



**December 7, 2018 FFNF Highlights**

## **Lancaster Clean Water Partners (CWP)**

**Allyson Gibson, Executive Director and Fritz Schroder – Lancaster County Conservancy**

- There is a need for clean water – Everyone should want clean water.
- The Lancaster County Conservancy has had a 50-year focus on water.
- Lancaster County is resource rich. It needs to be recognized and preserved.
- CWP is a collaborative effort. There was good work being done on clean water; however there needed to be a more efficient effort.
- The Partners have shared values; unique skill sets and common goals. The plan is to take all of the various efforts and make them better. There are 100+ partners and 14 steering committees.
- The priorities: Build a cross-sector partnership that harnesses collective efforts for lasting impact; Focus on the restoration and sustainability of priority streams; Consistently use data to track progress and drive decision-making; Leverage external funding while channeling local dollars toward well-coordinated, common sense solutions; Support and scale the use of proven and promising practices (BMPS); and Promote practices that will improve the quality of life for all residents of Lancaster County.
- The goals of CWP is to: Assist in the development of more conservation plans on farms; Increase monitoring of local streams so that improvements can be verified; Increase the number of riparian buffer projects; and Help municipalities connect and tackle cost-effective and efficient storm water projects.
- Since July 2018, CWP has been leading the effort to develop a strategy for improving local water quality. CWP has provided detail and clarity regarding the Pennsylvania

## Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) process.

- A collective impact approach has been undertaken. Problems will be tackled at scale – CWP is going for increased funding.
- In the past, DEP handed out instructions in developing the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). DEP has is now focused on working at the county level. Ultimately, DEP is responsible for clean water.
- In June a pilot project was announced by DEP for four counties – Lancaster, York, Franklin and Adams counties.
- By the end of December the process for remaining counties based on lessons learned will be finalized.
- In spring 2019, the planning process for remaining counties will begin implementation. In April 2019, a public review and comment period on the draft WIP Plan will occur. The final phase 3 WIP plan is due in August 2019.
- 21% of nitrogen in the Chesapeake Bay is created by Lancaster County – This is the total permitted load for the state of Pennsylvania.
- Sub-watersheds will be tackled first. This will lead to a bigger bang for the buck. This is a huge lift for Lancaster County.
- There are six strategic areas of focus – 1) Data management; 2) Agriculture; 3) Stormwater; 4) Stream buffers; 5) Stream restoration; and 6) Land use and preservation.
- The Lancaster Conservancy is a partner organization. The Conservancy's Land Trust is celebrating its 50-year anniversary.
- Lancaster Water Week is scheduled for June 1 – June 8, 2019. A Riverlands Trail Festival is scheduled for June 2019.
- The Clean Water Fund has been established through the Lancaster County Community Foundation. The Fund provides the seed money for Clean Water Week.