

**Joint Public Hearing on Issues Related to Flood Mitigation and
Stormwater Management**

By
Cory Rathman, P.E., Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium
Before
Senate Majority Policy Committee
Senator Ted Erickson, Chairman
And
Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee
Senator Mary Jo White, Chairman

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Thank you for providing the Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium (Consortium) the opportunity to present testimony to the Joint Committee today.

I am Cory Rathman, a Steering Committee member of the Consortium and also a Co-Chair of the Stormwater Committee. I am a Professional Engineer with over 20 years of stormwater management and floodplain modeling experience. This experience includes representing both municipal governments and private developers. I am employed at Becker Engineering, a civil engineering consulting firm located in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

With me is Mark Gutshall, also a Steering Committee member of the Consortium and founder of LandStudies, an environmental restoration and planning firm in Lititz, Lancaster County. I will begin by speaking about the Consortium's purpose, accomplishments and future goals and thereby demonstrate its positive impact on Lancaster County's waterways, both directly and indirectly, in its relatively short existence. I will then answer any questions you may have. Following this, Mark will discuss more specific regional approaches to stormwater management supported by the Consortium.

The Consortium was formed in September 2010 by individuals realizing the need for a more comprehensive approach to effect meaningful change to our waterways while at the same time preparing for future regulations. The mission of the Consortium is the development of a proactive, efficient and cohesive countywide strategy to restore the waterways of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, ultimately resulting in compliance with imminent federal and state regulations intended to reduce pollution and accelerate restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. The Consortium is an entity governed by the Conservation Foundation (Foundation) of Lancaster County, a Pennsylvania nonprofit corporation, qualified as a 501(c) (3) exempt organization. The Foundation was incorporated by the Lancaster County Conservation District.

Leadership of the Consortium rests with the Steering Committee consisting of voting and non-voting members representing Municipal & County Government, the Lancaster County Conservation District, the

Conservation Foundation of Lancaster County, Franklin & Marshall and Millersville Universities, Local Watershed Organizations, Consulting Engineers, Landscape Architects, Attorneys & Environmentalists, Business Owners, the Building Industry Association and Agricultural interests. As part of a recent Consortium grant application, it was estimated that the Steering Committee volunteered more than 2,800 hours during the last 13 months. The membership at-large includes municipalities, authorities, school districts, businesses, nonprofit organizations (e.g., Trout Unlimited, Lancaster Farmland Trust, Watershed Alliances), agricultural operators, developers and individuals.

After only one year in existence, the Consortium lists many accomplishments resulting from various partnerships and its ability to reach numerous municipalities, organizations and individuals whose activities impact Lancaster County waterways. The accomplishments include:

- **Educational Series Seminars** – hosted 8 seminars addressing stormwater issues ranging from designs of Best Management Practices and Watershed Implementation Plans to financing a sustainable stormwater program. Speakers included representatives from EPA, PADEP, Villanova University, Penn State University, University of Maryland, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and private industry. Attendees primarily included municipal officials and staff, engineers, landscape architects and planners.
- **Legacy Sediment Summit** – at a public forum, Franklin and Marshall University and The Stroud Water Research Center representatives discussed methods to better define how local watershed alliances should decide whether or not to remove legacy sediments before stream bank restoration takes place.
- **Obtained a \$400,000 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant** for educational and demonstration projects, both for public and private benefit, within the Little Conestoga Watershed. The projects involve numerous county-wide organizations and will track water quality benefits of installed engineering facilities.
- **Hosted a Bus Tour of sites within Lancaster County** where urban, suburban and agricultural Best Management Practices have been implemented and are providing numerous beneficial results to the property and surrounding areas. Attendees on the tour included Jeff Corbin and staff from the USEPA, the Mayor of Lancaster City, representatives from PADEP, Lancaster County Planning Commission members and staff, local municipalities, watershed organizations, Lancaster County Conservation District, local media and private consultants among others.
- **Green Harvest Augsburger (GHA) site visit** - Working through Epcot Crenshaw Corporation (ECC) subsidiary Green Harvest One (GH1), the Augsburger family and the GH1 team have successfully integrated an innovative waste management system, including advanced anaerobic digester technology. The Augsburger family manages the production of 1,800 sows – 5,500 animals total – producing approximately 15,000 gallons of manure daily. GH1 is working with the Augsburger

family to implement novel solutions that will vastly improve the Confined Animal Operations ability to meet its wastewater and storm water management criteria. Attendees on the visit included Shawn Garvin, EPA Region 3 Administrator and USEPA staff, Charles Satish Smith, President and CEO of Epcot Crenshaw Corporation, Lancaster Intermunicipal Committee officials and Consortium steering committee members.

- Development of an on-going partnership with the Lancaster County Planning Commission related to combining efforts for regional watershed planning, coordination with PADEP associated with development of a county-wide stormwater management ordinance and assistance with upcoming education activities and distribution of seminar information.
- Coordination with municipalities to assist the Plain-Sect community with development and implementation of farmland Conservation Plans.
- Established a dialogue with Federal and State regulators as part of our advocacy for municipalities and other stakeholders.

For 2012, the Consortium developed ambitious goals to further its mission. The Consortium's priority in 2012 is to serve as an educator in the county and will increase its educational efforts to inform municipalities and the public at-large on issues ranging from regional watershed planning efforts to implementing day-to-day measures to improve the county's waterways. The goals include:

- Development of Clean Water Summit - the intent is to bring together stakeholders to identify gaps and eliminate overlaps related to ongoing watershed planning efforts. An additional goal is to encourage the compilation of all the local watershed implementation plans and restoration plans so that local municipalities may not only satisfy their MS4 goals but offer these plans to PADEP to assist their Chesapeake Bay TMDL pollution reduction goals.
- Increase municipal membership and develop new partnerships to broaden the reach and effectiveness of existing and proposed programs.
- Assist municipalities with Public Education & Public Participation requirements mandated by NPDES MS4 permits. The Consortium believes that a coordinated education effort among stakeholders provides the most efficient method of promulgating information.
- Initiate pilot programs to develop sustainable municipal/watershed stormwater programs that can be models for other municipalities and watershed organizations. A sustainable program, whether municipal or regional, is critical to accomplishing the goals of the Consortium.
- Move forward development of nutrient credit and stormwater trading programs. A method of trading stormwater credits between developers and property owners permits a more efficient method of redevelopment within urban and suburban areas while still obtaining improvements in stormwater runoff rates, volumes and water quality.

- Strengthen the relationships and increase the frequency of dialogue with Federal and State regulatory agencies to better understand benchmarks and expectations so that audits and associated fines can be minimized if not eliminated. It is well documented that Lancaster County sits in the crosshairs of Federal efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay.

Clearly the efforts of many individuals and groups have enabled the Consortium to accomplish much in a short amount of time. We are truly grateful for these individuals and groups and we are also grateful for the support from our local state Senators, state Representatives and the Lancaster County Commissioners. However, based on the conditions of our waterways and existing infrastructure and our dysfunctional stormwater management programs, we can only conclude that much remains to be done.

We believe that the Consortium is a truly unique entity that espouses inclusion of all stakeholders while developing strategies for sustainable watershed programs resulting in a comprehensive approach that restores Lancaster County waterways in conjunction with imminent Federal regulations. The Consortium envisions a future with sustainable stormwater management programs producing clean meandering streams within vibrant riparian buffers to the benefit of all Lancaster County residents.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to speak with you today.

Lancaster County Clean Water Consortium website - <http://www.lccwc.com/>