

**WEST HANOVER TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY**  
**SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm**

*24 participants including presenters, board, staff and public*

The meeting began at 7 pm. Mr. Fowler thanked the public and presenters for joining the Authority's special informational meeting. This meeting helps meet our MCM of public education and outreach. 4 presenters: PA DEP, DCCD, HRG and the West Hanover Township Authority with a brief Q&A after each presentation.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) – Scott Arwood**

Mr. Arwood did a slide show presentation on stormwater regulation in PA, upcoming MS4 changes, the Clean Water Act, industrial stormwater BMPs, Act 167 of 1978.

Mr. DeVincenzo asked if permits are specific to only one township or can they be shared? Mr. Arwood responded its rare, they only have 1 that has done that but have had municipalities partner on PRP plans. Mr. Greenly asked if Mr. Arwood knows if the future permits may have a more specific focus like agriculture or urban areas? Mr. Arwood replied there would more than likely be a focus on agriculture. Ms. Lewis asked about grants for new build homeowners, who have been required to install stormwater facilities. Mr. Arwood replied that he is not a grant expert however believes it is possible, most grants are offered to conservation districts, municipalities and water shed groups. Mr. Geppert asked if the Chesapeake Bay Foundation received a grant and Mr. Arwood was unsure but mentioned if they did it would have been at the federal level, not common at the state level. Mr. Steinmeier asked Mr. Arwood if the DEP is aware of any grants available to municipalities, can they let us know? He believes a lot of our residents need assistance with the stormwater fees. Mr. Arwood believes grants given would probably be directly to the municipality to be passed along if possible. Mr. Arwood reiterated he is not a grant expert. Mr. Steinmeier believes we are a smaller municipality, so it places a burden on the residents. Mr. Arwood stated that West Hanover is a larger MS4 by population. There are several counties that have way more municipalities so that is a smaller population to spread the fee to as opposed to West Hanover having almost 10,000. He used Berks County as a reference. Mr. Fowler asked if the permit got extended, do they add additional requirements? Mr. Arwood believes they don't go over and above but state to state it can vary. Mr. Fowler also asked if they get involved in how townships fund their mandated projects? Mr. Arwood confirmed that is left up to the local entities. Mr. Greenly reiterated townships were tasked with creating funding source in preparation to complete their mandated pollution reduction plans.

**Dauphin County Conservation District (DCCD) – Matt Williard**

Mr. Williard presented slides regarding stormwater BMPS for the homeowner. BMPS ideas include downspout disconnect, vegetative filter strip, rain barrel, block pavers, porous asphalt & concrete, turf pavers, and rain garden. Mr. Williard reminded if you are redirecting water

please be cognizant of where the water is going. It could do a lot of damage to your property or your neighbors. DCCD has a stormwater BMP tour at the Conservation District, there is a map online you can print off and come to their location and do a self-guided tour.

Ms. Lewis asked if the porous asphalt and pavement were more expensive than the traditional and durability. Mr. Williard believes it is a little more expensive and installation is more labor intensive, it is quite durable. You also shouldn't use salt or deicers on the porous because it soaks in. Ms. Naugle stated her front yard is sand, does that help BMPs? Mr. Williard replied, without knowing the specific area, theoretically water should infiltrate.

### **HRG – Alex Greenly**

Mr. Greenly discussed stream uses and impairments, West Hanover Township MS4 requirements and ordinance, pollution reduction plan (PRP) projects, stormwater management for land development, Act 167, and stormwater credit fees. PRP's planned for West Hanover Township include: Lakeside, Beaver Creek and Lenker Park stream restoration projects. With land development, Mr. Greenly reiterated that just because you meet your land development stormwater requirements doesn't necessary mean you qualify for credits. In most cases, to qualify you must provide calculations and supplemental information, which may require additional engineering work. He recommends working with the engineer for credits upfront at the time of development.

Mr. Enck asked who did the stream inspections determining they were polluted? Mr. Greenly stated it was the EPA through Chapter 93 integrated use. Mr. Enck also asked about the Winslett development and removing topsoil from the original landscape that they are hitting red shale, without topsoil, the rain isn't being absorbed. Mr. Greenly stated they are required to reinstall the topsoil after development but if you notice something isn't being replaced, you can reach out to the Township but you must also understand they have basins and stormwater facilities. Mr. DeVincenzo asked who is performing the work on the Lakeside project? Mr. Fowler confirmed the Township's public works department is doing the work.

### **West Hanover Township Authority**

Alexis briefly discussed some of the stormwater and public works expenses and projects. Equipment: sweeper, backhoe, crane, supplies, insurances, repairs, labor (administrative, public works. Fees: legal, advertising, Keystone, etc. Drain cleanings, Lakeside project, gutter cleaning / cutting, culvert repairs & installations, approved 8 repair projects up to \$100k, processed 57 appeals, processed 104 credit applications, completed public informational meetings, completed permitting for Lakeside, lid replacements, rain barrel workshops, sinkhole repairs, etc.

### **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

Ms. Lewis believes there are innovative ways for the grants but does not think that they may be feasible for the average homeowner. Ms. Naugle asked if the bills showed detailed credits. Mr. Fowler let her know she can look up her parcel on the GIS to see which credits were applied.

Ms. Allen asked if the automatic credits would continue? Mr. Fowler stated they would go through the permit cycle unless that gets extended. You don't need to apply for those. Mr. Enck asked about the Beaver Creek restoration project if Lower Paxton would partner with that because the creek borders both townships. Mr. Greenly responded they are not required by DEP to address any impairments in that watershed. Mr. Fowler commented we probably can't get them to partner because they don't have any requirements on Beaver Creek by DEP like we do. They have other watershed requirements.

Mr. Fowler thanked everyone for joining and reminded the next monthly meeting is April 7<sup>th</sup>.