

Erick J. Coolidge
Tioga County Commissioner



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An Open Letter

All too often, we find ourselves trying to console families who have been harmed by high water events or extreme flooding.

The time has come to take a different approach of addressing maintenance of streams and waterways going forward. Response of a couple of months or several months needs to be a few days and here are the permits.

We need to be proactive, not reactive, in addressing or implementing practices that guide water within the banks of waterways. Not to suggest oversight of the Department of Environmental Protection should not be employed, however, Boroughs and Townships truly need to be able, with permission when a site is identified, to begin their work before another storm creates greater damage that would / could be prevented.

Beyond taking action when needed, one seemingly overlooked result of being proactive versus reactive is the potential cost savings. No doubt these dollars will be in the millions in savings.

The request is how do we move from reactive to proactive, inviting the Department of Environmental Protection and the Corps of Engineers to discuss this topic as soon as possible.

Our reason for sharing with every legislator is to encourage more than just another conversation. We need change that is real; respecting municipal government's ability to do their job in a timely manner, providing service to the communities they represent.

It is time for a change!

Respectfully,


Erick J. Coolidge
Tioga County Commissioner