

**Salisbury Township Environmental Advisory Committee**  
**2900 South Pike Ave.**  
**Allentown, PA 18103**

January 21, 2011

Salisbury Township Board of Commissioners  
Mr. Randy Soriano, Township Manager  
2900 South Pike Ave.  
Allentown, PA 18103

RE: Salisbury Township Environmental Advisory Committee  
Annual Report for the year 2010

Dear Board of Commissioners and Township Manager:

The Members of the Salisbury Township Environmental Advisory Committee would like to take this opportunity of presenting our Annual Report for the year of 2010, as referenced below.

## **Activities**

1. The EAC has met monthly during 2010 on the third Wednesday of each month. Among the topics covered at the meetings have been discussions for potential projects such as:

- Composting to help alleviate tonnage to landfills
- E-cycling (electronic waste, i.e. computers, printers, cell phones, etc)
- Tree and Scrub Seedling Project

2. The EAC members have attended various meetings, workshops and conferences related to topics that affect Salisbury Township including:

- 2010 Sustainable Energy Conference
- Natural Resource Inventory Workshop – Lower Saucon Township
- Walking Purchase Park Hike (3/27/10) Appalachian Hiking Group and Valley Mountain Bikers Association
- Lehigh Valley Greenways Land Use Workshop (11/16/10)

3. EAC members have participated in some of the survey and field work associated with the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), which is being conducted and prepared by the Lehigh County Conservation District. This includes gathering data on forests, wildlife, and stream assessments. The NRI will include various recommendations including stabilization of Trout Creek

4. The EAC hosted an evening with township residents to share their observations and experiences on living, working and recreation in Salisbury Township as part of the NRI.

5. EAC members participated in community clean-up efforts in Walking Purchase Park on June 26, 2010 and again on November 13, 2010.

6. With regards to personnel, the EAC designated community residents as task force members to assist in specific environmental projects; added Joanne Ackerman to replace James Brown as BOC liaison, and added Mary Ann Stinner to replace Richard Niesenbaum, who resigned.

## **Accomplishments**

1. The foremost accomplishment in 2010 was in supporting the field work and near-completion of the NRI. This involved public meetings to discuss the scope of the project, interviewing township residents about their experiences on living, working and recreation in the township and conducting fieldwork in forests and streams located throughout the township. The NRI will form the foundation of future work of the EAC and inform the Board of Commissioners and Township administration about potential issues that may be relevant to the Comprehensive Plan and subsequent Ordinance amendments primarily in Zoning and Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance (SALDO).

A draft of the NRI was submitted to the EAC in December for review. Once their review and comments are completed by the EAC, the report will be presented to the BOC along with the recommendations from the EAC members for consideration of approval.

2. The EAC continues to network with other EAC's located within the Lehigh County and serves as a point of contact regarding environmental issues especially those impacting South Mountain, Lehigh Mountain and our water resources. It is our intent to continue to coordinate projects with municipalities that share our borders to ensure uniform efficiency and effectiveness for projects. Perhaps the best example of this coordinated effort was the work done with a wide assortment of groups to provide community clean-up days in Walking Purchase Park.

## **Goals and Objectives**

The priority areas for 2010 were:

A) NRI – Conduct and publish the NRI through the auspices of the Lehigh County Conservation District. This has been accomplished, with a draft of the NRI being submitted to EAC in December 2010. After review and comment by the EAC, the

NRI will be forwarded to the BOC with the intent of publishing for public review in the first quarter of 2011.

B) Land Use Management and Preservation – This area was not pursued in 2010, pending the publishing of the NRI which will better inform the EAC and BOC of the opportunities for land preservation with the biggest potential environmental impact.

C) Education and Outreach

The most significant environmental education and awareness components were undertaken in 2010 included outreach to township residents to participate in the NRI survey and fieldwork and the participation of various groups in the cleanups of Walking Purchase Park.

D) New Technologies and Transportation

This area was not actively pursued in 2010.

## **Going Forward**

In 2011, the EAC proposes continuing the pursuit of those goals and objectives, as well as:

**NRI Utilization.** Use the information and conclusions from the completed NRI to the benefit of Salisbury Township residents. This can be accomplished by supporting the commissioners and township officials in interpreting its findings and incorporating them into the regulatory components of township zoning and SALDO.

**Non-Toxic Controls of Invasive Plant species.** Explore and research the non-toxic controls available to alter the spread of invasive plant species throughout the township. This would include creating guidance and recommendations for public and private landowners in the township.

**Forestry –** Work with the Pennsylvania State Forest Stewards Program and DCNR Forester to promote optimal decision making for long and short term forestry practices within the township on private and public forest properties.

**Composting-** Educate township residents and public officials on the benefits of composting and the best practices for its safe and effective use to reduce waste streams and promote healthier soil.

**Stream Restoration –** Use the information and conclusions of the NRI to identify stream restoration projects that can improve the tributaries and streambeds within the township, illustrate enforcement of existing regulations and educate residents on how to care for streambeds that run through their private properties.

We respectfully submit this report for your review and comments. We thank you for your continued support and guidance.

Sincerely,  
Salisbury Township Environmental Advisory Committee

Bruce Burchard, Chairperson  
Louis Cinquino, Vice Chairperson  
Dr. Richard Niesenbaum  
Jane Benning  
Glen Miller  
Mary Ann Stinner  
Joseph Hebelka, PC representative  
JoAnn Ackerman, BOC representative  
Cynthia Sopka, Secretary