

Workshop Meeting Notes:

Breakout Group A & D Combined

- Abundance of mapping tools available but more training is needed
 - Suggestion to hold a workshop/training on one or more of the tools presented
 - Operator credits are an incentive for water operators
- Keeping up with new regulations is a challenge
 - PFAS
 - Public communication: how to communicate risk with customers
 - East Cocalico is trying to be more proactive with communication to customers – sharing good news as well as bad
 - Water Research Foundation PFAS One Water Toolkit:
<https://www.waterrf.org/research/projects/pfas-one-water-risk-communication-messaging-water-sector-professionals> (must create a free WRF login to download)
 - Lead and copper rule / lead service line replacements
- Improving emergency preparedness and response activities
 - Joining spill notification listservs
 - Relationships with emergency response coordination staff
 - Local Emergency Planning Council (LEPC) are required to share tier II data within source water protection areas to water suppliers
 - AWIA: https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2019-04/documents/awia_epcra_fact_sheet_draft_508_seru_terc_lepc_final_4-10-19.pdf
- Nitrate is an issue for many groundwater systems in Lancaster County
 - Upper Leacock – not an issue based on well locations
- What are effective outreach strategies?
 - Social media is a good (and free) place to start
 - Tabling at other community events
 - Again, getting good publicity and showing customers that water systems are proactively protecting drinking water
- Water quality monitoring
 - Abundance of data and entities conducting sampling

Breakout Group B

- Outreach to Plain Sect Farmers
 - Should we involve plain sect farmers more (in events like today's workshop)?
 - Greg Heigel, LCCD responsible for plain sect outreach
 - Octoraro Source Water Collaborative - hiring a coordinator
 - LCPC is drafting Places2040, the county's comprehensive plan, and have heard about a number of issues with plain sect community's impact on water quality
 - Amish buying marginal land (e.g., steep slopes) and clear cutting the property, often without leaving any buffer around waterways
 - Amish population is increasing, families looking for farms, and the attraction to get quick return from selling timber
 - Other challenges: nutrient management (excess manure application, applying in the winter)
 - Approaching the plain sect (and other farmers) from their perspective
 - Challenging time to be farming

- Offer a “business plan” rather than a restoration plan when pitching water quality improvements
- Ask yourself “how could this benefit them?” Not just adding to the burden with more regulations, lost crop area, and expensive conservation projects, but offering potential benefits
- 2013 ELANCO workshop: Ray Archuleta, NRCS, talked about the importance of improving soil health to improve water quality
 - When soil structure is improved more water percolates into the soil rather than running off. He also stressed the benefits of improved crop yield from improved soil. Ray was a passionate speaker and presented a very practical message that resonated with the plain sect and farmers in general. This is a good model to follow.
- We need to be empathetic to the challenges of farming and look for creative “win-win” solutions.
- Ideas for outreach beneficial to farmers:
 - Multifunctional buffers (if they are going to lose land for buffers, how can they use the buffer area to recoup lost crop yield? Plant fruit and nut trees)
 - Improved soil health for increased crop production, less water and soil runoff. No till is one technique.
 - Warwick Township has an innovative program to assist farmers. They work with TeamAg and offer assistance to farmers in their wellhead protection area. Getting conservation plans done, soil and crop residue testing, and implementing BMPs.
- Impact of Land Use on Water Quality
 - One group member shared that when the last bit of agricultural land was developed in their borough, their nitrate levels dropped considerably. What other impacts?
 - Nearby quarries impacted municipalities water quality and quantity. When a local quarry is pumped it impacts their water levels. Some concerns were expressed for what will happen after the quarry is decommissioned and no longer pumps water out of the pit. How will that change water quality and quantity?
 - Local land use has a huge impact on water quality and quantity and needs proper consideration and planning.

Breakout Group C

- Challenges with staffing water systems (operators)
 - Loss of institutional knowledge and experience
 - Training the next generation of water operators
- Soil remediation and removal in sensitive areas
- River alteration by European settlement
 - Wetland restoration challenges

Breakout Group E

- PSOC Inventory
 - Everyone has mapping capabilities, e.g. Diamond maps, CS Datum (ArcView GIS)- use this system for MS4- very user friendly
- Management

- Addressing wells in farming area as part of SWP plan; Concerns with spring and lack of communication with quarry when they shut down
- Needs
 - Have good relationships with farmers near wellhead protection areas- would benefit from outreach materials develop by partners
 - Use mapping tools presented at meeting to update PSCO Inventories more frequently
- Funding.Outreach
 - Existing NRCS Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in Lancaster for Tier 1/Tier 2 catchment (sp?) areas
 - Lancaster Clean Water Partners (LCWP) can help with outreach/RCPP funding opportunity to farmers if water systems let them know about projects needed
 - Farmers who implement best management practices in Source Water Protection areas are eligible for a higher cost share as per 2018 Farm Bill
 - Water Systems can be a partner on an RCPP project as per 2018 Farm Bill
 - LCWP has a list of catchment leads, municipal managers and will add the water system from this meeting and request board members names for list
 - LCWP has a Clean Water Fund- easy to apply for grant

Please share additional information for distribution to all participants after the workshop to ELANCOSWC@Gmail.com.