

**Plainfield Township
Environmental Advisory Council Meeting
June 3, 2019**

The Plainfield Township Environmental Advisory Council meeting was held on Monday, June 3, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Plainfield Township Municipal Building, 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, PA 18064.

Those in attendance were:

Terry Kleintop, EAC Chairman	Robert Cornman – EAC Member absent
Robin Dingle – EAC Member	Don Moore – EAC Member
Bruce Rabenold – EAC Member	Robert Simpson – EAC Vice-Chairman
Jane Mellert, EAC Secretary and Member	Tom Petrucci – Plainfield Twp. Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by EAC Chairman Terry Kleintop and the pledge of allegiance was performed.

Also in attendance – Jason Smith P.W.S. Hanover Engineering Associates

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion – February 4, 2019 Minutes - A motion was made by Robert Simpson to approve the February 4, 2019 minutes. The motion was seconded by Don Moore.

Vote: 6 Yes

OLD BUSINESS

PA DEP Growing Greener Plus Grant deadline December 31, 2019 - Little Bushkill Creek: Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc. are the hired Consultants to conduct the study

- Robin Dingle worked with Jason Smith in order to complete the Sub-Consultant work on the Little Bushkill Study.
- Hard copy drafts of the Little Bushkill Creek 2018 Watershed Management Plan were distributed to the EAC Members the last week of May 2019.
- A joint meeting of the EAC and Board of Supervisors will be held on in the future to review the Little Bushkill Creek Study.
- Jason Smith was present at the June 3, 2019 meeting in order to review the study.

West Branch

The West Branch was listed as delisted on the 2014 Department of Environmental Protection Report, and also listed as delisted on the 2016 DEP stream maps.

There are still a couple of tributaries within the West Branch that need additional testing. The sections have been narrowed down and it will cost less to test within the targeted area.

The area will continue to be monitored through the MS4 program.

Wind Gap

More monitoring should be conducted. At this point Wind Gap is taking a proactive approach and trying to apply for grants. It was noted that the information in this report will be beneficial for the Borough of Wind Gap to utilize.

Browntown Road Tributary

There are areas where additional monitoring is needed in order to determine potential sources of the contamination. Elevated levels of fecal coliform have been detected in the lower half of the stream segment. The focus should be targeted on narrowing it down to certain areas.

There are two sections in the Browntown Road area where problems exist. Specific areas need to be targeted in order to conduct on-site septic inspections at locations near the areas of the stream that had negative test results. Approximately seven to eight septic systems may be involved.

It was noted a property owner with a home located on Browntown Road would like a waiver in order to repair the septic system. The owner is requesting a reduction of the 100 ft. isolation area between the well and septic on the property. The SEO recommended the owner to request the waiver.

An outlined area for a proposed septic system impact assessment will be added to the map.

Heimer Road Tributary

Due to having limited data for this area, additional monitoring is being recommended. The upper reaches of the tributary are not accessible due to the property owner not granting access for sampling. Samples should be collected upstream.

Corrective actions in regard to agricultural activities are also recommended.

Delabole Road Tributary

Sampling locations were discussed. Continuation of sampling to better identify potential sources and monitor concentration gradients along the tributary is recommended. The area would benefit by restoration of riparian buffers.

Benders Church Road Tributary

Fencing cattle off from stream access is needed on a farm on Heitzman Road (page49). It was noted that the Northampton County Conservation District now has a technician. The technician should be able to assist the Municipality (Plainfield Township) to address needed corrective measures.

The orange outlined area on the map is the recommended area for follow up of onsite septic systems. The Benders Church Road Tributary should continue to be monitored.

It was noted that areas of Browntown Road and Benders Church Road will not be delisted unless additional areas are tested and follow up work is done. The ultimate goal is for the stream to be delisted.

Motion – Bob Simpson made a motion for Jason Smith to make the noted correction to the Browntown Road map, and to forward the report to the EAC Members and Board of Supervisors. Don Moore seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes

A copy of the report will be sent to Wind Gap along with a disc. Once the report has final approval from the Board of Supervisors the report will be sent to the DEP.

Water Run-Off

Terry Kleintop noted the EAC should provide an outline regarding the issues that have been observed regarding water runoff, outdated conservation plans and the current laws being followed. Issues have been observed in several areas in the Township during recent storm events.

Pollution Control Measures for Water Impaired by Pathogens – MS4 Pollution Reduction Plan Deadline September 30, 2023

- The RFP for the PCM (pollution control measures) is still in process.

Northampton County Farmland Preservation – County/Municipal Partnership – 2019

- Maria currently has 33 farms to work on. The farms are from 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- Terry reported that the farm listed as #6 in Plainfield Township has a high probability of being funded for preservation without municipal funds being contributed.
- The PA Department of Agriculture Bureau of Farmland Preservation 2019 Allocation of Funds list was reviewed.
- Lower Nazareth Township is considering the adoption of an Earned Income Tax for Farmland Preservation

Upper Mount Bethel – Has six (6) farms that applied for preservation for 2019. UMBT just reduced the percentage amount of Earned Income Tax being collected to help fund open space preservation. A resident of UMBT has been in contact with Terry Kleintop and requested information regarding the Plainfield Township EIT study. Tom Petrucci suggested Terry have the resident contact him.

Trails

Northampton County is working on Belfast Junction on the limited access road. The Township portion will be placed on the LVPC map in order to help with acquiring grant funding.

Official Map Update- Lehigh Valley Greenways Grant “Plainfield Township Official Map Adoption” project (contract no. C2P2-22-LVG-22.10) The Lehigh Valley Greenways Grant Project Completion Date for the Official Map was **May 1, 2019. The date has been extended.**

Draft #6 is on the tripod in the meeting room. Some of the wooded areas were removed due to the feedback that was received from the public. The map will be on the June Planning Commission meeting agenda. The Board of Supervisors will review the map at the July Board of Supervisors meeting. In the draft Ordinance the Municipal Planning Code allows for the ability to amend the map. The adopting Ordinance is written so that the map will have to be reviewed within the next 10 years. Any projects that do not require land development approval will be on a 120 day time limit not a 1 year time for the review process.

Grand Central Woods

Preservation of Grand Central Woods is still being discussed. The Wildlands Conservancy is very interested in the preservation of the area.

Appalachian Trail Ordinance

The Timber harvesting provisions were removed from the proposed Ordinance. All other regulations remain. The hearing to adopt the Ordinance will be scheduled in late July or early August.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Plainfield Township Conservation by Design Development Ordinance Proposed Revisions

1. Tom Petrucci – Review of the long term revisions will be addressed at a future meeting

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion - Meeting Adjournment – A motion was made by Robin Dingle and seconded by Bob Simpson to adjourn the EAC meeting at 9:34 pm.

Vote: 6 Yes

The next EAC meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2019.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Mellert, Secretary
Plainfield Township EAC