



**Environmental Implementation Partners Meeting Summary  
September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 10:30AM to 11:30AM**

**Presenters:**

Jerry Duke, Dauphin County Planning Coordinator, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission  
Steve Deck, Planner, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission  
Alexa Korber, Environmental Planner, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

**Attendees:**

Brad Baker, PA DEP  
Chad Bingaman, Suez Water  
Tanya Dierolf, Capital Region Water  
Craig Ebersole, PA DEP,  
Jenn Fetter, Penn State Cooperative Extension  
Betsy Logan, Susquehanna Township  
Eric Naguski, Dauphin County Conservation District  
Jon Prawdzik, PA American Water  
Bryan Van Sweden, PA Historical and Museum Commission  
Sally Zaino, Manada Conservancy

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Jerry Duke opened the meeting by reviewing the basic principles behind the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan. Adopted officially by the County Commissioners in July, the plan is now moving in to the implementation phase. A handout with Key Goals and Action Items, taken directly from the plan, was reviewed. These can be found here: <https://www.dauphincountycompplan.org/water-quality/>  
Mr. Steve Deck reminded the group that Key Action Items may change, but all actions taken to implement the plan should coincide with the stated Goals or the entire plan would have to be presented for re-adoption.

Meeting attendees were sent a Prioritization Form that gave them the ability to rate all Key Action Items as either High, Medium, or Low Priority. The votes were tallied and weighted (3 points for High, 2 points for Medium, and 1 point for Low) and averaged by the number of attendants who responded. Eight (8) members of the Environmental Committee returned their Prioritization forms prior to the meeting. **It was noted that the ranking of Key Action Items is meant as an unofficial measure to determine relative importance and does not necessarily reflect the order in which tasks will be approached or accomplished.** All members of the committee should submit a completed Prioritization Form to Alexa Korber, [akorber@tcrpc-pa.org](mailto:akorber@tcrpc-pa.org)

Alexa Korber explained the scoring mechanism for the forms and noted, in response to questions from the group, that putting an organizational name down as having interest in leading a certain effort was not a binding commitment and that the Committee is not going to demand any more participation from one member. The top three Key Action Items were read aloud. They are:

1. **Work with water suppliers to define Source Water protection areas for all public water supplies and preserve/protect these areas through a variety of land preservation and/or other protection mechanisms as appropriate;**
2. **In partnership with DCCD, municipalities, environmental organizations, and other develop a countywide strategy for addressing surface and ground water quality and quantity issues;**
3. **Ensure that current floodplain mapping is incorporated into all updates of municipal and county greenway and open space plans.**

Steve Deck handed out and explained a draft of what a potential County-wide Water Strategy might look like as a proposal for the committee's first action item. The draft plan includes two parts: **Source Water Protection and Stream/Surface Water Protection.**

Ms. Fetter suggested that the proposed strategy should deal not only with public systems, but also community water systems like schools. Mr. Ebersole spoke to say that DEP only has the authority to help with public community water plans, but agreed that other systems may be viable components of the proposed strategy.

Ms. Dierolf asked whether different levels of Source Water Protection Plans might be appropriate given the varying size and complexity of the systems. Mr. Ebersole pointed out that DEP's Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program (SWPTAP) does provide for varying degrees of specificity and offered that DEP could help develop source water plans for clusters of some of the smaller, closely spaced systems. He also pointed out that **peer-to-peer marketing is thought to be a good way for these Source Water Protection plans to gain traction and asked for support from the three major water systems in attendance (Capital Region, PA American, and Suez).**

It was agreed that outreach on the importance of source water planning and the overall Water Quality Initiative is critical and that the committee and each of its members should participate. Ms. Fetter said that Penn State Cooperative Extension has interest in helping with education/outreach. Mr. Naguski said that a way to facilitate more outreach and education in different parts of the county would be to attend Council of Governments (COG) meetings.

Mr. Deck brought up groundwater as another potential area to be incorporated in to the plan. Ms. Fetter stated that individual aquifer data does not really exist and that USGS or the 2010 Census might be the best place to get data related to well users. **Given the difference between surface water contaminants between the Northern and Southern halves of the County, with the Northern have seeing more agricultural pollution while the Southern half has more stormwater issues,** the Dauphin County Conservation District would be an important partner in addressing agriculturally related issues.

The group also thought that part of the Water Quality Strategy could involve the County coming out with a model ordinance for construction standards. Several counties, such as Chester, Bucks, and Adams, already have similar model ordinances.

Ms. Zaino stated that the group should also think about what measures to take to protect streams that are **not impaired**, as these waterways are also exposed to substantial threat. Ms. Dierolf agreed and said that a goal of removing streams from the 303(d) List will be a very weighty goal and is not necessarily usable as a measure for program success.

Mr. Duke closed the meeting by asking for any announcements attendees would like to make. **Ms. Zaino mentioned that John Rogers, of the Keystone Conservation Fund, will be giving a talk on the Dauphin County Return on Environment process in October.** The full Return on Environment report can be found here: <http://kittatinnyridge.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/FINAL-DRAFT-DAUPHIN-COUNTY-April-2.pdf>

Mr. Duke also asked that attendees think about what to name the potential water strategy and whether it should focus solely on water quality or be part of a broader strategy for dealing with environmental quality and health.

#### **Next Steps:**

There will be continued efforts toward the completion of the Water Quality Strategy. This will include the development of an integrated strategy that encompasses source water and water quality.

No schedule date was made for the next meeting. The Implementation Partners will be asked to meet again when there is progress to report on the results of the efforts.