

Welcome
Statewide Water Resources
Committee

Nov 18, 2010

The background of the slide is a solid blue color. In the lower right quadrant, there are several faint, concentric circular ripples that resemble water droplets hitting a surface, creating a subtle decorative effect.

AGENDA

	TOPIC	DISCUSSION LEADER
9:30	Welcome and Introductions	Chair
9:35	Administrative Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Review and Approval of April 2010 Meeting Summary◦ Comments from the Public	Chair Chair
9:45	CWPA Recommendation Discussion: Technical Subcommittee Meeting Overview and Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Policy Questions◦ White Paper◦ Recommendations	DEP & Tech Subcommittee Co-Chairs
11:00	VOTE by Full Statewide Committee to Recommend CWPA Watersheds to DEP Secretary	Chair
11:15	New Nominations	DEP
11:30	Update on Watershed Management Plans	DEP
11:45	Water Conservation Technical Assistance Center Update	PEC
12:00	Wrap-Up/Next Steps/Future Meetings	Chair

Outcome of Technical Sub Committee

Meeting held August 6, 2010



Policy questions – outcomes

- Which watersheds meet criteria?
 - See summary of watersheds
- How many, and which basin should be considered for recommendation for designation?
 - DEP staff limitations to support CARPS
 - Better to have short list to demonstrate results

- Should recommendations of the Tech Subcommittee be prioritized?
 - Primary: severity of problem; safe yield deficit
 - Secondary: degree problem will get worse quickly
 - Lower: Availability of funding; data
- What does it mean to designate a CWPA without a Critical Area Resource Plan?

DRAFT Technical Subcommittee Recommendation to the Statewide Water Resources Committee

The Technical Subcommittee of the Statewide Water Resources committee met on August 6, 2010, to review the list of watersheds recommended by the Regional Water Resources Committees for possible designation as Critical Water Planning Areas. The Subcommittee will recommend to the Statewide Committee three watersheds that have an urgent need for designation based on the severity of the water availability problem in the watershed, the pressure for the problem to get worse if it is not addressed soon, and the availability of funding for development of a Critical Area Resource Plan. The following chart summarizes the recommendations of the committee.

Watershed (Basin)	Notes	Notes
Laurel Hill Ck (Ohio)	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem = public water supply use • We are in the dark as the amt. of water from Somerset co. Authority • Meets criteria on current use
Back Ck (Ohio)	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest WQ in watershed in Indian Creek- Main Source of Water Authority • Does meet criteria • Residents Support • Used for Snow making
Marsh Ck/Rock Ck (Potomac)	Yes. Tim Weston abstained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant hydrologic connectivity • 20,000 new homes plotted and approved but not built yet • Proposed importation from Susq. York/Gettysburg • Exportation thru wastewater discharges • Much interest from advisory committee

Little Lehigh Ck (Delaware)	Maybe Have Cons. Dist, LCA, LVPC and Berks Co. get together to discuss.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High development, water supply industry withdrawals • Includes withdrawals outside of the watershed • Originally part of Jordan Creek • Carbonate Rock • HQ-CWF designation • SSM study indicates further study needed • LCA doesn't want CARP designation; however they aren't interested in a plan. • Dry streams, flashy streams • Defiantly 2 sides to the story. Area needs help to bring two sides together.
Brodhead Creek (Delaware)	Maybe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High growth potential • HQ-CWF Designation • Residents want to protect what they have for the future • Area is self supplied – Residential/Commercial • CARP would meet future challenges, not necessarily existing • Study underway on lower end by water authority • Very divergent testimony- conflicting viewpoint
Sugar Creek (Upper/Middle Susquehanna)	Maybe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture based. Little manufacturing • Every pour point is negative • Low groundwater, low base flow is a natural condition • High Marcellus shale activity • No active stream gages • CARP would give better understanding of existing conditions and useful for future new water demand.
Spring Creek (Upper/Middle Susquehanna)	Maybe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many studies have been done • USGS Study is very specific not equivalent to CARP • Declining base flows • Very little flow away, Slab Run = Water Supply withdrawal

Little Conewago Ck (Lower Susquehanna)	No. Watch for next SWP update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not part of original nomination • Golf Courses, quarry, industrial, ag • Couple water suppliers • "Water Challenged" by SRBC • Urgency =?, no advocacy
Tributaries to the Conestoga River (Lower Susquehanna)	No. Table and send back to Regional Committee. Check with county planning. Separate two watersheds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes- A number of unknowns and there is value in pulling the groups together • No-Plan already underway. Should the watersheds be split out separated?
Tributaries to the Swatara Creek (Lower Susquehanna)	No. Table. Send back to Regional Committee. Remove Mill Ck or re-explain it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looks like pockets, should each done on own merits or together? • ACOE study on Swatara points to water shortages under drought conditions.
Tributaries to the Connoquenessing Ck (Ohio)	No. Watch, return to regional committee. More data for future SWP update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation – golf course, commercial development, Marcellus shale withdrawals and rapid residential growth. • Have stormwater/WQ issues. WS company importing water from outside watershed. (Use has decreased) • Urgency is unclear. No local interest. Is this a sleeper problem? • Artifact of infrastructure.



Toby Creek (Upper/Middle Susquehanna)	No. Return pending SRBC decision on plan between PWS's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PWS 84% of use • Urbanizing area • Huntsville reservoir in center • Well levels appear to be lowering • Marcellus shale withdrawals • Water suppliers worked together to address depletion issues
Tributaries to the Neshaminy Creek (Delaware)	No.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly urbanized • Interconnection of water suppliers • Part of DRBC Groundwater Protection Area
Alloway Ck (Potomac)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predominantly agriculture, golf course • More quality concerns than quantity
Temple Ck (Great Lakes)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary issue and water user is an over capacity high use prison.

3 Top Watersheds

- Laurel Hill Creek – Somerset County
- Back Creek (Trib to Indian Creek) Fayette County
- Marsh Creek/Rock Creek – Adams County

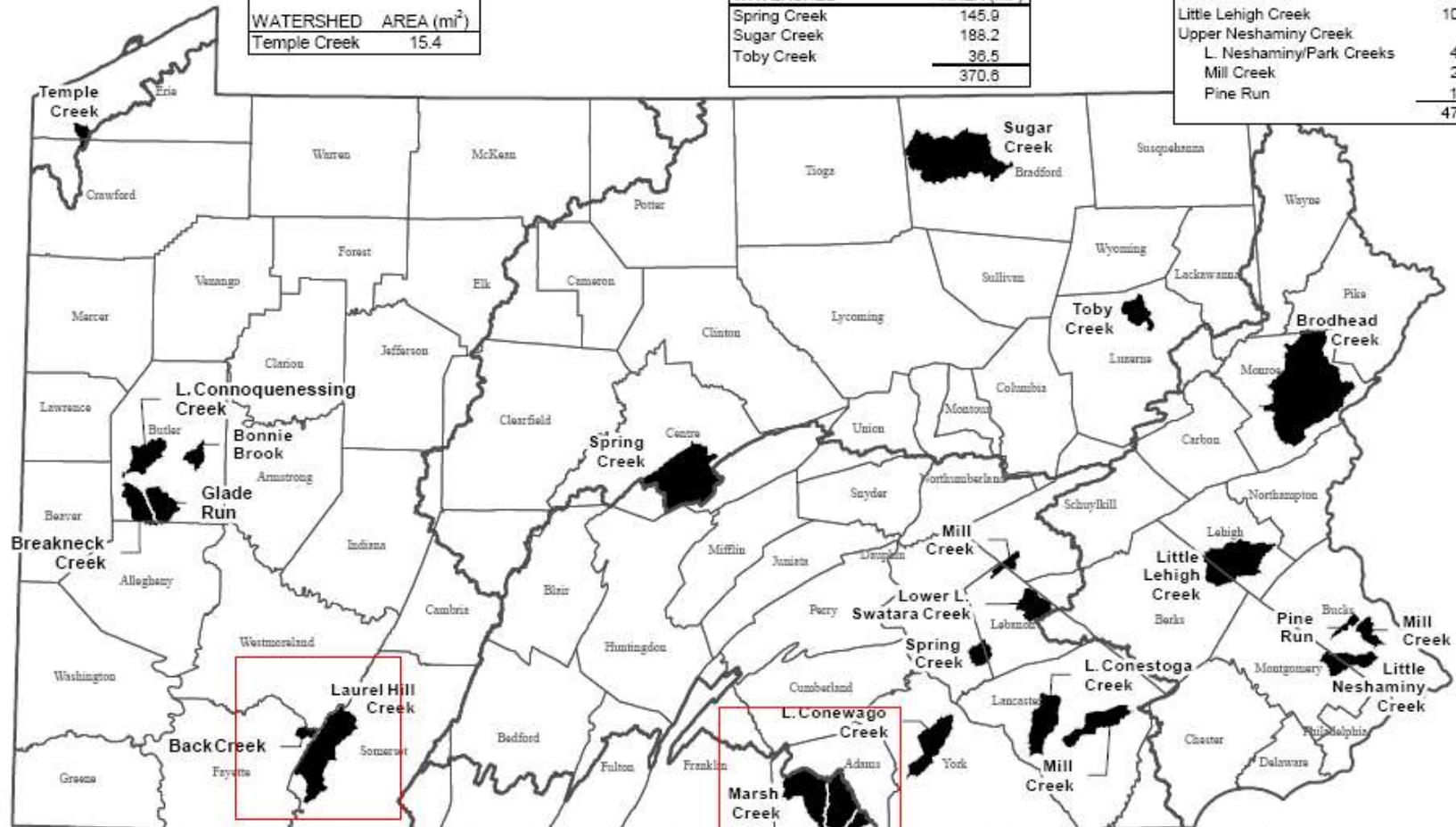
REGIONAL WATER RESOURCE COMMITTEES

RECOMMENDED CRITICAL WATER PLANNING AREAS (CWPA)

GREAT LAKES REGION	
WATERSHED	AREA (mi ²)
Temple Creek	15.4

UPPER SUSQUEHANNA REGION	
WATERSHED	AREA (mi ²)
Spring Creek	145.9
Sugar Creek	188.2
Toby Creek	36.5
	<hr/> 370.6

DELAWARE REGION	
WATERSHED	AREA (mi ²)
Brodhead Creek	287.2
Little Lehigh Creek	107.5
Upper Neshaminy Creek	
L. Neshaminy/Park Creeks	43.1
Mill Creek	21.9
Pine Run	11.7
	<hr/> 471.3

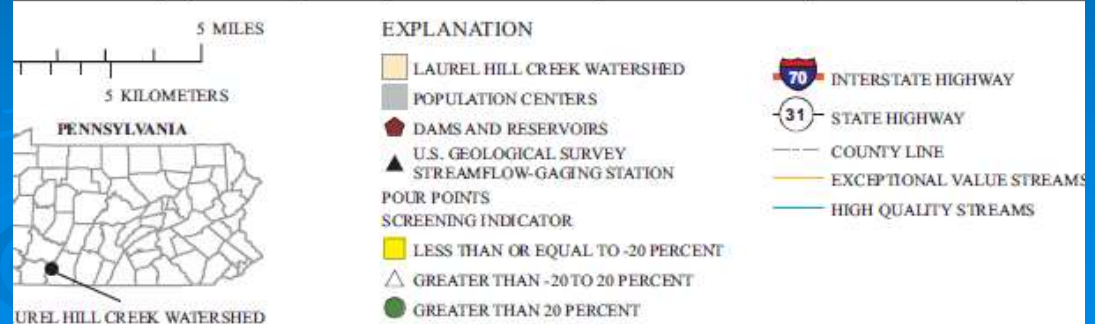
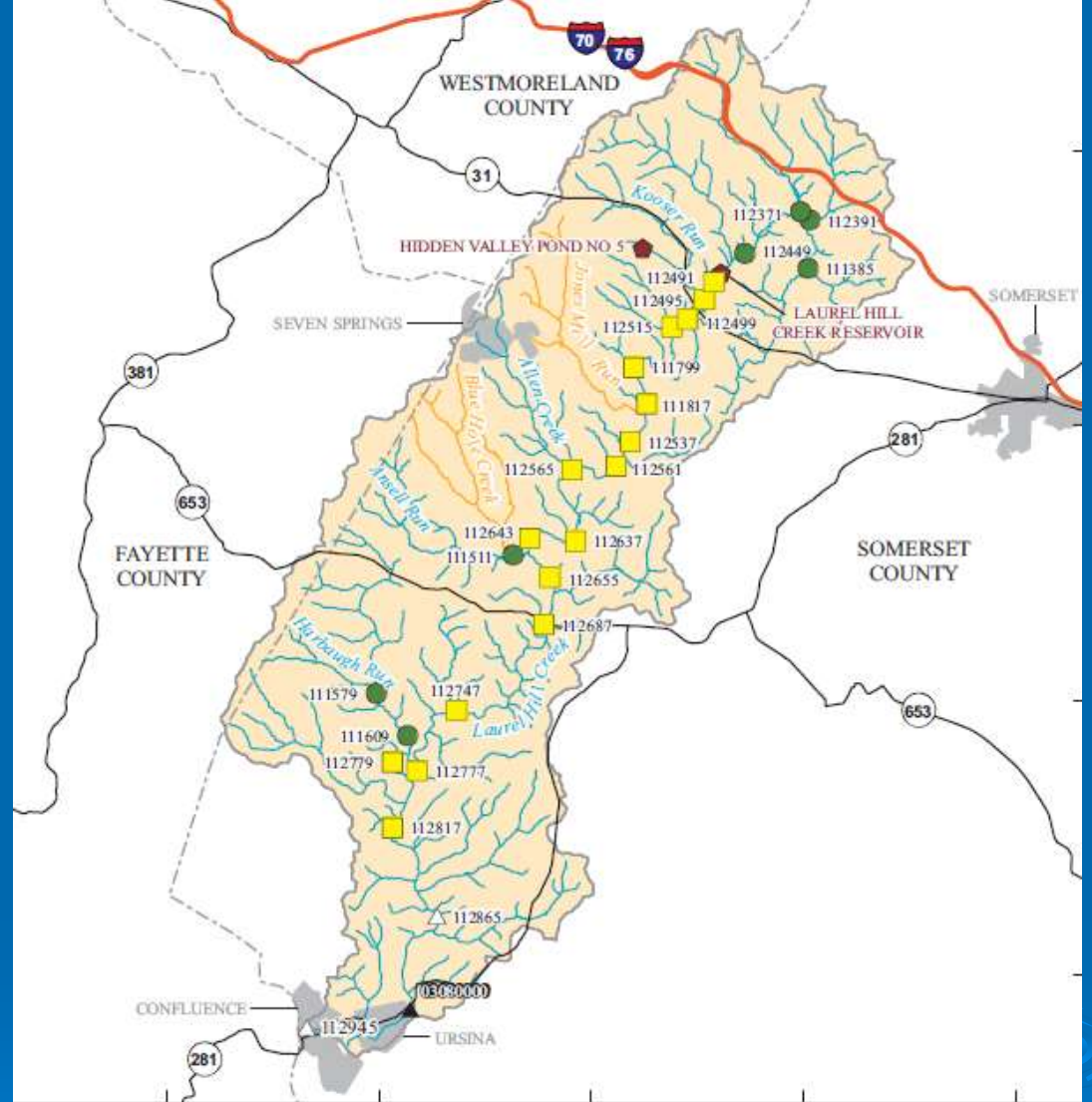


OHIO REGION	
WATERSHED	AREA (mi ²)
Connoquenessing Creek	
Bonnie Brook	20.4
Breakneck Creek	42.5
Glade Run	40.8
L. Connoquenessing Creek	47.4
Back Creek	11.4
Laurel Hill Creek	124.5
	<hr/> 287.0

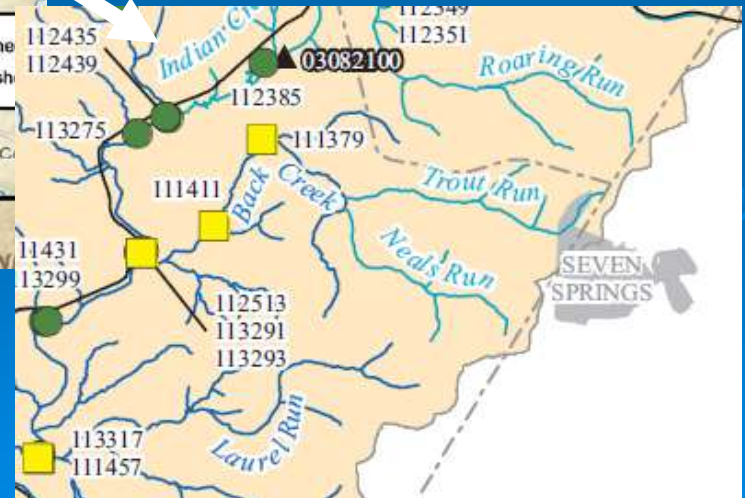
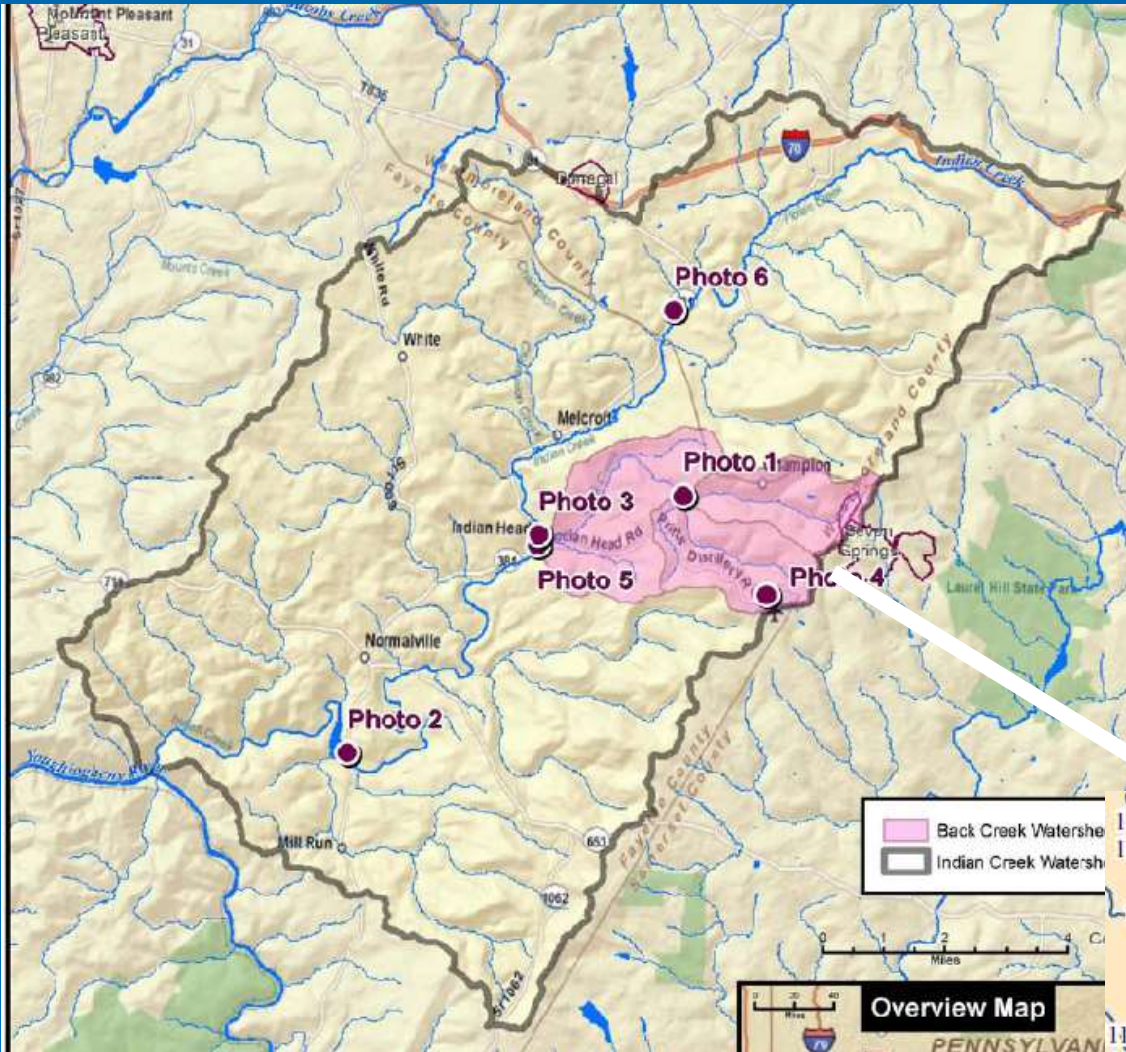
POTOMAC REGION	
WATERSHED	AREA (mi ²)
Rock/Marsh Creeks	142.8
Alloway Creek	18.3
	<hr/> 161.1

LOWER SUSQUEHANNA REGION	
WATERSHED	AREA (mi ²)
Lower Conestoga Creek	
Little Conestoga Creek	65.5
Mill Creek	56.4
Little Conowago Creek	68.3
Swatara Creek	
Lower Little Swatara Creek	39.6
Mill Creek	17.8
Spring Creek	24.0
	<hr/> 271.6

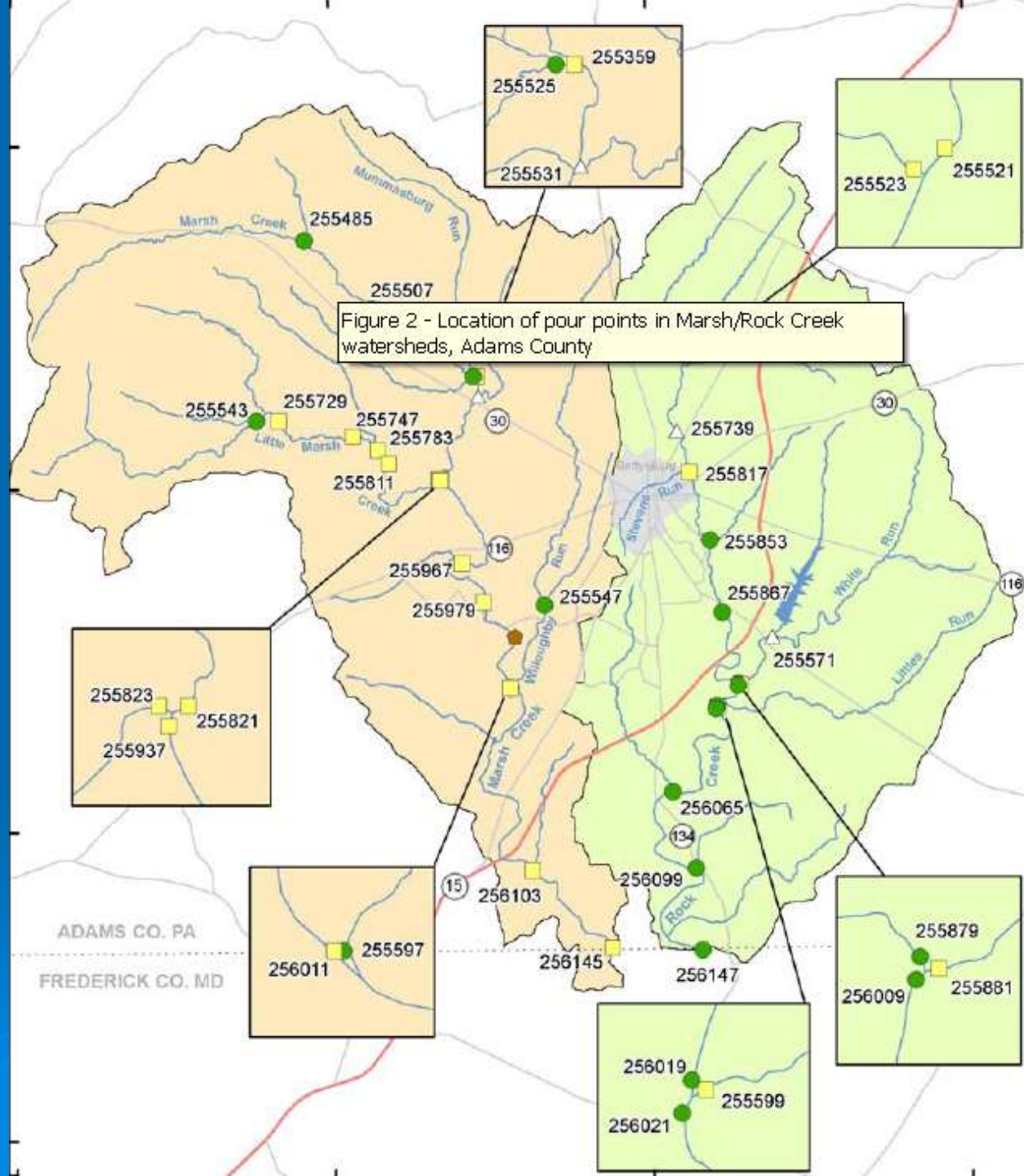
Laurel Hill Creek



Back Creek



Marsh Creek/ Rock Creek



- All three have been funded by Growing Greener to prepare “Water Resource Management Plans”



Reasons for Funding:

- Potential loss of valuable planning funds without encumbrance by May 2010
- Existing GG grant, River Basin Commission sponsorship
- Local interest and groups to form Advisory Committees
- 3 plans are limit of DEP Resources for Mgmt.
- All met criteria and were on nomination list from regions

Criteria

- CWPA subcommittee
- Critical Questions for designation

- Would existing/future demands:
 - Impair long-term utility of the resource?
 - Impair Water Quality?
 - Induce a health threat?

Other Criteria:

Screening and review criteria- planning size, maximum time horizon, existing and future demands, safe yield.

The CWPA Subcommittee:

initial screening criteria = “final criteria” for verifications and watershed identification.

50% and 30% Q7-10 as indicators of potential irreparable or unmitigated impacts to aquatic resources (loss of fish habitat) and acute dewatering.

2003 water use and returns were basis for screening supplemented in verifications with newer information if appropriate.



Status of 3 Plans



Laurel Hill Creek

- In 3rd year and second phase of project
- Somerset County, USGS (tech work)
 - Will be holding advisory committee meeting in December or January
 - WQ and quantity assessments
 - Land use plan (Mackin Engineering)
 - Water Quality compilation
 - Nutrient/Sedimentation loading study \$348k (separate study)
 - Critical Water Planning elements from Guidelines
- \$379k (with Back Creek) total
- Completion in 2011

Back Creek

- Work will be done concurrent with Laurel Hill Creek (Fayette County and USGS)
- Joint Steering Committee meetings
- Kickoff and appointment of members at next Steering Committee Meeting
- Completion in 2011
- Cost included in Laurel Hill Creek grant

Marsh Ck/Rock Ck

- Kickoff in September – nominations for Advisory Committee
- Potomac Regional meeting Nov 12th – appointments to Advisory Committee
- Now- establishing monitoring network for GW and SW, work on problem statements
- Completion – Sept 2012
- \$341,397 total