

Hearing Summary

The January 6, 2021 hearing was advertised in the Pennsylvania Bulletin on December 26, 2020 and all sunshine requirements were met. Each Committees hearing was held for one hour via Microsoft Teams. The purpose of the hearing was to solicit comments from interested persons on water resources planning issues related to preparation of the regional component of the State Water Plan. Written comments were accepted by the Committees on or before January 20, 2021.

Delaware Water Resources Committee – 9:00am – no participants

Lower Susquehanna Water Resources Committee – 10:00am – one participant

Potomac Water Resources Committee – 11:00am – no participants

Ohio Water Resources Committee – 1:00pm – nine participants

Great Lakes Water Resources Committee – 2:00pm – no participants

Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Committee – 3:00pm – one participant

Written Testimony Followed by Transcripts:

Lower Susquehanna (1)



**STATEMENT OF JEREMY ROWLAND,
BION ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC., REPRESENTING
THE COALITION FOR AFFORDABLE BAY SOLUTIONS
BEFORE THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA
REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING REGARDING THE PENNSYLVANIA
STATE WATER PLAN**

January 6, 2021

Thank you to the Regional Advisory Committee for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Jeremy Rowland, and I work for Bion Environmental Technologies, and I am speaking today on behalf of the [Coalition for Affordable Bay Solutions](#). Bion is a founding member of CABS.

Stormwater Costs are Untenable and Unnecessary to Achieve Water Compliance

Nitrogen reduction requirements placed upon Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) across the Commonwealth, particularly within the Chesapeake Bay watershed, are an inefficient use of tax- and ratepayer investments. The [PA DEP proposal to reduce 195,000 pounds of nitrogen to the Bay from stormwater at a cost of \\$78.5 million annually](#) thru 2025 or approximately \$470 million in total is insane, particularly when compared to solutions presented by the private sector that can accomplish more for only \$2 million annually. Enabling low-cost private sector solutions for nitrogen would allow communities to address their sediment and flooding issues at significantly less cost and on a timeframe that is economically sustainable. CABS has presented these accessible taxpayer savings to [Pennsylvania legislators](#) in the recent past, but as of yet only the [Senate](#) has embraced its responsibility to utilize low cost alternatives. The House has failed on multiple occasions to act while the administration and the DEP have basically been absent at best relative to the fight for these lower cost compliance alternatives

Similar levels of cost-savings enabled by private investments can also be found for the Conowingo Dam nutrient release overages that have recently been in the news. In fact, the Pennsylvania legislature's own [Legislative Budget & Finance](#) Committee has twice affirmed that innovative private sector technologies can provide Chesapeake Bay nitrogen credits at savings to taxpayers of up to 90%. Even better, these nutrient reductions to Pennsylvania's waterways are accomplished in a manner that is measurable and verifiable and can provide for a host of ancillary benefits such as reduced odors, reduced nitrate contamination in groundwater, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

CABS efforts to date have been focused on legislation that would establish a bid-based program. This legislation sponsored by [Senator Yaw](#) has been passed by the Senate on multiple occasions only to die from inaction in the House. Opposition has come from many of the same status quo stakeholders participating in this process whose job is to advocate to maintain the status quo funding for their particular entity. Their opposition is understandable since adoption of low cost/large scale solutions would negatively impact many existing stakeholders. Rather than protect entrenched interests, the legislature, administration and the DEP have a responsibility to advocate on behalf of taxpayers and the environment to ensure that solutions are cost effective and alternatives are considered.

Using the DEP's present credit calculation methodology, manure technologies can provide verified Bay nitrogen reductions at \$8-\$10 per pound. For five years CABS has lobbied the DEP to modify its one size fits all credit calculation model to scientifically account for the significantly greater impact of ammonia nitrogen. Using the [CAST model](#), the projected number of credits would double, thereby reducing costs of credits to taxpayers by 50% or greater. Over five years the DEP has failed to address this opportunity. Why? There are a lot of stakeholders

that are not interested in a potential re-allocation of funds to more efficient approaches. Favored BMP funding, which is clearly useful and has its place, is not effective at mitigating reactive ammonia loss. Yet the DEP's mitigation strategy continues to recommend the same BMP's, which do not effectively address the nitrogen issue.

To achieve the enormous financial and environmental benefits outlined above, the DEP needs to (1) agree to eliminate the nitrogen portion of the Bay stormwater mandate, (2) reach a science-based resolution for ammonia nitrogen credit calculation methodology that significantly reduces cost while maximizing environmental benefits, and (3) execute contracts with low cost manure technology or BMP providers (in lieu of more expensive stormwater nitrogen reductions) that agree to finance projects and to be paid only after the credits have been delivered and certified by the DEP.

CABS is requesting that all water quality stakeholders, including private and state agency watchdogs such as the Commonwealth Foundation, Auditor General and Attorney General offices, who believe that it is not government's role to maintain the status quo at the expense of taxpayers and their environment, to support our efforts to solve a significant portion of Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay mandate with low-cost private sector solutions.

Ohio (9)

1. Written Testimony of the Chestnut Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 483, Uniontown, PA 15401
For
State Water Plan, Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee public hearing
January 2021

January 9, 2021

Dear Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee;

We would like to submit the following comments into the public hearing record:

We note from the minutes of the committee's Oct. 27 meeting that planning for stormwater management and for climate change are priorities of the committee within Pennsylvania's portion of the Ohio River Basin, and we applaud those initiatives. Please consider our comments, outlined below, relating to those two major issues and others we view as acute concerns:

Stormwater:

Please note that our perspective as a Trout Unlimited chapter, motivated by our personal knowledge of smaller-order and headwater streams at the varied high-elevation sources of the Ohio River ranging across the western flank of the Allegheny Mountains, may be somewhat unique, but is no less important than other committee and presenter perspectives. In fact, we believe that attention to these very committee issues (stormwater and climate change) in the headwaters delivers an efficient "bang for the buck" in minimized storm damage and altered aquatic ecosystems downstream.

We request that the Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee use whatever influence and contacts it can to encourage a comprehensive, wholistic, and inter-agency effort to maintain forest cover throughout the basin, and in the headwater reaches especially. Forested watersheds, and forested riparian buffers, are “inexpensive” insurance against stormwater damage downstream. Pennsylvania is fortunate to have the forest cover we now enjoy. But we also have steep topography and tightly confined stream valleys, especially in the headwaters. Maintaining forest cover is the most efficient thing we can do to minimize stormwater farther down in the basin.

Urban issues must, certainly, be dealt with downstream, in the communities impacted (impermeable surfaces, retention infrastructure, etc.). But all those downstream issues will be minimized by maintaining forest cover in the headwaters. It is our hope that the Committee can make this point at every opportunity to all relevant local, state, and federal agencies and jurisdictions (DCNR, US Forest Service, Conservation Districts, townships, Pennsylvania Game Commission, etc.)

Climate change

Our members are on the streams continually, throughout the year. We are familiar with hydrologic and ecological intricacies of these streams, and we see indications of climate change happening now. The summer of 2020 was an example of what we likely face in the future, extended drought, and high temperatures in summer, accompanied by episodic and intense thunderstorms. Our members noted that headwater and their receiving streams were at the lowest levels, for the longest spans, in their memory. Temperatures in those streams rose to, or exceeded, marginal levels for wild trout survival and remained at those threatening temperatures for a longer period than we have previously seen.

Our belief is that we need to plan for more severe drought in the coming years, and to protect flow in headwater streams at every opportunity. It is important to remember that aquatic ecosystems may be destroyed by only a brief period of conditions outside the normal range, even if conditions remain tolerable throughout the rest of the year. For this reason, planning for acute drought in summer and fall is, in our view, critical to the continued viability of Pennsylvania’s native coldwater resources. These are important to our outdoor recreational economy, to the quality of water downstream, and to our regional identity as a desirable place to visit and live.

Based on our members observations and experiences during recent years, and particularly during the summer of 2020, we are puzzled and disappointed by the Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee’s recommendation to discontinue the Laurel Hill Creek Critical Area Plan (CARP).

Laurel Hill Creek is an important recreational and community resource, it receives high-quality water from several headwater streams facing the very conditions described above, and it continues to be threatened by over-exploitation of its flow volume. Given the unknowns of the future possible impacts of coal mining, stone quarrying, shale-gas extraction, and intensified recreational (resort and second-home especially) development, we request that Laurel Hill Creek

remain a critical area of concern and planning for the Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee.

Region's uniqueness

We noted in the Oct. 27 minutes a recognition of the Ohio Basin's uniqueness as a region. We applaud that recognition, but we wish to underscore the, perhaps, even more glaring uniqueness of the Laurel Highlands sub-region within the Ohio Basin.

Similar in this way only to the High Allegheny Plateau on the upper Allegheny River, and the origins of the Kanawha River in West Virginia, the Laurel Highlands are invaluable to the lower Ohio Valley because of their extensive forest cover and their generally high quality water. These must be protected in their own right, and to achieve environmental and economic benefits to urban communities downstream.

We hope the Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee will advocate for forest protection and restoration in the Laurel Highlands, for aggressive management of invasive species, especially hemlock woolly adelgid which threatens both headwater quality and temperature, and for enhanced federal funding for long-term legacy issues in the Laurel Highlands and larger Appalachian region—namely funding for acid-mine-drainage remediation.

We believe that a relative scarcity of water resource restoration funding in the Ohio Basin (relative to the Susquehanna River/Chesapeake Bay and Delaware River Basins) is partly due to a lack of public understanding and appreciation of the Ohio Basin's uniqueness and ecological importance, and especially the sub-regions (like the Laurel Highlands) within it. We'd prefer to see greater attention to regional uniqueness, and we volunteer our help to the Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee in whatever way we might assist in this effort.

Thank you for considering our thoughts.

Sincerely,

Ben Moyer (126 Krepps Road, Farmington, PA 15437)
(bcmoyer@verizon.net) (724-329-5772) (724-880-4313)
President
Chestnut Ridge Chapter, Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 483
Uniontown, PA 15401

2. Pennsylvania State Water Plan Update, Ohio River Region

Written testimony from Mark Killar, 1607 Pleasant Valley Rd, Mt. Pleasant, PA 15666

Stormwater

A priority should be given to the simplest method of stormwater reduction, tree plantings. It's a well known fact that planting trees is one of the best ways to reduce stormwater runoff. Besides reducing runoff, trees provide numerous other advantages. Since stormwater problems are more prevalent in urban areas, a program to plant trees in urban and suburban areas should be promoted through state and local government programs, including a more robust education program, and should provide direct help with maintenance issues landowners will require once trees are planted. An additional focus should be targeted to industries and business located in urban and suburban areas, providing trees to plant on their properties. Often these business complexes have large areas planted in grass, which promote stormwater runoff and require frequent mowing and maintenance. Working with businesses, a program focused on reducing runoff by planting trees, while also providing reduced maintenance costs could provide many opportunities for stormwater reduction in the areas of greatest need. Stormwater reduction retrofits should also be a part of this program.

To help pay for stormwater upgrades and to limit the impacts of new developments, the state should simply impose an impervious surface charge on those surfaces exceeding a specific square feet dimension. All funds generated should only be allowed to be used for stormwater management within the hydrologic unit where it is generated.

DEP needs to perform an internal review of the stormwater program regulated under the Active Mining Program. Although the program operates under the same Clean Water Act regulations as the Water Program, the regulation of stormwater and erosion and sedimentation control aspects of the programs are like night and day. Under the Water Program, stormwater and E&S are carefully controlled and closely inspected and regulated to control stormwater and erosion and runoff. Under the Mining Program, stormwater and E&S seem to be more of an afterthought. This difference can only be attributed to who is involved in the review of stormwater and E&S plans and the inspection of the implementation of those plans. Under the Water Program, Conservation Districts review and approve plans, perform onsite inspections, and help regulate the program. Under the Mining Program, all aspects are solely controlled by the DEP. The differences in execution couldn't be more obvious. One only has to do a physical comparison of construction and mining sites under the different programs. Take for instance E&S training; under the Water Program, E&S training is done yearly on a statewide basis, and in addition, contractors, engineers and E&S technicians receive training at the county level through the Conservation Districts. No such yearly programs focused on stormwater and E&S are available to mining inspectors and it clearly shows on mining and quarry sites. One only has to travel along Chestnut Ridge in the southwest region and observe the quarries there to see hundreds of acres of exposed soil and rock that have been sitting uncovered for years without any seeding and mulch to protect nearby streams from exposure to stormwater, erosion and sedimentation. Perhaps it is time to give that portion of the mining program to the Conservation Districts to be consistent across Programs and get it under proper control.

Forestry is a critical industry in Pennsylvania. This industry is especially impactful to forested headwaters streams. Although there have been numerous best management practices developed to help control stormwater runoff and erosion and sediment pollution from forestry operations,

the regulation of those operations have been woefully inadequate. Each year the industry develops thousands of miles of access roads within the forests of Pennsylvania and yet there are very few regulations on how those roads must be built and even less inspection of the roads once they are constructed. Forestry operations should be more closely regulated regarding access road construction, requiring them to construct access roads using BMP's to prevent runoff. In addition, funding should be provided to the Conservation Districts to hire additional E&S technicians to work with the forest industry to hold yearly workshops for operators, similar to the Dirt and Gravel Road Program, and to inspect in-forest operations to assure compliance with those BMPs.

Climate Change

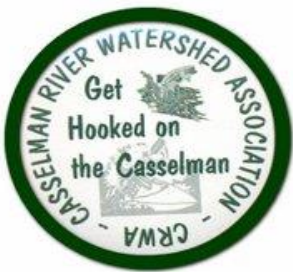
Focus should also be placed on protecting large forest tracts and improving those hydrologically connected to those habitats in headwaters streams of the Ohio. As recent studies show, acid rain impacts, once the main cause of significant degradation to aquatic biodiversity in fish communities, especially brook trout, and acid intolerant macroinvertebrates, now has significantly been reduced. However, brook trout populations continue to decline precipitously. Now these declines are being attributed to disruption of the breeding cycle by warming temperatures during critical incubation and early development stages. Also affecting this critical early development stage, as well as later developmental stages, are reductions in water quantity caused by earlier and more frequent periods of diminished rainfall combined with more frequent high energy rainstorms. These forested headwater streams, as well as other anthropogenically affected headwater streams that could be improved with forested buffers and other streamside improvements, will be critical in providing protection against a warming climate and warming water temperatures. Of particular importance in the Ohio region are forested headwaters with geologic structure that contains limestone formations that impart alkalinity to these headwater streams. Those watersheds should be prioritized for special protection under the State Water Plan.

Farming is a critical industry to Pennsylvania and the nation. The state water plan should include efforts to support more restoration and protection work in cooperation with the farming community. Modern farming practices have significantly altered the landscapes on farms as owners and operators try to use every available acre for production. However, those practices have led to perhaps hundreds of thousands of streamside acres in Pennsylvania without adequate buffers. Those missing buffers not only reduce water quality and increase water temperatures but also exacerbate stormwater runoff. Every effort should be made to work cooperatively with the farming community to protect and restore streamside buffers. However, when those efforts fail, there should be some mechanisms to require the farming community to protect those streams based on their cumulative impacts to small watersheds (perhaps at the HUC 12 level). The State Water Plan should include developing additional rules on protecting those streams and watersheds. These comments on farming also apply to the Stormwater heading.

Ohio Region Priorities

- AMD remediation and maintenance of existing treatment systems.
- Stormwater management within urban and suburban communities through established BMPs, new urban forestry and backyard tree planting initiatives to reduce runoff, additional initiatives that promote and fund stormwater control retrofits on a micro watershed scale.
- Flexible regulatory oversight and permitting that recognizes restoration initiatives separate and unique from activities that degrade the environment.
- Protection of forested headwater streams, additional programs to improve buffers on farmland.
- Support for local watershed associations and other like-minded nonprofit organizations.
- Farmland preservation tied to water quality protection and enhancement.
- Additional state funding for Ohio River Basin initiatives.

3.



CASSELMAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

215 Tatunka Trail, Somerset, PA 15501

814-443-3237

January 17, 2021
PA Department of Environmental Protection
State Water Plan Section
PO Box 8555
Harrisburg PA 17105-8555

Dear Ohio River Regional Water Committee:

REF: Comments for the State Water Plan and the Ohio Regional Priorities

On behalf of the Casselman River Watershed Association, located in Somerset County, we are deeply concerned about the content of the revised State Water Plan as it pertains to the Ohio River Watershed priorities. We offer the following comments:

1. Possible development of “water districts” – in the Laurel Highlands area there are many older watershed associations who work very closely with local, state and federal agencies and the communities and businesses at large. We are able to write grants, construct and maintain projects worth hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars. Some of our groups have even taken on the role of activists and are not afraid of a legal battle. Creating another entity that would be competition to funding and our already established network could undo all of our hard

work and create division among our communities.

2. Integrated Water Resources Planning is not needed when a watershed already has multiple plans sitting on the shelf such as: AMD assessments, agriculture assessments, PL-566 plans, Coldwater Heritage Plans, DCNR Rivers Conservation Plans, Sedimentation Plans or a county already has a Natural Heritage Inventory Study, a Comprehensive Plan and others. This seems very redundant and a waste of time and money. We suggest, however, that the county Natural Heritage Inventories and Comprehensive Plans be updated and have “teeth” such as fines, incentives and accountability for actions that harm the water resources. We do agree that completing an ACT 167 storm water plan and ACT 537 sewage plan would be beneficial in the rural areas since we are seeing an influx of people moving in from the city.

3. We do agree that climate change be a high priority as there is no doubt that trout streams are both valuable and vulnerable to periods of high and low water. Our cold mountain waters, trout streams, and outdoor recreation that rely on clean water are a major source of economic drivers in the rural areas. A new study completed last year, “Valuing Clean Water in the Loyalhanna, Conemaugh and Youghiogheny Watersheds” showed that ecosystem services are worth \$3.7B to the communities. With climate change affecting not only water quantity but quality, it could have a significant effect on the rural economy.

4. It appears, in reading through the October minutes, that “storm water” may be receiving the highest priority. This could set the stage for funding projects that address those issues which could pit larger cities in the basin against the rural communities. In the rural areas (which make up a larger portion of the Ohio River drainage in Pennsylvania), lack of sewage treatment, lack of riparian buffers along streams, siltation, erosion, lack of potable drinking water, continued abandoned mine drainage with its lack of maintenance and a trust fund for the treatment systems already in place, and the protection and health of our ecosystems should take a higher precedence. When controlling runoff and snow melt from the headwater areas, by identifying groundwater recharge areas, keeping large riparian buffers intact and using green technology on roads, driveways and parking lots, there is a reduced amount of flooding in the towns and cities downstream. Therefore, more focus should be given to the rural areas to control run off and the issues it brings and work your way downstream. Increase the number of USGS gaging stations on tributary streams. This will help to determine how much water is draining before it gets to the larger rivers. By plotting how much water is coming from the rural area, projects can be built to store or divert the extra water and lower the amount a river will receive from that stream.

5. Of primary concern to us are the water withdrawals from Back Creek and Laurel Hill Creek due to increased building pressures on Laurel Ridge, unpredictable weather patterns and public water suppliers. Laurel Hill Creek is a tributary to the Casselman River. The “Valuing Clean Water Study” shows that the population around these two watersheds has increased. Now, with COVID restrictions in place last year and probably this year, hundreds of people from the cities have flocked to the area. Many of these people are now looking to buy or build homes, because they are allowed to work “remotely” and the Donegal interchange on the PA Turnpike allows them to get back to the Pittsburgh area within an hour. The lack of infrastructure for storm water control, sewage and potable drinking water as well as not enough water in certain areas will create issues in the rural townships who are not equipped to handle the influx of people.

Specific to Laurel Hill Creek, during drought situations, private wells have gone dry. Many of our members are paddlers and use the new “water trail” that was established on Laurel Hill Creek downstream of Laurel Hill State Park. This past summer, the stream was in a drought. But due to the structure of what denotes a “county” drought watch or warning, Somerset County was not listed because the northern portion of the county had precipitation while the southern portion of the county did not. The Shaffer Run wells were not obligated to reduce their amount of withdrawals. Two hydrologic reports show that pumping of the Shaffer Run wells reduces the surface flow of the main stem of Laurel Hill Creek. By reducing the surface flow, there is less water available to the ecosystems downstream. Laurel Hill Creek needs to remain on the Critical List so that water quantity studies can be updated and sound, legal solutions can be found and implemented.

6. Our final comment is that there is no mention of gas wells both abandoned and new and injection wells. The “Valuing Clean Water study” from last year shows that there will be a tremendous increase in gas well drilling in the rural headwater streams of the Laurel Highlands areas over the next 5-10 years. This is where the last large holdout of native brook trout are located. Large tracks of forests will be cut thereby reducing the canopy for the migratory birds who use Chestnut, Laurel and Allegheny Ridges as their fly ways and where many endangered song birds nest. Water to “frack” the wells will come from areas that already do not have enough water to sustain aquatic life. The 4-season resorts on Laurel Ridge do not have “contingency” plans if their water should get contaminated or disappear. They are some of the largest employers for Fayette and Somerset counties. We feel that gas well development should be listed as a priority along with the abandoned mine drainage issues.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide written comments.
Sincerely,

Roger Latuch, President

4. Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee

Regional comments for the draft [2022 State Water Plan](#)

By James Moses

My comments are primarily aimed at Water Quality and Water Quantity in the Ohio River region.

Water Quality begins at the source and the source is almost always in the rural areas of the State. More focus on the rural needs and issues will be crucial to water quality as the effects of global warming continue. Issues such as deforestation, agriculture pollution, Abandon Mine Drainage and the funds to maintain existing treatment systems and sewage treatment **need to be high priority goals** of the new Water Plan.

In the rural watersheds of the region, water quantity is a critical component of healthy local watersheds. Water withdrawals and inter basin transfers can destroy vital smaller watersheds. In times of drought and extremely low flow conditions, aquatic species such as trout and threatened hellbenders can be compromised and die. In previous Water Plans the CARP's (Critical Area Resource Plans) in the Potomac and Ohio regions were left unfinished. It's very important that these be updated and completed. Specifically the Laurel Hill Creek CARP that was developed because local level permitting and allocation renewals did not adequately protect the resource. Politics and big money developers have negatively affected decisions on allocations and permitting.

The safeguards outlined in the new State Water Plan will be instrumental in keeping small watersheds healthy and viable.

They are recommending that Laurel Hill Creek be taken off the Critical Water Planning list. I desperately need you to voice your opinions that Laurel Hill Creek remain 'critical' and that a NEW water quantity model be run. DEP has the tools to do this, but did not want to rerun the model and wants Laurel Hill Creek taken off the list. This is unacceptable! Last year, the stream was in a drought again and no safety measures to reduce the amount of water taken from the Shaffer Run wells were implemented

The models forecast that monthly mean temperatures will rise $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ per decade between 2011 and 2040 and 1° a decade between 2040 and 2099. The increase in temperature will significantly impact stream flows with the high stream flows getting higher and the low Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee Meeting – October 27, 2020 Page | 4 stream flows getting lower. Further data collection is needed going forward to measure the complete impact of these temperature changes.

CARP • Back Creek CARP data has been updated and can be scheduled for a public hearing • Laurel Hill Creek CARP - watershed no longer exhibits the potential water use conflicts identified in the original CWPA assessment, issues can be resolved at the local level through permitting and allocation renewals. It is not recommended to move forward.

5. Testimony to the State Water Plan
Lisa Werder Brown
Executive Director of Watersheds of South Pittsburgh
lisa@wospgh.org

I feel that the most effective way for me to talk about my concerns for the future of water resources in the State and especially the Ohio River is to tell the story of just one of my streams - Saw Mill Run. The Saw Mill Run Watershed, located in Pennsylvania's Allegheny County, is approximately 20sq. miles and comprises 12 separate municipalities, as well as 14 neighborhoods of the City of Pittsburgh. The stream itself is approximately 22 miles long and is open (day-lighted) for nearly 17 of those miles, making it one of the largest free flowing streams in the region. With the exception of wooded hillsides, the watershed is densely populated and highly urbanized. The stream is wedged between steep hillsides and a narrow floodplain dominated by a major transportation corridor (Route 51) into the City of Pittsburgh. Route 51,

known regionally as Saw Mill Run Boulevard, follows the Saw Mill Run stream for most of its length; while tributaries of the stream flow along other major roadways in the watershed. The Saw Mill Run Corridor is the key transportation and transit network for more than 40,000 commuters each day.

Like most urban streams, Saw Mill Run is plagued with the issues of frequent flooding, severe erosion, streambed scouring, riparian and habitat degradation, sewage overflows, and nonpoint source pollution; and ultimately severely impaired water quality, all negative impacts of stormwater runoff. Along Saw Mill Run, building structures, parking lots and used car dealerships occupy the floodplain, providing no safe mechanism for flood waters to dissipate. Additionally, the region's heavy rains often exceed even a very permeable soil's ability to infiltrate water, resulting in a deluge of stormwater runoff. Excess runoff is of particular concern in the Saw Mill Run watershed due to the relatively small amount of permeable area increasing the risk of flooding.

For decades, the issues along Saw Mill Run have been the focus of numerous studies. Most of these have focused on transportation issues with an eye for beautification. Reclaiming the adjacent floodplain along Saw Mill Run was never suggested in these transit studies and none of the studies have resulted in any significant change, in fact things have only gotten worse. In the City of Pittsburgh alone, more than 25 used car lots line just 4 miles of the stream. Thus, the highest and best land use in the floodplain has been, and continues to be, increasing impermeable surfaces.

Unfortunately, Saw Mill Run's story is the rule rather than the exception, providing a stark reality for the future of our streams. Once a stream becomes as seriously degraded as Saw Mill Run, it is increasingly difficult to reverse, and political will to improve these streams is almost nonexistent. Healthy and well managed streams are meant to have natural floodplains with wetlands where flood waters have a place to naturally and safely disperse. As evidenced by the numerous degraded streams in Pennsylvania, we need to have an effective strategy to protect our floodplains and address the impact of land use along our streams. It is imperative that the State Water Plan includes policy recommendations to ensure the preservation of riparian areas and floodplain management.

6. TO: Ohio River Watershed Regional Committee

From: John Detisch, Pennsylvania Division President of Izaak Walton League

241 Thompson 2 Road

New Salem PA 15468

cdetisch@atlanticbb.net

724 246 0779

Subject: Testimony Concerning the Ohio River Watershed

Good Afternoon; my name is John Detisch. I am the Pennsylvania Division President of the Izaak Walton League of America. We are a national organization with 40,347 members in 35

states. In Pennsylvania we have 9 chapter four of which are in the Ohio River watershed. We have 1806 members in Pennsylvania.

Our mission is: To conserve, restore, and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today about the Ohio River Watershed – What I do have to say relates not only to the Ohio River and its tributaries but to all the waters of Pennsylvania – groundwater, surface water from lakes, streams and rivers and wetlands that must be viewed as connected from Greene County in the Southwest corner to Wayne County in the North East.

I must admit that I changed my approach once I read your minutes from you last meeting.

I submitted a document. Establish and Mandate Safe Drinking Water Standards for Chemicals and Toxins Insufficiently Addressed by Current State Regulations. I would ask that you take time and read the document. Especially page 7 that provides recommendations. I would like to come back to this report if time allows.

Two section of Pennsylvania law I would like to emphasis and feel are often forgotten and really are the base for my discussion.

Article 27 of the Constitution: Natural Resources and the Public Estate.

“The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.”

(May 18, 1971, P.L.769, J.R.3)

Thank Rep Kury for his initiative to get this passed.

And Act 159 of 1984: “The purpose of the Worker and Community Right to Know Act (1984-159) is to provide employees, community members and emergency response agencies (police, fire, ambulance, etc.) with information on the chemical substances they are exposed to in workplaces and in the environment. This information is available to all citizens living or working in the commonwealth who are not competitors of the employer from whom they are requesting information. “

The water report I submitted for your review looks at a number of issues:

In an effort to make our drinking water safer we are creating new chemical compounds that are in themselves unsafe such as trihalomethanes

We promote the gas industry as a savior to our economy and because of the economic impact we allow them to discharge unknown chemicals into our ground water, our streams and wetlands and therefore our drinking water. That concern is; what are we drinking?

We know that waste from fracking is entering our landfills going to our waste treatment plants. These plants are discharging heavy metals and radiation. –Westmoreland Landfill and the Belle Vernon Sewage Treatment Plant are an example of this problem.

The water standards through reviewed appear at best to be a compromise. Known health risk chemicals do not have a standard limit and many current standards far exceed those standards set by other countries and even other states. These examples are found in the report.

But what does these mean and how does it tie into this committee? As I reviewed the minutes from your October 27, 2020. I would like to add these comments.

Under Ohio Region the Committee’s first “Top Priority is “Interagency water resource planning –can address many of the key issues and priorities, identify water resources needed to promote and facilitate economic development, watershed integrity and recreation benefits.”

What this statement does not address is the health and safety of the citizen of Pennsylvania and it is this issue that I want to continue to address because with our health and safety these other priorities are very fleeting.

You speak of Climate Change and I would like to emphasis the Izaak Walton is very concerned about Climate Change but

We would ask that you not only consider Climate Change but also industrial change and their implications on water supply vulnerability, availability, and reliability. We ask that you considered such issues as increased and new chemicals and their implications on source water quality and aquatic/ ecological health of waterways and the health of our citizens.

In your report you talk about the age of the infrastructure. What is of more concern than the age is the ability to detect and remove harmful chemical and toxics. As you list the “Region’s Uniqueness you did not list and I am asking that you add to the list;

Fracking and the hazardous waste used and produced by this industry.

The increase exposure to TENORM –natural occurring radiation R226, 228 and is a by-product of fracking drill waste.

The leachate from landfills that send heavy metals and radiation to our sewage treatment plants that not because of age but technology, at best, only pass these substances into our streams.

Micro plastics are found in our stream and rivers and yes, in our drinking water We want to thanks Dr Sherri Mason for her work on plastics pollution and in particular research on the Mon River.

And soon, you did not list nurdles from our new Cracker Plants on the Ohio.

Last, PFAS's and other forever chemicals that we find in our fish and our drinking water

I am very grateful to see that this committee is discussing the Ohio River Basin Alliance. The PA Division of Izaak Walton along with Divisions in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois are in discussion to join the Alliance and we hope that through Division cooperation we will get the full support of our national organization. We hope to provide some motivation for Federal funding of the Basin. We are also participating in the early work of the Southwest Pennsylvania Water Network.

In Pennsylvania we, as good stewards, know we have 11 of 71 native mammals extinct. We also know we have 22 endangered and 7 threatened birds and animals, 15 endangered and 28 threatened fish and 6 reptiles and amphibians endangered and 5 that are threatened.

The cause for these losses are varied but pollution and loss of habitat are two of the main reasons.

What does a loss of these creatures mean; lost crops in our fields and gardens, lost revenue in tourism and recreation and possibly a new and deadly virus like the Covid19?

Hopefully you are familiar with the term Zoonotic. A zoonotic disease is an infectious disease caused by an infectious agent such as a bacteria, or virus that jumped from a non-human animal to a human. This happened with SARS, Swine Flu, EBOLA and now COVID19 – these are often triggered by human destruction and exploitation of wildlife habitats.

I have spoken about water. But our watershed is made of so much more. We do need to protect our wildlife and as such would like you to consider and promote the idea of wildlife corridors.

We would also ask that you consider the devastation caused by invasive species. Japanese Knotweed overtaking native plants. The loss of our state tree the Hemlock by the Woolly Adelgid, a tiny insect that originate in Asia. The loss or change of our natural environment will have an effect on our water. It is up to us to determine if it is good or bad.

You spoke of storm water management and flooding. We would like you to consider also poor soil health. We recognize in western Pennsylvania our farms are much smaller than those in the mid-west but the promotion of regenerative farming will help not only water control but also carbon release.

For months we have heard there will be a new “normal”. We have clearly demonstrated that we need a plan - the loss of life, the loss of jobs and businesses are too great to continue without recognizing that something needs to change. We need to accept the fact that we, humans, are part of a biodiverse ecology and as such we have an obligation to help maintain that diversity. We have seen that when you have an encroaching human footprint, through urbanization, road networks, deforestation, extractive industries like logging, mining and fracking you have all of the ingredients for a virus spillover recipe. A theory known as the “ecology of disease” holds that increasing encroachment into biodiverse

ecosystems creates situations where species interact with humans in novel, intimate and ultimately dangerous ways.

We ask that you include in your list of priorities to be forwarded to the State Committee in April the following:

Enforce the Act 159 and ensure that the citizen of Pennsylvania know what is in their water

Use Article 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution as guidance for any decision concerning our natural resource.

Public disclosure of all chemicals used in Pennsylvania and a closing of the Haliburton Loop Hole

Recognizing that Pennsylvania is unique among states because of fracking, once chemicals are identified reassess the drinking water testing and standards to ensure the safety of our residents.

A plan for the proper disposal of fracking waste

Required listing and permitting of all hazardous materials including radiation going into landfills

Requiring Landfills to list all hazardous chemicals, toxins and radiation found in their leachate that are sent to waste treatment plants

Require waste treatment plant to discharge clean – without heavy metal, radiation, plastics and other hazardous materials into our streams and rivers.

Support of the idea of wildlife corridors

Promote the control and hopefully elimination of evasive species.

Promote and support regenerative farming.

Work with Fish and Boat to identify streams that are contaminated with PFAS type chemicals. Ensure that those that recreating in these streams are aware of the hazards and work to identify the sources and finally a plan to remove ALL PFAS from our drinking water source

We recognize that these issues cannot be solved just by legislation and regulation but also with the addition of education, communication and a willingness on the part of industry, government, communities and individuals to correct, improve and maintain a place that we, along with the environment, can thrive.

I want to take this final opportunity to thank you for your time and consideration. I would also like you to know that the Pennsylvania Division of Izaak Walton is not here to complain and

demand but to work with the committee and other like-minded organization of ensure a safe and healthy future

We have the opportunity to do it right – to create a better” normal”. As we restart the economy and go to work we should take a breath and recognize COVID19 is very clearly showing us that the top of the picking order is not us but nature. We have a responsibility to ourselves and all living creatures to do our best to keep the system in balance. The destruction of wildlife habitat, the pollution of air, water and soil invites the next pandemic. There is a link between how we treat our environment-the air, water and soil, and our wellbeing. This link impacts our health. We need to consider the environment today for our future so we do not become an endangered species.

7.



Mid-Atlantic Region 309 3rd St., Suite 1
New Cumberland, PA 17070
www.AmericanRivers.org

January 19, 2021 Mr. Mark Matlock
RA-StateWaterPlan@pa.gov

RE: Comments on PA State Water

Plan Update Dear Mr. Matlock,

Please accept the following comments from American Rivers as part of the PA State Water Plan Update process for which a series of public hearings were recently held. American Rivers is a national non-profit organization focused on protecting and restoring rivers and the clean water they provide. We work on river restoration and clean water supply in multiple regions of Pennsylvania, so thought it best to summarize our comments in one letter.

Across all regions of the state, we urge that the State Water Plan update:

- Encourage and promote integrated water resource management at all levels. This includes coordination and collaboration between state agencies such as PADEP, PADCNR, PA Fish and Boat Commission, PEMA, and PENNVEST for integrated management of stormwater, wastewater, surface water, ground water, wetlands, floodplains and water infrastructure. It also includes fostering local and regional capacity for integrated water resource management at the municipal and multi-municipal level. The 2009 State Water Plan included many excellent policy recommendations for integrated water management that have not been implemented. For this update, the planning process should explore how collaborative engagement can be leveraged to advance advocacy and implementation.
- Encourage and promote natural infrastructure as the first and best approach for

managing water quality and quantity by governments and utilities. This includes protecting and restoring natural infrastructure like forests and floodplains as well as adding green stormwater infrastructure in developed areas to mimic natural hydrology. Promote and incentivize the replacement of obsolete hard, engineered water infrastructure with natural infrastructure that provides ecosystem service benefits and community benefits. Ensure that benefit-cost analyses used in evaluating alternatives considers the value of ecosystem service benefits.

- Encourage and promote equitable water management. This includes ensuring that under- represented communities have access to clean and affordable water, healthy rivers and protection from flooding and sewer overflows. It also includes fostering local community capacity and empowerment for stewardship of water resources and ensuring that marginalized communities have a voice in water management decisions (including the development of this plan update, which has not been well-publicized so far.) Effective engagement on these issues should include proactive outreach to stakeholders, clear communication of public comment objectives, and ample time for community members and organizations to prepare comments.
- Identify and promote the ecosystem service benefits of wetlands and floodplains, and promote land use policy changes that capture those benefits. This will involve not only the State Water Plan but also policy updates to the Municipalities Planning Code. Establishing the nexus between land use decisions and water quality is a critical step in ensuring that wetlands and floodplains provide natural infrastructure benefits that are currently being overlooked.
- Provide additional financial resources to continue remediating AMD impaired streams, with the goal of ultimately eliminating all AMD stream impacts.
- Designate and protect streams that have been proposed for upgraded classification to EV and HQ status, including the existing backlog of streams that have been identified and recommended for upgraded classifications.
- Develop strong riparian buffer standards that are measurably protective of water quality and establish policy that incentivizes retention and expansion of forest cover in headwaters areas to protect water quality as in the Forest to Faucets model.
- Pennsylvania has a robust recreational tourism economy, and much of that centers on water recreation. However, many of the waters used by the public for recreation are not attaining appropriate water quality for human contact. This

should be addressed by appropriate policy and actions.

- Throughout Pennsylvania, successful AMD treatment has resulted in significant water quality rebound in previously-impaired streams. Streams that were only a few decades ago “red and dead” are now supporting robust populations of aquatic species. These waterways should now be identified in the State Water Plan as high priorities for additional investment in aquatic habitat reconnection to restore habitat access for Pennsylvania’s common and imperiled aquatic species.
- Aquatic habitat connectivity efforts such as dam removal and replacement of fish-excluding barriers are critical to restore habitat access for aquatic life. In addition, these actions support climate change resilience, improve water thermal profile and dissolved oxygen, return the impacted waterway to natural flow conditions, and in many cases also provide community benefits such as elimination of obsolete infrastructure, reduced liability, improved public safety, increased recreation access, and reduced localized flood risk. Actions such as dam removal and Aquatic Organism Replacement culverts also allow for the stream to be reconnected to its floodplain, which in turn provides additional water quality, ecological, and community benefits. The State Water Plan should recognize the multiple benefits of rectifying stream barriers and identify policy and funding methods to encourage and expand these practices.

In the Delaware River Watershed, we urge that the State Water Plan update:

- More strongly emphasize the need for stormwater management programs and capacity at the state, local and multi-municipal level, and the implementation of best management practices, particularly those that employ green stormwater infrastructure.
- Take changing climate conditions into consideration in development of the water plan itself, and emphasize the need to take them into account in every aspect of water resource management. This includes using the best available forecasts of future climate conditions to predict things like water use, demand, and infrastructure stressors, and to design things like stormwater BMPs for future conditions.

In the Ohio Basin, we urge that the State Water Plan update:

- Continue Laurel Hill Creek’s designation as a Critical Water Resource in recognition of the water withdrawal pressures in the watershed, its importance in the local tourism economy, its value as a drinking water supply, and robust populations of wild trout.

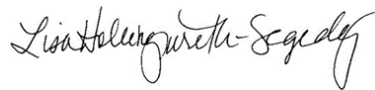
- Address the protection of water quantity and quality throughout the Ohio Basin in Pennsylvania. The Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers and their tributaries enjoy significant water quantity and quality protections via their interstate compacts, but ORSANCO provides no such benefits or protections to rivers and tributaries in the Ohio basin. Tributaries and rivers in the PA section of the Ohio basin provide significant economic benefit to the region and the Commonwealth, support common and iconic species, provide millions of dollars annually to PA's recreational tourism economy, and are the source of drinking water for about 30% of the Commonwealth's population. The State Water Plan should address policy changes that will result in the rivers and tributaries that feed the Ohio River receiving water quality and flow protections that are commensurate to the Susquehanna and Delaware Rivers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the State Water Plan update process. As you can see, our comments at this point are at a very high level. We hope to provide additional and more detailed input to the plan update as the process progresses.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Adkins, Director
Clean Water Supply



Lisa Hollingsworth-Segedy, Director
River Restoration

8.



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Space Research Coordination Center
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412-624-8882

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January 19, 2021

State Water Plan Section

P.O. Box 8555

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8555

Re: Comments on the Commonwealth of PA State Water Plan

To State Water Plan Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the State Water Plan. On behalf of the Pittsburgh Collaboratory for Water Research, Education and Outreach, the Collaboratory leadership team provides the following input on the proposed revisions to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's State Water Plan. Our comments pertain to challenges faced in the upper Ohio River basin.

The Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory, based at the University of Pittsburgh, aims to improve the quality of the region's water resources by inspiring collaborations, communicating science, formulating well-informed solutions, and ultimately improving ecological and human health in the Upper Ohio River region. We are making progress towards these goals by developing academic-community partnerships, catalyzing water research through federal grantmaking (\$3.23 M active grants, \$1.5 M in pending grants), and training the next generation of water scientists, engineers, and policy-makers. The Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory is fostering the development of a broad network of water stakeholders, including 100 partner organizations, 350 individuals and 25 University of Pittsburgh faculty. In this context, the leadership team of the Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory, submits the following comments on the State Water Plan for your consideration.

To address our goal of building community consensus around key water challenges facing the western Pennsylvania region, the Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory held a series of community meetings to build consensus on critical knowledge gaps that are impeding progress on issues of water quality, stormwater management, and flooding. These meetings brought together over 114 people and through an iterative process towards consensus, identified key knowledge gaps and paths forward to advance understanding and management of each challenge. The results of these meetings were documented and synthesized in a series of "Community Consensus Reports". We hereby present for your consideration several key results identified during these meetings on the topic "water quality", "flooding", and "stormwater management and green infrastructure".

Community Consensus on Water Quality Knowledge Gaps



Our clean water future can be found where
science and community meet.

www.water.pitt.edu

- The Commonwealth’s focus on water quality in the Chesapeake Bay, Delaware River, and GreatLakes watersheds has left almost the entirety of western Pennsylvania deficient in water management resources, particularly investment in monitoring networks. The Ohio River watershed comprises 38% of the land mass in the U.S. – and Ohio River had extensive toxic, harmful algal blooms in both 2015 and 2019. Harmful algal blooms on rivers are relatively rare and therefore are critical indicators that the Ohio River and its tributaries have fundamental water quality challenges. However, a primary limitation to advance solutions to resolve these challenges is the limited monitoring network, particularly in the Allegheny and Monongahela River systems. As evident by the harmful algal bloom in 2015 that extended hundreds of miles, water quality impairments can cascade through regional economies and disrupt human and ecological health. We recommend that additional monitoring resources are dedicated to monitor water quality in the Allegheny and Monongahela River networks with regards to:
 - harmful algal bloom toxins
 - emerging contaminants (i.e., Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), fracking waste)
 - legacy contaminants (e.g., acid mine drainage)
 - sediment loads
 - excess nutrients

To illustrate our point, we queried the Water Quality Portal (<https://www.waterqualitydata.us>, accessed January 18, 2021) for STORET (STORAge and RETrieval) water quality monitoring sites in PA that contained at least 60 data points. The results of this query indicated that the vast majority (77%) of monitoring sites in PA are in the Chesapeake or Delaware Basins (813 total). In stark contrast, only 22% of water quality monitoring sites are located in the upper Ohio or Great Lakes basin (234 total). This limited monitoring data creates uncertainty about the extent and magnitude of “emerging” and “legacy” contaminants and therefore diminishes the ability to effectively sustain regional water quality.

- In western PA, comprehensive assessment of water quality is an even greater challenge due to the concentration of water quality monitoring on major rivers. This precludes accurate assessments of the water quality in our region’s abundant tributary streams. [See the information in the community consensus report <http://d-scholarship.pitt.edu/37711/>]. Monitoring resources for these smaller streams are fundamental to clarify the status and trends in regional water quality, and to help assess sources of impairment to rivers.

Consensus Paths Forward to Address Water Quality Challenges

- We recommend more equity in the distribution of state resources to water quality monitoring efforts. In particular, we strongly recommend expanding the existing water quality monitoring network to include additional monitoring sites in the Allegheny and Monongahela River and tributary networks.

Community Consensus on Flooding Knowledge Gaps

As the region continues to cover watersheds with impervious surfaces and precipitation shifts towards more intense storms, southwest Pennsylvania seems to be experiencing increased flash flooding. Despite the widely acknowledged prevalence of flooding in southwestern PA, the following critical knowledge gaps were identified.

- Quantification and characterization of climatic and land use changes is limited by the lack of long-term hydrological data on small, urbanized streams.
- Flooding costs to humans are routinely underestimated due to challenges in valuation (e.g.,

what is the “cost” of physical and mental stress from repeated flooding) and in reporting (e.g., residents may not report damages to insurance companies, especially by those without flood insurance). Both can greatly underestimate the “true” costs of flooding and thus hinder effective decision-making regarding allocation of resources for flood risk mitigation and further perpetuate existing inequities.

- Current flood control efforts generally rely on outdated flood maps that do not reflect modern land use and precipitation patterns.
- Small watersheds (those less than one square mile) are not mapped as part of national flood risk mapping efforts. Once these small watersheds are urbanized, this gap in flood risk assessment becomes more problematic.
- Aging and potentially under-designed infrastructure (e.g., culverts, drains) can contribute to heightened flood risk and likely are good targets for comprehensive flood risk mitigation.
- It is difficult for people to comprehend and evaluate current risk format and jargon (e.g., 100-year floodplain). This nomenclature is problematic, particularly when changing development and precipitation patterns can cause these risk zones to expand. Community comprehension of flood risk is a key knowledge gap that hinders decision-making on how to minimize flooding, both at the residential and municipal scales.

*Consensus Paths Forward to Address **Flooding** Challenges*

- Assess the full, “true” cost of flooding, including mental stress, health impacts, and property devaluation to allow for more effective decision making. This is clearly a task for state-level governmental agencies given the extensive data and the clear risks to individual privacy.
- The state water plan should develop and implement tools for integrated, watershed-based planning across the complicated jurisdictional landscape created by southwest Pennsylvania’s fractured governance. These tools may include regional or multi-municipality stormwater utility districts, but likely should include a wider menu of potential tools.
- Flood risk assessment tools need to be updated. This should include increased observation and monitoring of flow in tributaries (particularly smaller urban tributaries), incorporation of the potential for clogged drainage infrastructure in flood risk assessment, and better tools for communicating risk through visualization and translation for communities, policy-makers, and residents.

*Community Consensus on **Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure** Knowledge Gaps*

Although green infrastructure is proposed as a potential solution for Pittsburgh’s regional stormwater challenges, critical knowledge gaps exist regarding implementation and evaluation of stormwater management approaches.

- Green infrastructure is too often evaluated using a single criterion (e.g., \$/gallon reduced runoff). Rather than single criterion, a more holistic assessment is needed that accounts for potential improvements to water quality, open space benefits, and property values.
- We need mechanisms to ensure that the benefits and burdens of green infrastructure and other stormwater improvements are equitably distributed to communities across the socioeconomic and demographic spectrum.

- A comprehensive assessment of green infrastructure technology is further complicated by the fractured governance in the region, as it is difficult to assess changes at the basin scale due to divisions in governance that split watersheds across jurisdictions.

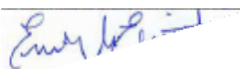
Consensus Paths Forward to Address Stormwater Management and Green Infrastructure Challenges:

The regional problems with stormwater management arise from challenges that are difficult to resolve at the local-scale. State-level initiatives can provide much needed impetus to drive the necessary change. In particular, state water plan mechanisms to drive positive change should include:

- Mechanisms for collection of wide varieties of performance data during evaluation of green infrastructure as a water management tool, in particular data on the local human/economic/equity impacts of green infrastructure.
- Evaluation of green infrastructure across the wide variety of physiographic and hydrogeologic settings in the Commonwealth. For example, best management practices based on infiltration strategies developed in the Eastern US Piedmont do not always function as expected when implemented in the Appalachian Plateau region of western PA. Statewide guidance should reflect this variability in hydrogeological settings.
- Green infrastructure impacts should be evaluated at a watershed scale. Current approaches often focus on single installations, and therefore cannot capture the interactions among these technologies and the potential for synergies in meeting water management goals. This necessitates mechanisms to encourage municipalities to work across jurisdiction in the management of water, and in particular, the strategic implementation of green infrastructure.

We will be happy to provide more details and/or further discuss these points. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Emily Elliott
Professor
Department of
Geology &
Environmental
Science



Daniel Bain
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Professor
Department of
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Science
Associate Director,




Eitan Shelef
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Megan Guy
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9.



PIPER FORESTRY SERVICES

156 STONERIDGE STREET
MINERAL POINT, PA 15942

PHONE: 814/322-4167

Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee Mr. Ronald Rohall, Chair

January 18, 2021

RE: State Water Plan
PA Ohio River Basin priorities

Comments

Dear Ron,

I am not surprised to see that you are chairing this committee. Your commitment to sound water resource management is beyond reproach for the many years of service you have dedicated to this endeavor. I hope these few comments I have find the committee, you and your family well in these troubled times we all are experiencing.

Water Plan priorities are the issues I will address. First, any Act 167 Stormwater plans must be done by watershed, not by county. Water knows no political boundaries and only wants to flow downhill. Downstream municipalities need stormwater management help before the water gets to them. I managed three of them for the upper Conemaugh River Basin. It takes a lot of county commissioners' and municipal cooperation but it can be successfully done.

Secondly, please take consideration of making abandoned mine drainage (AMD) remediation a priority. I have seen how these polluted streams impact the landscape and those residents living nearby. Keep the upper watershed active treatment projects a priority. We also need trust funds to maintain what gets built. My age has also allowed me to experience the satisfaction and joy of watching local residents consistently use remediated AMD streams like the South Branch of Blacklick Creek that flow through Nanty-Glo Borough, not to mention the downstream benefits.

Lastly, I want to mention a recently completed document named "Ecosystem Services-Valuing Clean Water for the Loyalhanna -Conemaugh and Youghiogheny Watersheds of the Laurel Highlands Region" (2019). I was fortunate to be a part of the steering committee that managed this study. It demonstrated that those 6,000 stream miles \$3.7 billion, yes billion, annually in ecosystem service benefits provided by nature. What are ecosystem services? It is explained on page 25 of the report.

Your whole committee should read this one if they haven't yet. Eco services has to do with the benefit that people receive from nature. I know that only 1.9 million acres and the

550,000 residents that this study covers is only a small portion of the Ohio basin, but it is headwaters, and there is a downstream benefit to the rest of the watershed. There are still 878 miles of impaired streams here too. We need them cleaned up and we need trust funds to keep the treatment systems maintained after being built.

Enough for now. Please consider my comments. For those that don't know me as well as you, I have enclosed my bio for reference. I sincerely hope Theresa and you stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Piper, Jr.

Robert W. Piper, Jr.

SAF Certified Forester # 2907

Upper/Middle Susquehanna (1)

Mr. Detisch adapted the testimony given to the Ohio to be presented to the Upper/Middle but did not provide a different written version:

TO: Ohio River Watershed Regional Committee

From: John Detisch, Pennsylvania Division President of Izaak Walton League

241 Thompson 2 Road

New Salem PA 15468

cdetisch@atlanticbb.net

724 246 0779

Subject: Testimony Concerning the Ohio River Watershed

Good Afternoon; my name is John Detisch. I am the Pennsylvania Division President of the Izaak Walton League of America. We are a national organization with 40,347 members in 35 states. In Pennsylvania we have 9 chapter four of which are in the Ohio River watershed. We have 1806 members in Pennsylvania.

Our mission is: To conserve, restore, and promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of our natural resources, including soil, air, woods, waters, and wildlife.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today about the Ohio River Watershed – What I do have to say relates not only to the Ohio River and its tributaries but to all the waters of Pennsylvania – groundwater, surface water from lakes, streams and rivers and wetlands that must be viewed as connected from Greene County in the Southwest corner to Wayne County in the North East.

I must admit that I changed my approach once I read your minutes from you last meeting.

I submitted a document. Establish and Mandate Safe Drinking Water Standards for Chemicals and Toxins Insufficiently Addressed by Current State Regulations. I would ask that you take time and read the document. Especially page 7 that provides recommendations. I would like to come back to this report if time allows.

Two section of Pennsylvania law I would like to emphasis and feel are often forgotten and really are the base for my discussion.

Article 27 of the Constitution: Natural Resources and the Public Estate.

“The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.”

(May 18, 1971, P.L.769, J.R.3)

Thank Rep Kury for his initiative to get this passed.

And Act 159 of 1984: “The purpose of the Worker and Community Right to Know Act (1984-159) is to provide employees, community members and emergency response agencies (police, fire, ambulance, etc.) with information on the chemical substances they are exposed to in workplaces and in the environment. This information is available to all citizens living or working in the commonwealth who are not competitors of the employer from whom they are requesting information. “

The water report I submitted for your review looks at a number of issues:

In an effort to make our drinking water safer we are creating new chemical compounds that are in themselves unsafe such as trihalomethanes

We promote the gas industry as a savior to our economy and because of the economic impact we allow them to discharge unknown chemicals into our ground water, our streams and wetlands and therefore our drinking water. That concern is; what are we drinking?

We know that waste from fracking is entering our landfills going to our waste treatment plants. These plants are discharging heavy metals and radiation. –Westmoreland Landfill and the Belle Vernon Sewage Treatment Plant are an example of this problem.

The water standards through reviewed appear at best to be a compromise. Known health risk chemicals do not have a standard limit and many current standards far exceed those standards set by other countries and even other states. These examples are found in the report.

But what does these mean and how does it tie into this committee? As I reviewed the minutes from your October 27, 2020. I would like to add these comments.

Under Ohio Region the Committee's first "Top Priority is "Interagency water resource planning –can address many of the key issues and priorities, identify water resources needed to promote and facilitate economic development, watershed integrity and recreation benefits."

What this statement does not address is the health and safety of the citizen of Pennsylvania and it is this issue that I want to continue to address because with our health and safety these other priorities are very fleeting.

You speak of Climate Change and I would like to emphasis the Izaak Walton is very concerned about Climate Change but

We would ask that you not only consider Climate Change but also industrial change and their implications on water supply vulnerability, availability, and reliability. We ask that you considered such issues as increased and new chemicals and their implications on source water quality and aquatic/ ecological health of waterways and the health of our citizens.

In your report you talk about the age of the infrastructure. What is of more concern than the age is the ability to detect and remove harmful chemical and toxics. As you list the "Region's Uniqueness you did not list and I am asking that you add to the list;

Fracking and the hazardous waste used and produced by this industry.

The increase exposure to TENORM –natural occurring radiation R226, 228 and is a by-product of fracking drill waste.

The leachate from landfills that send heavy metals and radiation to our sewage treatment plants that not because of age but technology, at best, only pass these substances into our streams.

Micro plastics are found in our stream and rivers and yes, in our drinking water We want to thanks Dr Sherri Mason for her work on plastics pollution and in particular research on the Mon River.

And soon, you did not list nurdles from our new Cracker Plants on the Ohio.

Last, PFAS's and other forever chemicals that we find in our fish and our drinking water

I am very grateful to see that this committee is discussing the Ohio River Basin Alliance. The PA Division of Izaak Walton along with Divisions in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois are in discussion to join the Alliance and we hope that through Division cooperation we will get the full support of our national organization. We hope to provide some motivation for Federal funding of the Basin. We are also participating in the early work of the Southwest Pennsylvania Water Network.

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What does a loss of these creatures mean; lost crops in our fields and gardens, lost revenue in tourism and recreation and possibly a new and deadly virus like the Covid19?

Hopefully you are familiar with the term Zoonotic. A zoonotic disease is an infectious disease caused by an infectious agent such as a bacteria, or virus that jumped from a non-human animal to a human. This happened with SARS, Swine Flu, EBOLA and now COVID19 – these are often triggered by human destruction and exploitation of wildlife habitats.

I have spoken about water. But our watershed is made of so much more. We do need to protect our wildlife and as such would like you to consider and promote the idea of wildlife corridors.

We would also ask that you consider the devastation caused by invasive species. Japanese Knotweed overtaking native plants. The loss of our state tree the Hemlock by the Woolly Adelgid, a tiny insect that originate in Asia. The loss or change of our natural environment will have an effect on our water. It is up to us to determine if it is good or bad.

You spoke of storm water management and flooding. We would like you to consider also poor soil health. We recognize in western Pennsylvania our farms are much smaller than those in the mid-west but the promotion of regenerative farming will help not only water control but also carbon release.

For months we have heard there will be a new “normal”. We have clearly demonstrated that we need a plan - the loss of life, the loss of jobs and businesses are too great to continue without recognizing that something needs to change. We need to accept the fact that we, humans, are part of a biodiverse ecology and as such we have an obligation to help maintain that diversity. We have seen that when you have an encroaching human footprint, through urbanization, road networks, deforestation, extractive industries like logging, mining and fracking you have all of the ingredients for a virus spillover recipe. A theory known as the “ecology of disease” holds that increasing encroachment into biodiverse ecosystems creates situations where species interact with humans in novel, intimate and ultimately dangerous ways.

We ask that you include in your list of priorities to be forwarded to the State Committee in April the following:

Enforce the Act 159 and ensure that the citizen of Pennsylvania know what is in their water

Use Article 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution as guidance for any decision concerning our natural resource.

Public disclosure of all chemicals used in Pennsylvania and a closing of the Haliburton Loop Hole

Recognizing that Pennsylvania is unique among states because of fracking, once chemicals are identified reassess the drinking water testing and standards to ensure the safety of our residents.

A plan for the proper disposal of fracking waste

- Required listing and permitting of all hazardous materials including radiation going into landfills

- Requiring Landfills to list all hazardous chemicals, toxins and radiation found in their leachate that are sent to waste treatment plants

Require waste treatment plant to discharge clean – without heavy metal, radiation, plastics and other hazardous materials into our streams and rivers.

Support of the idea of wildlife corridors

Promote the control and hopefully elimination of evasive species.

Promote and support regenerative farming.

Work with Fish and Boat to identify streams that are contaminated with PFAS type chemicals. Ensure that those that recreating in these streams are aware of the hazards and work to identify the sources and finally a plan to remove ALL PFAS from our drinking water source

We recognize that these issues cannot be solved just by legislation and regulation but also with the addition of education, communication and a willingness on the part of industry, government, communities and individuals to correct, improve and maintain a place that we, along with the environment, can thrive.

I want to take this final opportunity to thank you for your time and consideration. I would also like you to know that the Pennsylvania Division of Izaak Walton is not here to complain and demand but to work with the committee and other like-minded organization of ensure a safe and healthy future

We have the opportunity to do it right – to create a better” normal”. As we restart the economy and go to work we should take a breath and recognize COVID19 is very clearly showing us that the top of the picking order is not us but nature. We have a responsibility to ourselves and all living creatures to do our best to keep the system in balance. The destruction of wildlife habitat, the pollution of air, water and soil invites the next pandemic. There is a link between how we treat our environment-the air, water and soil, and our wellbeing. This link impacts our health. We need to consider the environment today for our future so we do not become an endangered species.

COMMONWEALTH OF
PENNSYLVANIA STATE WATER

PLAN

WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL PUBLIC
MEETING

* * * * *

IN RE: DELAWARE WATER RESOURCES
REGIONAL

PUBLIC HEARING

* * * * *

BEFORE: Mark Matlock, Chair
Kristina Peacock-Jones, Member
James Horton, Member
Michael Hill, Member

HEARING: Wednesday, January 6, 2021
9:01 a.m.

LOCATION: Video Conference

Reporter: Shannon C. Fortsch

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OPENING REMARKS

By Chair Matlock

4 - 11

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Number Description

NONE OFFERED

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIR MARK MATLOCK: This session is being recorded for training and recordkeeping purposes. By participating in this session you are consenting to the recording, retention and use of this session. At any time if you have a question or comment feel free to place that in the chat box and we'll respond to you as soon as possible. If you would like to ask your question or comment verbally please note that by doing so you are consenting to the recording, retention and use of your statements recorded as part of this session.

Good morning. I'd like to welcome you to the State Water Plan, Delaware Water Resources Regional Committee public hearing to gather input from interested persons on water resources planning issues related to preparation of the regional component in the State Water Plan.

Today is January 6, 2021. And my name is Mark Matlock. I am the Environmental Group Manager for the Department of Environmental Protection, State Water Plan Section. I am facilitating this hearing on behalf of the State Water Plan Resources Committee. Assisting me today

1 is Kristina Peacock-Jones, Mike Hill and James
2 Horton.

3 I officially call this hearing to
4 order at 9:01 a.m. This public hearing is being
5 recorded in its entirety. Additionally a
6 stenographer will be transcribing the hearing.

7 The purpose of this hearing is to
8 formally accept testimony on water resources
9 planning issues related to preparation of the
10 regional components of the State Water Plan.

11 Each of Pennsylvania's major drainage
12 basins has an array of individual characteristics
13 that distinguish it from other regions of the state.
14 These include diverse geographic and geologic
15 features, as well as major differences in historical
16 settlement, economic development and land use
17 patterns. To reflect these variations six regional
18 Water Resource Committees were created by the Water
19 Resources Planning Act to ensure that individual
20 regional priorities were highlighted in the plan.
21 The priorities and actions of the committees
22 influence not only local streams and rivers but also
23 nationally prominent water bodies such as the
24 Chesapeake Bay, the Delaware Bay, the Gulf of Mexico
25 and the Great Lakes system.

1 The committee members represent a wide
2 range of interests in their regions; business and
3 industry, agricultural, local government and the
4 environment. While many water resources planning
5 and priorities are shared statewide each committee
6 has identified additional concerns that are specific
7 to its area. This current update will include
8 development of recommendations for revisions to
9 regional plans as well as amend and update the State
10 Water Plan. The top water resources management
11 priorities along with plan provisions to implement
12 applicable water resources, related strategies
13 outlined in the Governor's 2018 Pennsylvania Climate
14 Action Plan are the main focus of the Regional
15 Committees.

16 This concludes the summary of the
17 regional component of the State Water Plan. If you
18 would like additional information on the State Water
19 Plan please email us at RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov or
20 you can visit DEP's webpage and search State Water
21 Plan.

22 In order to give everyone an equal
23 opportunity to comment on this component I would
24 like to establish the following ground rules. James
25 is going to provide some of this information in the

1 chat box, so you do not need to write everything
2 down.

3 I will call upon the witnesses who
4 have signed up to testify at this hearing. All who
5 signed up were assigned a number indicating the
6 order in which witnesses will be called to speak.

7 Testimony is limited to five minutes
8 for each witness and I will have a timer on the
9 screen. Please note that written and spoken
10 testimony both carry the same weight. If you should
11 run out of time for your spoken testimony we will
12 read the rest of your comments from your written
13 testimony. As advised in registration
14 correspondence, please provide a copy of your
15 written testimony to RA-staterwaterplan@pa.gov. Your
16 email must note – note that you are submitting
17 testimony for the State Water Plan, Delaware Water
18 Resources Regional Committee public hearing along
19 with the following information, first and last name,
20 mailing address, email address and if you're –
21 you're commenting on behalf of an organization, that
22 is optional.

23 Testimony is not required to be five
24 minutes long. If others who provide testimony
25 before you are making similar statements to yours

1 you are free to shorten or summarize your verbal
2 testimony at this time and still provide your full
3 testimony by email. This will allow us to hear from
4 more commenters at this hearing.

5 Through the sign up process
6 prospective commenters were requested to designate
7 one witness to present testimony on behalf of an
8 organization.

9 Please state your name, address, city
10 and state – are sufficient and your affiliation, if
11 you have one for the record prior to presenting your
12 testimony. The committee would appreciate your help
13 by spelling out your name and terms that may not be
14 generally familiar so that the transcript can be as
15 accurate as possible.

16 Because the purpose of this hearing is
17 to receive comments for the committee, committee
18 members or DEP staff cannot address questions about
19 the regional components of the State Water Plan
20 during the duration of the hearing.

21 In addition to or in place of verbal
22 testimony at today's hearing interested persons may
23 also submit written comments on this proposal.
24 Again written and verbal comments hold the same
25 weight when considered in the State Water Plan

1 process. All testimony and written comments
2 provided become part of the official public record.

3 All comments must be received by the
4 committee on or before January 20th, 2021. There
5 are a few different ways to submit written comments
6 that are separate from testimony. Comments may be
7 submitted by email to RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov. A
8 subject heading of Delaware State Water Plan
9 Regional Committee and a return name and address
10 must be included in each email. Comments may also
11 be sent through the U.S. Postal Mail addressed to
12 the State Water Plan Section at P.O. Box 8555,
13 Harrisburg, PA, 17105-8555.

14 All testimony received at this hearing
15 as well as written comments received by January
16 20th, 2021 will be considered by the committee.

17 At this time I would like to call on
18 our commenters for testifying. We did not have
19 anyone register for this morning's session. If
20 there's anyone here today that would like to give
21 testimony we would like to give you the opportunity
22 to provide testimony to us.

23 I would open the floor to anyone that
24 would like to present testimony.

25 I'm not hearing from anyone liking to

1 present testimony. I'm going to set a 15 minute
2 clock on the screen. I think this will let the
3 hearing open for 15 minutes to see if anyone else
4 comes in or would like to present testimony.

5 At the end of 15 minutes I will ask
6 again and then we will adjourn the hearing.

7

8 (WHEREUPON, A SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN.)

9

10 CHAIR: No one has recently joined.

11 The hearing has started. We are accepting testimony
12 at this time.

13 With nobody registering for testimony
14 I have opened the floor up for testimony. The timer
15 on the screen is – we don't receive any testimony
16 within 15 minutes we're going to conclude the
17 hearing. So if you would like to provide testimony
18 please let us know.

19

20 (WHEREUPON, A SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN.)

21

22 CHAIR: Okay.

23 At this time we've let the floor open
24 for 15 minutes to see if anyone who has joined or
25 gave people the opportunity to join the meeting that

1 would like to provide testimony.

2 I'll ask one last time, is there
3 anyone here today that was unable to register and
4 would like to provide testimony?

5 Okay.

6 I would like to thank everyone here
7 today for your patience and taking the time to come
8 to our meeting.

9 With no other commenters and no one to
10 present testimony, on behalf of the committee I
11 hereby adjourn this hearing at 9:23 a.m. At this
12 time I am going to stop the recording.

13 * * * * *

14 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 9:23 A.M.

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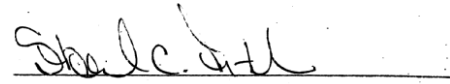
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I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was reported by me on 01/06/2021 and that I, Shannon C. Fortsch, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding. This notarial act involved the use of communication technology.

Dated the 28th day of January, 2021



Court Reporter

Shannon C. Fortsch

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE WATER PLAN
WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL PUBLIC MEETING

* * * * *

IN RE: GREAT LAKES WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL

PUBLIC HEARING

* * * * *BEFORE:

Mark Matlock, Chair

Kristina Peacock-Jones, MemberJames

Horton, Member

Michael Hill, Member HEARING:

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

2:01 p.m.

LOCATION: Video Conference

Reporter: Shannon C. Fortsch

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OPENING REMARKS

By Chair Mark Matlock

4 - 11

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Number Description

NONE OFFERED

1 PROCEEDINGS

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3 CHAIR MARK MATLOCK: Hello. Before we
4 get started today I would like to read a legal
5 statement about the recording.

6 This session is being recorded for
7 training and recordkeeping purposes. By
8 participating in this session you are consenting to
9 the recording, retention and use of this session.

10 At any time if you have a question or comment feel
11 free to place that in the chat box and we will
12 respond to you as soon as possible. If you would
13 like to ask your question or to comment verbally
14 please note that by doing so you are consenting to
15 the recording, retention and use of your statements
16 recorded as part of this session.

17 Good afternoon. I would like to
18 welcome you to today's January 6, 2021 State Water
19 Plan Great Lakes Water Resources Regional Committee
20 public hearing, to gather input from interested
21 persons on water resources planning issues related
22 to preparation of the regional component of the
23 State Water Plan.

24 My name is Mark Matlock. I am the
25 Environmental Group Manager for the Department of

1 Environmental Protection, State Water Plan Section.
2 I am facilitating this hearing on behalf of the
3 State Water Plan, Water Resources Regional
4 Committee. Assisting me today is Kristina Peacock-
5 Jones, Mike Hill and James Horton.

6 I officially call this hearing to
7 order at 2:01 p.m. This public hearing will be – is
8 being recorded in its entirety. Additionally a
9 stenographer will be transcribing the hearing.

10 The purpose of this hearing is to
11 formally accept testimony on water resource planning
12 issues related to preparation of the regional
13 component of the State Water Plan.

14 Each of Pennsylvania's major drainage
15 basins has an array of individual characteristics
16 that distinguish it from other regions of the state.
17 These include diverse geographic and geologic
18 features, as well as major differences in historical
19 settlement, economic development and land use
20 patterns. To reflect these variations six Regional
21 Water Resources Committees were created by the Water
22 Resources Planning Act to ensure that individual
23 regional priorities were highlighted in the plan.
24 The priorities and actions of the committees
25 influence not only local streams and rivers but also

1 nationally prominent water bodies such as the
2 Chesapeake Bay, the Delaware Bay, the Gulf of Mexico
3 and the Great Lakes System.

4 The committee members represent a wide
5 range of interests in their region; business and
6 industry, agricultural, local government and the
7 environment.

8 While many water resources planning
9 priorities are shared statewide each committee has
10 identified additional concerns that are specific to
11 its area. This current update will include
12 development of recommendations for revision to
13 regional plans, as well as amend the update to the
14 State Water Plan. The top water resources
15 priorities, along with plan provisions to implement
16 applicable water resources related strategies
17 outlined in the Governor's 2018 Pennsylvania Climate
18 Action Plan are the main focus of the Regional
19 Committee.

20 This concludes the summary of the
21 regional component of the State Water Plan. If you
22 would like additional information on the State Water
23 Plan please email us at RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov or
24 you can visit DEP's webpage and search State Water
25 Plan.

1 In order to give everyone an equal
2 opportunity to comment on this component I would
3 like to establish the following ground rules. James
4 is going to provide some of this information in the
5 chat box so you do not need to write everything
6 down.

7 I will call upon the witnesses who
8 have signed up to testify at this hearing. All who
9 signed up were assigned a number indicating the
10 order in which witnesses will be called to speak.

11 Testimony is limited to five minutes
12 for each witness and I will have a timer on the
13 screen. Please note that written and spoken
14 testimony both carry the same weight. If you should
15 run out of time for your spoken testimony we will
16 read the rest of your comments from your written
17 testimony. As advised in registration
18 correspondence, please provide a copy of your
19 written testimony to RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov. Your
20 email must note that you are submitting testimony
21 for State Water Plan, Great Lakes Water Resources
22 Regional Committee public hearing along with the
23 following information, first and last name, mailing
24 address, email address and if you are commenting on
25 behalf of an organization. That would be optional.

1 proposal. Again written and verbal comments hold
2 the same weight when considered in the finalization
3 of this update. All testimony and written comments
4 provided become a part of the official public
5 record. All comments must be received by the
6 committee on or before January 20, 2021.

7 There are a few different ways to
8 submit written comments and this is separate from
9 testimony. Comments may be submitted by email to
10 RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov. A subject heading of the
11 Great Lakes Water Resources Regional Committee and a
12 return name and address must be included in each
13 email. Comments may also be sent through U.S.
14 postal mail addressed to the State Water Plan
15 Section, P.O. Box 8555, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania,
16 17105-8555.

17 All testimony received at this
18 hearing, as well as written comments received by
19 January 20, 2021 will be considered by the
20 committee.

21 At this time I would call registered
22 commenters, but we have not had anyone register for
23 this hearing today. So at this time I'd like to
24 open the floor to anyone who would like to present
25 testimony that did not have a chance to preregister.

1 If you would like to provide testimony now please
2 let me know.

3 With nobody speaking to provide
4 testimony at this time I'm going to set a 15 minute
5 time in case there are some people who are trying to
6 get into the meeting and did not arrive yet and
7 would still like to provide testimony.

8 I will begin this timer. And after
9 the 15 minutes is up I will ask everyone once again
10 if anyone would like to provide testimony. And
11 after that we will adjourn the meeting.

12 At this time I'm going to start the 15
13 minute timer. Thank you.

14 ---

15 (WHEREUPON, A SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN.)

16 ---

17 CHAIR: Okay.

18 At this time I'd like to ask if
19 there's anyone here today that wasn't able to
20 register that would like to provide testimony.

21 Okay.

22 We're not hearing anyone wishing to
23 provide testimony. I'd like to thank everyone here
24 for your patience and taking time to join us at
25 today's meeting.

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With no other commenters present, on
behalf of the committee I hereby adjourn this
hearing at 2:23 p.m. Thank you.

* * * * *

HEARING CONCLUDED AT 2:23 P.M.

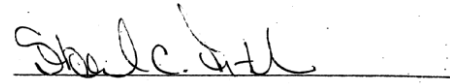
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I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was reported by me on 01/06/2021 and that I, Shannon C. Fortsch, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding. This notarial act involved the use of communication technology.

Dated the 28th day of January, 2021



Court Reporter

Shannon C. Fortsch

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE WATER PLAN
WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL PUBLIC MEETING

* * * * *

IN RE: LOWER SUSUQEHANNA WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL

PUBLIC HEARING

* * * * * *BEFORE:

Mark Matlock, Chair

Kristina Peacock-Jones, Member
James Horton,
Member

Michael Hill, Member HEARING:

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

10:01 a.m.

LOCATION: Video Conference WITNESSES: Jeremy
Rowland

Reporter: Shannon C. Fortsch

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1 PROCEEDINGS

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CHAIR MARK MATLOCK: Hello. Before we get started I would like to read off message about the recording.

This session is being recorded for training and recordkeeping purposes. By participating in the session you are consenting to the recording, retention and use of the session. At any time if you have a question or comment feel free to place that in the chat box and we will respond to you as soon as possible. If you would like to ask your question to – or comment verbally, please note that by doing so you are consenting to the recording, retention and use of your statements recorded as part of this session.

Today is January 6, 2021. This is the State Water Plan, Water Resources Lower Susquehanna Regional Committee public hearing. The hearing is for water plan issues relating to preparation for regional component of the State Water Plan.

Good morning. I'd like to welcome you to the Lower Susquehanna State Water Plan Water Resources Regional Committee public hearing to gather input from public – interested persons on

1 water resources planning issues related to
2 preparation of the Regional Component of the State
3 Water Plan.

4 My name is Mark Matlock. I am the
5 Environmental Group Manager for the Department of
6 Environmental Protection, State Water Plan Section.
7 I am facilitating this hearing on behalf of the
8 State Water Plan, Water Resources Regional
9 Committee. Assisting me today is Kristina Peacock-
10 Jones, Mike Hill and James Horton.

11 I officially call this hearing to
12 order at 10:01 a.m. This public hearing is being
13 recording in its entirety. Additionally a
14 stenographer will be transcribing the hearing.

15 The purpose of this hearing is to
16 formally accept testimony of the water resources
17 planning issues related to preparation of the
18 regional component of the State Water Plan.

19 Each of Pennsylvania's major drainage
20 basins has an array of individual characteristics
21 that distinguish it from other regions of the state.
22 These include diverse geographic and geologic
23 features, as well as major differences in historical
24 settlement, economic development and land use
25 patterns. To reflect these variations six Regional

1 Water Resources Committees were created by the Water
2 Resources Planning Act to ensure that individual
3 regional priorities were highlighted in the plan.
4 The priorities and actions of the committee
5 influence not only local streams and rivers but also
6 nationally prominent water bodies such as the
7 Chesapeake Bay, the Delaware Bay, the Gulf of Mexico
8 and the Great Lakes system.

9 The committee members represent a wide
10 range of interests in their region; business and
11 industry, agricultural, local government and the
12 environment. While many water resource planning
13 priorities are shared statewide each committee has
14 identified additional concerns that are specific to
15 its area. This current update will include
16 development of recommendations for revisions to
17 regional plans, as well as amend the update – the
18 State Water Plan. The top water resource management
19 priorities, along with plan provisions to implement
20 applicable water resources related strategies
21 outlined in the Governor's 2018 Pennsylvania Climate
22 Action Plan are the main focus of the regional
23 committees.

24 This concludes the summary of the
25 regional component of the State Water Plan. If you

1 would like additional information please email us at
2 RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov. Or you can visit DEP's
3 webpage and search State Water Plan.

4 In order to give everyone an equal
5 opportunity to comment on this component I would
6 like to establish the following ground rules. James
7 has placed in the chat this information that I'm
8 about to read off, so you do not need to write
9 everything down.

10 I will call upon the witnesses who
11 have signed up to testify at this hearing. All who
12 signed up were assigned a number, indicating the
13 order in which witness will be called to speak.

14 Testimony is limited to five minutes
15 for each witness and I will have a timer on the
16 screen. Please note that written and spoken
17 testimony both carry the same weight. If you should
18 run out of time for your spoken testimony we will
19 read the rest of your comments from your written
20 testimony. As advised in registration
21 correspondence please provide a copy of your written
22 testimony to RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov. Your email
23 must note that you are submitting testimony for the
24 State Water Plan, Lower Susquehanna Water Regional
25 Resources Committee public hearing along with the

1 following information, first and last name, mailing
2 address, email address. And if you are commenting
3 on behalf of an organization, that is optional.

4 Testimony is not required to be five
5 minutes long. If others who provide testimony
6 before you are making similar statements to yours
7 you are free to shorten or summarize your verbal
8 testimony at this time and still provide your full
9 testimony by email. This will allow us to hear from
10 more commenters at this hearing.

11 Through the signup process perspective
12 commenters were requested to designate one witness
13 to present testimony on behalf of an organization.
14 Please state your name, address, city and state are
15 sufficient, and affiliation if you have one for the
16 record prior to presenting your testimony. The
17 committee would appreciate your help by spelling out
18 your name and terms that may not be generally
19 familiar, so that the transcript can be as accurate
20 as possible.

21 Because the purpose of a hearing is to
22 receive comments for this committee, committee
23 members or DEP staff cannot address questions about
24 the regional component of the State Water Plan
25 during the duration of this hearing.

1 In addition to or in place of verbal
2 testimony presented at today's hearing interested
3 persons may also submit written comments on this
4 proposal. Again written and verbal comments hold
5 the same weight when considered in the finalization
6 of the proposed State Water Plan. All testimony and
7 written comments provided become a part of the
8 official record.

9 All comments must be received by the
10 committee on or before January 20, 2021. There are
11 a few different ways to submit written comments that
12 are separate from this testimony. Comments may be
13 submitted by email to RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov. A
14 subject heading of the Lower Susquehanna Water
15 Resources Regional Committee and the return name and
16 address must be included in each email. Comments
17 may also be sent through U.S. Postal Mail addressed
18 to the State Water Plan Section, P.O. Box 8555,
19 Harrisburg, PA, 17105-8555.

20 All testimony received at this hearing
21 as well as written comments received by January 20,
22 2021 will be considered by the committee.

23 I would like to call upon our first
24 commenter. Commenter number one is Jeremy Rowland.
25 I will start the timer and – well, okay. I'll start

1 the timer now.

2 MR. ROWLAND: Okay.

3 Thanks, Mark. Thanks for the
4 opportunity to testify today. My name is Jeremy
5 Rowland, company address 9 East Park Court in Old
6 Bethpage, New York.

7 I work for Bion, Environmental
8 Technologies but I'm speaking today on behalf of the
9 Coalition for Affordable Based Solutions, or CABS.
10 Bion is a founding member of CABS.

11 Nitrogen reduction requirements placed
12 upon MS-4 systems across the Commonwealth,
13 particularly with the Chesapeake Bay Watershed, are
14 an inefficient use of tax and rate pair investments.

15 The Pennsylvania DEP proposal to
16 reduce 195,000 of nitrogen to the Bay from storm
17 water at a cost of almost \$80 million annually or
18 \$470 million through 2025 is – is just insane,
19 particularly when compared to solutions presented by
20 the private sector that can accomplish more for only
21 \$2 million annually.

22 Enabling low cost, private sector
23 solutions for nitrogen would allow communities
24 address their sediment and flooding issues at
25 significantly less cost and on a timeframe that is

1 less economically sustainable.

2 CABS has presented these accessible
3 taxpayer savings to Pennsylvania legislatures in the
4 recent past. But as of yet only the Senate has
5 embraced its responsibly to utilize low cost
6 alternatives.

7 The House has failed on multiple
8 occasions to act, while the Administration and the
9 DEP have basically been absent at best relative to
10 the fight for these lower cost compliance
11 alternatives.

12 Similar levels of cost savings enabled
13 by the private sector can also be found for the
14 Conowingo Dam of nutrient release overages that have
15 recently been in the news. In fact, Pennsylvania's
16 legislature's own Budget and Finance Committee has
17 twice affirmed that innovative, private sector
18 technologies can provide Chesapeake Bay nitrogen
19 credits at savings to taxpayers of greater than 90
20 percent.

21 Even better, these nutrient reductions
22 to Pennsylvania waterways are accomplished in a
23 manner that is measurable and verifiable and can
24 provide a host of other ancillary benefits, such as
25 reduced odors, reduces nitrate contamination in

1 groundwater and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

2 CABS' efforts to date have been
3 focused on legislation that would establish a bid-
4 based program. This legislation, sponsored by
5 Senator Yaw, and has been passed on the Senate on
6 multiple occasion only to die from inactivity in the
7 House.

8 Opposition has come from many of the
9 same status quo stakeholders that are participating
10 in this water plan process, whose job it is to – is
11 to maintain status quo funding for their particular
12 entity. Their opposition is understandable since
13 adoption of low cost, large scale solutions would
14 negatively impact many existing stakeholders.

15 Rather than provide entrenched
16 interests the legislature, the administration, the
17 DEP have a responsibility to advocate on behalf of
18 taxpayers and the environment to ensure that
19 solutions are cost effective and alternatives are
20 considered.

21 Using the DEP's present credit
22 calculation methodology, the newer technologies can
23 provide verified Bay nitrogen reductions at \$8 to
24 \$10 per pound.

25 For five years CABS has been lobbying

1 the DEP to modify its one size fits all credit
2 calculation model to scientifically account for a
3 significantly greater impact of ammonia nitrogen.

4 Using the Cast model, the projected number of
5 credits would double, thereby reducing costs to
6 taxpayers by 50 percent or more.

7 Over five years the DEP has failed to
8 address this opportunity. Why will it again –
9 stakeholders that are not interested in a potential
10 reallocation of funds for more efficient approaches.

11 Favored best management practice
12 funding, which is clearly useful and has its place
13 is not effective at mitigating reactive nitrogen
14 loss. Yet, the DEP's mitigation strategy continues
15 to recommend the same BMPs which do not effectively
16 address the nitrogen issue.

17 To achieve the enormous financial and
18 environmental benefits that I just outlined the DEP
19 needs to one, agree to a new – eliminate the
20 nitrogen portion of the Bay Storm Water Mandate.

21 Two, reach a science-based resolution for
22 ammonia/nitrogen credit calculation methodologies
23 that significantly reduce cost while maximizing
24 environmental benefits. And three, execute
25 contracts with low cost and newer technology

1 providers or BMP providers in lieu of more expensive
2 municipal storm water nitrogen projects.

3 And the private sector will agree to
4 finance these projects and to be paid only after the
5 credits have been delivered and certified by the
6 DEP. Performance risks shifts from the taxpayers to
7 the private sector.

8 CABS is requesting that all water
9 quality stakeholders, including private and state
10 agency watchdogs like the Commonwealth Foundation,
11 Auditor General, general - Attorney General's office
12 who believe that it is not the government's role to
13 maintain the status quo at the expense of taxpayers
14 and their environment to support our efforts to
15 solve significant portion of Pennsylvania's mandate,
16 and with low cost private sector solutions.

17 Thank you. That concludes.

18 CHAIR: Thank you, Jeremy, for your
19 testimony.

20 MR. ROWLAND: Yeah. Thank you, Mark.

21 CHAIR: At this time we have no one
22 else registered for the hearing. So I would like to
23 open the floor up to those that have joined who have
24 not registered. If you would like to present
25 testimony at this time please let me know. If not I

1 will start a 15 minute timer to let anyone have
2 opportunity who has joined in that may not have been
3 able to register.

4 So anyone present right now would
5 anyone like to present testimony?

6 Without hearing anyone like to provide
7 testimony I am going to start a 15 minute timer. If
8 no one else joins or decides to provide testimony in
9 that time we will conclude the hearing. I'm going
10 to start the timer now. Thank you.

11 Okay. The 15 minute timer has
12 expired. I'd like to ask one more time is there
13 anyone here today that was unable to register that
14 would like to provide testimony?

15 Without hearing from anyone I'd like
16 to thank everyone for their patience and the time
17 that they've provided today to provide testimony.
18 With no other commenters present on behalf of the
19 Committee I hereby adjourn this hearing at 10:29
20 a.m. Thank you.

21 * * * * *

22 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 10:29 A.M.

23 * * * * *

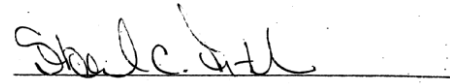
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CERTIFICATE

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I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was reported by me on 01/06/2021 and that I, Shannon C. Fortsch, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding. This notarial act involved the use of communication technology.

Dated the 28th day of January, 2021



Court Reporter

Shannon C. Fortsch

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE WATER PLAN
WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL PUBLIC MEETING

* * * * *

IN RE: OHIO RIVER BASIN

PUBLIC HEARING

* * * * *BEFORE:

Mark Matlock, Chair

Kristina Peacock-Jones, Member
James Horton,
Member

Michael Hill, Member HEARING:

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Video Conference

WITNESSES: Eric Harder, Lisa Brown, Heather Manzo, John Detisch

Reporter: Shannon C. Fortsch

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OPENING REMARKS

By Chair Matlock

4 - 9

TESTIMONY

By Eric Harder

9 - 14

TESTIMONY

By Lisa Brown

14 - 17

TESTIMONY

By Heather Manzo

17 - 19

TESTIMONY

By John Detisch

19 - 23

DISCUSSION AMONG PARTIES

23 - 24

CERTIFICATE

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E X H I B I T S

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Number Description

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CHAIR MARK MATLOCK: Hello. Before we get started I would like to read off a legal statement about the recording.

This session is being recorded for training and recordkeeping purposes. By participating in the session you are consenting to the recording, retention and use of this session.

At any time if you have a question or comment feel free to place that in the chat box and we will respond to you as soon as possible. If you would like to ask your question or to comment verbally, please note that by doing so you are consenting to the recording, retention and use of your statement recorded as part of this session.

Today is January 6th, 2021. This is the 1:00 p.m. State Water Plan Water Resources Regional Committee Public Hearing for the Ohio.

I'd like to start off by saying good afternoon. I'd like to welcome you to the State Water Plan Ohio Water Resources Regional Committee public hearing to gather input from interested persons on water resources planning issues related to the preparation of the regional components of the

1 State Water Plan.

2 My name is Mark Matlock. I am the
3 Environmental Group Manager for the Department of
4 Environmental Protection State Water Plan section.

5 I am facilitating this hearing on behalf of the
6 State Water Plan Water Resources Regional Committee.

7 Assisting me today is Kristina Peacock-Jones, Mike
8 Hill and James Horton.

9 I officially call this hearing to
10 order at 1:01 p.m. This public hearing is being
11 recorded in its entirety. Additionally a
12 stenographer will be transcribing the hearing.

13 The purpose of this hearing is to
14 formally accept testimony on water resources
15 planning issues related to preparation of the
16 regional component of the State Water Plan.

17 Each of Pennsylvania's major drainage
18 basins has an array of individual characteristics
19 that distinguish it from the other regions of the
20 state. These include the first geographic and
21 geologic features as well as major differences in
22 historical settlement, economic development and land
23 use patterns. To reflect these variations six
24 regional water resources committees were created by
25 ~~the Water Resources Planning Act to ensure that~~

1 individual regional clarities were highlighted in
2 the plan. The priorities and actions of the
3 committee include not only local streams and rivers,
4 but also nationally prominent water bodies such as
5 the Chesapeake Bay, the Delaware Bay, the Gulf of
6 Mexico and the Great Lakes System.

7 The committee members represent a wide
8 range of interest in their region; business and
9 industry, agricultural, local government and the
10 environment. While many water resources planning
11 priorities are shared statewide, each committee has
12 identified additional concerns that are specific to
13 its area. This current update will include
14 development of recommendations for revision to
15 regional plans as well as amend and update the State
16 Water Plan. The top water resources management
17 priorities along with plan provisions to implement
18 applicable water resources related strategies
19 outlined in the Governor's 2018 Pennsylvania Climate
20 Action Plan are the main focus of the regional
21 committee.

22 This concludes the summary of the
23 regional component of the State Water Plan. If you
24 would like additional information on the State Water
25 Plan please e-mail us at RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov,

1 or you can visit our webpage and search for State
2 Water Plan.

3 In order to give everyone an equal
4 opportunity to comment on this component I would
5 like to establish the following ground rules. James
6 is going to provide some of this information in the
7 chat box so you don't need to write everything down.

8 I will call upon the witnesses who
9 have signed up to testify at this hearing. All who
10 signed up were assigned a number indicating the
11 order in which witnesses will be called to speak.

12 Testimony is limited to five minutes
13 for each witness and I will have a timer on the
14 screen. Please note that written and spoken
15 testimony both carry the same weight. If you should
16 run out of time for your spoken testimony we will
17 read the rest of your comments from your written
18 testimony. As advised in registration
19 correspondence please provide a copy of your written
20 testimony to ra-statewaterplan@pa.gov. Your e-mail
21 must note that you are submitting testimony for
22 State Water Plan Ohio Water Resources Regional
23 Committee public hearing along with the following
24 information; first and last name, mailing address,
25 ~~e-mail address and if you are commenting on behalf~~

1 of an organization, that is optional.

2 Testimony is not required to be five
3 minutes long. If others who provide testimony
4 before you are making similar statements to you, you
5 are free to shorten or summarize your verbal
6 testimony at this time and still provide your full
7 testimony by e-mail. This will allow us to hear
8 from more commenters at this hearing.

9 Through the sign-up process
10 prospective commenters were requested to designate
11 one witness to represent testimony on behalf of an
12 organization.

13 Please state your name, address, city
14 and state are sufficient, and affiliation if you
15 have one. For the record, prior to presenting your
16 testimony the committee would appreciate your help
17 by spelling out your name and terms that may not be
18 generally familiar so that the transcript can be as
19 accurate as possible.

20 Because the purpose of the hearing is
21 to receive comments for the committee, committee
22 members or DEP staff cannot address questions about
23 the regional components of State Water Plan during
24 the duration of the hearing.

25 ~~In addition to, or in place of, verbal~~

1 testimony presented at today's hearing, interested
2 persons may also submit written comments on this
3 proposal. Again, written and verbal comments hold
4 the same weight when considered in the finalization
5 of this update.

6 All testimony and written comments
7 provided become a part of the official public
8 record. All comments must be received by the
9 committee on or before January 20th, 2021. There
10 are a few different ways to submit written comments
11 and this is separate from the testimony. Comments
12 may be submitted by e-mail at RA-
13 statewaterplan@pa.gov, a subject heading of the Ohio
14 Water Resources Regional Committee and a return name
15 and address must be included in each e-mail.
16 Comments may also be sent through U.S. postal mail
17 addressed to the State Water Plan Section, P.O. Box
18 8555, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8555.

19 All testimony received at this hearing
20 as well as written comments received by January
21 20th, 2021 will be considered by the committee.

22 At this time I would like to call our
23 first commenter, commenter number one if they are
24 present, Eric Harder.

25 MR. HARDER: Thank you. Yes, my name

1 is Eric Harder, E-R-I-C, last name Harder,
2 H-A-R-D-E-R. I am a Youghiogheny River Keeper with
3 Mountain Watershed Association. We're dedicated to
4 a swimmable, drinkable, fishable Youghiogheny River.
5 So a member organization of water keeper alliance.

6 I'll have more complete testimony in a
7 written submission. However, I did want to point
8 out a few important items.

9 One would be that Laurel Hill Creek
10 needs to remain on the critical resource list. It
11 sounds like there was an attempt or proposal to take
12 off that list and with the conditions of 2020 and
13 the extreme low flows associated with the drought
14 that it would be hard to say that Laurel Hill needs
15 to come off that critical list. So remaining on
16 that list will ensure future protections of that
17 waterway.

18 Updated water modeling needs to be
19 used for drought modeling and BMPs to increase
20 groundwater recharge needs to be utilized as well.

21 We appreciate the efforts by DEP in
22 completing the reviews for that creek and Laurel
23 Hill projects, and we look forward to the completion
24 of those projects.

25 ~~It sounds like many of the priorities~~

1 of the Regional Committee focus on the urban areas
2 within our area. If we look at where problems start
3 you can then focus on a lot of the rural areas
4 typically associated with the headwater regions of
5 our basins.

6 These are some of the most important
7 areas to protect, especially when the goal is
8 downstream for resource protection. Headwater
9 protection is necessary for flood protections for
10 one scenario. Every acre of natural forest that
11 remains in the watershed increases groundwater
12 recharge and decreases downstream flooding.

13 Obviously we know that, but
14 implementing that and using that as a region-wide
15 tool is to keep those headwaters forested with
16 different projects, development. You know, we're
17 losing forested lands especially the nationally
18 forested ones.

19 I think a missed opportunity so far
20 has been identification and protection of high
21 quality and exceptional value streams in our area.
22 Redesignation petitions across the state have been
23 on hold, some for over a decade. And those need to
24 be reviewed. And a loss of those valuable resources
25 ~~will not likely return in a timely manner nor will~~

1 downstream impacts from those expediator runoff
2 events be easy to mitigate.

3 Sewage and bacterial levels in our
4 waterways need to be addressed. Mountain watershed
5 has conducted bacteria analysis for popular swimming
6 locations around the Yough watershed for several
7 years. And results show that many of our waterways,
8 especially ones that the public believes are safe
9 for swimming or recreating are polluted with
10 untreated animal waste and human waste. And we know
11 that due to the presence of high e-coli levels.

12 This is absolutely unacceptable when
13 recreation tourism is one of our largest driving
14 economic forces in the region. Along with that Act
15 537 plans that are still out there and not
16 implemented some of those are over 15 years old with
17 no response for moving.

18 Treatment plants associated with
19 consent orders I guess that had provided a path for
20 compliance for those treatment systems. However the
21 cost of the compliance is often pushed onto the
22 customers. For example, Confluence, Pennsylvania
23 has a new system. However the increase in costs
24 make it - make it hard for those residents to afford
25 some of those upgrades.

1 Mining, both abandoned and inactive
2 needs to be monitored closely. Funding for any of
3 the treatment projects need to be more available to
4 organizations and communities that are still feeling
5 those effects from abandoned mining operations.

6 And then I guess overall it's - I'm
7 sure many people here have heard it but the upper
8 Ohio River basin needs to be more celebrated and
9 more protected. It feels like it's an industrial
10 river where - where is that line that it turns from
11 a resource that we can use to a resource that can be
12 polluted.

13 The announcement of this action plan
14 on December 24th was also hard for many
15 organizations and communities to be notified
16 properly. We had several of our close partners e-
17 mail us just yesterday and Tuesday about - excuse me
18 and Monday about this meeting.

19 And so not to say that is at fault.
20 That might have just been a DEP kind of staff and
21 calendar, but it kind of goes along with the typical
22 feel that the DEP on about public engagements. So
23 just trying to improve some of these interactions
24 with the public and transparency would be added in
25 there as well.

1 Again, further comments will be
2 submitted with our written statements.

3 CHAIR: Okay, thank you. Our time is
4 up on that. Appreciate your comments. Our next
5 commenter is commenter number two, Lisa Brown.

6 MS. BROWN: Hi. My name is Lisa
7 Werder Brown. That's L-I-S-A, W-E-R-D-E-R, Brown,
8 B-R-O-W-N. I'm the Executive Director of Watersheds
9 of South Pittsburgh Lee Stewart, two watersheds in
10 the southern region of Allegheny County, Sawmill Run
11 and Streets Run.

12 So I feel that the most effective way
13 for me to talk about my concerns for the future of
14 water resources in the state and especially the Ohio
15 River is to tell the story of just one of my
16 streams, Sawmill Run.

17 The Sawmill Run watershed located in
18 Pennsylvania's Allegheny County is approximately 20
19 square miles and comprises 12 separate
20 municipalities, as well as 14 neighborhoods of the
21 City of Pittsburgh.

22 The stream itself is approximately 22
23 miles long and it's daylighted for nearly 17 of
24 those miles, making it one of the largest free-
25 ~~flowing streams in the neighborhood. Pardon me?~~

1 And the stream is wedged between the
2 steep hillsides and narrow floodplain dominated by
3 nature's transportation corridor, Route 51 into the
4 City of Pittsburgh. Route 51 is known regionally as
5 Sawmill Run Boulevard and it follows the Sawmill Run
6 stream for most of its length while tributaries of
7 the stream flow along other major roadways in the
8 watershed.

9 The Sawmill Run corridor is the key
10 transportation and transit network for more than
11 40,000 commuters every day. Like most service
12 streams Sawmill Run is plagued with the issues of
13 frequent flooding, severe erosion, streambed
14 scouring, riparian and habitat degradations, sewage
15 overflows and non-point source pollution. And
16 ultimately severely impaired water quality. All
17 negative impacts of stormwater runoff.

18 Along Sawmill Run building structures,
19 parking lots and used car dealerships occupy the
20 floodplain providing no safe mechanism for
21 floodwaters to dissipate.

22 Additionally the region's heavy rains
23 often exceed even a very permeable soil's ability to
24 infiltrate water resulting in a deluge of stormwater
25 runoff. Excess runoff is a particular concern in

1 the Sawmill Run watershed due to the relatively
2 small amount of permeable area and increasing the
3 risk of flooding.

4 For decades the issues along Sawmill
5 Run have been the focus of numerous studies. Most
6 of these have focused on transportation issues with
7 an eye for beatification. Reclaiming the adjacent
8 floodplain along Sawmill Run was never suggested in
9 any of these transit studies, and none of the
10 studies have resulted in any significant change. In
11 fact, things have only gotten worse.

12 In the City of Pittsburgh alone, more
13 than 25 used car lots line just four miles of the
14 stream. Thus the highest and best land use in the
15 floodplain has been and continues to be increasing
16 impermeable surfaces.

17 Unfortunately, Sawmill Run's story is
18 the rule rather than the exception. Providing a
19 stark reality for the future of our streams. Once a
20 stream becomes as seriously degraded as Sawmill Run
21 it is increasingly difficult to reverse. And
22 political will to improve these streams is almost
23 nonexistent.

24 Healthy and well managed streams are
25 ~~meant to have natural floodplains with wetlands~~

1 where floodwaters have a place to naturally and
2 safely disperse. As evidenced by the numerous
3 degraded streams in Pennsylvania we need to have an
4 effective strategy to protect our floodplains and
5 address the impact of land use along our streams.

6 It is imperative that the State Water
7 Plan includes policy recommendations to ensure the
8 preservation of riparian areas and floodplain
9 management. Thank you.

10 CHAIR: Thank you, Lisa.

11 At this time I'd like to hear - we
12 would like to hear from commenter number three,
13 Heather Manzo.

14 MS. MANZO: Hi, everybody. Thank you
15 for the opportunity to speak today. My name is
16 Heather Manzo. That's H-E-A-T-H-E-R, Manzo,
17 M-A-N-Z-O, and I'm Executive Director of Allegheny
18 County Conservation District. I live in Allegheny
19 County, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

20 The Ohio River basin is the largest in
21 the Commonwealth and it is critically important to
22 maintain human health, provide critical ecological
23 services as well as the region's economic present
24 and future.

25 ~~Planning that keeps our water~~

1 drinkable, waters navigable and available for both
2 industry, residents, recreational tourism and the
3 other many potential uses is critical for
4 Pennsylvania residents but also for the many in the
5 lands downstream.

6 Our decisions here impact so many more
7 than just those that live within this basin. To
8 achieve the initiatives in the planning process that
9 would address stormwater management issues and
10 integrated resource planning require real
11 collaborative partnerships and funding and must be
12 tied to land use.

13 These ends can only be achieved if
14 there's holistic planning that includes policy and
15 funding that would allow for equitable funding
16 distribution. Both across all planning areas in the
17 Commonwealth as well as within the very large Ohio
18 River basin.

19 This section of the state makes do
20 with very little as it lies outside of the
21 Chesapeake Bay. Secondly, I encourage this planning
22 group to create relationships with and food - sorry,
23 and feedback links between itself and other multi-
24 organizational and multi-agency networks that are
25 currently developing.

1 These networks share many goals of
2 this group. Collaborative relationships will allow
3 for maximization of efforts and distribution of
4 resources in the future.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 CHAIR: Thank you, Heather.

7 At this time we would like to move
8 onto the fourth commenter that would be John
9 Detisch.

10 MR. DETISCH: Hello. My name is John
11 Detisch, and I am the President of the Pennsylvania
12 Division of Izaak Walton League of America. We are
13 a national organization with 4,347 members in 35
14 states. And in Pennsylvania we have nine chapters
15 with 1,806 members. Four of our chapters are along
16 the Ohio River watershed.

17 Our mission is to conserve, restore
18 and promote the sustainably use and enjoyment of our
19 natural resources including soil, air, woods, water
20 and wildlife.

21 I appreciate the opportunity to speak
22 to you today about the Ohio River watershed. What I
23 do have to say relates not only to the Ohio River
24 and its tributaries, but to all the waters of
25 Pennsylvania. ~~Groundwater, surface water from~~

1 lakes, streams and rivers and wetlands that must be
2 viewed as connected from Greene County in the
3 southwest border to Wayne County in the northeast.

4 I submitted a document establishing
5 and mandate safe drinking water standards for
6 chemicals and toxins insufficiently addressed by
7 current state regulations. I would ask that you
8 take time to read this document, especially page
9 seven that provides recommendations.

10 Three sections on the Pennsylvania law
11 I would like to emphasis and feel are often
12 forgotten and really the basis of my discussion are
13 Article 27 of the Constitution, Natural Resources
14 and Public Estate that states the people have a
15 right to clean air, pure water and to the
16 preservation of a natural scenic, historic and
17 esthetic values of the environment.

18 Pennsylvania's public natural
19 resources are the common property of all people
20 including generations yet to come. As trustees of
21 these resources the Commonwealth shall conserve and
22 maintain them for the benefit of all people. I'd
23 like to thank Representative Curry for his
24 initiative to get this passed in '71.

25 ~~Also Act 159 of 1984 the Worker and~~

1 Community Rights Act - Right to Know Act. And that
2 the purpose of this Act is to provide employees for
3 this discussion community members and emergency
4 response agencies as police, fire and ambulances
5 with the information on the chemical substances that
6 they are exposed to in the workplace and in the
7 environment.

8 This information is available to all
9 citizens living and working in the Commonwealth for
10 non-competitors of the employer from whom they are
11 requesting the information.

12 The water report I submitted for your
13 review looks at a number of issues. In an effort to
14 make our drinking water safer we are creating new
15 chemical compounds that are in themselves unsafe,
16 such as trihalomethane. We promote a gas industry
17 that appears as our savior of our economy. Because
18 of the economic impact we allow them to discharge
19 unknown chemicals into our groundwater, our streams
20 and wetlands and therefore our drinking water.

21 The concern is what is in our drinking
22 water? We know that waste from fracking is entering
23 our landfills going to our waste treatment plants.

24 These plants are discharging heavy metals and
25 radiation and we can look at the Westmoreland

1 landfill and the Belle Vernon sewage treatment plant
2 as examples of this.

3 The water standards through review
4 appear at best to be a compromise. Known health
5 risks, chemicals did not have a standard limit and
6 many standards did not meet the standards set by
7 other countries and even other states. And you can
8 find these examples in the report.

9 But what does this mean and how does
10 this tie in to the committee? As I reviewed your
11 minutes from the October 27, 2020 meeting I would
12 like to add these comments.

13 Under Ohio region the committee's
14 first priority what is not there is the safety and
15 health of the citizens and its issues that I would
16 like to continue to address.

17 As I see I'm running out of time here.
18 We would ask that when you look at climate change
19 which we very much agree with that is an issue that
20 you also look at industrial change.

21 Should I continue, sir?

22 CHAIR: I think it would be fair if we
23 just kept it five minutes. That way someone can get
24 more or less of an opportunity.

25 MR. DETISCH: Yes, sir. And I will

1 submit this all in writing to you.

2 CHAIR: We appreciate that, and we
3 will have all your comments and they will all be
4 passed on to the committee.

5 MR. DETISCH: Okay. Thank you very
6 much.

7 CHAIR: At this time we do not have
8 any additional registered commenters. If there are
9 any members - if there's anyone attending this
10 meeting who did not have the opportunity to pre-
11 register and wanted to provide testimony at this
12 time I would like to open the floor up to anyone
13 else who is on the call that would like to provide
14 testimony here today.

15 Okay.

16 If no one else here would like to
17 provide testimony I'm going to set a 15 minute timer
18 to see if anyone else wanted to join the meeting and
19 wanted to have an opportunity provide testimony at
20 this time. At the end of 15 minutes I'll ask if
21 anyone else has testimony to provide.

22 Thank you.

23 ---

24 (WHEREUPON, A SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN.)

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CHAIR: Okay.

I haven't seen anyone else enter the meeting at this time, but if there's anyone else here today that was unable to register and would like to provide testimony please let me know now.

Okay.

Without anyone else wishing to provide additional testimony today I'd like to thank you all for your patience and taking the time to provide testimony today. Please submit your comments through e-mail.

With no other commenters present on behalf of the committee I hereby adjourn this hearing at 1:41 p.m. Thank y ou.

* * * * *

HEARING CONCLUDED AT 1:41 P.M.

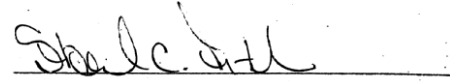
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I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was reported by me on 01/06/2021 and that I, Shannon C. Fortsch, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding. This notarial act involved the use of communication technology.

Dated the 28th day of January, 2021



Court Reporter

Shannon C. Fortsch

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE WATER PLAN
WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL PUBLIC MEETING

* * * * *

IN RE: POTOMAC WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING

* * * * *BEFORE:

Mark Matlock, Chair

Kristina Peacock-Jones, Member
James Horton,
Member

Michael Hill, Member HEARING:

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

11:01 a.m.

LOCATION: Video Conference

Reporter: Shannon C. Fortsch

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CHAIR MARK MATLOCK: Before we get

started today, I would like to read the legal
statement. This session is being recorded for
training and recordkeeping purposes. By

participating in this session you are consenting to
the recording, retention and use of this session.

At any time if you have a question or comment feel
free to place that in the chat box and we will
respond to you as soon as possible. If you would
like to ask your question or to comment verbally
please note that by doing so you are consenting to
the recording, retention and use of your statements
recorded as part of this session.

Today is January 6th, 2021. This is
the State Water Plan, Resources Regional Committee
public hearing for the Potomac Water Resources
Committee.

So good morning everyone. I'd like to
welcome you to the State Water Plan Potomac Water
Resources Regional Committee public hearing to
gather input from interested persons on water
resources planning issues related to preparation of
the regional component of the State Water Plan.

1 My name is Mark Matlock. I am an
2 Environmental Group Manager for the Department of
3 Environmental Protection, State Water Plan Section.
4 I am facilitating this hearing on behalf of the
5 State Water Plan Resources Committee. Assisting me
6 today is Kristina Peacock-Jones, Mike Hill and James
7 Horton.

8 I would officially call this hearing
9 to order at 11:01 a.m. This public hearing is being
10 recorded in its entirety. Additionally, a
11 stenographer will be transcribing the hearing.

12 The purpose of this hearing is to
13 formally accept testimony on water resources
14 planning issues related to the preparation of the
15 regional component of the State Water Plan.

16 Each of Pennsylvania's major drainage
17 basins has an array of individual characteristics
18 that distinguish it from other regions of the state.
19 These include the first geographic and geologic
20 features as well as major differences and historical
21 settlement, economic development and land use
22 patterns. To reflect these variations six regional
23 water resources committees were created by the Water
24 Resources Planning Act to ensure that individual
25 regional clarities were highlighted in the plan.

1 The priorities and actions of the committee
2 influence not only local streams and rivers, but
3 actually prominent water bodies such as the
4 Chesapeake Bay, the Delaware Bay, the Gulf of Mexico
5 and the Great Lakes System.

6 The committee members represent a wide
7 range of interests in our region; business and
8 industry, agricultural, local government and the
9 environment. While many water resources planning
10 priorities are shared statewide each committee has
11 identified additional concerns that are specific to
12 its area. This current update will include
13 development of recommendations for provision to
14 regional plans, as well as amend and update the
15 State Water Plan. The top water resource management
16 priorities along with planned provisions to
17 implement applicable water resources-related
18 strategies outlined in the governor's 2018
19 Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan are the main focus
20 of the regional committee.

21 This concludes the summary of the
22 regional component of the State Water Plan. If you
23 would like additional information on the State Water
24 Plan please e-mail us at RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov or
25 ~~you can visit DEP's website and search State Water~~

1 Plan.

2 In order to give everyone an equal
3 opportunity to comment on this component, I would
4 like to establish the following ground rules. James
5 is going to provide some of this information in the
6 chat box so you do not need to write everything
7 down.

8 I will call upon the witnesses who
9 have signed up to testify at this hearing. All who
10 signed up were assigned a number indicating the
11 order in which witnesses will be called to speak.

12 Testimony is limited to five minutes
13 for each witness and I will have a timer on the
14 screen. Please note that written and spoken
15 testimony both carry the same weight. If you should
16 run out of time for your spoken testimony we will
17 read the rest of your comments from your written
18 testimony. As advised and registration
19 correspondence please provide a copy of your written
20 testimony to RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov. Your e-mail
21 must note that you are submitting testimony for
22 State Water Plan Potomac Water Resources Regional
23 Committee public hearing along with the following
24 information, first and last name, mailing address,
25 ~~e-mail address and if you're commenting on behalf of~~

1 an organization, that is optional if you would like
2 to let us know.

3 Testimony is not required to be five
4 minutes long. If others who provide testimony
5 before you are making similar statements to yours
6 you're free to shorten or summarize your verbal
7 testimony at this time and still provide your full
8 testimony by e-mail. This will allow us to hear
9 from more commenters at this hearing.

10 Through the sign-up process
11 prospective commenters were requested to designate
12 one witness to present testimony on behalf of an
13 organization.

14 Please state your name, address, city
15 and state are sufficient and affiliation if you have
16 one for the record prior to presenting your
17 testimony. The committee would appreciate your help
18 by spelling out your name and terms that may not be
19 generally familiar so that the transcript can be as
20 accurate as possible.

21 Because the purpose of a hearing is to
22 receive comments for the committee, committee
23 members or DEP staff cannot address questions about
24 the regional components of the State Water Plan
25 ~~during the duration of the hearing.~~

1 In addition to or in place of verbal
2 testimony presented at today's hearing, interested
3 persons may also submit written comments on this
4 proposal. Again, written or verbal comments hold
5 the same weight when considered in the finalization
6 of this update. All testimony and written comments
7 provided become a part of the official public
8 record.

9 All comments must be received by the
10 committee on or before January 20th, 2021. There
11 are a few different ways to submit written comments
12 separate from the testimony. Comments may be
13 written by e-mail at RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov. A
14 subject heading of the Potomac Water Resource
15 Regional Committee and a return name and address
16 must be included in each e-mail. Comments may also
17 be sent through U.S. Postal mail addressed to the
18 State Water Plan Section, P.O. Box 8555, Harrisburg,
19 PA 17105-8555.

20 All testimony received at this hearing
21 as well as written comments received by January
22 20th, 2021 will be considered by the committee.

23 At this time I'd like to call for any
24 person who would like to present testimony. We did
25 not have anyone register for testimony for this

1 session, so if there's anyone here that would like
2 to provide testimony at this time please let me
3 know.

4 Since I haven't heard from anyone I'd
5 like to start a 15 minute timer to allow anyone who
6 may not have had a chance to join yet or decides to
7 provide some testimony an opportunity to do so. At
8 the end of 15 minutes I will ask if anyone would
9 like to present testimony at that time and then we
10 will conclude the meeting.

11 So at this time I'm going to start our
12 15 minute timer. Thank you.

13 ---
14 (WHEREUPON, A SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN.)

15 ---

16 CHAIR: Okay.

17 Our 15 minute timer has ended. At
18 this time is there anyone else who was unable to
19 register that would like to provide testimony at
20 today's hearing?

21 With hearing comments from no one I'd
22 just like to say thank you for your patience in
23 taking your time to join us for today's meeting.
24 With no other commenters present on behalf of the
25 committee I hereby adjourn this hearing at 11:23

1 a.m. Thank you.

2 * * * * *

3 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 11:23 A.M.

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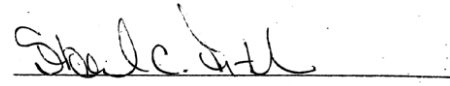
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Dated the 28th day of January, 2021



Court Reporter

Shannon C. Fortsch

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE WATER PLAN
WATER RESOURCES REGIONAL PUBLIC MEETING

* * * * *

IN RE: UPPER/MIDDLE SUSUQEHANNA WATER RESOURCES
REGIONAL

PUBLIC HEARING

* * * * * *BEFORE:

Mark Matlock, Chair

Kristina Peacock-Jones, MemberJames

Horton, Member

Michael Hill, Member HEARING:

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

3:01 p.m.

LOCATION: Video Conference WITNESSES: John
Detisch

Reporter: Shannon C. Fortsch Any reproduction
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CHAIR MARK MATLOCK: Before we get started, I'd like to read a legal statement about the recording of this meeting.

This session is being recorded for training and recordkeeping purposes. By participating in this session, you are consenting to the recording, retention, and use of this session.

At any time, if you have a question or comment, feel free to place that in the chat box, and we will respond to you as soon as possible. If you would like to ask your question, or to comment verbally, please note that by doing so you are consenting to the recording, retention, and use of your statements recorded as part of this session.

Today is January 6th, 2021. Good afternoon everyone. I would like to welcome you to this State Water Plan, Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee Public Hearing, to gather input from interested persons on water resources planning issues related to preparation of the regional component of the State Water Plan.

My name is Mark Matlock. I am the Environmental Group Manager for the Department of

1 Environmental Protection State Water Plan Section.
2 I am facilitating this hearing on behalf of the
3 State Water Plan, Water Resources Regional
4 Committee. Assisting me today is Kristina Peacock-
5 Jones, Mike Hill, and James Horton.

6 I officially call this hearing to
7 order at 3:01 p.m. This public hearing is being
8 recorded in its entirety. Additionally, a
9 stenographer will be transcribing the hearing.

10 The purpose of this hearing is to
11 formally accept testimony on water resources
12 planning issues related to preparation of the
13 regional component of the State Water Plan.

14 Each of Pennsylvania's major drainage
15 basins has an array of individual characteristics
16 that distinguish it from other regions of the state.
17 These include diverse geographic and geologic
18 features, as well as major differences in historical
19 settlement, economic development, and land use
20 patterns. To reflect these variations, six regional
21 water resources committees were created by the Water
22 Resources Planning Act, to ensure that individual
23 regional priorities were highlighted in the plan.
24 The priorities and actions of the committee's
25 influence not only local streams and rivers but also

1 nationally prominent water bodies, such as the
2 Chesapeake Bay, the Delaware Bay, the Gulf of
3 Mexico, and the Great Lakes System.

4 The committee members represent a wide
5 range of interests in their region; business and
6 industry, agricultural, local government and the
7 environment. While many water resources planning
8 priorities are shared statewide, each committee has
9 identified additional concerns that are specific to
10 its area. This current update will include
11 development of recommendations for revisions to
12 regional plans, as well as amend the update the
13 State Water Plan. The top water resources
14 management priorities along with plan provisions to
15 implement applicable water resources related
16 strategies, outlining the Governor's 2018
17 Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan, are the main focus
18 of the regional committee.

19 This concludes the summary of the
20 regional component of the State Water Plan. If you
21 would like additional information on the State Water
22 Plan, please email us at RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov,
23 or you can visit DEP's webpage and search State
24 Water Plan.

25 In order to give everyone an equal

1 opportunity to comment on this component, I would
2 like to establish the following ground rules. James
3 is going to provide some of this information in the
4 chat box, so you don't need to write everything
5 down.

6 I will call upon the witnesses who
7 have signed up to testify at this hearing. All who
8 signed up were assigned a number, indicating the
9 order in which witnesses would be called to speak.

10 Testimony is limited to five minutes
11 for each witness, and I will have a timer on the
12 screen. Please note that written and spoken
13 testimony both carry the same weight. If you should
14 run out of time for your spoken testimony, we will
15 read the rest of your comments, or your written
16 testimony. As advised in registration
17 correspondence, please provide a copy of your
18 written testimony to RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov. Your
19 email must note that you are submitting testimony
20 for state water plan, Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water
21 Resources Regional Committee Public Hearing, along
22 with the following information, first and last name,
23 mailing address, email address, and if you are
24 commenting on behalf of an organization.

25 Testimony is not required to be five

1 minutes long. If others who provide testimony
2 before you are making similar statements to yours,
3 you are free to shorten or summarize your verbal
4 testimony at this time, and still provide your full
5 testimony by email. This will allow us to hear from
6 more commenters at this hearing.

7 Throughout the sign-up process,
8 prospective commenters were requested to designate
9 one witness to present testimony on behalf of an
10 organization.

11 Please state your name, address, the
12 city and state are sufficient, and affiliation, if
13 you have one, for the record prior to presenting
14 your testimony. The committee would appreciate your
15 help by spelling out your name and terms that may
16 not be generally familiar, so that the transcript
17 can be as accurate as possible.

18 Because the purpose of a hearing is to
19 receive comments for the committee, committee
20 members or DEP staff cannot address questions about
21 the regional components of the State Water Plan
22 during the duration of the hearing.

23 In addition to, or in place of verbal
24 testimony presented at today's hearing, interested
25 persons may also submit written comments on this

1 proposal. Again, written and verbal comments hold
2 the same weight when considered in the finalization
3 of this update. All testimony and written comments
4 provided become a part of the official public
5 record.

6 All comments must be received by the
7 committee on or before January 20th, 2021. There
8 are a few different ways to submit written comments,
9 and this is separate from the testimony. Comments
10 may be submitted by email at [RA-](mailto:RA-statewaterplan@pa.gov)
11 statewaterplan@pa.gov. A subject heading of the
12 Upper/Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Regional
13 Committee, and a return name and address must be
14 included in each email. Comments may also be sent
15 through U.S. postal mayor - mail, addressed to the
16 State Water Plan Section, P.O. Box 8555, Harrisburg,
17 PA 17105-8555.

18 All testimony received at this
19 hearing, as well as written comments received by
20 January 20th, 2021, will be considered by the
21 committee.

22 At this time, I would like to call
23 people to testify. Nobody has registered for this
24 hearing. So, if there's anyone who did not have the
25 opportunity to pre-register and would like to

1 provide testimony, please let me know now, and we
2 can accept your testimony.

3 The hand raise feature is to let me
4 know that - that's okay if anyone wants to speak
5 freely, and let me know that they would like to give
6 testimony, just - whoever speaks first can go first.

7 John Detisch, you had your hand
8 raised. Would you like to provide testimony?

9 MR. DETISCH: Hello. My name is John
10 Detisch. My last name is spelled D as in David, E-T
11 as in Tom, I-S-C-H. My address is 241 Thompson 2
12 Road, New Salem, Pennsylvania. I am with the - I am
13 the President of the I - Pennsylvania Division of
14 the Izaak Walton League of America. Within the
15 Susquehanna area, we have three chapters that - that
16 reside there.

17 I have very short comments. And
18 again, I would like to promote the idea of
19 regenerative farming. And we've been talking a
20 great deal to our fellow division in Maryland about
21 issues that - that are occurring along the - the
22 Susquehanna. And of course, their concern is the
23 Chesapeake.

24 And that - as I've been in this
25 discussion, I find that we talk about certain

1 things, but we leave out other things. So, again,
2 we would like to promote, and would like you to
3 promote the idea of regenerative farming, which is a
4 no or low-till farming methods. Planting cover
5 crops, crop rotation, and the need to test soil to
6 promote soil health.

7 I appreciate that this idea and the –
8 the – the history of regenerative farming – farmers
9 will find that it takes, based on research, three to
10 five years in order to recoup their investment, and
11 to start making money.

12 So, I would hope that this committee
13 could support that idea as we support the gas
14 industry in Pennsylvania. We very much need you to
15 be an advocate of this, to promote the idea of cover
16 crops and so forth. Recognize that there's more
17 than just the issue of farming along the
18 Susquehanna, but Susquehanna along – you know, is
19 also known as the eastern Pittsburgh.

20 So the – there's a number of – a long
21 history of industry along the Susquehanna that we
22 seem to in a sense lose it with the forest and the
23 trees. And then we keep on going back to
24 agriculture as the problem along the Susquehanna,
25 but we also have other issues that – that are

1 dams. Often that – as we talk to conservation
2 groups like Izaak Walton, we're more concerned about
3 what's going on in the rivers so we don't mind if
4 you – you dredge behind a dam. But that's – that's
5 only part of the problem.

6 Whatever you take out from the – from
7 dams, you need to figure out what you're going to do
8 with it. And we do not – we would like to make sure
9 that you have a plan, and we're not just
10 transferring the problem.

11 So in – in my short comments, and I'm
12 sorry I – I just real – realized that I could have
13 this opportunity to meet with you. And I do
14 appreciate that. Is that we would very much like to
15 see the committee use as their priorities the whole
16 concept of regenerative agriculture, looking at
17 what's in – in the rivers, and also what's behind
18 the dams.

19 Thank you very much.

20 CHAIR: Thank you, John.

21 Is there anyone else here today that
22 would like to provide testimony?

23 Okay.

24 Without anyone else speaking up, I'll
25 – what – hold on.

1 Hello. I noticed two people have just
2 joined. We just heard some testimony, and at this
3 time I would like to open the floor up if there's
4 anyone who did not get a chance to pre-register to
5 testify. If those who did not get a chance to pre-
6 register would like to give testimony at this time,
7 please let me know.

8 Okay.

9 So, at this time, I'm going to set a
10 15-minute clock. And if anyone else joins within
11 that time, or would like to present testimony,
12 please speak up and let me know. And I will check
13 back after the 15-minute timer is up, ask if anyone
14 would like to present testimony at that time. And
15 if we do not have any additional testimony, we will
16 adjourn the meeting at that time.

17 I'm going to start this timer now.

18 Thank you.

19 ---

20 (WHEREUPON, A SHORT BREAK WAS TAKEN.)

21 ---

22 CHAIR: Okay.

23 I haven't seen anyone else join the
24 meeting, but is anyone interested in providing
25 testimony that did not get a chance to register at

1 this time?

2 Okay.

3 With no one else having provided
4 testimony, I would like to thank you all for your
5 patience in taking your time to provide testimony
6 today. With no other commenters, on behalf of the
7 committee, I hereby adjourn this hearing at 3:30
8 p.m.

9 Thank you.

10 * * * * *

11 HEARING CONCLUDED AT 3:30 P.M.

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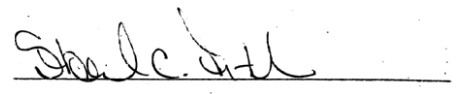
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Dated the 28th day of January, 2021



Court Reporter

Shannon C. Fortsch

