

Upper Makefield *Township*

Environmental Advisory Council Meeting

December 11, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The December 11, 2018 public meeting of the Upper Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council was called to order by Chair Bud Baldwin at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were the following members of the Environmental Advisory Council: Chair Bud Baldwin, Co-Chair Nicole Khan, Member Cathy Magliocchetti, Member Tim Thomas, and Member Jack Wiseman. Member Keith Miller and Member Kyle Dudley were not present. Also, in attendance were Township Engineer represented by Wes Plaisted and Planning and Zoning Director Dave Kuhns.

Confirmation of Quorum: Bud Baldwin confirmed quorum.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. July 10, 2018:

Discussion included an update on the River Protection/Yard Waste ordinance amendment. Mr. Kuhns noted no action has been taken. Mr. Kuhns will follow up with the Township Solicitor.

A motion was made by Ms. Magliocchetti to approve the July 10, 2018 minutes with no amendments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thomas. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Discussion Items:

A. Watershed Restoration Plan, Grant Update/Meeting with Land Studies:

Ms. Emily West, an Environmental Scientist and Ms. Kelly Gutshall, President, both with LandStudies, Inc., lead a discussion of the Status of the Watershed Restoration Plan and a review of the UPM Watershed Restoration Plan Report dated November 21, 2018. The following items were discussed:

- The following time line was presented:
 - The process was started in April with a drive by of the area and meeting with the EAC to understand the issues and goals of the projects.
 - A detail assessment was completed of the main streams of the two streams in Upper Makefield.
 - Additional information was gathered with the EAC after the assessment in June.
 - A stakeholder meeting was held in September that included the residents. More insight was discovered at this meeting, especially flooding concerns. More Jericho Creek residents were in attendance than Hough Creek, and expressed mostly flooding concerns.
 - Goals of the project were determined to be water quality and flood mitigation.

Ms. West presented the results of the assessment on the Assessment Map and Restoration Plan dated November 21, 2018. 19 different floodplain and stream restoration efforts/opportunities were identified. Some of the efforts are restoration efforts, but some are infrastructure issues.

The intersection of Pineville Road and Thompson Mill Road, and all along Pineville Road and Stoneybrook Roads were identified as areas with flooding problems and infrastructure issues. While stream restoration may improve the flooding problems on the roads, there may be some immediate infrastructure needs such as road patch maintenance. PennDot will need to be involved for the infrastructure issues, specifically the culvert that feeds the area at Thompson Mill Road and Pineville Road. This culvert is undersized. The infrastructure work to the culvert at this intersection will have a large impact on the flooding problems there. The Board of Supervisor opinion should be sought on this culvert work to move forward on this project. The culvert would be a road maintenance project.

LandStudies identified the top projects to resolve the areas with the highest instability with significant erosion, infrastructure issues and flooding. Top prioritization was determined by what projects would produce the highest impact results, and downstream improvements. Downstream projects should be prioritized after the upstream projects to avoid ongoing maintenance costs that would be needed until the upstream projects were completed.

Many of the problems identified in the watershed are due to historic agriculture practices and damming, but some of the problems are due to the geology of the area and the sediment movement.

LandStudies, Inc has prepared 2D modeling to assist with the communication of problems and possible solutions with PennDot, residents, Board of Supervisors and other stakeholders. Specifically it is a tool that can assist PennDot's understanding the situation at Pineville Road and Thompson Mill Road and allow them to prioritize the work effort to offset MS4 priorities.

Identifying the solutions and the impact of the solutions is done by LandStudies through the 2D modeling. They can implement a correction in the model to see the impact of the correction to flooding and sediment control downstream. This tool is useful in determining the best combination of projects to pursue and ensure the funding is directed to the highest impact projects. Solutions to the problems will be a combined effort of restoration efforts, and infrastructure changes by the Township and PennDot.

The Township Engineer walked through what has been submitted for MS4 permitting. This permit process is still ongoing with a back and forth conversation between the Township Engineer and DEP.

The property owners will need to engage in the solutions. The EAC hopes to meet with them to educate them about the project efforts, goals and impact to their properties. Ms. West and Ms. Kelly noted that property owners concerns are usually maintenance. Initial three years usually have the heaviest maintenance requirements. Solutions for maintenance would require an operation and maintenance plan for MS4 funding. EAC

should be prepared with answers to possible property owner questions about funding, maintenance, soil removal and soil testing responsibility and costs. Funding needs to be reviewed to determine how funds could be used for maintenance. If the property owners upstream do not agree to work with the project, the design would be altered to work on projects that we can, but would require more maintenance costs going forward until the upstream solutions are completed.

Cost estimates and grant funding were discussed for a few of the concept plans in the report. Ms. Gutshall explained that additional grant funding is easier to acquire when projects are 'shovel ready'. The design and permitting is the first step in moving a project forward and getting 'shovel ready' for the grant process. The different grant funding options discussed:

- DCNR Grants:
 - DCNR looks for recreational components to the project, such as a trail or park.
 - DCNR is looking at projects that combine with PennVest. PennVest is a loan.
- DEP 'Growing Greener' funding
 - The DEP 'Growing Greener' next round will be in the spring, but should get in touch with the DEP district representative to start that process.

LandStudies will refine the costs estimates to provide a liner foot cost estimate so the full project cost can be understood and communicated to appropriate stakeholders and funding can be acquired.

Next actions are:

- LandStudies to provide more refined costs estimates so EAC can approach the Board of Supervisors with a recommendation to move the project forward.
- Work with PennDot to come up with a plan for Pineville Road and Thompson Mill Road by the next EAC meeting.
- A small group of property owners be approached to educate and get their buy in. Mr. Kuhns will reach out to the handful of property owners and invite them to the January 8th EAC meeting.
- Identify additional grant funding sources.
- EAC to send a recommendation to the Board Supervisors once the above information is understood and agreed upon.

B. Conservation Easement, Amendment Process Review:

Mr. Kuhns presented the conservation easement, amendment process with a review of the email from Kris Kern of Heritage Conservatory. Ms. Kern has a suggestion for a possible amendment to the Conservation Easement. The EAC members recommended not to accept the amendment and handle fees and other items on a case by case basis.

Liaison Report:

A. Board of Supervisors: Diana Nolan

Ms. Nolan reported that the Board of Supervisors approved the donation of a 10 acre parcel by the Chandor residents to the Township for conservation easement.

B. Park & Recreation: Cathy Magliocchetti

Ms. Magliocchetti reported that parks are closed this month. Next meeting is not until January.

C. Planning & Zoning: Dave Kuhns

Mr. Kuhns noted that there was a Recycling event in Fall Township in January. The flyer for the event will be distributed to the EAC.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Mr. Baldwin and seconded by Ms. Magliocchetti to adjourn the meeting by 9:24 p.m. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Approved: January 8, 2019