
# 2016 Discovery

- Water flow restriction due to excessive plant growth
- Canal water level below intake
- Hydro-raking: July-August



# 2016 SAV survey

18.31 miles – 597 sites

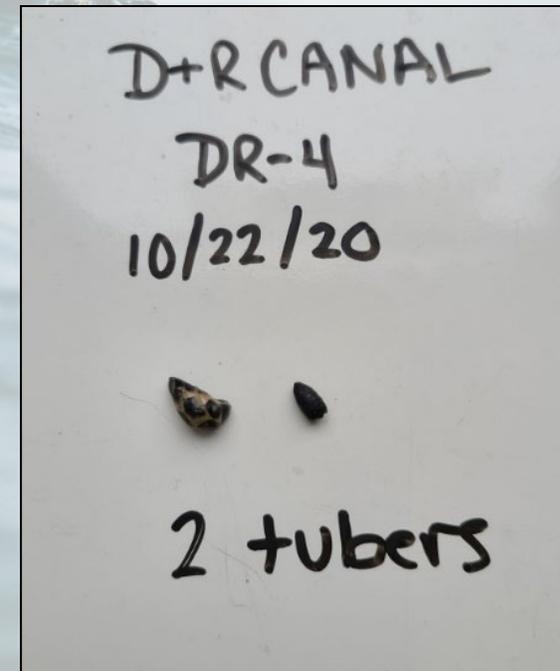


# D&R Canal Management Plan

- Herbicide (Sonar Genesis – a fluridone) application:
  - Late May-late September (60-120 days)
  - Target dose rate: 2-3 ppb
- Treated 2017-2022
- Herbicide application will occur 2 years beyond the last hydrilla plant/tuber finding
- Shift from treatment towards monitoring
- Treatment will restart in 2026-2028



Hydrilla fragment found  
in June 2020



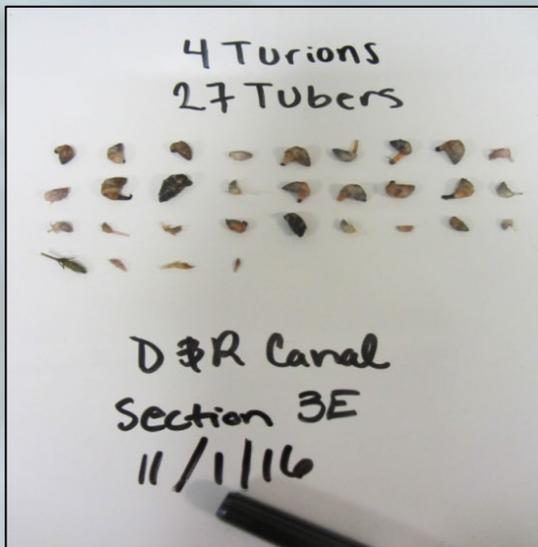
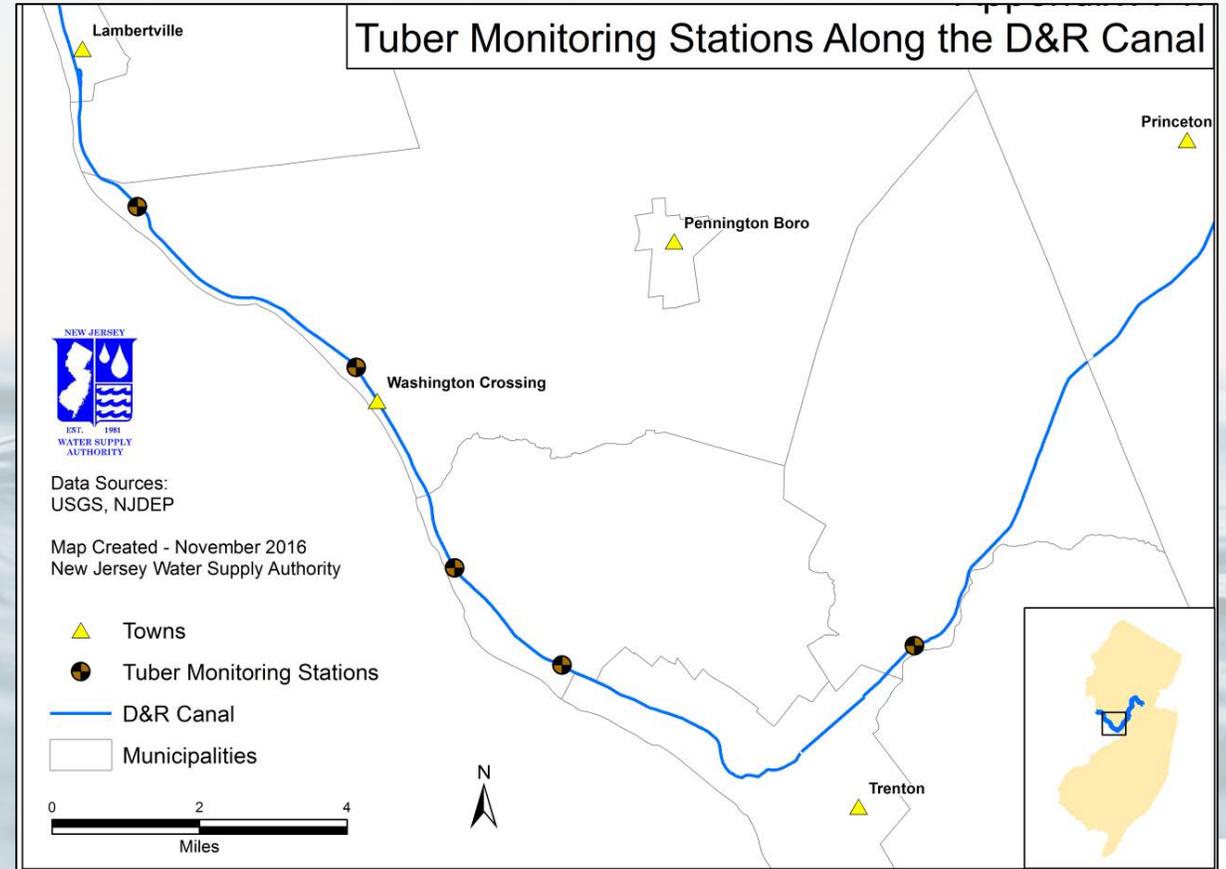
# Monitoring Efforts

- Weekly fluridone concentration monitoring
  - Sampling: every other day for first 2 weeks, then weekly
  - 9 surface water sites, 3-4 finished water treatment plants
- Treatment Area SAV Survey (18 miles)
- Tuber survey (5 sites)
- Other SAV 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



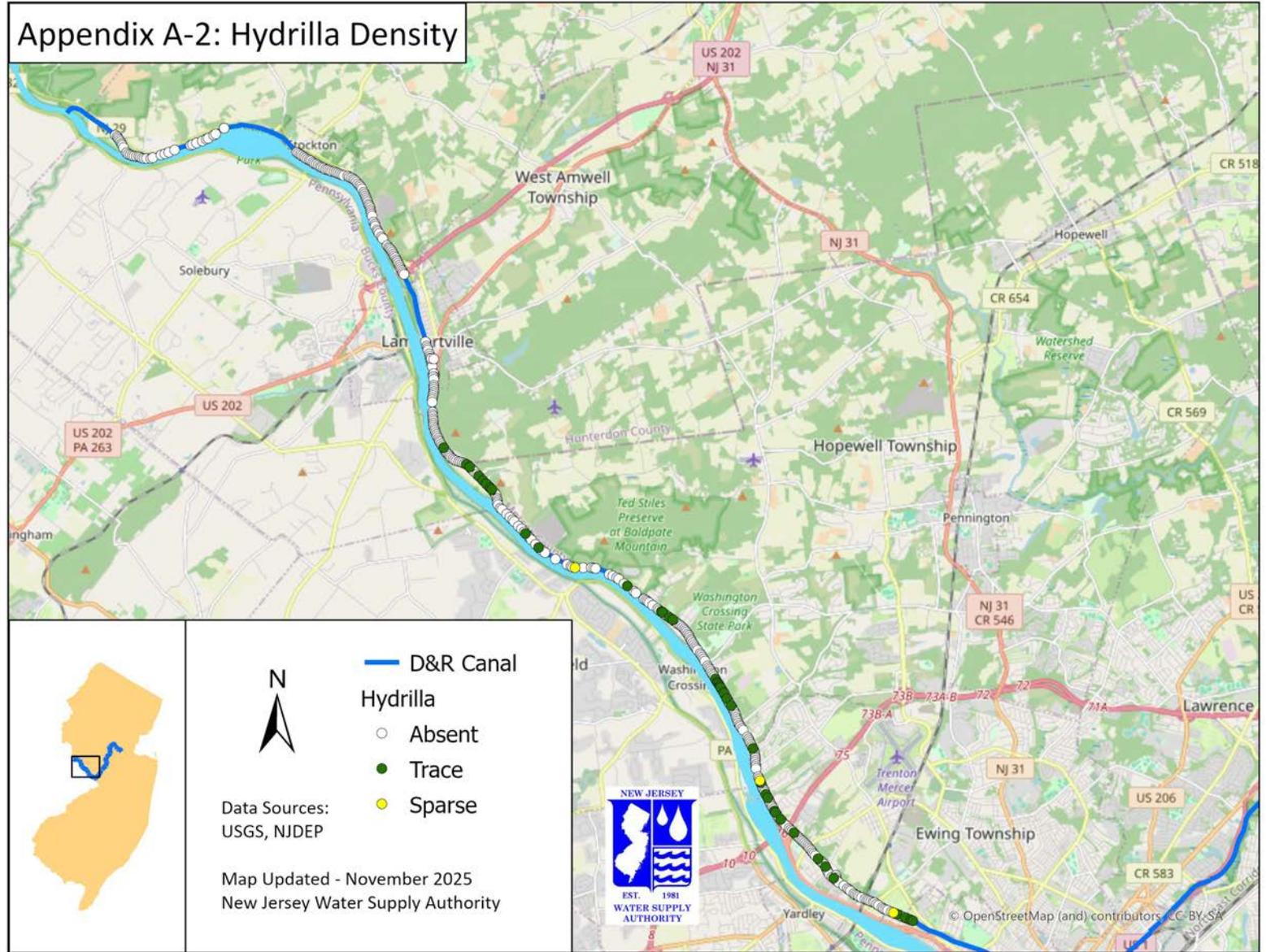
# 2025 Re-emergence

- First year of no contract– all monitoring work conducted by NJWSA
- First discovered near Scudder's Falls during July Kayak Visual Survey
- Full SAV survey and mapping conducted in September from Bulls Island to Trenton Country Club
- Hydrilla Tuber Monitoring conducted early November 2025
- Return to Treatment Planned for 2026



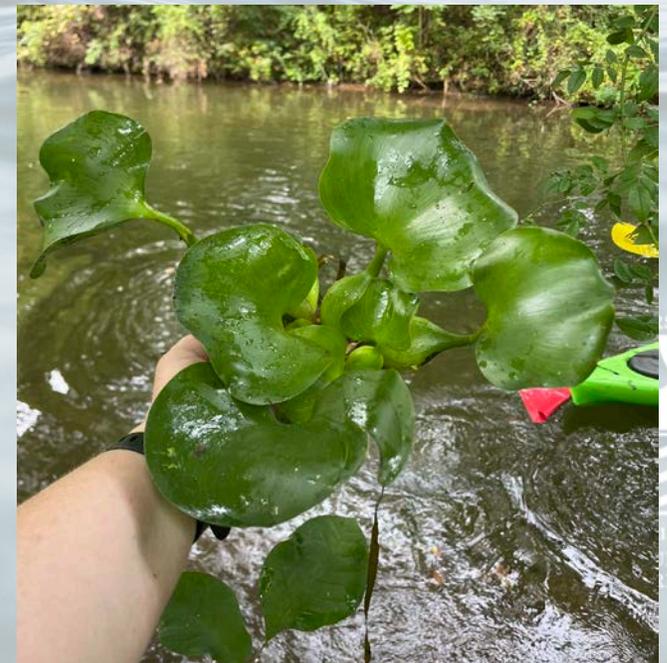
# Sept. 2025 SAV

- 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





Delaware River @  
Washington Crossing



Contact:  
Kyle Clonan  
[kclonan@njwsa.org](mailto:kclonan@njwsa.org)

