

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Savage River Watershed Association (SRWA) will meet at Route 40 Elementary School on Thursday May 16th at 7:00 p.m. for a presentation by Tom Kozikowski and students from his Environmental Science classes at Mountain Ridge High School. During their program “Fracking: Protecting the Safety of Frostburg’s Drinking Water”, they will explain their efforts to ensure that their town’s water will remain safe to drink as gas drilling approaches our area over coming years. The public is welcome to attend.

The nearest proposed Maryland fracking site is only 1/2 mile from the Piney Run Reservoir. Two tributaries to the Reservoir originate in Pennsylvania, a state where fracking is already permitted. So these “citizen-scientists” are collecting pre-fracking baseline water quality data on Piney Run, the water supply of Frostburg which serves 12,000 people. During their program they will present their data collection methods and results to date, including barium, bromide, and strontium levels. Their project has been funded a generous \$69,000 grant from the State Farm Youth Advisory Board.

The SRWA is a group of local landowners and other citizens dedicated to preserving and enhancing the rural nature and natural resources of the Savage River watershed. Members assist interested landowners and public land managers with environmental stewardship efforts and educational outreach. Anyone who is concerned about the Savage River watershed is invited to join. SRWA meetings are generally held at Route 40 Elementary School on the third Thursday of odd numbered months, beginning at 7 p.m. The school is located at 17764 National Pike, a few miles west of Frostburg. For more information visit the SRWA web site at www.SavageRiverWatershed.org SRWA is a non profit charitable organization and donations may be sent to: Savage River Watershed Association, PO Box 355, Frostburg, MD 21532.