United States Environmental Protection Agency

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# EPA'S TARGETED WATERSHED GRANTS 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

**December 2005**

# The International City/County Management Association (ICMA)

With capacity building funding from EPA, ICMA conducted training for about 200 community leaders and local government officials through successful webcasts broadcast live over the Internet. These interactive training programs emphasized consensus-building skills as well as conservation financing for watershed and wetlands protection – critical skills necessary for successful watershed planning and management.

Each webcast attracted more than 100 participants from around the country.

ICMA's first webcast – Collaborative Problem Solving and Consensus Building: Effective Approaches for Watershed Protection and Restoration – introduced participants to the principles of collaboration, conflict resolution, and consensus building. The program featured an expert from the University of Virginia's Institute for Environmental Negotiation and local watershed leaders. The webcast successfully provided information and tools, shared lessons learned, and assisted in the delivery of effective watershed management strategies.

The second webcast – Protecting Water Resources through Land Conservation: Funding Options for Local Governments – developed in collaboration with the Trust for Public Lands showcased local government success stories. Attendees gained an understanding of current conservation finance trends, revenue sources being used by local governments, voter opinions on water protection, and the importance of good performance measures in designing funding campaigns.

ICMA is also developing a Web-based curriculum for watershed groups and plans to deliver the information at various local government forums. A CD-ROM and other resources have been developed to supplement the webcast training. To order a copy of the CD-ROM, contact LGEAN at 877/TO-LGEAN or lgean@icmb.org or visit www.lgean.org.

**"Webcast participants gained an understanding of current conservation finance trends, revenue sources being used by local governments, voter opinions on water protection, and the importance of good performance measures in designing funding campaigns."**

**– Barbara Yuhas**
**ICMA**