



**Environmental Implementation Partners Meeting Summary**  
**May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**  
**Madeline Olewine Memorial Library**

**Organizers:**

Jerry Duke, Dauphin county Planning Coordinator, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, [gduke@tcrpc-pa.org](mailto:gduke@tcrpc-pa.org)

Alexa Korber, Planner, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, [akorber@tcrpc-pa.org](mailto:akorber@tcrpc-pa.org)

**Attendees:**

John Balay, Susquehanna River Basin Commission

Tanya Dierolf, Capital Region Water

Joe Hebelka, PA DEP

Jennifer Hine, Manada Conservancy

Betsy Logan, Susquehanna Township,

Brooks Mountcastle, Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Jon Prawdzcic, PA American Water

Sally Zaino, Manada Conservancy

---

**Review from Previous Meeting**

Alexa Korber opened the meeting by presenting all participants with binders that contained notes and handouts from the first meeting last September. The goal is to have all participants bring the binders to future meeting in order to add their notes and handouts. For anyone considering participation in future meetings who would like to receive a binder please email Alexa at the address above.

There was a review of the Key Action Items from the Dauphin County Comprehensive Plan. The Key Action Items had been ranked in accordance with the preferences of the group. The top ranking Action Items were: **developing a countywide strategy for for addressing surface and**

**ground water quality, integrating updated floodplain mapping in to applicable plans , and model ordinance development/promotion for setbacks, buffers, low impact development and other concerns.** For a reminder of all Goals and Key Action Items for this section of the Comprehensive Plan, please follow this link and navigate through the different subsections: <https://www.dauphincountycompplan.org/growing-within-our-environment-intro/>

Alexa also brought up an example of county partnership with an implementation partner to meeting mutual goals in the form of the Natural Areas Inventory (NRI) being completed with Manada Conservancy. The Conservancy was represented at the meeting by Executive Director Jennifer Hine and Board Director Sally Zaino. The NRI will be a comprehensive look at all of the natural resources within Dauphin County. It will serve Manada Conservancy in adding direction to their strategic plan as well as an outreach tool. By the same measure, it will be an environmental outreach tool for Dauphin County and can assist in identify high-value environmental areas.

---

### **What Committee Members Are Doing**

The group then went around the table to share projects from their respective organizations.

Mr. Balay of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) said that the Army Corps of Engineers is developing a flood study for Swatara Creek. SRBC would like to develop flood inundation mapping similar to what has been done for the Susquehanna River to better assess flood risk. Mr. Balay also mentioned the bi-annual meeting of the **Source Water Protection Partnership**, which is hosted at the SRBC office. The next meeting will be held in August. SRBC is also working on a pilot project with PEMA for baseline observations in streams prone to flooding.

Ms. Logan mentioned that Susquehanna Township is currently developing an updated Comprehensive Plan for which there is a survey available on line for residents or officials who work with the Township. Stormwater fees and other MS4-related water projects are also being explored; Susquehanna Township will work with the Center for Watershed Protection and PennDOT to develop erosion and sedimentation control measures and other mitigation prospects for the Paxton Creek. Susquehanna Township is also working with TCRPC in the creation of a custom Return on Environment (ROE) report, which is a municipal version derived from the larger Dauphin County ROE report.

Mr. Mountcastle of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy mentioned that they are furthering their work on buffers to protect the Appalachian Trail and its viewshed. Currently, they are working on measures to buffer traffic noise from sections of the trail. The ATC also wanted to remind the group of its **Conservation Assistance Mini-Grant Program**. These grants are available to all

Appalachian Trail municipalities and can be used for formation of Environmental Advisory Councils (EACs) or in other ways that result in protections for the Appalachian Trail.

From PA DEP Mr. Hebelka is standing in for Mr. Craig Ebersol, who is no longer with DEP. Mr. Hebelka is taking on Mr. Ebersol's duties until a replacement is found. Mr. Hebelka talked about the **Source Water Protection** grants that are available to owners of water systems. Under these grants, DEP creates a source water protection plan for the supplier free of charge. He also mentioned the 10,000,000 Trees Program that is run by the Chesapeake Bay Program. Through the program, organizations can sign-up to host tree planting events. The trees and supplies are provided free of charge by the Chesapeake Bay Program.

Mr. Hebelka also talked about watershed implementation countywide action plans. The creation of these plans is recommended by not required by the DEP and are meant to assist with the implementation of Phase III WIP efforts for MS4 permits. DEP is currently creating custom toolboxes for each county to assist in the creation of these plans. As a Tier II county, Dauphin should have a tool box created shortly.

Ms. Dierolf of Capital Region Water talked about the **City Beautiful H2O** program and how it working to implement green infrastructure in Harrisburg. She also mentioned that Capital Region Water is working with DEP to further protect the DeHart Dam, and that a long-term stormwater control plan is in the works for Dauphin County.

### **Next Steps**

After a group discussion, three major steps were agreed upon by the committee:

- Promote and educate municipalities on the adoption of riparian buffers for water quality protection. The minimum suggested width of the buffer was 300ft, which is considered to be more efficient than the typical 100ft buffers one sees in many ordinances,
- Work with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to promote and education trail buffering and other protections,
- The hosting of a water quality 'summit' for source water protection. This summit would include owners of water systems, such as township authorities and mobile home parks, as well as water companies and DEP.

The next meeting of the Environmental Implementation Partners Committee will be held in October or November (Fall) of 2018.