

**Southern Perry County Watershed Conservation Plan
BRC-RCP-11-6 (ME 485006)**

REVISED SCOPE-OF-WORK

A. Study Purpose

1. The southern Perry County watersheds included in this study were deemed priorities for several factors:
 - a) Southern Perry County will see increased development pressure as Harrisburg area commuters are attracted by relatively low land costs.
 - b) There are significant prime farmland and forest resources in the region.
 - c) The Nature Conservancy has documented the biological significance of several limestone streams in the region, including Shermans Creek.
 - d) Numerous recreational opportunities exist in the study area including the Appalachian Trail, several parks and the Susquehanna River.
 - e) Perry County is a priority for DCNR as a candidate for county-wide recreation and greenway planning and this project will complement the completed Juniata River Plan in covering nearly the entire county.
2. The plan will engage the public and local municipalities, as well as local conservation organizations in assessing the natural and cultural attributes of the area that contribute to quality of life. It will then compile information and make recommendations as to appropriate conservation measures, public and private, to balance economic growth with environmental protection.
3. GIS will be used to map all significant attributes of the study area as they are deemed relevant to the plan.
4. Boundaries of the study will include the watershed boundaries of Shermans, Little Juniata and Fishing Creeks as well as all Susquehanna River tributaries between the mouths of Little Juniata and Fishing Creeks.
5. The plan will be a tool for municipalities to use in comprehensive planning. It will also be a valuable tool for the Perry County Conservation District and Perry County Commissioners as they develop economic and environmental programs for the future of Perry County. The plan will also be a guiding tool for local conservation organizations and grassroots efforts to implement recommended projects that come from the public planning process.

B. Public Participation

NOTE: The grantee, Central Pennsylvania Conservancy, will serve in the traditional role as consultant for this project. Project partners, including the Shermans Creek Conservation Association and the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) will also serve in sub-contractor roles related to public outreach and plan writing and review.

1. A public steering committee representing a diverse array of watershed stakeholders has been assembled and is attached. The steering committee will

decide on an appropriate meeting schedule, but it is anticipated they will meet no less frequently than quarterly over the period of plan development.

2. An initial public meeting will be scheduled at the project commencement in order to announce the project and invite input. Ideally, this initial meeting will be a series of 2-3 meetings in different locations on different days to maximize public involvement. Another series of public meetings will be held to gather additional information on watershed issues in late summer 2006. A series of meetings will be held to present the drafted plan in 2007 and a final public meeting will be held at the project completion to present the final plan. Additional opportunities for public engagement will occur through attendance at local community events, presentations to civic groups, etc.
3. Additional public engagement and project updates will occur through information disseminated in biannual newsletters from the Shermans Creek Conservation Association and quarterly newsletters of the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy.
4. Public surveys will be mailed to all watershed residents receiving the Shermans Creek Conservation Association newsletter.
5. All municipalities will be asked to designate a local official as the primary contact for the planning project. All meeting reports and project updates will be sent to these contacts to keep all watershed municipalities engaged and informed on the planning process.
6. Key person interviews will be held with elected officials, landowners and others.
7. All public participation will be documented by media announcements and written results.

C. Data Collection and Analysis

1. Data will be collected, interpreted and summarized on all project area characteristics suggested by DCNR's guidance document, "RiversConservation_General Info. and Scope of Work_7.doc".
2. Issues, concerns and constraints collected from our significant public input process will be summarized.
3. Land resources will be described.
4. Water Resources will be described.
5. Biological Resources will be described.
6. Cultural Resources will be described.
7. Management options will be developed that address significant issues, concerns and constraints identified through the planning process. These will include recommended actions and projects for watershed protection. They will also include desired outcomes, lead agency or group and costs analyses where possible.
8. Significant data will be summarized in tables, charts and maps and included as appendices.

D. Management Options (See #7 above)

E. Executive Summary

It is anticipated the watershed conservation plan will be a rather lengthy and sophisticated document. In order to make it more accessible and user friendly for the general public, an executive summary will be produced. It is anticipated this will be a stand alone document, possibly in the form of a poster that contains a watershed map and major points of the watershed plan. These maps can be produced relatively inexpensively in large numbers and can be distributed to teachers, agencies and organizations throughout the watershed.

F. GIS Mapping

1. Central Pennsylvania Conservancy and ALLARM have GIS capacity and the Perry County Conservation District has also indicated a willingness to assist with GIS development.
2. Maps will be produced for all data bases indicated in the DCNR guidance document, "RiversConservation_General Info. and Scope of Work_7.doc".
3. Because of Perry County's rural nature and the importance of agriculture to the local economy, special emphasis will likely be given to agricultural resources in the watersheds.

G. Draft Plan and Executive Summary

A draft plan and executive summary will be produced for public review and comments as well as DCNR review and comment. A minimum 30-day period will be designated for this review following a series of public meetings to present the draft. Copies of the draft plan will be available at several locations around the watersheds as well as online via Central Pennsylvania Conservancy's website. All comments will be reviewed and necessary changes made to the document based on the steering committee's consensus.

H. Final Products

A professional printed and bound final plan will be produced along with a professionally printed executive summary. Copies will be made available to DCNR and enough additional copies will be produced for all watershed municipalities, county and state agencies as well as local conservation organizations. Electronic copies will be offered in place of or in addition to printed copies. The final plan and associated GIS will also be available online via the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy website.