

Chapter 6

Public Participation

Public Process

The public was invited to a kick-off meeting (see Public Notice 6-1) scheduled for June 20, 2006. The Steering Members has worked to put together a PowerPoint Presentation as well as maps and other information pieces. The meeting was published in the local daily newspaper as well as the Community News and posted in public venues – library, Conservation District Office and on-line.

The public has been engaged in the process and provided the opportunity to offer responses as the plan has been in the development phase. Questions for community Leasers were also developed to help steer the conversations and gather feedback.

Study Committee Members

Perry Co. Conservation District	Todd Brajkovich-District Mgr./ Sally Tengeres – Watershed Specialist
Perry County Farm Service Agency	Representative
P.C. Farm Preservation/Director	Jonas Stoltzfus
Tri County Planning Comm	Jason Finnerty/James Szymborski
Perry Co Farm Service Agency/Pres	John Flanders, Farm Bureau Dir.
Senator Corman's Secretary	Brenda Benner
Tuscarora Forestry Dept.	Steve Wacker-Asst. Dist Forester
DOT Planning Engineer	Diane Nulton
Blue Mt. Outfitters Owner	Doug Gibson
PC Conservation District/Director	Attny. Elizabeth Place
Certified Forester/PA For.Bureau	Gene Odatto
Teacher/Scout Master	Tom Prescott
SCCA rep/farmer/teacher	Karen Bolze
Perry Co. Planning Commission	Logan Bower / Robert E. Shaffer
Ches. Bay Comm. and landowner	Marel Raub
Duncannon Borough	Fred Lauster
PA Trout Unlimited	Karl Sheaffer
Cove Mountain Preservation Group	Diane Staz / Brian Foster
DCNR Dept of Forestry	Tracy Coulter
ALLARM	Candie Wilderman/Julie Vastine
Linda Sieber	SCCA
	Robert E. Shaffer/PC Planning Alt.

Public Notice 6-1: Announcement of Public Meeting

Public Meeting Notice:

**Opening Meeting
Southern Perry County
Watershed Conservation Plan**

June 20, 2006 7-9 p.m.
Carroll Township Building
50 Rambo Hill Road, Shermans Dale

Who Should Attend?

Residents of the following watersheds:
Shermans Creek, Little Juniata Creek
Fishing Creek, Cove Creek
And Residents who live between Duncannon and
Marysville along the Susquehanna River

Why should you attend?

Learn about the watershed conservation planning process
Supply information needed from local residents which adds
value to the plan

An opportunity to enhance farming, fishing, hunting,
natural resources and overall quality of life in Perry County



1.

Questionnaire 6-2: Questions for Community Leaders



1. Are you familiar with “Low Impact Development” concepts and practices? Do your ordinances reflect these concepts? If so, do they mandate certain practices or merely allow them? If not, what are some barriers to using these concepts in your community?
2. Does your parks and recreation committee include maintenance and use of natural areas in their discussions? What is the role of the committee and/or governing body to facilitate and encourage access and use of natural areas for hiking, fishing, boating, hunting, etc.?
3. Does your township have an environmental advisory committee? If so, what is the scope of their work? If not, would you be interested in forming one?
4. Do you support mixed-use development, where commercial, retail, and residential units can be located together and within walking distance? Do your zoning regulations allow for this? If not, what are some barriers?
5. Has your community identified and/or planned for the economic impacts of development, such as transportation needs, police/fire protection, stormwater and flooding issues, etc. If so, were different development scenarios considered, such as traditional development v. cluster development, low-impact development, mixed-use development, etc.
6. Do you feel you have the tools and skills you need to properly plan for growth and protect the resources of your township?
7. Do you feel you have the financial resources you need to properly govern your township with respect to land-use planning?
8. Do you feel you have the time you need to plan for growth and to protect your resources?
9. What do you feel are the resources most valued by your constituents?
10. What are your biggest environmental concerns? Do you have the tool you need to address these concerns?
11. On a scale of 1-10 (10 highest), where would you rank the conservation of environmental resources?
12. Do environmental regulations affect your business? If so, how?
13. Are these affects positive or negative on your business?

14. What regulations would you like to see developed in your community to protect the environment for future generations?
15. Would additional regulation have an economic impact on the future of your community?
16. Please identify 2 or 3 areas in your community that are most in need of protection.
17. Does your municipality have a current comprehensive plan?
18. If so, when was it last updated?
19. Do you have subdivision regulations?
20. What are the minimum lot sizes for development?
21. Are there subdivision regulations that promote conservation of open land and encourage cluster developments?
22. Does the plan allow clusters of houses to be built on smaller lots?
23. Does the plan include preservation of farmland and agricultural lands?
24. Does your plan take into account important ecological features and steer development away from these areas?
25. Does the plan make any recommendations to conserve stream corridors and encourage riparian protection?
26. What are the most important things that you see that should be done to conserve open space while providing for economic development?
27. What are the major environmental concerns in your municipality?
28. What are the major issues and concerns you would like to see addressed in this plan?

PowerPoint 6-3: Introduction of Project to the Public



*Southern Perry County
Watershed Conservation Plan*



**Project funded by:
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources
Community Conservation Partnership Program**



Opening Public Meeting Agenda:

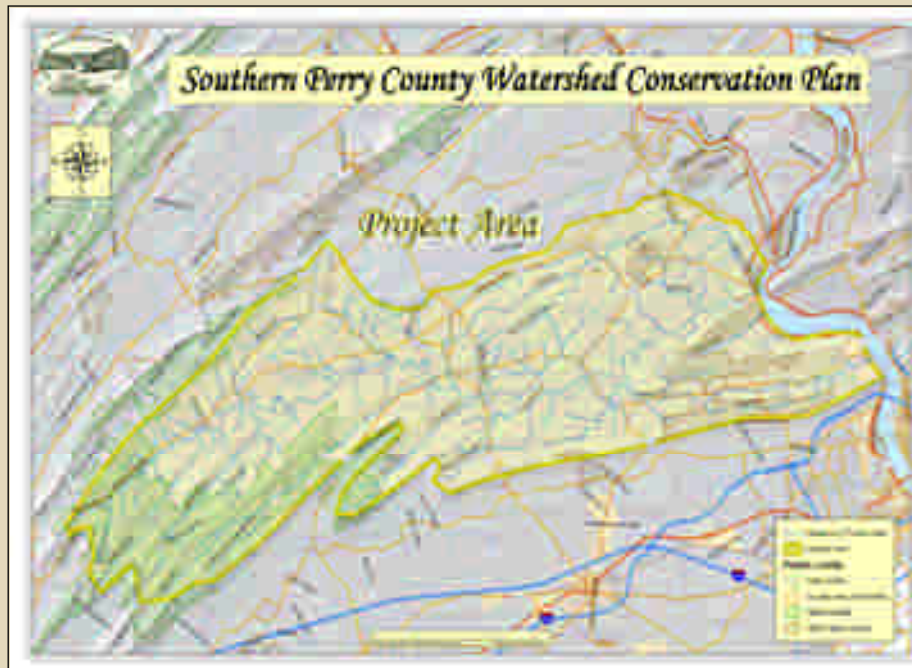
- ✦ Introduce Plan and Partners
- ✦ Overview of the Planning Process
- ✦ Questions?



Southern Perry County Watershed Conservation Plan

What is a Rivers Conservation Plan?

- It's a planning study that is driven by the public and is **non-regulatory**
- Gathers existing data about the resources within the watersheds



What will the plan do?

- ✦ **Identify important natural resources** such as agricultural land, forests, and streams
- ✦ **Be a tool for local municipal leaders** to use for proactive natural resource planning and development
- ✦ **Provide recommendations** to balance economic growth with environmental protection

Project Advisors:

- ✦ Shermans Creek Conservation Association
- ✦ Perry County Conservation District
- ✦ The Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM)
- ✦ Central Pennsylvania Conservancy



ShermansCreek
Conservation Association



The Alliance for Aquatic
Resource Monitoring



Perry County
Conservation District



A photograph of a forest path with a central text box. The text box is titled "Project Partners" and lists several organizations and groups.

Project Partners

- Perry County Farm Bureau
- Tri County Planning Commission
 - Tuscarora State Forest
- Perry County Farm Preservation
 - Local Educators
 - Perry County Planning Commission
- Chesapeake Bay Commission
 - Trout Unlimited
 - Municipalities

A photograph of a stream in a forest with a blue header and yellow background. The header is titled "Planning Process Overview" and lists three steps in the planning process.

Planning Process Overview

- ☒ Introduce the plan to the public
- ☒ Gather input from the public on local issues and concerns in the watershed
- ☒ Collect data on natural and cultural resources



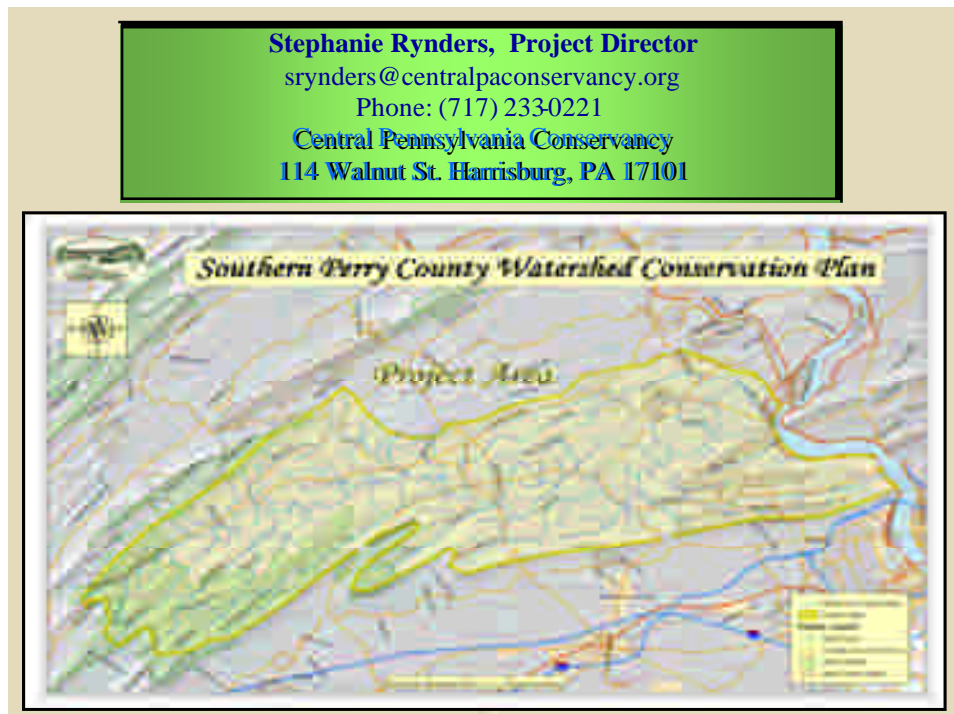
The Plan will contain:

- ✦ Detailed description of Land, Water, Biological, and Cultural Resources
- ✦ Maps
- ✦ Public Comments
- ✦ Interviews with Residents and Community Leaders
- ✦ Management Recommendations

Timeline for Planning Process



January through July 2007 :
Collect and Analyze Resource Data



***Southern Perry County Watershed Conservation Plan
Open Public Meeting
Tuesday, June 20, 2006***

Notes from Public Responses

- ❖ Identify whether there are any “legacy sediment” sites in the planning area.
 - Contacts: Dr. Robert Walter
 - Dr. Dorothy Merritts
 - Franklin and Marshall College
 - “Legacy sediments” are those that collected behind mill dams created during European settlement and subsequent industrialization. These sediments can currently impact storm water management and riparian restoration.
- ❖ In General
 1. Discourage development in or near Ag. Security Areas and pockets of preserved farmland. Location of development within a preserved cluster can undermine the goals of preservation.
 2. Infrastructure must be proactive rather than reactive, and must take preservation into account...provide infrastructure in areas where development should be and away from areas that should be protected.
 - Infrastructure = both water, sewer, and transportation
 3. Municipalities should revise land development and zoning ordinances to accommodate low impact concepts such as for storm water.
- ❖ Improve water quality on impaired streams on 303 (d) list
 - Cisna Run
 - Montour Creek
 - Laurel Run
 - Tire Dumping site off Dugan’s Mill Road on main stem of Shermans Creek
 - Bixler Run – Dam at Mouth and riparian buffer and stream stability issues
 - Mainstem Shermans Creek EV Petition
- ❖ Trp. Tom Prescott (582-4052)
 - Pictures of Little Juniata Creek
 - Specific problems—runoff from 11/15 and city streets
 - Debris in creek
 - Buildings along creekside
 - Tom Nehilla - 834-4026 or 233-5731
- ❖ Montour Creek—very little fish and vegetation
 - Study flow directly from houses from older homes (systems never updated)
- ❖ Increase in streamside buffers (possibly protected with easements)
- ❖ Farmland Preservation
- ❖ Better planning and Zoning
- ❖ Increase in Easements
- ❖ More recreational, USGS to get public outdoors

- ❖ Streamside parks
- ❖ Bike trails
- ❖ Renovate old rail lines
- ❖ Creekside trails
- ❖ High E. coli courts entire length of Shermans Creek
 - 5-6 sites monitored since 2005
 - Linda Sieber (SCCA)
 - Lauren Imgrund (ALLARM)

Photo 6-4: 6/20/2006 Public Meeting



Public Meeting Comments 2/06/2007 and 2/09/2007

Accessibility

- Access to Shermans Creek and Susquehanna river has become limited, this is a big concern for fishing and boating
- Norfolk Southern Railroad has block access to the eastern shore of the Susquehanna River for many miles
- Desire for preservation of current access points and inclusion in municipal recreational plans

Development

- Sustainable development is a big concern
- Developer fees proportional to size of development
- Runoff from large subdivision causing erosion and carrying sediment and chemicals into Shermans Creek

Farmland Preservation

- Pressure landowners and farmers to fence livestock out of creeks and riparian areas
- Provide extra incentive for cooperating farmers
- Protect and preserve farms
- Riparian plantings for riparian land owners

Miscellaneous

- Put Perry County into a county wide rural conservation county, where only limited development can happen (based on PA History and Museum identifying rural historic district farmstead, and the fact that there are no stoplights in Perry County)
- Montour Run has extra sediment buildup, decreased aquatic vegetation, and no riparian buffers
- Illegal dump in New Bloomfield that was ordered to be cleaned up by DCNR- has not been done

Photo 6-5: 2/06/2007 Public Meeting



Survey

A survey was created and inserted in the SCCA newsletter. It was mass mailed to all the households in the watershed area. Of those who responded, most were inclined to want to protect recreation and scenic areas of the watershed. These people indicated that their biggest concerns were for use of the area for hunting, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, and general outdoor recreation. The importance the respondents placed upon protecting these recreation opportunities is reflected in the survey. It should be noted that of those who received the survey, very few people responded. Those who did respond are people who actively enjoy the outdoor recreation opportunities in southern Perry County. (See Appendix A)

Meeting Schedule 6-6: Meetings

Date	Location	Meeting
5/29/2008	Duncannon Municipal Building	Public Meeting
5/27/2008	Perry County Conservation District	Public Meeting
4/3/2008	Caroll Township Building	Steering Committee
3/11/2008	Caroll Township Building	Steering Committee
1/11/2008	Central PA Conservancy	meeting with Jesse Eisenbise, contractor
9/20/2007	Caroll Township Building	Steering Committee
2/9/2007	Tuscarora State Forest Building	Public Meeting
2/6/2007	Duncannon Municipal Building	Public Meeting
11/09/2006	Caroll Township Building	Steering Committee
10/19/2006	Caroll Township Building	Steering Committee – Intro Stephanie Rynders
10/09/2006	SCCA	SCCA/Todd Sampsell
6/20/2006	Caroll Township Building	Public Meeting
5/2/2006	Caroll Township Building	Steering Committee
4/13/2006	Perry County Conservation District	Steering Committee
11/18/2005	Caroll Township Building	Steering Committee
09/12/2005	DCNR	DCNR/Advisory Committee

Plan Review

The public was invited to review the draft plan and provide public comment. The majority of comments were only grammatical in content. Copies of the plan were available online at www.centralpaconservancy.org/steering and at the following locations for their review:

Bloomfield Public Library

19 E McClure Street
New Bloomfield Pa 17068

Marysville Rye Library Association

198 Overcrest Road
Marysville Pa 17053

County Commissioners Office

Veterans Memorial Building
P.O. Box 37, W. Main
New Bloomfield, Pa 17068

DCNR

Bureau of Forestry
P.O. Box 42A, New Germantown Rd
Blain Pa 17006

Rye Township

1775 New Valley Road
Marysville Pa 17053

Penn Township

100 Municipal Building Road
Duncannon PA 17020

Carroll Township

50 Rambo Hill Road
Shermans Dale, Pa 17090