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Watershed Association Welcomes New Science Director

September 13, 2016 (Hopewell Township, NJ) – The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association has hired Steven J. Tuorto, Ph.D. of Titusville to become its Director of Science and Stewardship. As a new member of the Watershed's leadership team, Dr. Tuorto will help the organization expand its efforts to address water pollution, degradation of fish and wildlife habitats, and harmful effects of climate change.

"Science is integral to the Watershed's mission to keep water clean, safe and healthy in central New Jersey," said Jim Waltman, the organization's Executive Director. "Steve is a great addition to our team and brings a wide range of expertise to oversee our water monitoring program, land and water stewardship efforts, and other science-based initiatives."

Dr. Tuorto has an impressive background of laboratory and field research, data analysis, and reporting on environmental and ecological issues. He has experience in academia and the private sector, having served as senior R&D scientist at Terra Cycle, an innovative recycling company headquartered in Trenton. He received his Ph.D. from Rutgers University's Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences in 2008 and has conducted research on a variety of ecosystems, including open ocean, estuary, riverine, groundwater and permafrost.

The Watershed's science and stewardship activities include StreamWatch, the state of New Jersey's largest and longest running water monitoring program; the River-Friendly certification program, which works with residents, businesses, schools and golf courses to improve environmental stewardship; stream and habitat restorations; and its Geographical Information Systems lab. Complimenting these programs, the organization recently launched TapWatch, a take home water testing service for residents concerned about contaminants in their drinking water.

Dr. Tuorto resides in Titusville with his wife Shannon, a Montessori teacher, and two young children, Sydney and Payton attending Timberlane. "I'm very excited to be a part of the Watershed Association's mission by guiding the science programs, as well as supporting the education and advocacy efforts." Steve says. "I feel like I can have a real impact on the future of how society interacts with our natural resources. These are things I'm passionate about, and I feel fortunate to be able to contribute in my own community". For more information about the staff and science programs at the Watershed Center, visit www.thewatershed.org/science.

