



PA House Majority Policy Committee Hearing
“Maintaining our Creeks and Streams to Prevent Flooding”
December 6, 2021
3:00 PM – Wellsboro Fire Annex Building
21 East Avenue, Wellsboro PA 16901

Written testimony submitted by:

Orin (Brian) and Vickie
Beard
Osceola, PA

John and Lois Bush
Knoxville, PA

Debra Clemens
Osceola, PA

Carl Cox
*Emergency Management
Coordinator
Knoxville Borough and
Deerfield Township*

Tim and Amy Douth
Knoxville, PA

Gerard and Laura Driesel
Middlebury Center, PA

Derek and Kim Furry
Mansfield, PA

Joe Garvey
Middlebury Center, PA

Clark Gee
Middleburg Center, PA

Gale L. Gee
Middlebury Center, PA

Jerry and Denise Gee
Tioga County, PA

Michael Gee, Kenneth Jones,
Melvin Cummings
Tioga Township Supervisors

Ron Gontarz
Lawrenceville, PA

Colleen R. Hanson
*Executive Director
Visit Potter-Tioga*

Edward Heyler
Westfield, PA

Alice Howells, Clifford
Stermer, Mary Butler
Knoxville, PA

Tom and Bonnie Huzey
Knoxville, PA

Carlos Lazo
*Government Affairs Officer
U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers
Baltimore District*

Descendants of Ed and
Carolyn Little
Nordmont, PA

Christopher M. McGann
*Mansfield Borough Manager
Mansfield Borough, PA*

Jean Reigel
*Reigels Bison Farm
Westfield, PA*

Larene Rollins
Knoxville, PA

Edson and Kallie Shaw
Mansfield, PA

Dwane Stoltzfus
Lititz, PA

Jeffrey Van Dusen
*Secretary/Treasurer
Westfield Township*

Duane Wetmore
*Professional Land Surveyor
Middlebury Center, PA*

Ellen Williams
Deerfield Township, PA

Tom Wood
Tioga, PA

Darrin E. Youker
*Director - State Government
Affairs
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau*

Orin Beard

Orin (Brian) Beard

Vickie Beard

Osceola, PA

Beard Farm Flood Losses

• 10 miles of cattle fencing-	\$3,500
• Round Bales (300)-	\$6,500
• Hay wagon #1-	\$1,000
• Hay wagon #2	\$1,000
• Massey Ferguson 50 Tractor-	\$3,500
• Cattle Trailer-	\$3,500
• Corn/Hay Chopper-	\$3,000
• New Holland Hay Bind-	\$6,000
• Large Flatbed Trailer-	\$2,500
• Small Flat Trailer #1-	\$1,000
• Small Flat Trailer #2-	\$1,000
• Gravity Wagon-	\$1,000
• Brush Hog/Mower-	\$500
• Grain Drill-	\$1,000
• Flood Trash Removal	\$50,000
Total Est. Amount Damaged/ Lost	\$85,000

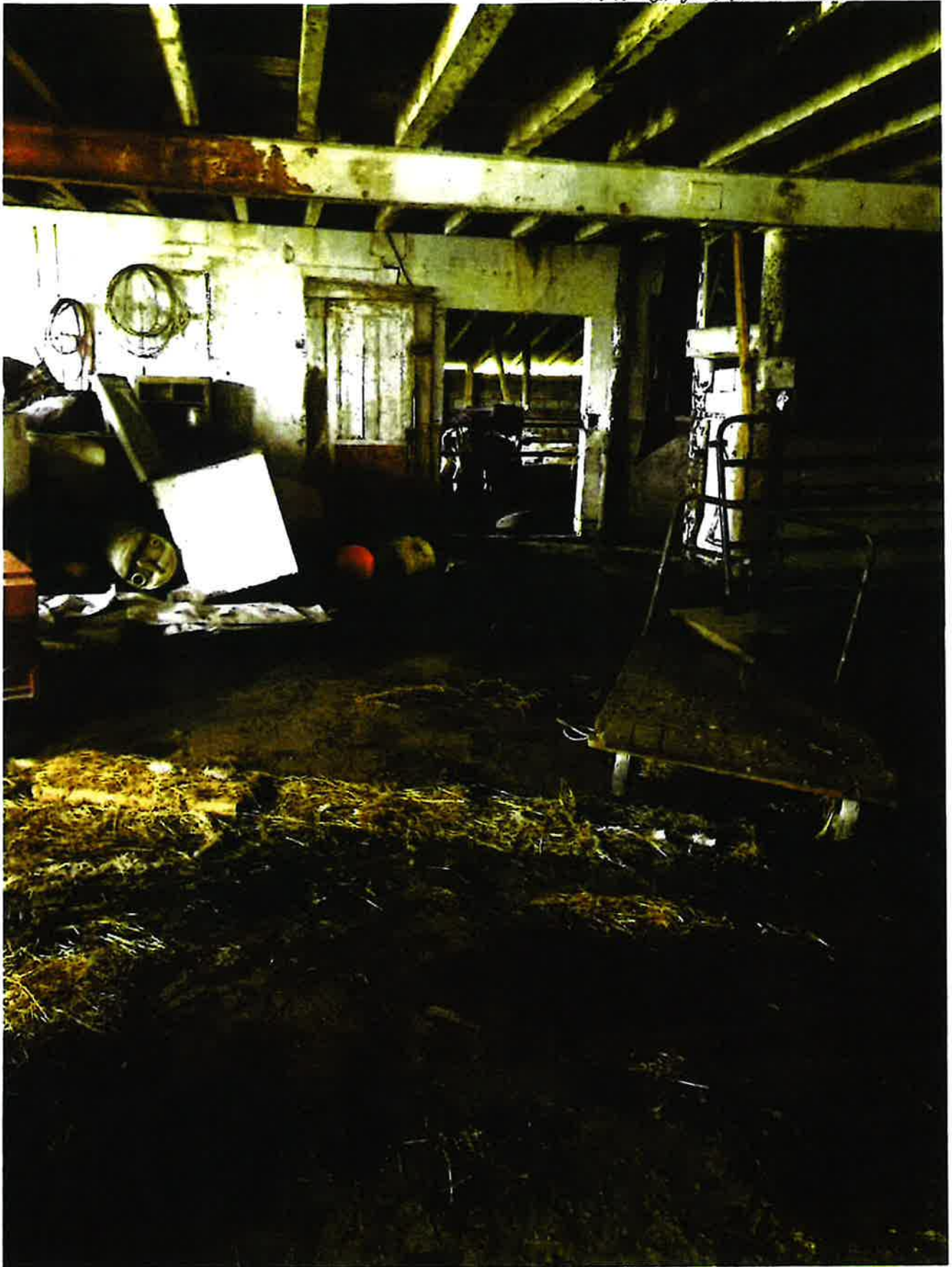
Orin and Vickie Beard



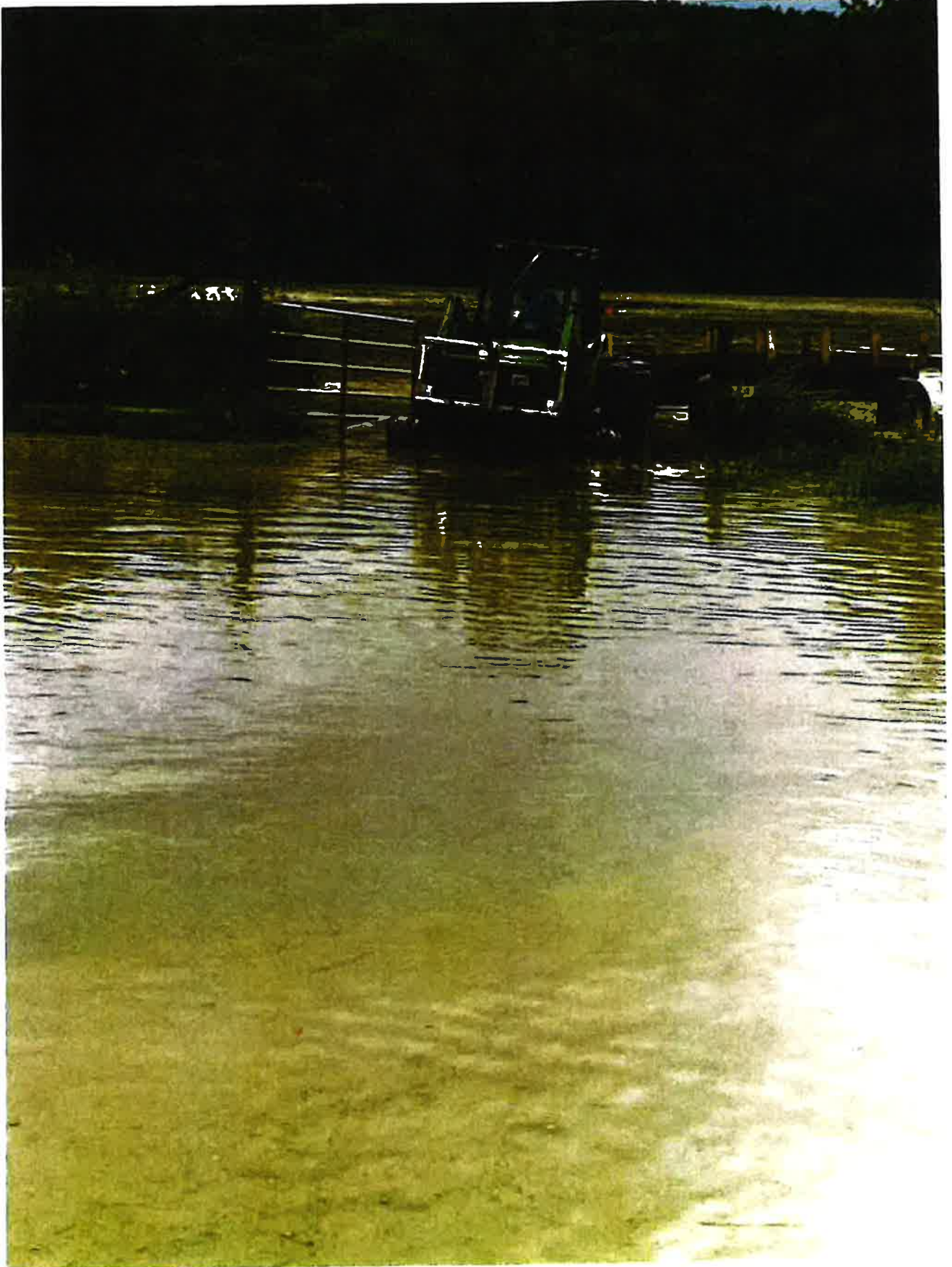
Orin and Vickie Beard



Orin and Vickie Beard



Orin and Vickie Beaud



John and Lois Bush
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

September 21, 2021

Representative Clinton d. Owlett
74 Main St.
Wellsboro, PA 16901

To Representative Owlett

As you are aware, on August 18, 2021 Troups Creek flooded the homes on Route 249. This was a historic flood on this stream and caused catastrophic damage to many homes and creek property.

The families who reside on Route 249 have sustained damage to the stream banks on the 249 side of Troups Creek north of Knoxville. All the homes in this section were flooded and some with foundations being destroyed.

Without some bank work to stabilize stream banks the next high water will ultimately destroy what property and homes that remain. Stabilization will no doubt require riprap and some stream work to be able to stabilize the situation.

We are requesting that you look into possible grants or the funding to stabilize the banks of Troups Creek in our neighborhood.

We are aware that there is federal and state money available for some but we are not able to tap these resources. We hope you will look into our situation and do whatever possible to help stabilize the banks of Troups Creek in our area.

In closing we thank you in advance for your consideration in trying to help us with this problem. It is our sincere hope that you can help us.

Sincerely,


John and Lois Bush

1.
I got flooded on August 18, 2021. I live
in Canaan, PA, ~~which is in the flood zone~~. I'm a widow
and live by myself. My cellar was full and
2nd in the house, the carpets had to be torn out,
all my floors had to be torn up and bottom
kitchen cabinets were ripped out, had to
have a new furnace, hot water tank and electrical
box. I had to go stay with my sister and her
husband and my cat went to Haverhill Bay Inn
at times when there was someone working in
my house. I am just going to be able to move
back Nov 20, 2021, 3 months at my sister's,
but I don't like being a burden to anyone!
So if I get flooded again I don't know
what I'll do. The creeks and rivers need
to get cleaned out. I missed 2 days of work
because of the flood. I'm not needing money
I just want the creeks & rivers cleaned
out PLEASE!

Debra Clemens

Furnace, hot water tank, Electric Dryer - \$8200²
Contractor - \$3400.00
Haul a day - \$270
Carpet - \$614.46
power head for sweeper - \$150.00
recliner \$609
couch - \$419
push mower }
weed eater } \$477.04

Debra Clemens

Good afternoon. My name is Carl Cox and I serve as Emergency Management Coordinator for Knoxville Borough and Deerfield Township here in Tioga County.

I have been a resident of Knoxville Borough since 1965. I also served as Superintendent of Public Works for Knoxville Borough for 12 ½ years.

On August 18, 2021 a flash flood inundated a large portion of Knoxville Borough and a section of Deerfield Township among other areas. In the days after the flood I personally contacted 99 residents and business owners concerning the floods impact. I know by locations of people contacted and the topography of the Borough there were many many more that were impacted. Main concerns were heating systems, hot water systems and electrical concerns. As of today November 17, 2021 at least 2 residents are still without heat.

In Deerfield Township several homes were nearly destroyed and numerous others were severely negatively impacted.

It is very fortunate that there was no loss of life.

There was extensive stream bank erosion along Troups Creek from the New York State border in Brookfield Township through Deerfield Township to its confluence with the Cowanesque River and along the Cowanesque River through Deerfield Township into Osceola Township. The flood first breached the bank of Troups Creek near the intersection of State Routes 49 and 249 just west of Knoxville Borough. A map showing the approximate inundated area is attached with the hashed area being the inundated area.

Many residents were evacuated to the Knoxville Fire Hall for their safety and were forced to retreat to the second floor when the Fire Hall became inundated and suffered severe damages. In my humble opinion the creeks and rivers need to be lowered to a level in the waterway that the waters would stay within the banks and if a deposit occurs that a permit of standing allows access to address that area before another high water event happens.

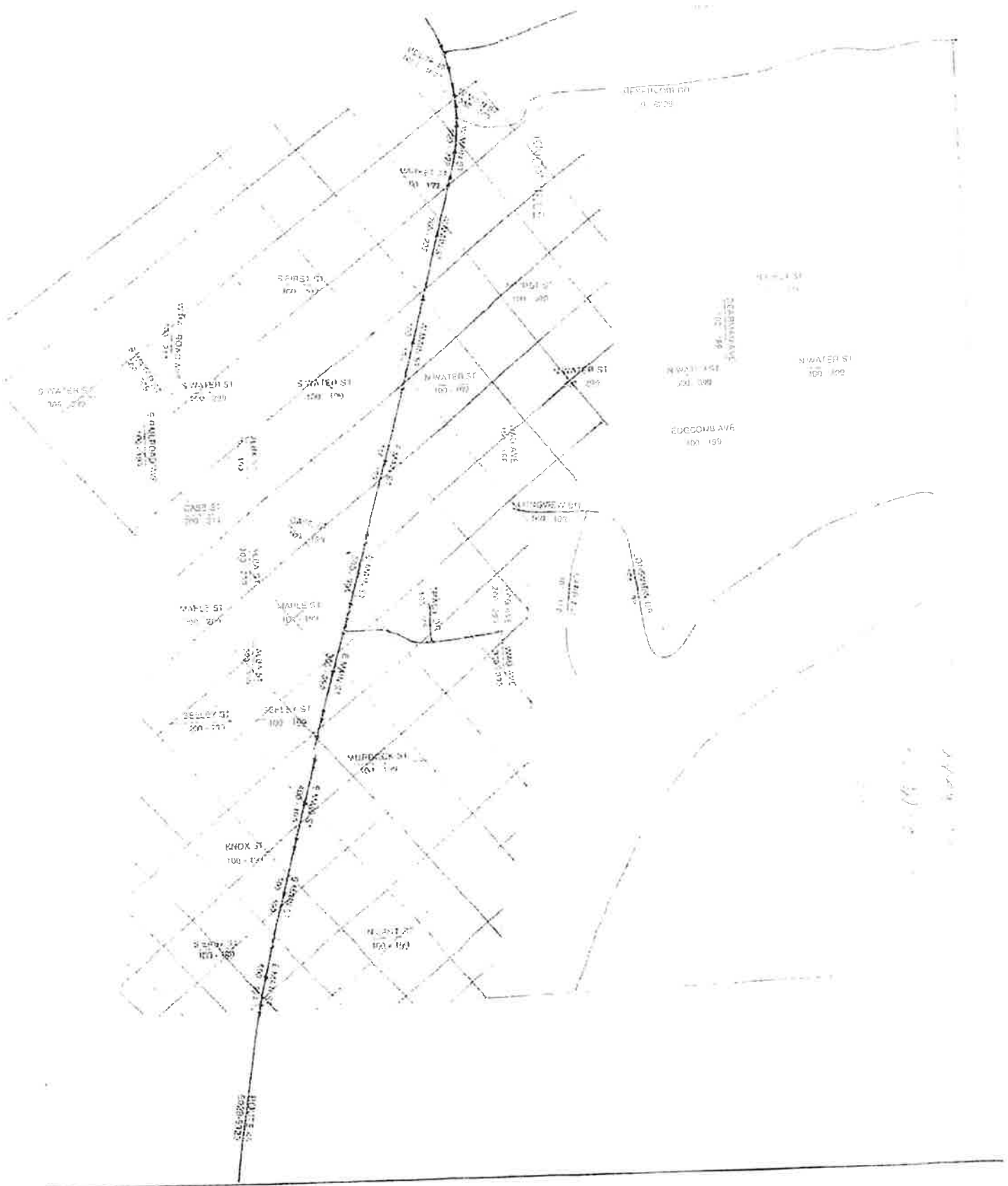
It is our sincere hope something can be done to alleviate the flooding events in our area.

Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl E. Cox". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Carl Cox, LEMC Knoxville Borough and Deerfield Township



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1000 900 800 700 600 500 400 300 200 100 0

Tim and Amy Doult

September 21, 2021

Representative Clint D. Owlett
74 Main Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
570-724-1390

Dear Representative Owlett,

We are writing regarding the flash flooding of Troups Creek on August 18, 2021 which destroyed the foundation of our home in Deerfield Township, Tioga County, generated catastrophic damage to our neighborhood, other parts of our Township, and to much of adjacent Knoxville Borough. Many others in the Twin Tiers suffered from the effects of this storm (Tropical Storm Fred).

We attach a copy of the September 13, 2021 letter sent to you from Tom and Bonnie Huzey, who live across the street from us. We concur with the Huzey's letter and ask that you consider its comments as if they were our own.

We add that any permits required for work to begin in the bed of Troups Creek must be expedited or waived altogether in order to start work as quickly as possible. Stabilization work is already being done in Steuben County, NY streams in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Fred.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter and know that we are counting on you to act as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Doult", written over a circular stamp.

Tim and Amy Doult

ps. We have written similarly to:

Tioga County Conservation District
Tioga County Board of Commissioners
Department of Environmental Conservation
Deerfield Township Officials

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the local assembly policy hearing for stream and creek maintenance. As recent transplants from Western New York State there was never the opportunity to attend an event at a local location. After the December 6, 2021 policy meeting in Wellsboro Pennsylvania, we would like to share our experience and some possible solutions.

The creek that runs through our property is located at [REDACTED] Middlebury Center. The creek's name is "Crooked Creek tributary". The creek level off with a s curve and flow somewhat slower. Our issues began December 24 2020 when 2-1/2" of rain fell on 24" plus of snow followed with a July second highest rainfall which ended with 2" falling in a half hour for a total of 6-1/2", then in August the remnants of hurricane Fred drop 3-1/2" of rain in a hour. Each time gravel was deposited which seemed to be compounded with each heavy new storm. Now the creek is totally plugged with a standing permit. I would have cleaned the creek after each storm. This could have been accomplished with a half of a day or a full day of work. I rented an excavator, and used my tractor with a loader and spent two weeks cleaning the creek. there was a heavy rain on already saturated ground. So much gravel was deposited into the creek bed that the water had nowhere to flow but over its banks and through the field and made another way (waterfalls) back into the creek its self.



Re: Gerard and Laura Driesel

As you can see in the first picture, much gravel was left in the field. The water took at least one week to recede. We then called the Conservation Department in Wellsboro, as we did the year before. At that time it was suggested that someone from the fish and water come out. He was NOT happy that we had clean up all the gravel left in our field and he wanted us to apply for a grant in 2022 for "fish habitat". We did not want that, we wanted a permit to remove the gravel bar and make the water go back to the creek bank. Then we called the Conservation Department again and Scott came out to see our issues. He looked at the clean up we had done and out-right said "We do not have to have that (meaning the rock and stream) in our field. Then he turn to Gerard and asked "What do you want?" Gerard replied I "want a permit" to remove the gravel bars. We knew the drill, as from the previous year we did the same thing. Scott offered several suggestions for us and then, informed us that filling out the permit, is now "OUR" responsibility. This includes the search for "Endangered Wildlife" This needed to be paid for \$40.00 before we could file the permit. He said if you have troubles let me know. Well Gerard too about 2 hours learning the website and how it worked, filling out the permit and designating the area to "search for endangered wildlife" but when he went to pay for the search – there was NO place to pay.

We then made an appointment with Scott for later in the week to pay for permit & "Endangered Wildlife Search" pick everything up, the total for this was to be \$250.00 for permit & \$40.00 for Endangered Wildlife Search, for a total of \$290.00.

Well, mid-week hurricane "Fred" passed through.....The point of our meeting changed. Scott came out the second time and asked if he could come back with the DEP and we agreed.

I am not offering pictures of "Fred" as I believe you have seen greater damage on Monday's tour.

Gerard and Laura Driesel

or state police, everyone is screaming at us and work stops! We then need to "PROVE" we have gotten the permit, doing the job correctly. I tried to hire a excavating contractor to clean the creek and heard from the contractors office staff that we don't like working in creeks even after I told them that I had an permit. Our neighbor with a permit to clean out his section of the creek was turn in and had visits from dep and the fish department. We also fear having to hire a lawyer to protect ourselves. This will also drive up the cost of the creek repairs.

The permit we purchase is the "GP3" through the Conservation Department is very limited. The process we go through only allows 200 foot or less of gravel bar removal. This is not nearly enough at times and only down to 6 inches above the water line. Example: After Fred came through our creek was solid packed with gravel, there was NO water in the creek bed, the water was all in our field. So, when cleaning the creek "How do you know where 6 inches is?" (This leads back to the "fear factor" Tape measures come out by authorities.

We would like to see the "GP3" permits expand so more could be done. Example: If 600 feet were owned would 2 permits be needed equaling doubling the price? Can this be expanded to allow us to clean the creeks to a predetermined level on a as needed basis. We learned we could get and "individual" permit, but as homeowners getting an engineer hired, Corp of engineers involved is finically too much and excessive time involved as we know flooding can be frequent.

Would it be possible to have different "zoning" of streams / creeks? Some dry up annually, some only dry in dry years and some have water flowing all the time no matter how dry it gets.....

For the "Endangered Species" search could this be an area wide search done by the conservation dept. at their cost once every 3 to 5 years?

At present there is \$40 charge for every permit which before the permit application can be applied for. As homeowners looking at cleaning / maintaining a creek every year this is just a money grab.

Working with neighboring states that have different laws with maintaining their waterways would be a huge benefit. At this point the water coming into PA from NY is coming full force as NY allows the creeks to be cleaned when needed, hitting our plugged streams and creeks. The force of the water does not slow; it will find a new path. The path that is found will be causing damage. Accommodations

Gerard and Laura Driesel

should be made for heavy fast flow of water where laws from one state to the next state differ.

We would like a permit to clean the creek after every time gravel bars starts and damage occurs. Steering away from the term "high water" for fear of one person's version will differ from another person's. This may open up more bureaucracy over terms of what high water is.

The highway departments should have the authority to clean under bridges, culverts and road side ditches anytime they need without a permit. The highway department should be able to replace culvert anytime needed without a permit as the manufactures give spec as to how they need to be install no engineering needed. If we do not trust these officials to do a good job why do we have these departments, let's not tie their hands.

As landowners who are looking at getting a permit each and every year and then clean up the creek, we need to set aside money to do this.

\$ 40.00 "Endangered Species Search"

\$ 250.00 Actual permit

\$2050.00 cost of 1 weeks rental on Excavator after "Fred"

\$ 150.00 Diesel for Excavator & borrowed Track Driven Bobcat

\$2440.00 Estimated cost each year

My time of over 100 hours of work I am retired and was able to do the work myself saving the cost of hiring excavating contractor.

Over half the cost of equipment rental, diesel and 60-70% of the time spent could be saved by allowing as needed maintenance.

We would prefer to use that money and time within our community and traveling around our new state.

Thank you for your time and effort in this project.

Sincerely,

Gerard and Laura Driesel

Handwritten signatures of Gerard and Laura Driesel. The signature of Gerard is written in a large, flowing cursive script, and the signature of Laura is written below it in a similar but slightly smaller cursive script.

We are writing to you to share our family's experience with Corey Creek which runs at the end of our property in Richmond township in Tioga County. We saw the article for your meeting in the paper today and neither I nor my husband will be able to attend due to work tomorrow. We have lived here for almost 20 years and have seen four major flooding events. The first major flooding occurred in 2014. The report from DEP said this was a once-in-a-800-year event. We were later told by our neighbor that this occurred due to a clogged pipe that had been recently installed by the township but that was not mentioned in the report. A downed tree got stuck in it and the township claimed no liability but this is hearsay. We worked with DEP to create a mitigation plan. We had to do something because the creek jumped and was running through our backyard permanently. We spent almost \$4,000.00 (the initial estimate was \$4,800) to clear our area of responsibility in the creek and mitigate with rip rap. We were told that mitigation needed to be done further up the creek and been told the neighbor refused to consider working due to financial reasons. It took time to find a qualified contractor, to get the emergency permit, and PA One Call; which all combined was heavily time-consuming and frustrating on our side. Several years later, all of that work washed out with subsequent flooding.

We tried more than once and applied for stream protection cost-sharing assistance with Tioga County Conservation District, and we're given ideas to change the direction of the flow at an expense we cannot afford. We were told one year our application wasn't chosen because our house wasn't close enough to the creek, another year that there wasn't any funding left. Another year, simply no response. We have since given up on applying for cost-sharing. The last time in 2018, we were also told we needed permission from landowners on the other side of the creek to complete any further work, something that was never brought up when we worked with DEP and further complicated the issue of fixing the damage and also didn't get funding from the stream protection cost-sharing assistance program. We no longer felt it was worth our effort and time since we were continually not being considered.

The best we can do today is pay \$633 a year in flood insurance to protect our property which we have been doing since 2014. We clean out downed trees in our creek when they are next to our property and that is all we can afford to do. We have had to put in a claim most recently in 2018 when our basement flooded a second time due to water from the creek backing up and entering our home. The last time it flooded in 2014, we did not have insurance and lost hundreds if not thousands in property damage and time off from work to clean the several inches of water and mud in our basement.

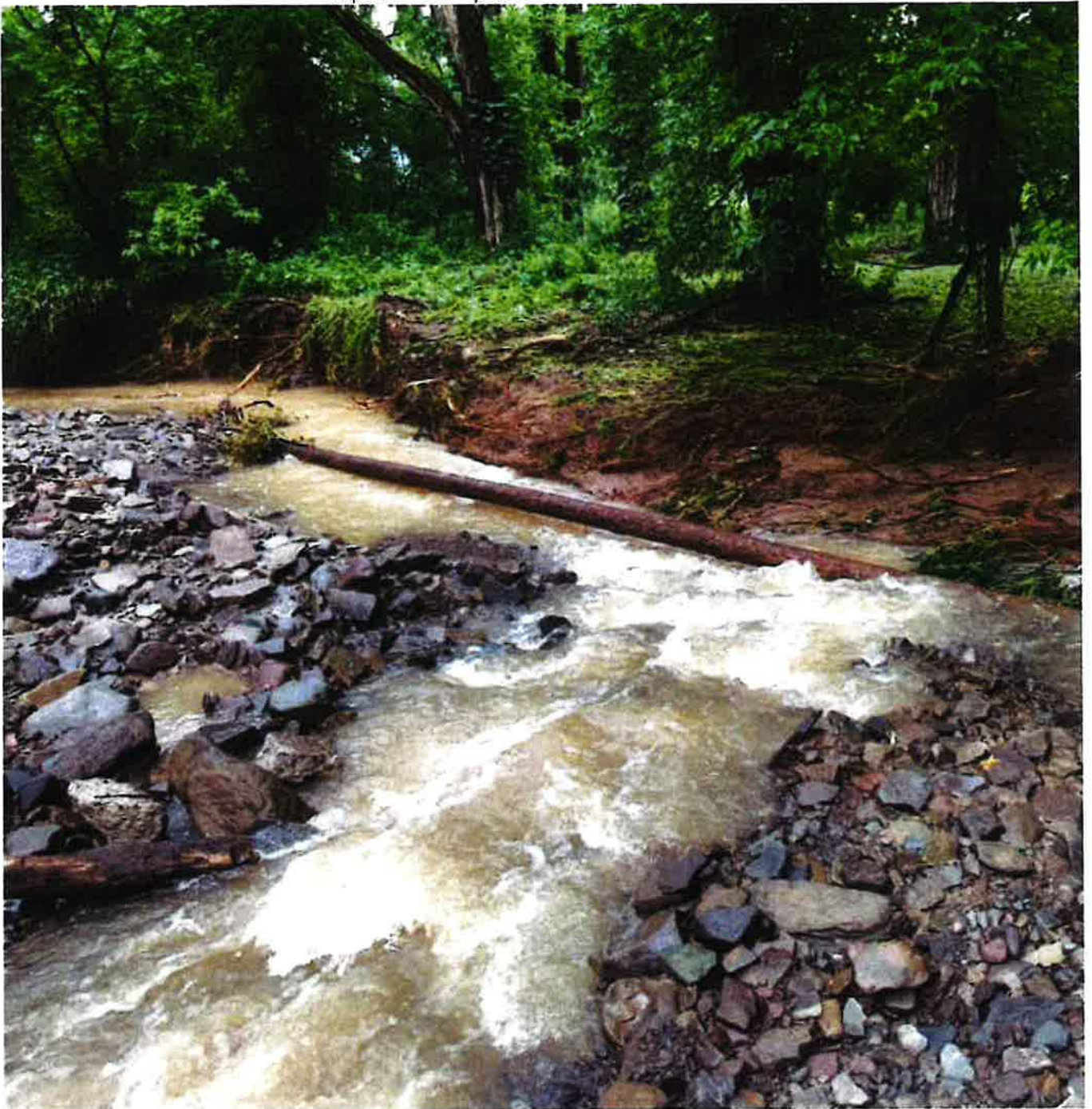
We currently have 75' of exposed gas line with this most recent flooding in 2021 which we have been assured by UGI is safe and they will be replaced sometime before the fall of 2022. We lost at least twenty feet of the yard as well in this area. Here are pictures from the flooding in the spring/summer of 2021:

Furry 1

Furry 2

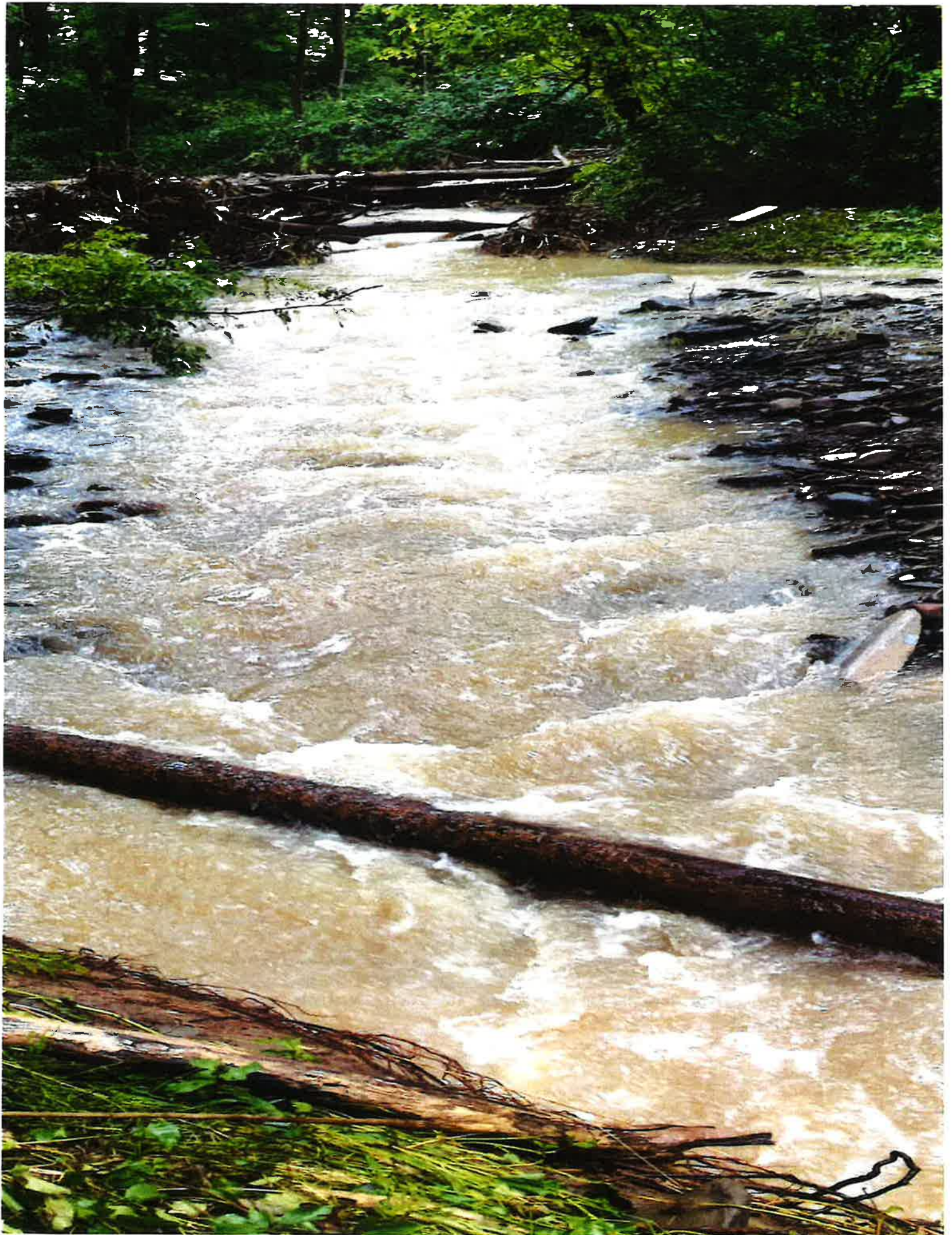


Gas line is still covered in water but exposed in this picture.



Our yard used to extend over the top of the gas line. This is over several heavy downpours in the summer of 2021.

Funny 3



Furry 4

but we fear this won't help if another pipe gets clogged or a downed tree isn't cleared by a property owner upstream from us. It has been years since the area past the Corey Creek dam has been cleaned out. We refuse to spend thousands of dollars to try to save a portion of our land when it will only truly be safe if our neighbors, township, county, and state are invested as well. We are happy to share documentation (DEP reports, emails, more pictures, and insurance claims) to back up our story.

Here is a video of the flooding from 2014:

Respectfully,

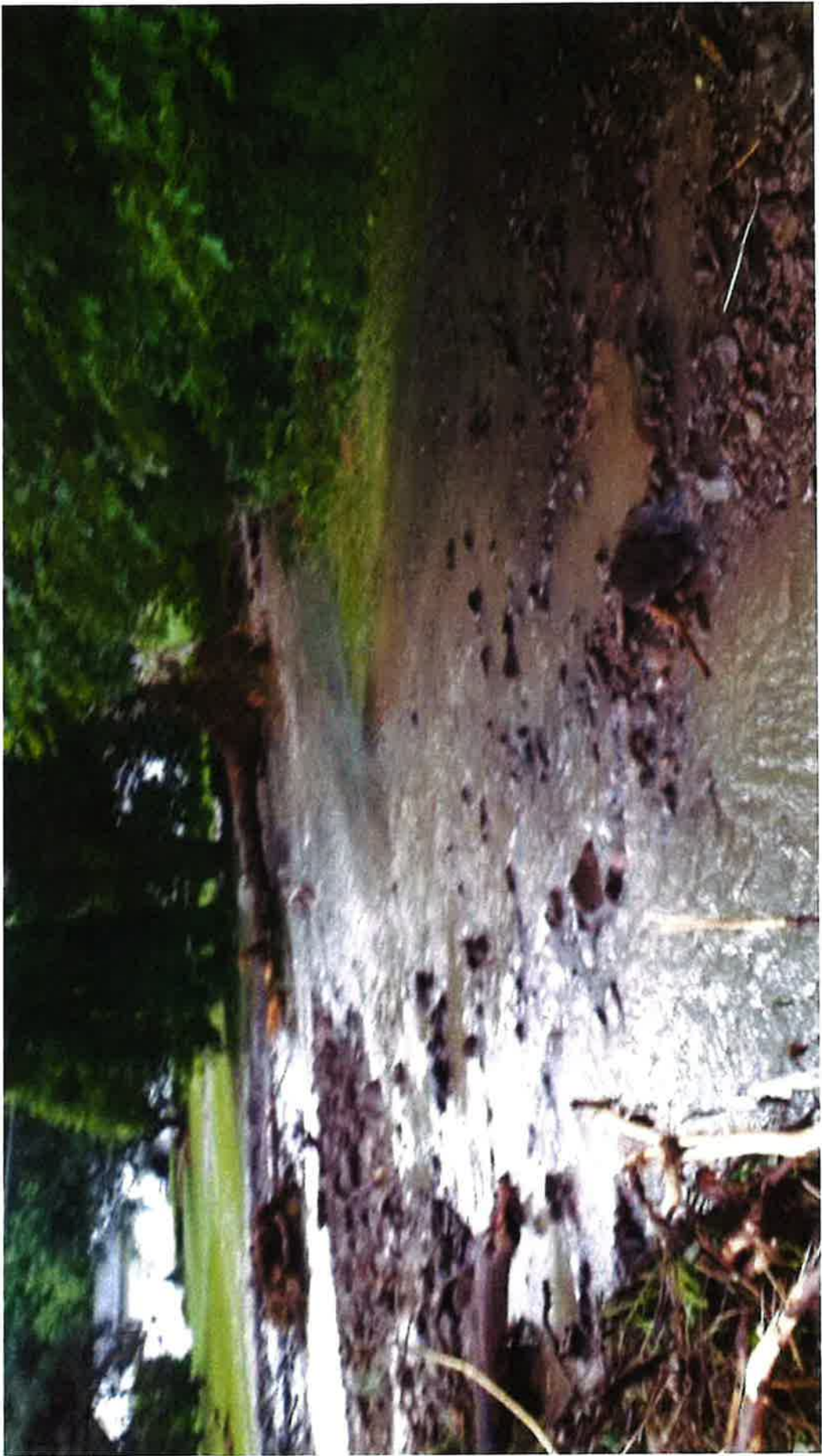
Derek and Kim Furry

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Furry 5



Furry 6



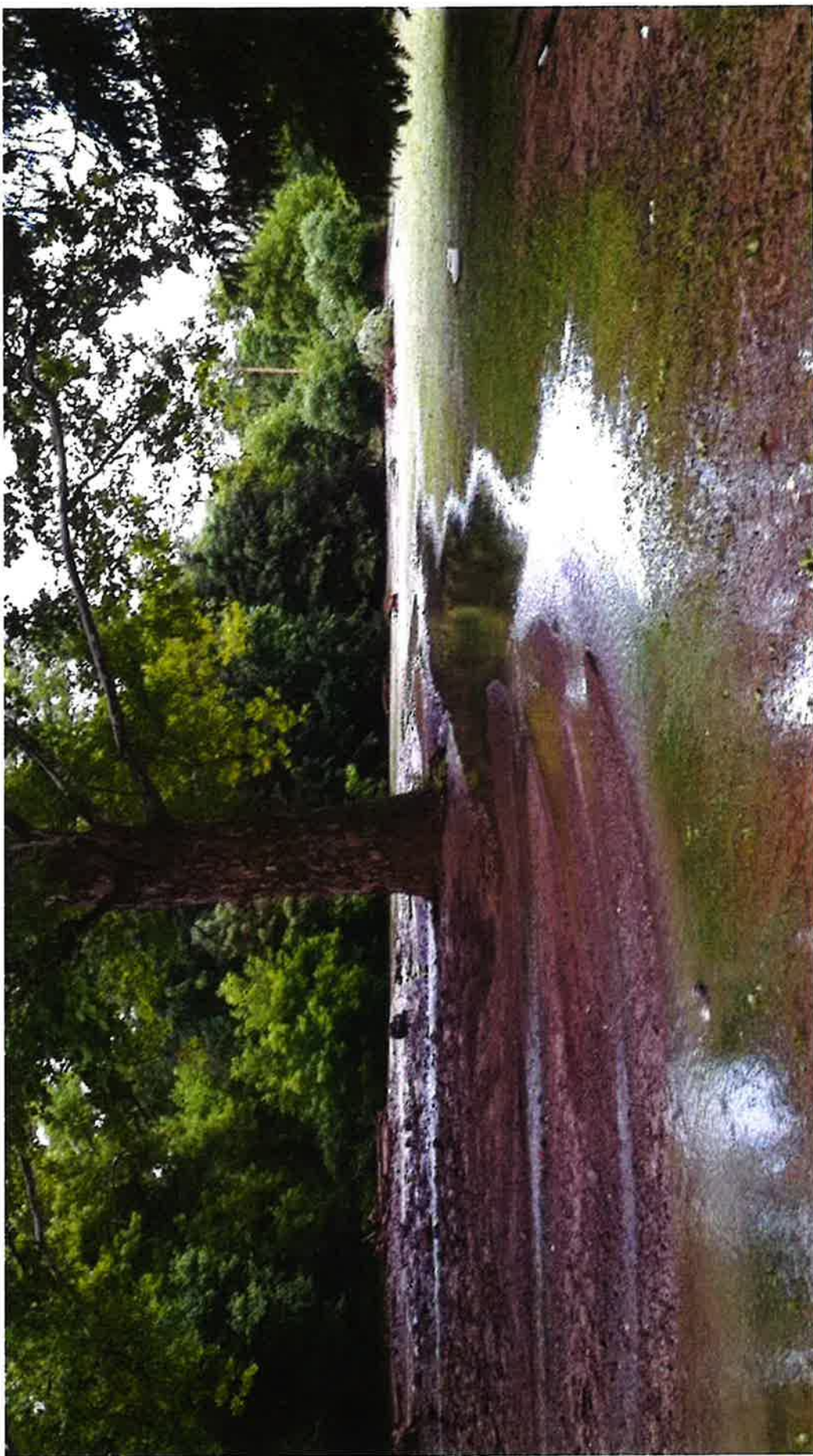
Furry 7



Funny 8



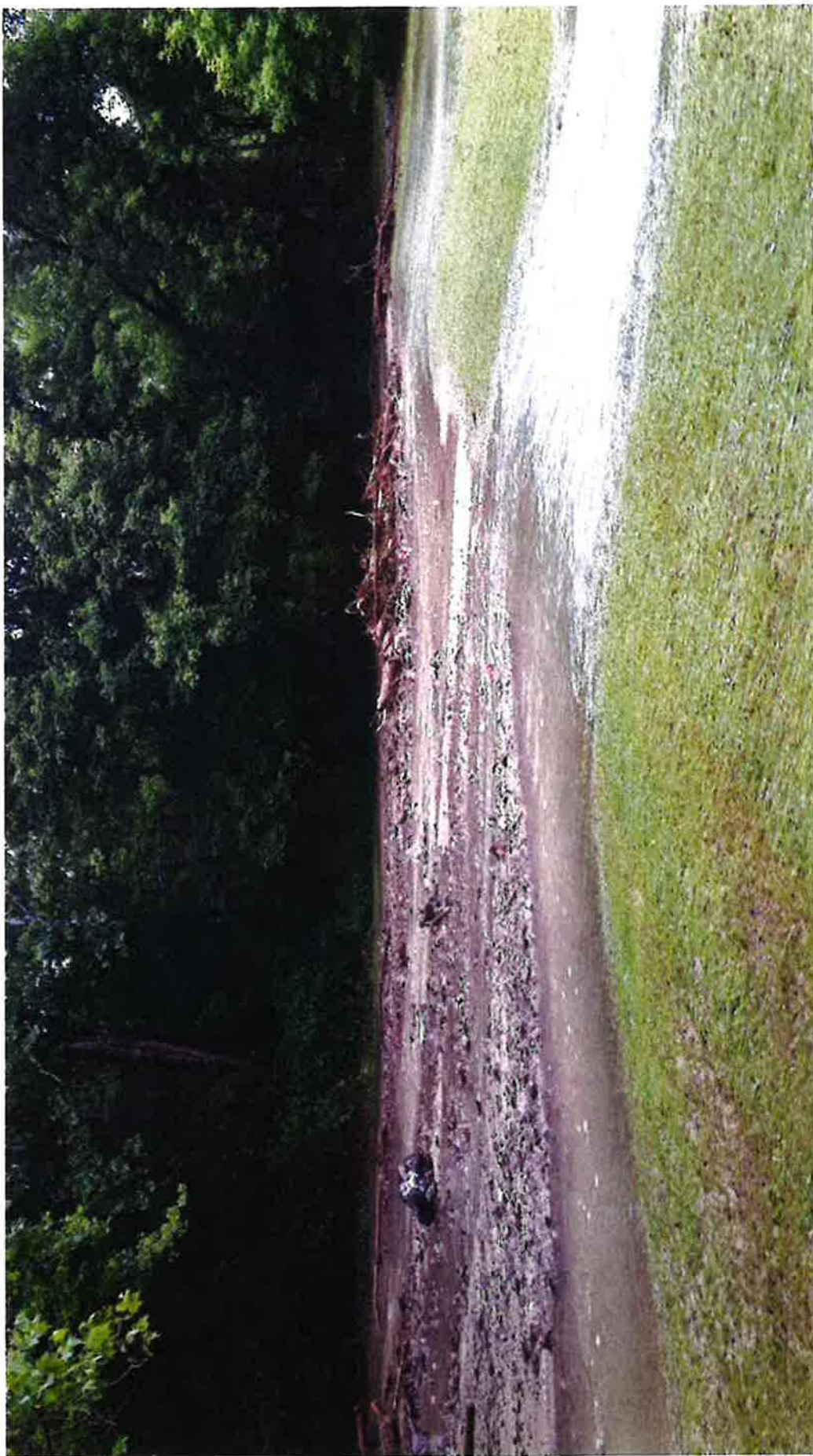
Funny 9



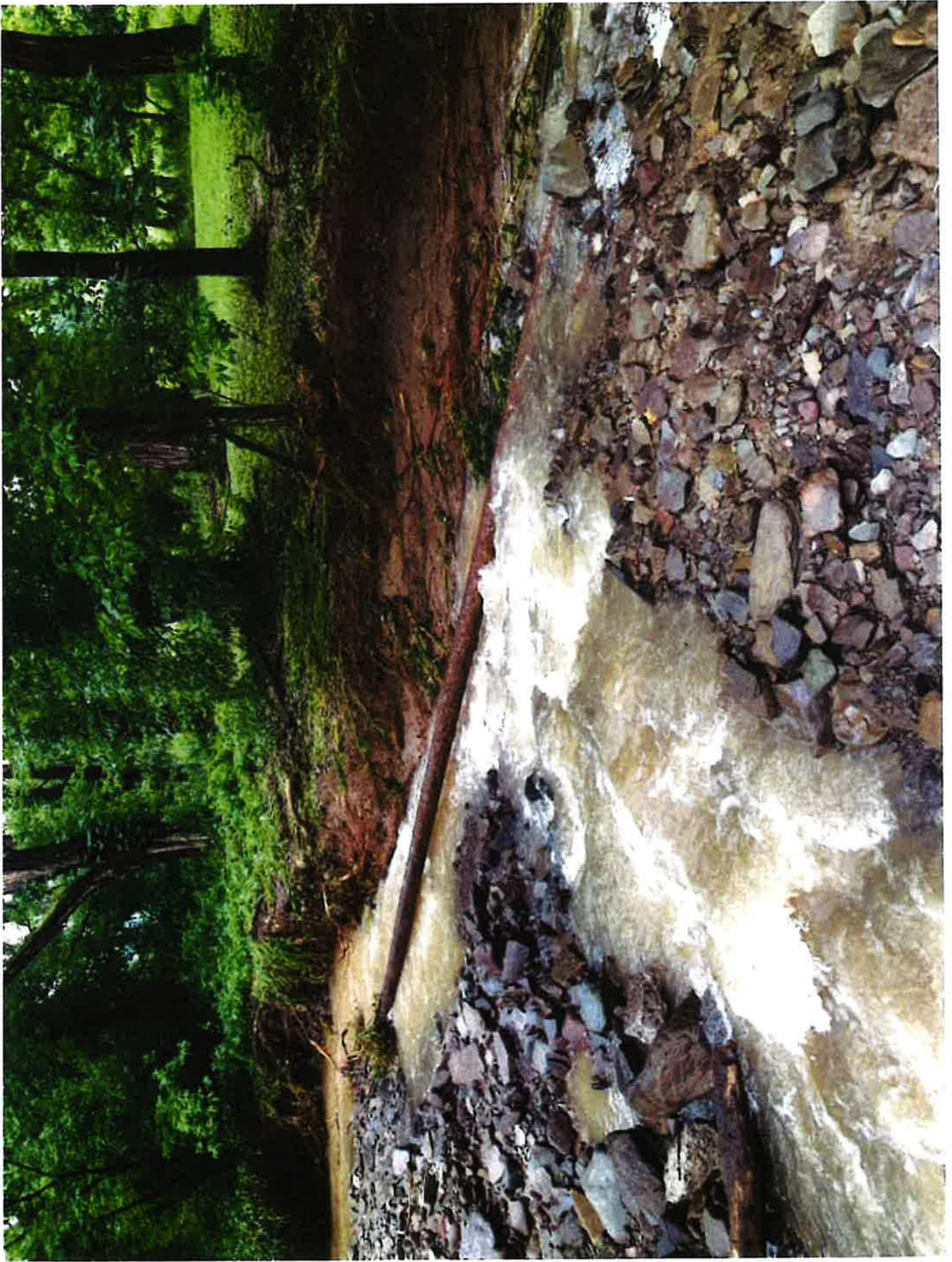
Funny 10



Funny 11



Funny 12



Funny 13



Funny 14



Funny 15

10F2



Haybales washed
into corn field

Cashin Hollow
Creek.



Gravel Bar

Cashin Hollow
Creek.

Gravel Bar
washes into the
corn field.

Nov 2021

Garvey
Joe Garvey Property, Middlebury Center PA

2042



Debris in
Carter Hollow
Creek



Nov 2021

for Garvey property, Middlebury Center, PA



Nov 2021
Gravel Bar and secession on Crooked Creek. Clark
Mee property, Middlebury Center PA.



Nov 2021

Gravel bar and erosion on Crooked Creek.

Clark Lee Property, Middlebury Center PA.



Nov 2021

Gravel bar and erosion on Crooked Creek.
Clark Lee property. Middlebury Center, PA

December 1, 2021

Gale Gee

[REDACTED]

RE: Creeks and Streams Testimony

Dear State Representative Owlett,

My name is Gale Gee and I am a local resident of Tioga County. I am one of many that have been effected by the flooding of our creeks and streams. I currently have three situations with Crooked Creek that runs from Middlebury Center to Little Marsh. This is not a navigable stream.

Please view pictures 1-15 to see the current damages. You can see in pictures 1 and 2, where we placed large table rocks many years ago, has helped keep the bank from washing away completely and us losing our barn and other outbuildings that are near the creek. Pictures 3-15 show the worst damage. There is a huge gravel bar that starts with picture 1 and runs through picture 15. Pictures 5-8 show the dyke is completely gone and the water has been in our alfalfa field twice this summer. Pictures 9-15 show the extent of the gravel bar that has washed in with the last two floods this summer. I have a permit and it is nowhere near enough to be able to repair all of this damage. This gravel bar is approximately 600 feet long.

If we get another flood now, which we have had four this summer, I am very afraid of losing my field.

Pictures 16-27 show more damage on the northwest side of our farm in Crooked Creek. You can see in picture 16 a very large soft maple tree that was along the bank next to our pasture. Also in reference to this please see picture 21. This tree came out of the bank during the last flood.

The stream up in behind Keeneyville has actually washed over into the bank of our cow pasture and is right to a brand new fence we just put in last year. Please note this fence was approximately 10 feet from the stream bank. Now there is about a foot left of the bank and we will lose our fence. The gravel bar on the north side of this stream has kept getting bigger with the last two floods we had. This bar is approximately 300 feet long. There are several chunks of rip-rap that have washed out of the dyke in behind Keeneyville and are now laying in the gravel bars, and in the stream.

This is a major concern to all of us landowners and the towns people of Keeneyville because of the conditions of the streams, and the gravel bars that have washed in recently. This stream has had no maintenance done on it since 1976. The Army Corp of Engineers came through and cleaned it up at that time. It has stayed in decent condition until the last two or three years.

My closing statement is, if we cannot get some help in dealing with this issue I am very afraid that people will lose their homes and farmers will lose a lot of their valuable farm land.

Sincerely,

Gale L. Gee

Gale L. Gee

[REDACTED]

Good Morning.

This issue of stream damage is one my husband and I have been trying to draw attention to for many years. We own a small mobile home park in an area called Niles Valley, on the main highway to Wellsboro from Middlebury Center, Route 287.

We have owned this park for over 30 years. Our monthly income is derived from the rental of these homes, all of which we own, rather than the tenant.

The first years we owned the park, the creek beside it was merely "there". Having been cleaned after the area wide devastation of the flood of 1972, it posed no problem.

In recent years, the creek has raised and filled with gravel, debris and growth. The worst time is usually in the spring thaw, when ice has no where to go. Rains come and fill the creek quickly, flooding our park.

We have repeatedly called different agencies for help only to be passed along. This creek is dry from time to time, mind you, but we are told nothing can be done because we would disturb life in the creek. Imagine our excitement when a new bridge was in the works. Surely the creek would get cleaned!!! Nope. Millions of dollars later, new bridge. They just left all the mess in the creek and built above it!!.

We are beyond concerned. Each heavy rain finds us helpless, worrying about this little community and wondering if we should start moving people out.

This is not what we planned for our retirement. Will another Agnes flood be needed to get attention?

We are totally unprepared in this county.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Jerry and Denise Gee.

Tioga county residents since 1949.

Tioga Township Supervisors



Michael D. Gee, Supervisor
Kenneth J. Jones, Supervisor
Melvin R. Cummings, Supervisor

Amy Southard, Secretary



November 23, 2021

An Open Letter

Tioga Township suffered an estimate of \$34,880 of damage on township roads during the first couple weeks of July this year, one road had a portion washed away by a nearby creek. Unfortunately, there has been no funding for local municipalities with the flooding in that time frame as the state did not meet the 22.5 million in damages to get state funding. Our township like most in the area deal with this type of flooding all too often and rarely see funding for the small municipalities. We know the flooding is going to keep coming and we try to prepare for it, but times have been a little rougher financially with the pandemic and we have not yet seen any funding that the municipalities can use on roads and bridges. Even the ARPA funds from the pandemic have been allocated to where we cannot use for our roads and bridges. Please keep the local municipalities in mind during discussions regarding flooding.
Thank You

Respectfully,



Tioga Township Supervisors

From: Ron Gontarz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 3:00 PM
To:
Subject: Stream Maintenance

Rep. Owlett forwarded an email concerning the maintenance of our streams and rivers within the county. I would like to add a serious concern that I have given the changes we are experiencing with the weather these days. Since the installation of the 3 flood control dams we have averted numerous issues in the past for local and downstream flooding. I have watched each year as sediment is slowly but surely filling in the reserves capacities of each dam. I really don't know who to take the concerns to or if I am overly concerned. It would seem after nearly 50 years that the dams might need to be maintained and dredged out to restore their depth and capacity. I have noticed any hard rain event the dams are prematurely full.

Not sure if this is a PA issue or the Army Corp Federal side has the responsibility.

Anyway, thanks for the opportunity to express my concerns.

Sincerely

Ron Gontarz

Lawrenceville PA 16929

From: Colleen Hanson [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 4:45 PM
To:
Subject: Maintaining Creeks and Streams

Hello Representative Owlett,

On behalf of myself and my neighbors, thank you for your efforts concerning creek and stream maintenance in our area. I live on Route 6 directly across from Marsh Creek (near the Asaph Bridge). I have lived at this location for 28 years. During this time, I have seen a noticeable decline in the maintenance of Marsh Creek. (There is none now.)

When I first moved into my home, Marsh Creek flowed freely with clean water and lots of wildlife: fish, birds, etc. The banks and the bridge were often full of fisherman and their children. Now, the creek is so full of silt, there is almost no wildlife and never any fisherman. The water barely moves. It is dark and murky with plant growth and mud. Directly across from my home, there is a giant sand bar in the middle of the creek. It is so big it blocks the water from flowing. It traps trees and debris (including a telephone booth). I have contacted multiple agencies about having it cleaned out. Every agency I talked to sent me to someone else. Finally, I was referred to PennDOT. It took 9 months for PennDOT to come and remove a log jam that was up against the bridge abutment. They pulled out one big log (left the rest) and laid it on the bank. The first strong rain we have will send that log back into the creek. I was also told they will not remove the sand bar. Since it has been neglected so long, it now has plant life on it so no one will touch it.

Last Christmas Eve, we had a heavy rain after a big snow storm. The rain rushed down the mountain behind me and flooded my yard and house. After many phone calls and much aggravation, I found out the large black pipe that runs under Route 6 into Marsh Creek was clogged. There is also a tree growing directly in front of the mouth of the pipe. PennDOT told me that the pipes are cleaned out regularly and "someone must have missed this one." They also told me that they are not allowed to remove the tree blocking the pipe because DEP won't let them. Because of this tree and DEP, the clog will not be fixed.

I constantly live in fear of flooding again. I lost everything in my basement including all my appliances that were down there, furnace, hot water heater, etc. and had serious damage to my house's foundation (one wall was blown in by the pressure of the water). I am terrified of all rain storms now; fearing it will happen again but no one seems to care. No matter what agency I speak to, they are either very rude and act like I am bothering them OR they demonstrate complete apathy and blame the problems on a different agency. The condition of Marsh Creek continues to worsen. The pipe is still clogged. The tree is still blocking it. All the agencies involved know about it (I have been working on this since December of last year) and none of them are doing anything.

Thank you for taking the time to listen and thank you for EVERYTHING you do for our area!
Colleen Hanson

Colleen R. Hanson
Executive Director



Having lived and farmed along the Cowanesque River for 70 years I'd like to make the following observations: (Edward Heyler, Westfield, PA)

1. This is the age of recycling. Why can't we recycle gravel? Townships now get gravel out of banks for their roads. Heavy rains carry it to the streams and it's deposited. They then go back to the gravel banks and commercial gravel pits to replace that lost on the roads. The process is then repeated over and over. As the streams fill up with gravel they are more prone to flooding.
2. All stream work must be approved by 3 agencies: Army Corp, Fish Commission, and Soil Conservation. This is too cumbersome. One agency should be responsible.
3. Sedimentation is a problem, and the farmers are blamed for it. I contend that much of the sediment comes from steep river banks—which are exposed due to flooding—and not fields.
4. Consider Troups Creek which flows thru Steuben County New York into Tioga County Pennsylvania...specifically Deerfield Township and Knoxville Boro. The lower part in PA is like a war zone of gravel bars, dislodged trees, and various flood trash. The New York portion, however, has been groomed and looks good and the surrounding fields and property are now less prone to destructive flooding. All the water from Troups Creeks eventually go to the Chesapeake Bay whether it is from NY where they work to maintain the streams as well as the Pennsylvania segment which floods both farms, dwellings, commercial businesses---it just goes "wild."


December 12, 2021

To: Governor Thomas Wolfe
Representative Clint Owlett
PA Senators and Assemblymen
PA Majority Policy Members

Gentlemen,

Many residents of Deerfield Township, Osceola Township, and Knoxville Borough were subject to severe flooding from Troops Creek, Yarnell Brook, Holden Brook, the Coves and the Cowanesque River in August. These areas have been flooded many times, but this was the most severe since 1972. More than \$1,386,172 was lost in housing, household goods and personal property in Deerfield Township alone. Two local governments sustained \$366,800 worth of damage to roads, bridges, pipes, and infrastructure. Farmers lost crop fields, many of which are still wet and filled with debris. Two families have been flooded three times since August. Property owners adjacent to the waterways lose land with each heavy rain. One Merrick Hill resident has lost 12,500 square feet of property over the last three years. With each flooding, the water becomes deeper and covers more territory.

Our problem is two-fold: regulations prevent landowners and local and county governments from being able to clean the streams by removing accumulated debris and stabilizing their banks; and the scope of the project is far beyond the ability of local and county governments to provide the money, equipment and manpower. Perhaps local governments could maintain the streams and banks if the streams were thoroughly and completely cleaned out and the banks were stabilized with dikes, levees, or any suitable permanent solution.

There is a great deal of local interest in preventing more flooding. Our committee gathered 727 signatures on a petition asking for help to prevent flooding. Some residents have contacted local and county officials to apprise them of the situation.

We would appreciate any consideration and help you could give to alleviate the flooding. We are a committee of three people who were not flooded but are very concerned for our friends, neighbors, and area.

Sincerely,
Alice Howells

Alice Howells

Clifford Stermer

Clifford Stermer

Mary Butler

Mary E. Butler

Tom and Bonnie Huzey

September 13, 2022

Clint D. Owlett
74 Main Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901
570-724-1390

Dear Clint,

As you are aware on August 18, 2022 Troups Creek flooded the homes on Route 249. This was an historic flood on this stream and caused catastrophic damage to many homes and creek property.

The families who reside on Route 249 have sustained damage to the stream banks on the 249 side of Troups Creek north of Knoxville. All the homes in this section were flooded and some with foundations being destroyed.

Without some bank work to stabilize stream banks the next high water will ultimately destroy what property and homes that remain. Stabilization will no doubt require riprap and some stream work to be able to stabilize the situation.

We are requesting that you look into possible grants or the funding to stabilize the banks of Troups Creek in our neighborhood.

We are aware that there is federal and state money available for some but we are not able to tap these resources. We hope you will look into our situation and do whatever possible to help stabilize the banks of Troups Creek in our area.

In closing we thank you in advance for your consideration in trying to help us with this problem. It is our sincere hope that you can help us.

Sincerely,



Tom and Bonnie Huzey

The Tioga County Conservation District and the Tioga County Department of Emergency Services has requested assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE), to complete a flood risk reduction study for the areas impacted by flooding. This study would update the existing flood modeling and flood hazard mapping, assess the damages associated with floods of different recurrence intervals, and develop flood risk reduction measures that could be implemented by the communities to reduce the risk of flooding and reduce damages from flooding.

There are four study areas for this investigation, as described in the Table and Figure below:

Study Area	Communities Impacted	Streams	Extent	Stream Miles
1	Brookfield Township, Deerfield Township, Knoxville Borough	Troups Creek	From confluence with Cowanesque River upstream to PA-NY border	5.0
2	Osceola Township	Holden Creek	From confluence with Cowanesque River upstream to PA-NY border	3.3
		Redhouse Run	From confluence with Holden Creek upstream to limit of study	1.7
		Bulkley Brook	From confluence with Holden Creek to PA-NY border	2.0
3	Elkland Borough, Osceola Township, Nelson Township	Camp Brook	From confluence with Cowanesque River upstream to PA-NY border	3.0
4	Rutland Township, Roseville Borough	Mill Creek	From PA Route 549 upstream to Sopertown Road	4.4
		Mill Creek Northern Tributary	From confluence with Mill Creek upstream to limit of study	1.0
		Mill Creek Southern Tributaries	From confluence with Mill Creek upstream to limit of study	1.0

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS INFORMATION: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Emergency-Operations/>

V/R,

Carlos Lazo
Government Affairs Officer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore District





Floodplain Management Services Program

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG.

Overview:

Authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1960, the Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) Program provides technical services and planning guidance needed to support effective floodplain management. The purpose of the program is to provide knowledge to the public about flood hazards and actions that can be taken to reduce flood risk.

This program develops or interprets site-specific data on obstructions to flood flows, flood formation and timing; flood depths or stages; floodwater velocities; and the extent, duration and frequency of flooding. On a larger scale, this program provides assistance and guidance on all aspects of floodplain management planning. Technical scopes range from helping a community identify present or future floodplain areas and related problems to a broad assessment of the various remedial measures that can be effectively used. Types of technical services may include, but are not limited to:

- Floodplain Delineation and Inundation Mapping
- Hydrologic and Hydraulic Modeling and Analysis
- Flood Hazard Evaluation Studies
- Flood Warning and Preparedness Studies
- Flood Proofing Analysis
- Comprehensive Floodplain Management Studies
- Flood Risk Management Studies
- Stormwater Management Studies
- Inventory of Flood Prone Structures
- Flood-Related Outreach Materials




Funding and Requesting Assistance:

The FPMS program is a national program, funded annually by Congress. Funding is proportioned to USACE Districts nationwide. Districts use the FPMS funding to engage in activities that support the objective of the program. Upon request, program services are provided to State, regional, and local governments, Native Tribes, and other non-Federal public agencies without charge. State, regional, local government, Non-Federal public agencies and Tribes can request activities/assistance under this program and provide voluntary funding. Non-federal funding can be accepted to expand the scope of a study that is federally funded through the FPMS program.

Agencies, governments, organizations, and individuals interested in flood-related assistance within the Chesapeake Bay watershed should contact USACE Baltimore District. A letter request is required for assistance through FPMS program.

For more information regarding the FPMS Program, please contact Ms. Stacey Underwood, CENAB-PL-E, (410) 962-4977, or e-mail stacey.m.underwood@usace.army.mil.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – BALTIMORE DISTRICT


<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil>

Continuing Authorities Program

The Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) provides the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with the authority to solve water resource, flood risk mitigation, and environmental restoration problems in partnership with local sponsors without the need to obtain specific congressional authorization for each project. This decreases the amount of time required to budget, develop and approve a potential project for construction. The legislative authorities that make up the CAP are:

Section 14 - Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection

Authorized by section 14 of the 1946 Flood Control Act, as amended. Work under this authority allows emergency streambank and shoreline protection for public facilities, such as roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, and water/sewage treatment plants that are in imminent danger of failing. The non-federal sponsor is responsible for a minimum of 35% to a maximum of 50% of total project costs and the federal government is responsible for the remainder of total project costs. The federal share of planning, design, and construction cannot exceed \$5,000,000 per project.

Section 103 - Beach Erosion and Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction

Authorized by section 103 of the 1962 River and Harbor Act, as amended. Work under this authority provides for protection of public and private properties and facilities against damages caused by storm driven waves and currents by the construction of revetments, groins, and jetties, and may also include periodic sand replenishment. The non-federal sponsor is responsible for 35% of that portion of total project costs assigned to hurricane and storm damage reduction, 50% of that portion of total project costs assigned to recreation, and 100% of that portion of total project costs assigned to privately owned shores and the federal government is responsible for the remainder of total project costs. The federal share of planning, design, and construction cannot exceed \$10,000,000 per project.

Section 107 - Navigation Improvements

Authorized by section 107 of the 1960 River and Harbor Act, as amended. Work under this authority is intended to provide improvements to navigation including dredging of channels and widening of turning basins. For commercial navigation improvements. The cost share varies by the depth of the improvements – for a depth of 20 feet or less, the non-federal sponsor is responsible for 10% of total costs of the general navigation features; for a depth in excess of 20 feet but equal to or less than 45 feet, the non-federal sponsor is responsible for 25% of total costs of the general navigation features. The non-federal sponsor is also responsible for an additional 10% of total costs of the general navigation features that is offset by the value of lands, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations necessary for the project. This additional 10% may be repaid over a period not to exceed 30 years. The federal government is responsible for the remainder of total costs of the general navigation features. For recreation navigation improvements – the cost share is 50% federal and 50% non-federal. The federal share of planning, design, and construction cannot exceed \$10,000,000 for each project.

Section 111 - Mitigation of Shoreline Erosion Damage caused by Federal Navigation Work

Authorized by section 111 of the 1968 River and Harbor Act, as amended. Work under this authority provides for the prevention or mitigation of erosion damages to public or privately owned shores along the coastline of the United States when these damages are a result of a federal navigation project. This authority cannot be used for shore damages caused by riverbank erosion or vessel-general wave wash. It is not intended to restore shorelines to historic dimensions, but only to reduce erosion to the level that would have existed without the construction of a federal navigation project. The costs of implementing measures under this section must be shared in the same proportion as the cost sharing provisions applicable to the project causing the shore damage. If the federal cost limitation of \$10,000,000 will be exceeded on a project, specific congressional authorization is required prior to initiating the project.

Section 204 – Regional Sediment Management & Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

Authorized by section 204 of the WRDA 1992, as amended work under this authority provides for the use of dredged material from new or existing federal projects for the reduction in storm damages to property and to protect, restore, or create aquatic and ecologically related habitats, including wetlands. The cost share is 65% federal and 35% non-federal of the incremental cost above the least cost method of dredged material disposal consistent with engineering and environmental criteria. Cooperation in the preparation of comprehensive State or regional sediment management plans may be carried out at federal expense. Projects implemented under this authority of Section 204 are limited to \$10,000,000 total federal cost.

Section 205 - Flood Risk Management

Authorized by section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended - work under this authority provides for local protection from flooding by the construction or improvement of structural flood damage reduction features such as levees, channels, and dams. Non-structural alternatives are also considered and may include measures such as installation of flood warning systems, raising and/or flood proofing of structures, and relocation of flood prone facilities. For structural flood damage reduction projects - the non-federal sponsor is responsible for a minimum of 35% to a maximum of 50% of total project costs and the federal government is responsible for the remainder of total project costs. For nonstructural flood damage reduction projects - the cost share is 65% federal and 35% non-federal. The federal share of planning, design, and construction cannot exceed \$10,000,000 per project.

Section 206 - Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

Authorized by section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, as amended - work under this authority may carry out aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that will improve the quality of the environment, are in the public interest, and are cost effective. There is no requirement that an existing USACE project be involved. The cost share is 65% federal and 35% non-federal. The federal share of planning, design, and construction cannot exceed \$10,000,000 per project.

Section 208 - Snagging and Clearing for Flood Risk Management

Authorized by section 208 of the 1954 Flood Control Act, as amended – work under this authority provides for local protection from flooding by channel clearing and excavation, with limited embankment construction by use of materials from the clearing operation only. The non-federal sponsor is responsible for a minimum of 35% to a maximum of 50% of total project costs and the federal government is responsible for the remainder of total project costs. The federal share of planning, design, and construction cannot exceed \$500,000 for each project.

Section 1135 - Project Modifications for Improvement to the Environment

Authorized by section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended - work under this authority provides for modifications in the structures and operations of water resources projects constructed by the USACE to improve the quality of the environment. Additionally, the USACE may undertake restoration projects at locations where an existing USACE project has contributed to the degradation. The primary goal of these projects is ecosystem restoration with an emphasis on projects benefiting fish and wildlife. The project must be consistent with the authorized purposes of the project being modified, environmentally acceptable, and complete within itself. The cost share is 75% federal and 25% non-federal. The federal share of planning, design, and construction cannot exceed \$10,000,000 per project.

Summary of Continuing Authorities

Purpose	Authority	Feasibility Cost Share Fed / Non-Fed	Implementation Cost Share Fed / Non-Fed	Federal Project Limit
Emergency Stream Bank and Shoreline Protection	Section 14, 1946 Flood Control Act, as amended	100% / 0% for initial \$100,000; 50% / 50% remaining cost	65% / 35% ¹	\$ 5,000,000
Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction (Beach Erosion)	Section 103, 1962 River and Harbor Act, as amended	100% / 0% for initial \$100,000; 50% / 50% remaining cost	65% / 35%	\$ 10,000,000
Navigation Improvements	Section 107, 1960 River and Harbor Act, as amended	100% / 0% for initial \$100,000; 50% / 50% remaining cost	Varies, based on depth	\$ 10,000,000
Mitigation to Shore Damage Attributable to Navigation Works	Section 111, 1968 River and Harbor Act, as amended	100% / 0% for initial \$100,000; Shared in same proportion as project causing damage	Shared in same proportion as project causing damage	\$ 10,000,000
Regional Sediment Management	Section 204, 1992 Water Resources Development Act, as amended	100% / 0%	65% / 35% ^{1, 2}	\$ 10,000,000
Flood Damage Reduction	Section 205, 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended	100% / 0% for initial \$100,000; 50% / 50% remaining cost	65% / 35% ^{1, 2}	\$ 10,000,000
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration	Section 206, 1996 Water Resources Development Act, as amended	100% / 0% for initial \$100,000; 50% / 50% remaining cost	65% / 35%	\$ 10,000,000
Snagging and Clearing for Flood Damage Reduction	Section 208, 1954 Flood Control Act, as amended	100% / 0% for initial \$100,000; 50% / 50% remaining cost	65% / 35% ¹	\$ 500,000
Project Modifications for Improvements to the Environment	Section 1135, 1986 Water Resources Development Act, as amended	100% / 0% for initial \$100,000; 50% / 50% remaining cost	75% / 25%	\$ 10,000,000

¹ For structural flood damage reduction purpose, Non-Fed share is 35% up to 50% (based on cost of LERRDs), plus 5% must be in cash.

² For non-structural flood damage reduction purpose, Non-Fed share limited to 35%, with no 5% cash requirement.



Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG.

Overview:

The Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program is authorized by Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974, as amended. Under this program, the Corps is authorized to use its technical expertise in water and related land resources management to provide states, public entities within states, and Native American tribes Indian Tribes assistance with water resources problems and needs. The Corps conducts planning level investigations and prepares findings in conjunction with a non-Federal sponsor. Most studies become the basis for State, and local planning decisions.

Types of projects under Section 22 may include, but are not limited to:

- All Flood-Related Studies (e.g., Flood Risk Management)
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Mapping
- Stormwater Assessments
- Stream Assessments
- Drainage Analysis
- Sanitary Sewer (wastewater) Studies
- Water Supply and Demand
- Water System Vulnerability Assessments
- Surface and Groundwater Quality
- Environmental Conservation and/or Restoration
- Wetland Delineations and Management
- Watershed and Master Planning



Funding:

The PAS program is funded annually by Congress. The funds are distributed among Corps Districts nationwide, and each region distributes its allotment among the states within its boundaries. Federal allotments for each State or Tribe from the nationwide appropriation are limited to \$5 million annually, but typically are much less. Individual studies, of which there may be more than one per state each year, generally range in cost from \$50,000 to over \$200,000.

The PAS program has two types of agreements to consider:

- 1) **50/50 Cost Share Agreement:** Agreement between the Corps and the non-Federal sponsor, where each provides 50% of the total cost. The non-Federal cost share may be made up of cash, in-kind services, or a mixture of both.
- 2) **Comprehensive Water Resources Plan Agreement:** Agreement between the Corps and non-Federal sponsor, where the non-federal sponsor would match the Federal contribution and voluntarily contribute funds in excess of this cost share to expand the scope of work.

For more information regarding the PAS Program, please contact Mr. Jason Rinker, CENAB-PL-E, (410) 962-3027, or e-mail jason.s.rinker@usace.army.mil.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – BALTIMORE DISTRICT

December 3, 2021

Dear State Representatives,

In 1956, Edward and Carolyn Little purchased a little piece of property with an old shack that sat along Muncy Creek in Nordmont, Sullivan County. Ed and Carolyn were both born and raised in the Nordmont area and had started their life together and family just a couple houses down the road. When it came time to move to Williamsport for work, they wanted a spot where they could come back home and keep the family tied to the mountains. Over the years they and their six children, along with other family and friends developed the shack on the banks of the creek into a weekend respite and hunting cabin, now called Little's Rest. As the families expanded, the new generations grew to love and belong to this same spot.

Muncy Creek has been central to many of our stories and memories. When Ed was building the stone fireplace that to this day provides our central heat source, everyone in the family sifted through the rocks in the creek and lugged them up the bank so that he could pick and choose which one to carefully put in place next. During summers, children played in the creek, building dams and catching minnows and crawfish. Fishing provided sport and dinner on many occasions. Some brave souls even used to head down with a bar of soap and take a bath in the freezing cold clear stream! When friends visit, we tell them to dip their toe in Muncy Creek to ensure they'll come back some day.

Most of the year, Muncy Creek is a bright and bubbling refresher running down the valley. But the spring thaw and fall rains can turn it into a raging torrent. The 1972 flood after Hurricane Agnes ate away so much of the bank that we needed to build a retaining wall. Times were different then and Ed, who was DIY engineering master, got in there with heavy equipment and reinforced the bank using old tires. The wall held well for forty years or so, but the past ten years have brought flood after flood after flood. We've rebuilt the wall twice, including a new installation further up the creek. These last floods in the fall of 2021 have been the most damaging yet and we're at a loss for what we can do, and what we are allowed to do to prevent the creek from eating away under the foundation of the family cabin.

This year also brought more water flooding the parcel than in our lifetimes. Runoff from the mountain gullies overwhelmed the culverts and ran straight down the hill to surround our cabins and houses on one side while the creek ate away at the bank on the other side. We fear we are now facing potential complete destruction. Years ago, the culvert pipes had large diameters, four feet or more, to handle the sudden and unexpected rush of water coming down the mountains. Now the pipes are smaller and more easily overwhelmed. PennDOT should replace these with the larger culverts, or at the very least maintain them, but we cannot get our voice heard or taken under consideration.

We are willing to do the work needed to prevent or at least mitigate future flooding, just as we were taught by our father/grandfather/great-grandfather Ed. We can maintain the creek and the culverts, but it's not clear if we are permitted to do so in the way we see fit. What is our responsibility and what is the state's? How can we work together to keep safe from the floods? We are seeking solutions.

We much appreciate that you are taking the time to listen to experts and formulate plans about dealing with flooding in the Northeast. Our family story is just one among many you'll hear. Our hope is that this symposium will result in resource allocation to communities across the state and provide paths for citizens to access those resources. We would love you to solve the problem of flooding, but perhaps that's unrealistic. Instead, help us help ourselves. Let us know where to begin – who do we call to ask our questions to? What kind of permissions do we need to maintain the creek bed and culverts? Are there funds available to assist us? Is there a way to put in a work order with the state? What can we, as individuals and as a community, do to save our heritage?

Sincerely,
The Little Family
Descendants of Ed and Carolyn Little
Nordmont, PA



Little's Rest
September
2021

Flooded by
water coming
down off the
mountain.



Muncy Creek
Flood
September
2021

Creek is on
the right,
mountain
gullies
overflow on
the left.



**"Downtown"
Nordmont
Flooded from
all sides**

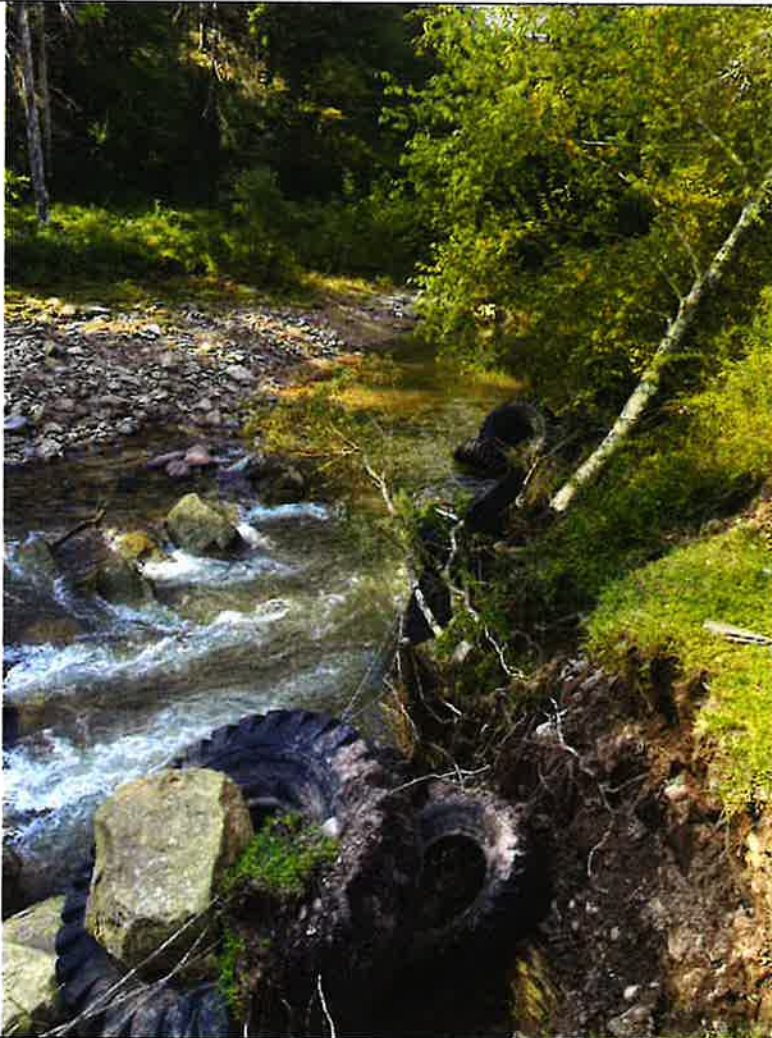
**September
2021**



**Recycled tire
retaining wall
originally
built in 1972.**



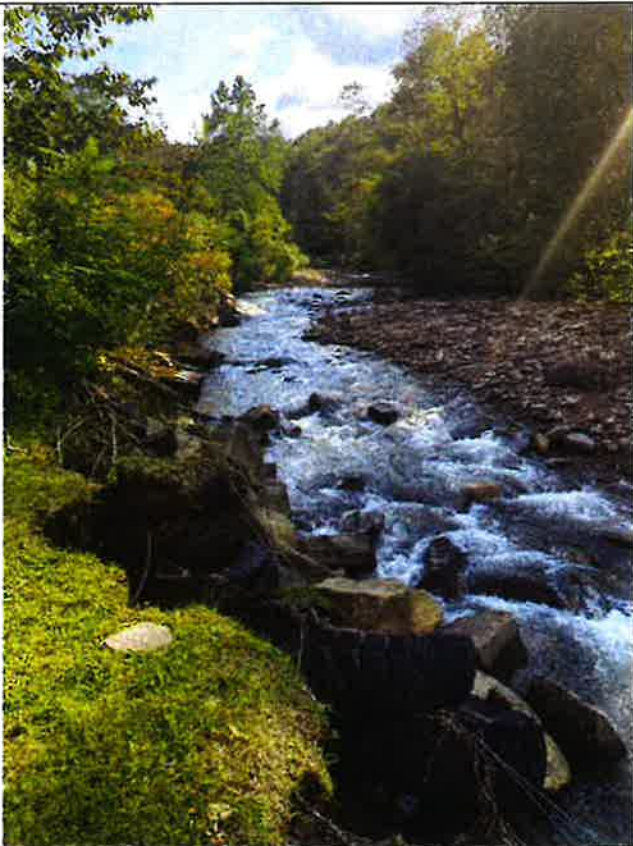
Recycled tire retaining wall originally built in 1972.



Recycled tire retaining wall originally built in 2009, rebuilt in 2019.



Recycled tire retaining wall originally built in 2009, rebuilt in 2019.



Recycled tire retaining wall originally built in 2009, rebuilt in 2019.

Photo also shows a gavel bar in Muncy Creek that we'd like to move.



After the fall 2021 floods, we fixed the driveway, but some debris remains along the side of the road.



The small culvert that runs under the road. Sufficient for the standard water flow. Insufficient for the seasonal floods.



A larger culvert that runs under our driveway. Works every time, as long as the small pipe upstream doesn't clog.



A different small culvert, crushed and clogged by the seasonal floods.



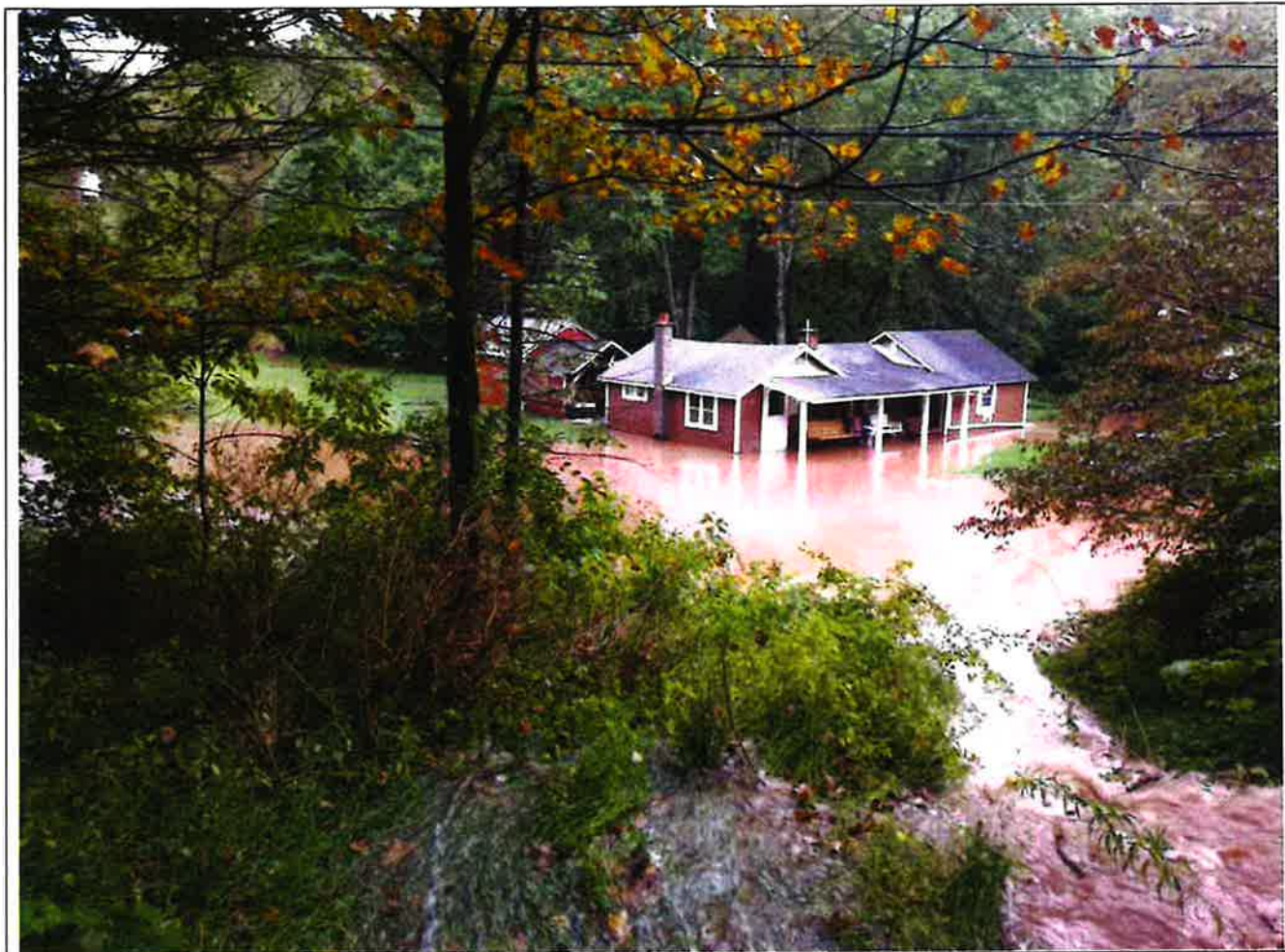
This is the clogged culvert, where the water ran across the road and down to surround our cabin.

PennDOT (or someone) sort of cleaned it up.



Here is where the water ran over the road down to our cabin. Clogged culvert center right.

SR2006,
Christian
Camp Road,
Nordmont,
PA



Please help save our heritage!

**Mansfield Borough
Written Testimony
PA House Majority Policy Committee: Dec. 6, 2021**

Members of the PA House Majority Policy Committee:

First, I would like to welcome you to Tioga County and thank you for visiting our part of the Commonwealth. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some local flooding concerns and ask for policy changes that would allow municipalities to better respond to flooding threats.

We would also like to recognize the response of the Northcentral Regional Office of the Department of Environmental Protection for their efforts in approving the necessary work to remediate our issues. However, there are some potential policy changes that would improve both disaster response and disaster remediation efforts.

Mansfield Borough experienced a series of severe flooding issues in early July, 2021. On Friday, July 9, a 20-minute storm dumped 2 ¼ inches of rain on the southern part of the Borough. The following Monday, July 12, brought a second deluge. We then weathered a third storm on Tuesday, July 13. The Borough received reports of property damage totaling \$43,000 and spent \$83,000 on emergency repairs.

The Friday and Monday storms caused significant flooding on the southern end of the Borough. A fortunate discovery and subsequent action, which I will detail later, has prevented further flooding.

Our after-action analysis highlighted two areas of concern that we are actively addressing. Both areas of concern are tied to an “arch pipe” that serves as the backbone of the local drainage system.

The first area of concern is the inlet of the arch pipe, located near the Mansfield University baseball field. Like many other inlets, the headwall features a trash rack that is designed to prevent debris from entering the pipe and cause damage and blockages. Like any other similar structure, this rack must be regularly cleared of debris or the water overtops the headwall and floods neighboring streets and buildings. This is a difficult operation during ideal conditions and a major challenge when the water is rushing directly at the trash rack.

The second area of concern is the condition of the arch pipe itself. Prior flooding events in 2014, 2018 and other dates originated from the inlet due to a build-up of debris. The 2021 events were different in that downstream catch basins flooded first and the flooding seemed to work its way upstream. On July 15, a sinkhole was discovered near the outfall of the pipe. The sinkhole was initial evidence of a failure in the arch pipe. Borough crews excavated the area and found that the pipe was compromised. The bottom of the pipe had heaved up, causing a constriction of about 80 to 90 percent. As a temporary measure, we cut the top of the pipe open, which relieved the water pressure. This action seemed to have prevented subsequent flooding.

The Borough is taking the following actions in response to the two areas of concern.

The first area of concern – the inlet area near the baseball field – will be addressed by widening the stream channel and installing additional trash racks upstream.

The second **area of concern** – the failed arch pipe – has already been temporarily repaired at significant cost to the **borough**. We were fortunate that a company had **exactly matching pieces of arch pipe at a facility 45 miles away from Mansfield**. Additionally, the **Borough has taken the initial steps toward fully rehabilitating the arch pipe**. We have received a number of **proposals from engineering companies to do an initial study and cost analysis for the rehabilitation project**. We fully expect this to be a multi-million dollar project.

At this point, I have to say that the Williamsport DEP office has been phenomenal in their support. Prior to the July, 2021 floods, the Borough developed the plans to install the trash racks and applied for the necessary permits. The Borough fully understands that these permits can take a long time to process and the COVID-19 pandemic has led to further delays over the past two years. When it became clear that immediate action was necessary, DEP was able to expedite the necessary permits and that was turned around within a day or two.

An additional complication arose during the initial planning of the channel improvements related to the first area of concern. We are aware that the upstream trash racks will need to be regularly cleared of debris using heavy equipment. Unfortunately, DEP is not able to issue a blanket permit for such maintenance. We will likely need to contact the district office every time maintenance is necessary.

To take a broader view of our concerns, it is necessary to understand that drainage and flooding issues related to failing infrastructure often do not manifest until a catastrophic weather event actually occurs. On the other hand, municipal officials can often point to a specific problem (failing pipes and headwalls, gravel bars in streams, trash racks that need constant attention and maintenance, etc.) that will inevitably cause flooding during the next major weather event. These are problems that need fixed quickly before the next storm causes property damage and loss of life. It is far less expensive to remediate a problem before a disaster than after.

Based upon Mansfield Borough's experiences, we would offer the following recommendations to improve the ability of municipalities to respond to these concerns:

1. Grant DEP the authority to issue "blanket" permits for maintenance work in waterways. To improve accountability, perhaps DEP could perform surprise inspections of such work.
2. Increase funding for grant programs to address deficient drainage infrastructure. Additionally, this funding ought to be easily accessible. Applications should be on a rolling basis. Grants should be turned around quickly and have minimal local matches. We should all recognize that emergency repairs are often expensive and need to be completed as soon as possible.
3. Expedite the permitting process for projects intended to preserve life and property. When a project is not considered an "emergency," permitting can take months, even when there is a potential for flooding or other disasters.

Thank you for your time and I would be happy to address any questions.

Christopher M. McGann
Mansfield Borough Manager

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Flood Response Details

Note: During the entire duration of the July storms, the borough's waste water treatment plant was experiencing high flows to the point that CSO events were necessary

Friday, July 9, 2021

I was notified of flooding at approximately 7 p.m. Initial response showed flooding at the bottom of the hill on St. James Street. Flooding was also observed on East Main, Clinton and Academy Streets. Borough crews were called in to clear the arch pipe inlet, provide barricades, and tend to manholes. Borough and University police as well as university public works were also dispatched. The fire company was tied up with a related storm incident in Roseville. The Mansfield University crews were tied up with a flooded water treatment plant.

The storm lasted about 20 minutes and dropped more than 2 inches of rain. Subsequent information indicated that this was the equivalent of a 1000 year storm event.

Pavement was heaved at the intersection of Academy and Sherwood Streets, impacting a storm sewer manhole cover and a sanitary sewer manhole cover. Lisowski Paving was contacted and scheduled repairs for the next morning.

At the arch pipe inlet, public works crew kept the debris clear, but the water still overtopped the inlet. It appeared that flooding started downstream, indicating that the suspected blockage is in the pipe somewhere.

Brooklyn Street had minimal impacts, though the situation was monitored.

Cast and Crew Restaurant was impacted with water crossing South Main Street from Fourth Street.

The Borough issued a disaster declaration.

Saturday, July 10, 2021

I surveyed the situation this morning. I spoke with a number of residents concerning damage and recovery as well as drainage issues. Lisowski's crew repaired the intersection at Academy and Sherwood. I requested that Costy's landscaping sweep the streets as a contracted service. Costy's sweeper was not up to the job, so Lisowski's did the work the following day.

I spoke with Tom Freeman, representing BOOM. Tom said that he would check the retention basins at the I-99 Business Park that had previously been repaired. He reported no issues there, but did raise a concern about some drainage that appears to be a PennDOT issue.

UGI crews were on St. James Street looking for a gas leak that was previously reported.

Sunday, July 11, 2021

Another passing rain storm prompted concerns. The public works crew was called out and kept debris clear of the arch pipe inlet. No significant flooding was reported.

Monday, July 12, 2021

Borough crews cleaned up from the previous evening.

Another storm came through around 7 p.m. this evening. Similar areas were impacted with flooding and significant run off was observed from the MU campus. A section of First Street was peeled away (later repaired). The most significant water drained by 10:30 p.m. Water did overtop the arch pipe inlet again.

A sanitary sewer inlet on Elmira Street backed up.

Tuesday, July 13, 2021

Wellsboro Public Works sent a vac truck over to clear a blockage on the Elmira Street location. Borough crews worked on cleanup efforts.

EMC Schlosser and I met with the streets department crew, County Emergency Management and an Army Corps employee. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate for storms that evening. Street barricades were placed at key intersections. Sandbags were procured and placed at trouble spots. An emergency management center was established at the Borough Office.

No significant impacts were observed as the worst of the storm cells missed Mansfield Borough.

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

Public works crews continued the cleanup efforts. Borough Council met that evening and addressed the various flooding issues with concerned/impacted residents. The presentation and discussion covered the mitigation steps already taken, the actions taken during the week's floods, and near future action.

The Borough Council approved the expenditure of up to \$100,000 for mitigation efforts.

At 10:30 p.m., I received an emergency One Call from UGI. The water and sanitary sewer lines had already been marked for the upcoming street project, but the storm sewer had not yet been marked. I responded to the scene with some storm maps as UGI advised that the gas odor is noticeable during rain events. By the weekend, UGI had made a number of repairs to their lines.

Thursday, July 15, 2021

In the morning, I was alerted to some sinkholes at Smythe Park in the vicinity of the arch pipe. An initial excavation behind Pump and Pantry did not reveal significant issues. A second excavation near the softball field fence revealed evidence of a failing pipe, with a constriction of 80 to 90 percent. Specifically, the bottom of the pipe had heaved up. The pipe was opened to provide some relief from the water pressure. The work did seem to relieve some of the water pressure that was present in the line. The Army Corps was advised of the situation and initial plans for scoping/cleaning were discussed with School District officials.

In the afternoon, I walked St. James Street with HRI to determine areas that need base repairs, per the previously awarded contract. The Borough Engineer had mapped the locations of base repairs. During

this final walkthrough, a number of new potholes had opened up and a catch basin was identified as needing replaced. These items were added to the project as a change order.

Friday, July 16, 2021

I took a day off, though I checked in on cleanup progress and ensured that barricades and sandbags were still staged.

Councilman McCloskey texted me and let me know that he would monitor the arch pipe inlet. No response was necessary.

Saturday, July 17, 2021

Approximately 4 p.m., a brief rainstorm caused some minor flooding. Rich Correll replaced two manhole covers that popped loose before tending to the WWTP. Alan Clark tended to the arch pipe inlet. Flooding was fairly localized, though some soil and rock slid down an embankment from university property onto Route 6. A significant amount of water was observed flowing from the university demolition project. Water had subsided by 7:30 p.m.

The hole in Smythe Park (excavated on Thursday) was completed filled with water at 5:17 p.m. and the sides of the hole were eroding. By 7:08 p.m., the water had subsided.

Monday, Aug. 2, 2021

The Borough received emergency authorization from DEP to perform necessary repairs to the arch pipe and to proceed with the channel improvements.

Aug. 23-27

Compromised arch pipe was repaired by Lisowski's crew this week.

Thursday, Sept. 23

Another high-water event impacted the Borough. No flooding was reported and the arch pipe functioned as intended.

November, 2021

The Borough released an RFP asking for pricing to produce an engineering report detailing possible solutions and the associated costs. The RFP was released Nov. 1. An information session was held Nov. 17 and bids will be opened Nov. 30.



Reigels Bison Farm
Jean Reigel
[REDACTED]
Westfield PA 16950



Reigels Bison Farm
Jean Reigel
[REDACTED]
Westfield PA 16950

3/6



Reigels Bison Farm
Jean Reigel
[REDACTED]
Westfield PA 16950

4/6



Reigels Bison Farm
Jean Reigel
[REDACTED]
Westfield PA 16950



Reigels Bison Farm
Jean Reigel
[REDACTED]
Westfield, PA 16950

6/6



Reigels Bison Farm
Jean Reigel
~~2012 Reigel~~
Westfield, PA 16950

Larene Rollins

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

September 15, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you are aware, on August 18 2021, Troups Creek flooded the homes on Route 249. This was an historic flood on this stream and caused catastrophic damage to many homes and creek property.

The families who reside on Route 249 have sustained damage to the stream banks on the Route 249 side of Troups Creek, north of Knoxville. All the homes in this section were flooded with some having foundations that were destroyed.


Without some remediation of the creek banks, the next high water will ultimately destroy what property and homes remain. Stabilization will no doubt require riprap and some stream cleaning to stabilize the situation.

We are requesting that you look into possible grants or funding to stabilize the banks of Troups Creek in our neighborhood. We also require the assistance of the PA DEP to allow for this remediation to be pursued.

We are aware there are Federal and State funds available for some folks but we are unable to tap these resources. Our hope is you will look into our situation and do whatever possible to help stabilize the banks of Troups Creek in the area we have called home all of our lives.

In closing, we thank you in advance for your consideration in trying to assist us with this dire situation. It is our sincere hope that you can help us.

Sincerely,


Larene Rollins

Hello Clint and Kim,

We heard Clint on the radio this morning talking about flooding in the areas.

We wanted to share with you what our experiences have been both on our farm, in Tioga County, and at our cabin, in Potter County.

Cabin situation: Potter County, [REDACTED], Ulysses, PA

Roughly two years ago there was a major ice storm in February in the native trout stream that runs behind our cabin. This storm caused major damage, ripping apart bridges and redirecting portions of the creek. As a result of this, portions of the creek not only damaged our property, but redirected the creek to start forming a new system for the creek to flow. We started to see major gravel bars forming. (which we new needed to be taken care of, common sense approach...however, we were not allowed to go into the creek to repair the damage.). As a result, we ended up with more significant damage waiting for the conservation district to show up, two years later, meanwhile losing a major portion of our land. We ended up with nearly 30 feet of our lawn gone and a huge sinkhole. When the conservation district showed up this past September we were told we could not reclaim our land, it could only be repaired back to where the damage ended. All logic and common sense were dismissed.

Century Farm (104 years old) Tioga County We represent the third generation of our family farm and take great pride in our farm.

As farmers, we have been subjected to so many rules and regulations that are not fully thought out as to how they might impact the day to day operations of the farm. Over the last several we have seen our creeks and land severely damaged by flooding.

Recently, we had to have a large sluice pipe replaced by Sullivan Township, as a result of this change we now are experiencing flooding where it had never flooded before. We asked, if the debris and gravel bars could be cleaned out on either side of the new pipe, they said, DEP doesn't allowed them to go into the creek. As a result, every time it rains we now have flooding in our fields and massive amounts of sediment enter the creek causing more erosion to our land.

Also, we now have numerous obstructions in the creek, so where we used to have pasture, it is now massive amount of trees, gravel bars and debris. Water where we never had it before is now making checking our land a major obstacle.

The DEP POLICIES are causing massive flooding and damage to our farm. We would like a common sense approach to fixing this situation. We would be more than happy to help with problem solving.

Edson and Kallie Shaw

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 6933
[REDACTED] 549-3485

Re: Dwane Stoltzfus

From: Dwane Stoltzfus [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, December 3, 2021 12:31 AM
To:
Subject: Boatman stream

I own the property at [REDACTED] Knoxville pa. The Boatman stream meets the Cowensque River on my property. There has always been erosion issues at the point where they meet. This years flooding has caused excessive damages. Downed trees and debris dams have totally move the flow of the stream from its original location. The original flow has been spread out and divided in multiple flows causing more damage. I'm having trouble attaching photos to this email. Thank you.

Dwane Stoltzfus

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Re: Diane Stoltzfus

WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

DATE: NOVEMBER 22ND 2021

RE: GRAVEL BAR REMOVALS/PERMITS

TO: STATE REP CLINT OWLETT

FROM: WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP

THIS LETTER IS TO GO ALONG WITH THE LETTER FROM COMMISSIONER COOLIDGE. AS A BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FROM WESTFIELD TOWNSHIP, WE HAVE NO PROBLEM WORKING WITH OUR CONSERVATION BOARD FOR GETTING PERMITS.

THE PROBLEM IS WITH ALL THE OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING THE PERMITS. THE DEP, FISH & BOAT COMMISSION AND U.S. ARMY CORPS HAVE TO KNOW THAT THE MUNICIPALITY IS DOING THEIR PART IN KEEPING THE GRAVEL BARS AND AND STREAMS CLEAN - IT HELPS EVERYBODY OUT. MUNICIPALITIES SHOULDN'T HAVE TO WAIT A LONG TIME FOR PERMITS TO BE ISSUED; NO MORE THAN 2 WEEKS.

AS A TOWNSHIP IT IS OUR DUTY TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND WELFARE OF OUR RESIDENTS AND THEIR PROPERTY IN OUR MUNICIPALITY. THERE SHOULD BE A PROCESS IN PLACE TO RENEW ANY EXISTING PERMITS TO REMOVE GRAVEL BARS INSTEAD OF APPLYING EVERY YEAR FOR A NEW PERMIT, AS MOST GRAVEL BARS FILL BACK IN. PICTURES ARE TAKEN WHEN APPLYING FOR THE PERMIT AND THE AGENCIES SHOULD ALREADY HAVE THEM ON FILE. ANY QUESTION PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL, AS OUR MONTHLY TOWNSHIP MEETING IS ON THE DATE OF THE HEARING AND WE WON'T BE ABLE TO ATTEND, SO WE ARE SUBMITTING THIS AS OUR TESTIMONY ON THIS PROBLEM.

THANK YOU

JEFFREY VAN DUSEN, SECERTARY/TREASURER

Jeffrey Van Dusen Sec/Treasurer

Clint,

After every large storm or flood event the cleaning of creeks and rivers becomes an issue and usually the government allows some "emergency" activity which is a form of a knee-jerk reaction to intense public pressure but soon it is back to business as normal. Anything that is done in a water way is taboo! The things our ancestors were lauded for that made our country great we now are criminals if we do the same.

Those ancestors were the first to use the water ways to power mills and as corridors of commerce thereby creating the governments declaring many of these water ways "navigable" and subsequently claiming ownership by the civil sovereign of all streams and water courses. Practically the "navigable for commerce use" of the streams in our area is very small comprised mostly of recreational endeavors, none of the transportation of lumber or goods by watercraft that was the main impetus for the original "navigable use".

Current storm water regulations that require detention ponds to control run off also have a maintenance plan that requires regular inspection and after a major storm event the removal of accumulated sediment and debris to maintain the water storage volume. The property owner is responsible for this.

In my opinion the public streams are no different, each year and after a storm the owner (the State since they claim ownership) should remove all debris and accumulated gravel deposits to maintain the streams ability to transport the water from a storm event. The failure to do this or to provide permits, quickly, for local governments or property owners to maintain streams free of obstructions and restricted deposits constitutes a hypocritical situation. If this were done it would help to mitigate the damages that result. Emphasis: Since the State claims the stream, fix or get out of way! Now, not a "after a review period of months".

I frequently say, "retrench the DEP personnel" and require them to retrain and be employed by private contractors, as operators of bulldozers and track hoes removing the debris, protecting adjacent property thereby maintaining and creating wealth, rather than pushing tax dollars around and restricting private property owners with regulations.

Duane Wilmore
Professional Land Surveyor
Middlebury Center, PA 16935

Will Tioga County's rural population once again be the "Sacrifice Zone" for the Chesapeake?

I have spent most of my life living on a river bottom farm alongside the Cowanesque River. Although most of the time it appears little more than a gentle creek, smaller than Pine Creek in many places and more shallow than Dauphin County's Swatara Creek, it is a volatile conduit for the many small streams in our watershed. My ancestor came to this fertile valley at the beginning of the Civil War, in 1861. By 1867, he was embroiled in a quest - along with his neighboring farmers - to keep the Cowanesque in its channel. I was a small child when our farm was inundated by Agnes of 1972, followed shortly by Hurricane Eloise in 1975. Each of those changed the course of the river, re-arranged workable fields, and laid down immense gravel bars. By 1996, when the winter storm ice-melt filled the valley with a churning mess of ice chunks the size of automobiles, piles of rip-rap installed along the banks in previous years were eroding into the main channel.

During my lifetime the government (DER, not Tioga County) abandoned the locally-initiated (Cowanesque Valley Watershed Association) system of small impoundments in the headwaters streams: North Fork, Beechwood, etc. Three small dams were completed before the DER halted the federally funded project. Six more small dams, including one to protect Elkland from Camp Brook, were planned. They decided instead to pursue the federal projects of Cowanesque Lake and Tioga-Hammond Lakes, with their revenue-producing potential. Tourism, water sports, and camping revenue was combined with flood protection for the larger communities down stream like Corning and Elmira, NY. These larger lakes did nothing to protect the Cowanesque Valley or its tributaries, sacrificing the rural communities for the larger populations. This was the first time we were used as a 'sacrifice zone.'

Waters of the U.S. in recent years: it's all about the Chesapeake

The environmental impact messages about water quality have been received loud and clear. NRCS programs have resulted in shifts in most headwaters farmers' practices: tillage of at-risk farm land has been minimized with no-till practices, cover-cropping, and retention of crop residues for soil stabilization. Stream bank programs of CRP have been implemented over the county. As Jimmy Guignard described our county in the context of shale gas in his book "Pedaling the Sacrifice Zone" (2015) it becomes clear that our region, and our rural population, has been considered exactly that: secondary to the higher priority of the purity of the Chesapeake. We have been prohibited from cleaning or maintaining streambanks, however small, that run through our farmlands by stringent regulations while we watch helplessly as more acres of farmland peel off into the river year after year. Will our soil be brought back to us in truckloads when the "delta" of the Cowanesque Lake is dredged? This regulation that ties our hands is the second time we've been sacrificed for the good of all. We know the Chesapeake is important, can those who watch over the Chesapeake be convinced that our rural population is important also?

Our farm sustained a big change in the fall of 2004 when the storm Ivan was followed one week later by Hurricane Jean. The first high water gouged out the mature trees that had held the banks for decades, the second storm peeled almost three acres of prime soil planted to corn off our farm, leaving in its wake a 7 ft. thick gravel bar about 300 yards in length on the opposite bank. Similar erosion and bank breaches have occurred all over the watershed since then: Camp Brook, Holden Brook, and Austinburg in the fall of 2018. Troups Creek has eroded large trees and deposited gravel bars over the past three decades so as to propel it with force north of Knoxville as caused the recent damage.

Permits to remove gravel are expensive with constraints as to make it only minimally effective. The extensive gravel deposited in the August storm Fred event on the south bank of the Cowanesque at our farm has forced the channel northward, eroded off a point of rip rap which has held trees, and the fields behind them, since the rip rap was placed by Dept. of Forest & Waters after the flood in 1946. The rip rap is now tumbling into the channel, the trees are going to give way in the next high water, and after that it will not stop carving off the crop land.

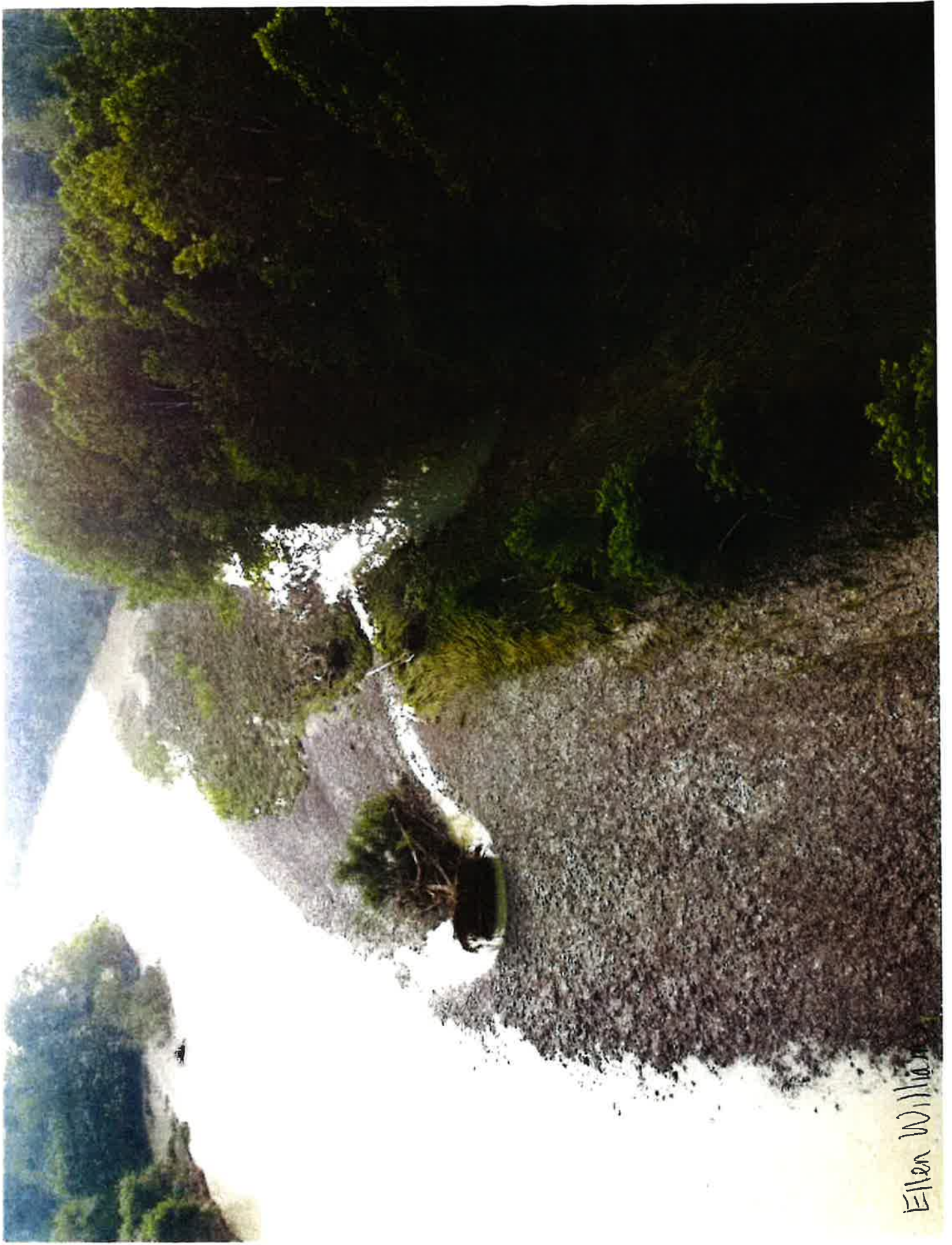
The attached photos and articles show not only conditions along the Cowanesque from the August 2021 event, but vintage news articles also show the efforts of watershed residents from 1954 attempting to get help from the Pennsylvania and New York state governments and the federal government. We understand the small dams are not coming back, and we understand our role in the quality of the Chesapeake. We are asking for help in preserving our homes, our property, and our farm land: to expedite gravel removal permits, to allow lenience in current regulations for stream bank repair, and assistance with costs for remediation where needed. Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

-Ellen Williams

Deerfield Township resident, 12/3/2021



Ellen Williams



Ellen Williams

complex should be located above the 100 year flood frequency of Camp Brook or designed and constructed with floodproofing features." The report further states that there are no federal funds available for cost-sharing of floodproofing measures.

Takes Issue With Report

County Commissioner Kermit Moore took issue with the SCS report noting that they did not take into consideration human suffering and hardships during floods, as well as mental anguish of those worrying about being flooded. He further scolded the SCS for not helping after the latest flood in September, asking if they were hiding behind Department of Environmental Resources, giving no help when it was needed the most. He said the evidence of benefits is obvious in Wellsboro where small dams have controlled water and resulted in minimum damage in the two most recent devastating floods, as well as the diking in Elkland which has kept down severe damage there.

About 25 interested local people attended the meeting. Others participating were Edward Heyler, Westfield, president of the Watershed Association; Ralph D. Lindsey, District Conservationist; Charles Wilson, Jr., State Economist; and Phil Sheets and J. W. Burgess of the Wellsboro Soil Conservation office.

Ellen
Williams

Engineer Here On Watershed Survey

The Cowanesque Watershed Association, supported by the Tioga County Commissioners and the Tioga County Soil District, seeks to re-activate small dam program for flood control on the Cowanesque Valley west of Elkland. A preliminary survey for the proposed project was made on Tuesday.

The Cowanesque watershed, between Elkland and the finger streams in Potter and Steuben Counties suffered more than \$2 million in damages during flood Agnes. This figure, advanced Tuesday, did not include monetary business losses or private employment losses during the flood.

Making the survey for the State Conservation Office at Harrisburg was John Jaquish, an engineer who worked on the original small dam program that was launched here in 1958.

Jaquish was told that farms and farm lands embracing more than 4000 acres sustained flood losses. He was also told that 461 homes had water

Meeting with the engineer at Fitzwaters Restaurant at Westfield during the morning hours were Ed Heyler, association president; Frank Manning, vice-president, both of Westfield and Ferris Wetmore of Deerfield. Also present was Donald Lindsey, Tioga County Conservationist.

After the morning meeting, Mr. Wetmore directed a tour over the watershed which ended at City Hall in Elkland where the conservationists were given a copy of the new flood plain map for Elkland Boro at the office of Dr. E. B. Watkins, Elkland planner.

The findings of the survey will be evaluated by the State Conservation office for possible early action.

What Is Wanted

The Cowanesque Valley Watershed Association is asking for the re-activation of the small dam program which originally planned 21 retaining dams on the river and its tributaries. A number of these dams were to be located in Steuben County, New York, but were not built due to legal road blocks established by the New York State legislature.

Only two of the proposed dams were built under the original program (North Fork and Beechwood Lake) plus two smaller dams at Eberle Tanning Company at Westfield and the Kenneth Griffin farm in Clymer Township.

What Is Required

Despite flood Agnes and despite the fact that farmers and local government on the Cowanesque have advanced flood control plans since 1938 (three major floods ago and 12 less

stantially exceed losses if desired retention dams are approved.

At The Last Meeting

Meeting at the Cowanesque Valley High School last week the watershed group prepared for the coming survey. The meeting heard Boro Manager Kenneth Young of Elkland review in detail the day long meeting of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission held in Binghamton recently. Representatives from the Cowanesque Valley requested the Commission to include all planned small watershed projects in a "early action" plan for flood and erosion alleviation on the Susquehanna.

The meeting also heard detailed explanations from a number of township supervisors concerning flood Agnes clean-up projects and the continuing controversy between local and federal officials over methods and needs.

Washington officials simply cannot vision the destructive power of the flood," was the opinion of supervisors attempting to return the river channel to a pre-flood state.

More than 30 local people heard these reports and established committees to compile flood damage data for the Soil Conservation Service.

The local group also heard a call to form a Tioga County Conservation League to combine the forces of the three existing watershed associations. There was also a call to join forces with the conservation and watershed groups that are active in the New York State counties of Steuben, Chemung

*Elkland Journal
Sept. 28, 1972*

Ellen Williams

A meeting of the delegates of the various watersheds of the Cowanesqua River was called by county director Robbret Miller of Tioga County, for discussion of a Cowanesqua River Watershed Association. Charles Slaton, county conservationist, was named temporary chairman. Gerald Kent was named acting secretary.

The call of meeting was read. Remarks by Chairman Slaton stating purpose of meeting.

At this time chairman Slaton introduced D. Lee Stoddard, who made various remarks about flood control and the possibilities of conservation practices.

Chairman Stanley Hamilton, of the Tioga County soil conservation district, was next introduced. He stated the county association was formed in 1948 and now had over 800 members, 25 watershed or community associations. Large dams not the answer to flood control but good soil conservation practices could definitely be, with small earth dams on low income lands. Flood Control dams on Valley land results in increased taxes on operated farms.

County Commissioner Victor Hurd was introduced made some remarks about water conservation by planting trees.

A committee on BYLAWS had previously named, and instructed to make a study of such documents and draw bylaws for the association, with James Briggs Sr. chairman. At this time chairman Briggs presented said bylaws for discussion and adoption. After a short discussion chairman Briggs moved for adoption, and was seconded by Robert Miller. The action was promptly carried.

A committee on nominations, previously named with Ronald Mattison presented the following names as candidates for Directors.

LOWER COWNESQUA	SAM EGLESTIN	NELSON Pa.
CUMINGS CREEK	WM. THOMPSON	OSCEOLA Pa.
ROLDEN BROOK	GERALD OLIN	OSCEOLA "
YARNELL	ROBERT MILLER	KNOXVILLE "
TROUPSCREEK	GERALD KENT	WOODHULL N.Y.
	LATON AUSTIN	TRONSBURG TROUPSBURG N.Y.
JIMMERSON	GEORGE PAINTER	WESTFIELD Pa.
MILLCREEK	JAMES GIGGE	" "
NORTHERN	RONNARD MATTISON	" "
UPPER COWNESQUA	WESLEY CARY	HARRISON VALLEY Pa.
	IVAN KIBBE	" "
THORNBOTTOM	ARCH PRESTON	NELSON "

CHAIRMAN Slaton called for nominations from the floor. a motion was made by Robert Miller and seconded by Milton Buttler the nominations be accepted as read. carried.

Nonfarm Directors nominated were as follows.

Tioga County

Steuben "

Potter "

HARLAND MOORE WESTFIELD Pa.

D. LEE STODDARD ELKLAND "

JAMES BRIGGS SABINSVILLE "

RUTH KRIS KNOXVILLE "

EDWIN GLOVER " "

The secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous vote for Directors as read. carried.

GERALD KENT sect.

In Cowanesque Watershed

No More Small Dams To Be Built By SCS

by Carolyn Jacobson

There will be no more small dams built in the Cowanesque Valley Watershed area by the Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. A study, including a field of examination, reveals no economically feasible program under Public Law 556 within the Cowanesque project area.

Members of the Cowanesque Valley Watershed Association received the news at a special meeting called this week to hear the results of the SCS study. The study revealed that no small dams could be justified under the cost-benefit ratio used by SCS. Economic justification occurs when a ratio of 1:1 exists between average annual benefits and costs.

Also ruled out was the Camp Brook project which was requested for the protection of Elkland, again on

the cost-benefit ratio. None of the four alternatives to the Camp Brook problem came near the dollar for dollar benefits needed.

Clinton Walker, Harrisburg, Soil Conservation official, explained the report in detail, using a series of slides to illustrate his oral report and urging audience questions and participation at any point. He, with the help of an economist, attempted to explain all questions.

The report was done at the request of the local sponsors for a Conservation District, Potter County Commissioners and Potter County Soil Conservation District, and the Steuben County Conservation District. Money was sought for protective dams to benefit Potter and Tioga Counties in Pennsylvania, and Steuben County in New York.

Propose Solution

One solution was offered by officials at the meeting who suggested removing all the people and businesses in the flood plain, stating that this was a two way approach, either keep the floods away from the people or keep people away from the floods. Maps showing the flood zones revealed that the proposed Elkland High School lies within the danger zone, being adjacent to the large Cowanesque Dam lake basin. It is expected that Camp Brook which bisects the school property will be filled with backup water when the dam is at high point.

The report recommends that "the present development in the industrial park in Elkland appears suitable for including flood resistant construction measures. Future developments including the proposed school

Ellen Williams

Asks For Renewed Watershed Program

Ellen Williams

The Cowanesque Valley Watershed Association has appealed directly to the Pennsylvania Soil Conservation Commission to re-activate the small dam program started here in 1955.

Harland Moore, personnel manager at Eberle Tanning Company in Westfield, and a veteran member of the watershed group, appeared before the Commission last Wednesday.

Eleven other soil conservation districts also appealed for small retention dams and accelerated soil conservation practices to alleviate flooding in widely separated areas of the state.

County Commissioner Kermit H. Moore also represented the Cowanesque Valley at the conservation commission hearing. Both men were optimistic after the day long session, despite the brief time allocated for presentations.

After flood Agnes, the Soil Conservation Service had more than 50 requests for small dam programs. Only eleven areas could justify further consideration after preliminary studies rejected applications. The Cowanesque was one of eleven which could present a feasible program.

The Moores reminded the Commission that the Cowanesque watershed group was one of the oldest in the United States. It was formed less than a year after the small dam act (Act 568) was passed in 1954.

Harland Moore said that the entire Federal program may have originated here or in the ravines of the Finger Lakes Region of New York State where pioneers saw the flood retention merits of small outdoor dams long before flood control became a national issue.

He also informed the Commission that the present eight retaining dams in Tioga County had worked as planned — that flood devastation had been retarded. He urged the commission to continue with the 20 dam plan as originally planned for the Cowanesque or at least to complete the nine dam plan which was started in 1954. Four dams were built at that time in the watershed of this river — Reservoir

Lake, the Kenneth Griffin dam, the Eberle dam and the North Fork dam.

Moore presented the Commission with easements and rights of ways for dam lands at two locations. He also handed the Commission a portfolio showing widespread local support for the program, plus a book of post-1972 flood pictures showing excessive erosion of river banks.

Dr. Maurice Goddard, Secretary of Environmental Resources, and a member of the Soil Conservation Commission gave the local men some surprising and unexpected support. Dr. Goddard told the other Commission members that Cowanesque people had not given up after the original small dam plan had been scrapped in the 1960s and deserved consideration on the current request.



Allen Williams

• AUG • 12

Dear Committee members

My name is Jim Wood a dairy and
crop farmer from Toga PA. I have
several streams and rivers going through
my farm

I have submitted photos documenting
the over flowing state of some of these
streams and creeks including Mitchell
Creek, Bear Creek and Crooked Creek
until 1975, the state maintained and or
paid for cleaning of these streams.
After that rules were changed and
many of these creeks and streams
haven't been cleaned since.

Also rules were changed requiring
permits from various state and federal
agencies including even the Game
Commission has to determine if cleaning
these streams will affect the owl.
I'm not sure how cleaning a creek
affects an owl.

Mainly because of the amount of
gravel in the streams in the northern
part of the state. Our streams fill
up faster and require more maintenance
than streams with less gravel. Also
we have more logs and sticks which
make for more plugging during heavy
rain.

It close by asking you to make it
EASIER and quicker to get into
creeks and clear the sticks and GRAVEL
on an more timely ~~setup~~ manner than
we do now. EVEN including some
SINACIAL incentives in AREAS where
clearing the creeks and rivers would
help with the amount of flooding and
the SEVERITY of this flooding

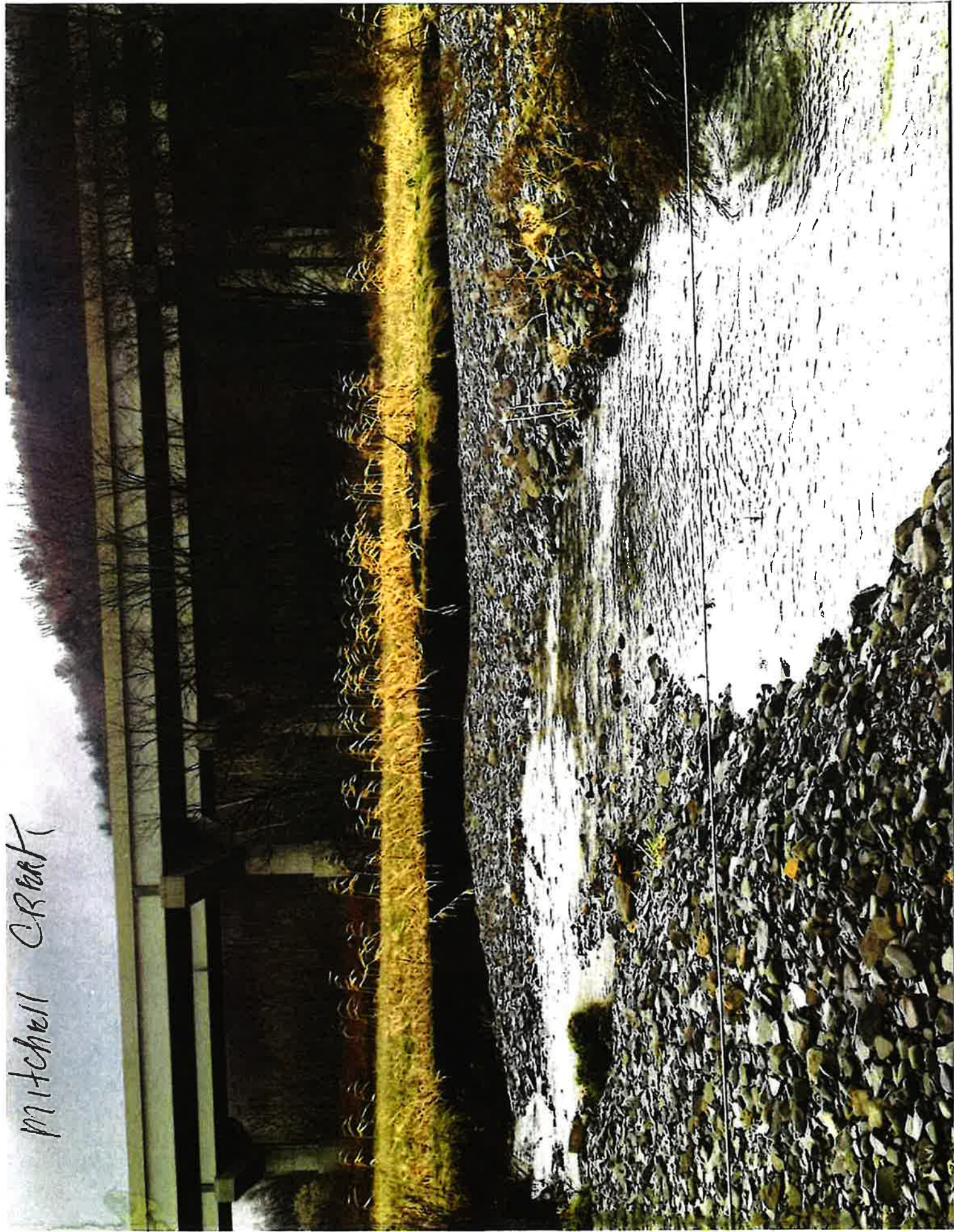
If you have any questions about
the photo's which show nearly full
creeks and nearly full covered bridges
where, it would require many millions
of dollars and cause many hours of
delays caused by something which
can be prevented

Sincerely Tom Wood

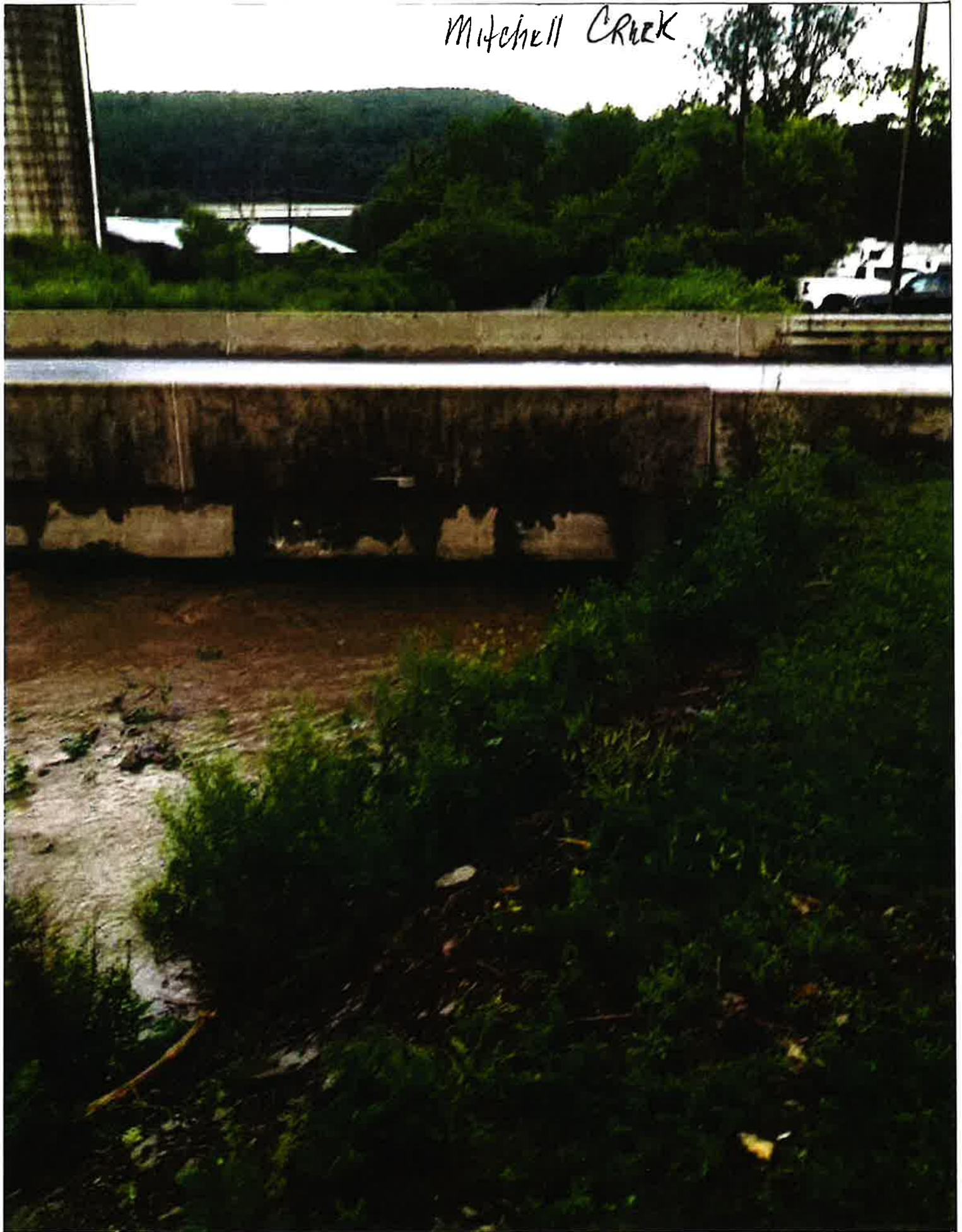
~~my phone 510 404 0007~~

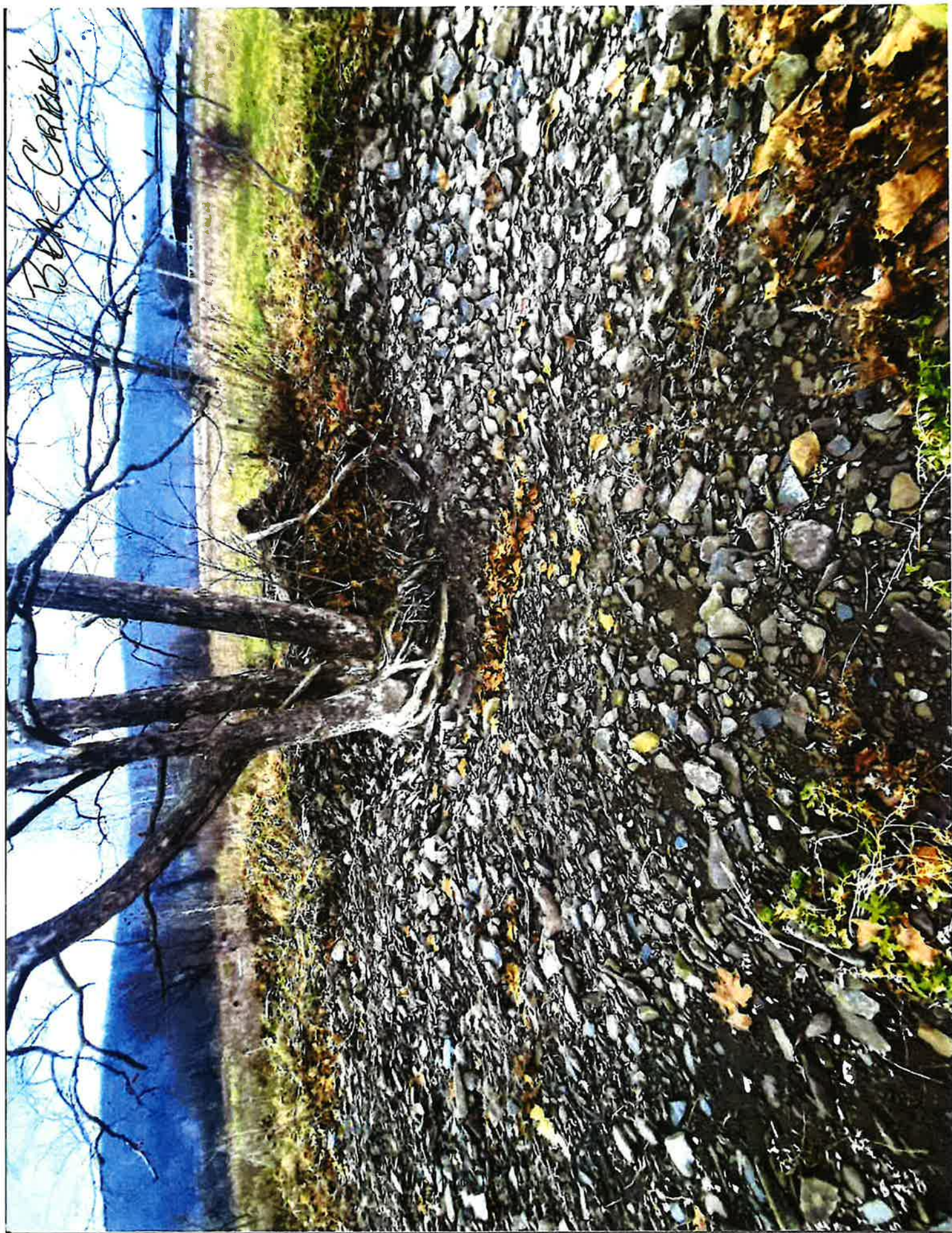
~~my home 510 404 0007~~
~~my cell 510 404 0007~~

Mitchell Creek



Mitchell Creek





Bone Creek

Mitchell Creek





BEAR CREEK



Bate Creek

December 6, 2021

To: Rep. Martin Causer, Chair, House Republican Policy Committee

Dear Chairman Causer:

Thank you for giving Pennsylvania Farm Bureau the opportunity to share our perspective on the need to fundamentally change how Pennsylvania addresses the removal of debris from creeks and streams.

For more than a decade, our organization has worked to raise awareness on the issues on how stream debris is impacting the state's agriculture community, along with critical infrastructure like roads and bridges. After significant flooding, caused by the remnants of two hurricanes, swept through the state's Northern Tier, our organization helped to organize a tour to showcase how the lack of routine stream maintenance resulted in significant damage. That tour was held in 2012. We are here, a decade later, reiterating the same message: our state must give landowners and municipalities flexibility to address problems in creeks before they cause widespread damage.

There is unnecessary damage being caused to homes, property and highway infrastructure due to the presence of debris in our creeks and streams. Gravel bars that collect along streams often causes the water to deflect off them during heavy rain events, causing further erosion on the opposite bank. Pennsylvania must develop a system to allow landowners, and impacted communities, to address these issues and prevent future damage.

It also speaks to the need for the state, working with partners in local communities, to take a holistic approach to stream restoration. Pennsylvania is losing valuable infrastructure due to our inability to properly address stream maintenance and restoration. Every time a significant flood occurs, roadways are washed away, and bridges compromised. It is time for Pennsylvania to take a different approach towards its infrastructure and focus on preventing these problems from occurring, rather than simply paying to repair the damage.

Our organization supports the concept of a watershed-based approach that looks at creeks and streams in their entirety and develops a plan to prevent future flooding.

These efforts should be led by counties, working with municipalities and partners in the conservation community, to do maintenance that will proactively prevent problems. Last year, Senator Gene Yaw introduced legislation that would have allowed counties to work with the Department of Environmental Protection on permits to perform countywide maintenance on creeks and streams. It is our hope that similar legislation will be considered this session. Knowing this work carries an expense, our organization has policy to support using proceeds received from the state's streambed gas leases to help pay for these needed repairs.

The House Republican Caucus is well aware of the challenges that Pennsylvania is facing with needing to meet water quality goals in the Chesapeake Bay. Our state's agriculture community has stepped up to do its part by incorporating conservation practices that prevent soil loss. That being said, no amount of on-farm best management practice will prevent soil loss caused by debris-swollen creeks and streams. Our inability to properly address stream debris is causing further sediment to wash into the Bay watershed. Sediment is sediment. If we want to reduce sediment loss, we must also look at stabilizing our streambanks and addressing stream debris. Put simply, we are undercutting the overall work being done by the agriculture community by our inability to properly work on creeks and streams.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau encourages the General Assembly to address this issue by enacting legislation that gives counties the ability to seek permits for needed maintenance and encourages a holistic approach to stream stabilization that prevents further damage. Thank you again for the opportunity to share our perspective on this issue.

Regards,



Darrin Youker
Director, State Government Affairs