

Northern Lancaster County Water Budget Project (NLCWB) Management Recommendations Work Group

Project Objectives

The Lancaster County Water Resources Study indicates “there are requirements for Comprehensive planning and wastewater facility plans, but no comparable requirement for water supply planning.” The County Water Resources Plan also states, “that the plan specifically focuses on water supply planning at the water facilities and wellhead protection. It does not encompass all aspects of water resources planning and management: those require future attention.”

The NLCWBP will provide the 13 municipalities within the study area with detailed water supply information to begin to address this important missing link...water quantity... by providing data on water use, water availability, locations of important resource areas, and some recommendations to protect future supplies.

Progress has been steady on this project, with significant fieldwork completed and a detailed zoning code review completed. At a recent work group meeting conducted on June 15, there was significant discussion related to the zoning code review, followed by breakout sessions related to the effectiveness of current measures in place related to water resource management. Some key issues that came out of those discussions are listed below.

- ❑ While impervious cover and stormwater management were identified as the most important water supply issues in the urban settings, for the suburban/rural areas, land use and development issues were seen as much more critical.
- ❑ The group discussing urban issues highlighted the need for the *practical* application of ordinances. Particularly, as the areas are close to if not completely built out; there are times when allowances need to be made to allow for economic development or other reasons.
- ❑ Porous paving as a way to increase infiltration was a topic of great interest; however, there was also a need expressed for more data regarding its effectiveness, the ability to view pilot projects before committing to its use, etc.
- ❑ Greater cooperation among municipalities was discussed with ideas exchanged about pooling resources for equipment needs, more consistency and standardization of ordinances within an area regardless of municipal boundaries, and the formation of teams focused on wellhead protection and other water supply issues.
- ❑ With regard to land development issues, ordinances related to karst geology were identified as having the greatest benefit to the water supply, along with the encouragement of groundwater recharge as it relates to stormwater management.

The group overwhelmingly agreed that water planning must be looked at for the next 50-plus years, with an inter-municipal outlook that looks much further into the future than is done today.