October 6, 2004

John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: EQB Regulation #7-380 (#2348), Stream Designations (Brushy Meadow Creek, et al.)

Dear Mr. McGinley:

I understand that your Commission will meet to vote on the subject stream designation package on October 7, 2004. Since the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) previously commented to you on the proposed rule for this same regulatory change, I thought you might be interested in knowing that we still fully support this rule package.

The rule package is essentially the same except for a change in the recommended designation of Waltz Creek in Northampton County. The Environmental Quality Board changed its original recommendation because of factual information provided to it and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) by my staff. In addition, our Commission published notice in the PA Bulletin of intent to designate Waltz Run as a Class A Trout Stream on March 20, 2004 (34 PA Bulletin 1643).

After the close of the public comment period, the Commission then acted on April 20, 2004 to officially add Waltz Creek to our list of Class A Wild Trout Streams. DEP staff then confirmed the Commission’s designation, and recommended to the Board, that the designation of Waltz Creek be changed from Coldwater, Migratory Fishes to High Quality, Coldwater Fishes, Migratory Fishes.

I believe that the data that was collected on the existing fishery of Waltz Creek support this change in water quality protection designation and encourages your Commission to support this change. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Auten, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc. Kathleen A. McGinty, Secretary, PA Department of Environmental Protection

Our Mission: www.fish.state.pa.us

To provide fishing and boating opportunities through the protection and management of aquatic resources.
Dear Sir or Madam:

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the proposed rulemaking package which your office forwarded to us on August 28, 2003 (i.e., the Brushy Meadow Creek, et.al., package). In addition to several use designation upgrades and two corrective amendments, we note that, if finalized, this package will upgrade 78.58 stream miles in the Commonwealth to Exceptional Value status, and 52.9 stream miles to High Quality. We have no comment on these proposed modifications, but we commend the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) in its continuing effort to upgrade streams into its Special Protection Waters Program.

EPA will be providing a copy of this package to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) so that they may identify any issues with this action. We will notify PADEP of any issues raised. This coordination with the FWS will fulfill EPA's obligations under the Endangered Species Act, and facilitate EPA's Clean Water Act 303(c) action once this rulemaking is finalized and submitted to EPA for review.

If you have any questions concerning this matter please contact me at (215)814-5717, or have your staff contact Denise Hakowski at (215)814-5726.

Sincerely,

Evelyn S. MacKnight, Chief
PA/DE/WV Branch
Office of Watersheds

cc: Edward R. Brezina (PADEP)
The preservation and protection of Upper Crum Creek has been an ongoing activity of the Environmental Advisory Council of Willistown Township in Chester County. In 1999, for example, we partnered with other environmentally-minded organizations to successfully apply for a Growing Greener grant to help us achieve this goal. We are therefore delighted about PA-DEP’s intent to redesignate the West Branch of Crum Creek from “HQ-Cold Water Fisheries” status to “Exceptional Value”. We have also worked with other departments/councils within Willistown Township to obtain easements that will permanently protect water quality and aquatic life, and promoted the passage of township ordinances for the creation and protection of riparian buffer areas along the Crum. Having an EV designation for the West Branch of Crum Creek will be another link in the chain of protection and preservation for the entire stream. We therefore urge the Environmental Quality Board to vote in favor of the redesignation to EV status.

Cordially,

Jim Tate
Chairman, Environmental Advisory Council
Willistown Township
From: Arthur E. McGarity [amcgarity@swarthmore.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 06, 2003 2:41 PM
To: RegComments@state.pa.us
Cc: Mary McLoughlin
Subject: Crum Creek Redesignation EV

Original: 2348

Honorable Kathleen A. McGinty, Chair
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Crum Creek West Branch Redesignation to Exceptional Value

Dear Ms. McGinty,

The Crum Creek Watershed Partnership fully supports the upgrade of the West Branch of Crum Creek and its tributaries from HQ-CWF to EV. Our Partnership (please see below for members - including all municipalities in the watershed and other watershed constituents - and mission statement) endorses this upgrade as is called for by its score of more than 92% in comparison to its EV reference station satisfying the regulatory criterion for redesignation as EV. Much has been done on behalf of Crum Creek in the way of restoration and improvement projects, assessments, and most recently, funding through the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to perform a Rivers Conservation Plan for the watershed. It is the goal of our Partnership to improve and protect the Crum Watershed not only for its ecologic integrity and recreational viability, but for the quality of its water. The Upper Crum is a critical water resource area as it supplies the Springton Reservoir which provides over 200,000 people their drinking water. For all of these reasons, the protection of the West Branch of Crum Creek under the EV designation is of great importance.

On behalf of all of the Crum Creek Watershed Partners, I respectfully request you endorse this critical redesignation of the West Branch of Crum Creek to EV.

Sincerely,

Arthur E. McGarity
Co-Chair, Crum Creek Watershed Partnership
Henry C. and J. Archer Turner Professor of Engineering
Swarthmore College, Swarthmore PA

CRUM CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP
The mission of the Crum Creek Watershed Partnership is to improve and protect the Crum Creek watershed including its tributaries, groundwater, and forested valleys to assure the longevity of this precious and vital natural resource for the enjoyment and benefit of current and future generations. To this end, we provide a collaborative framework for representatives from municipalities, institutions, businesses and communities who share responsibility as stewards of the stream's water quality, supply, and ability to function as a healthy ecosystem.

Partnership Members: CRC Watersheds Association, Easttown Twp.
Dear State Regulatory Officials:

Upper Providence for Open Space, a group of citizens in Upper Providence Township, Delaware County, is committed to saving what remains of the undeveloped land and natural resources in the township. Crum Creek bounds Upper Providence on the northeast and east.

We support the redesignation of the West Branch of Crum Creek to Exceptional Value status for these reasons:

The West Branch has no major tributaries along its five-mile length. Because its watershed is only some seven square miles, its discharge is relatively small, but its sensitivity to pollution is high.

Existing threats to the West Branch are numerous: It drains part of the Borough of Malvern, about five square miles of residential land, about two square miles of agricultural land, and the White Manor Golf Club. Although there is a significant forest, only 10% of the watershed is truly vacant land.

The redesignation to Exceptional Value should add little, if any, cost to property owners. New Phase II stormwater regulations already require new development and redevelopment not to increase the amount of runoff from most storms. The future Act 167 plan for the Crum Creek watershed will have a similar infiltration requirement.

The West Branch, like all of the Crum Creek above Philadelphia Suburban Water Company's filtration plant to the east of Media becomes the drinking water of thousands of Delaware County residents.

For these reasons, Upper Providence for Open Space wants the West Branch of Crum Creek to receive the highest degree of protection.

Thank you.

The Board of Directors
Upper Providence for Open Space
upos19063@aol.com
Dear Sharon or other Regulatory Official,

Thank you for letting us know of your receipt of our comments in favor of EV status for the west branch of the Crum Creek. Here is our mailing address:

Upper Providence for Open Space
c/o Martha Maran, President
P.O. Box 1379
Media, PA 19063

Thank you,

Jean Wallace
Vice President, UPOS
610-566-5931
From: Maria Toglia [mariatoglia@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2003 5:25 PM
To: Mary McLoughlin
Cc: RegComments@state.pa.us
Subject: Exceptional Value petition for Crum Creek

To Whom it may Concern,

As co-chair of the Newtown Township Environmental Advisory Council, I am writing on behalf of Newtown Township in support of the petition filed by Willistown Conservation Trust to redesignate the Crum Creek basin upstream from the Springton (Geist) Reservoir to Exceptional Value. The Crum Creek Basin is currently designated HQ-CWF from its source to the junction of Newtown, Edgemont and Willistown Townships, and CWF from there to the reservoir. Only one portion of the basin, the West Branch Crum Creek, scored more than 92% in comparison to the appropriate EV reference station, thus satisfying the regulatory criterion for redesignation as EV. We support the Willistown Conservation Trust's recommendation that the West Branch Crum Creek basin be redesignated as EV, and that the other sections of the study area retain their current use designations.

Newtown Township is a member of the Crum Creek Watershed Partnership and we believe that an EV designation for the West Branch of the Crum Week is essential for improving the overall health of the watershed. This is especially important since the area in question is upstream from the Geist Reservoir, a source of public drinking water.

Sincerely,
Maria Toglia
Environmental Advisory Council Co-Chair
October 3, 2003

Environmental Quality Board
PO Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Subject: EV Status for the West Branch of Crum Creek

Dear EQB members,

The West Branch of Crum Creek is an exceptional stream. The Upper Crum assessment team visually assessed nearly 80 stations along the West Branch at every 100 yards using the Delaware River Basin Commission field method. We also sampled stream water during three rounds and collected benthic macro invertebrate samples during two rounds (one during the drought of 2001 and one in the spring of 2003). This work was part of a PADEP Growing Greener Grant sponsored by Willistown Township.

First, this excerpt about the benthic macro invertebrate community is from our draft watershed assessment report:

".....Station 4 (Warren Ave.) is located on a portion of the West Branch which displays very favorable in stream habitat along with good flows and surrounding watershed use, which is largely wooded, and/or farmed. Good samples were obtained for both efforts. The streambed consisted of riffle/run/pool zones with a substrate of cobble, gravel and sand, with some silt in deeper pools. The tributary averaged 8 - 15' wide, and depth varied from 3’- 4.’ Stream banks were stable and vegetated. In general the water quality indices increased for the second sampling, with "excellent" Hilsenhoff ratings obtained each time. Total taxa increased from 9 to 11, while total number individuals decreased from 100 to 95. EPT Taxa richness was 5 for each sample and % dominant taxa were largely represented by pollution sensitive Allocapnia stoneflies...."

Water quality was generally very good. During the summer and fall of 2001, dissolved oxygen was maintained at excellent levels (above 96% optimum) despite the drought conditions. On the other hand, turbidity was elevated (only at 8% of optimum) during the spring 2002 flood sample, suggesting impacts of silt runoff during higher flows. This shows that an exceptional value stream according to macroinvertebrates is threatened by common watershed problems such as runoff from developing areas.

Visual assessment of the West Branch revealed important wetlands at several locations. These wetlands function to maintain exceptional water quality and macro invertebrate communities. Finally, the beauty and preserved character of the stream is striking and is worth protecting.

Based on our findings and those of the DEP, we enthusiastically endorse the designation of the Crum's West Branch as an exceptional value (EV) stream. If you have any questions about our draft findings please call me at 610-647-3809.

Very truly yours,

Gary Sheehan, P.G.
Mesa Environmental Sciences, Inc.
October 1, 2003

Honorable Kathleen A. McGinty, Chairperson
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Re: West Branch Crum Creek Re-designation

Dear Ms. McGinty:

This letter acknowledges receipt of correspondence from PA DEP notifying the Planning Commission of the Department’s intent to upgrade the stream quality rating of the West Branch Crum Creek from HQ-CWF to EV. We commend the Department on the decision to take this action and support it enthusiastically.

This proposed action supports Landscapes, the County’s Comprehensive Plan Policy Element. Policy 2.1.8 under the Resources Goal states, “Support upgrades of stream quality designations by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.”

We also would like to recognize and applaud the work of the Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Association, which initiated the efforts to have this segment of stream upgraded. It is through locally initiated actions that appropriate changes to environmental conditions such as this are brought to the attention of those agencies responsible for the classification of our streams.

Thank you for advising the Planning Commission of this action and the opportunity to further indicate our support for it.

Sincerely,

William H. Fulton, AICP
Executive Director

WHF/WWC/kp
cc: Ann Murphy, Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Association
Wayne Rothermel, County Commissioners
Jan Bowers, Chester County Water Resources Authority

E-mail: ccplanning@chesco.org • Web site: www.chesco.org/planning
October 1, 2003

Environmental Quality Board
P. O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Re: Stream Redesignations (Brushy Meadow Creek, et al.)

Dear Chairman McGinty:

I am commenting on behalf of the staff of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) with regard to the above-referenced notice of proposed rulemaking. When the Environmental Quality Board approved this proposal at its December 2002 meeting, I voiced concerns on behalf of the PFBC about the proposed designation of Waltz Creek, Northampton County. These concerns related to the Commission's fisheries assessment work at 2 sites on Waltz Creek in August 2002, which developed data to support the inclusion of Waltz Creek on the Commission's Class A Wild Stream List.

Waltz Run has not as yet been added to the PFBC Class A list since the technical report is still in administrative processing. The data gathered by Area Fisheries Manager Dave Arnold from 2 sites on Waltz Creek resulted in calculated brown trout biomasses which appear to support Class A listing. Note that the biomass threshold for Class A brown trout streams is 40 kg/ha, and the two sites sampled on Waltz Creek were estimated to contain 49 and 65 kg/ha brown trout.

25 PA Code 93.4b(a)(2)(ii) provides that a water body "... that has been designated a Class A wild trout stream by the Fish and Boat Commission following public notice and comment" should qualify as a High Quality Water. As noted above, the Commission has not yet taken action on Waltz Creek, nor have we begun the process of seeking public comment on the proposed designation of this stream.

I would expect that the Commission will consider the classification of Waltz Creek as a Class A wild trout stream at its January 2004 meeting. Accordingly, the PFBC staff recommend that the Board should defer action to designate Waltz Creek as Cold Water Fishery, Migratory Fishes (CWF,MF) as proposed in the pending rulemaking package and instead take action at a future Board meeting to designate this water as a High Quality Cold Water Fishery (HQ, CWF) consistent with the available data.

Sincerely,

Dennis Guise
Deputy Executive Director

Our Mission:

To provide fishing and boating opportunities through the protection and management of aquatic resources.
To support, encourage, and promote the enjoyment, restoration, conservation, protection, and prudent management of the natural resources of the Chester, Ridley and Crum Creek watersheds.

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1023 Sycamore Mills Road
Media, PA 19063
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Fax: (610)-892-8732
crc@nni.com

CRChas been a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization since 1970.

September 24, 2003
Honorable Kathleen A. McGinty, Chair
Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8477

Re: Re-designation of West Branch of Crum Creek to Exceptional Value

Dear Ms. Mc Ginty:

The Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association (CRC) was pleased to receive the notification of PA DEP’s intent to re-designate the West Branch of Crum Creek from a “High Quality-Cold Water Fisheries” (HQ-CWF) to “Exceptional Value” (EV). This letter is to inform you of our strong support of the upgrade for the West Branch of the Crum Creek and its associated tributaries.

Anyone who drives through that part of the watershed can appreciate the outstanding scenery, historic hamlets, farms, and bridges, and lovely stream corridors that characterize it. The outstanding quality and biological diversity of the West Branch of the Crum Creek has been confirmed in many studies, most recently in the Upper Crum Assessment (DEP Growing Greener). A Rivers Conservation Plan for the Crum (DCNR) is also underway. The West Branch of Crum Creek feeds the Springton Lake Reservoir, a major drinking water source. The work of the Willistown Conservation Trust, and the efforts of local municipalities such as Willistown Township has gone a long way towards protecting these important public resources through easements which permanently protect water quality and aquatic life and through ordinances that protect the riparian buffer areas. The Exceptional Value designation to this section of the stream will provide an extra measure of protection to ensure that this section of Crum Creek will not be degraded as the area continues to accommodate land development.

Chester-Ridley-Crum Watersheds Association urges the Environmental Quality Board to vote in favor of re-designating the West Branch of Crum Creek as Exceptional Value.

Sincerely,

Anne Murphy
Executive Director

cc: Mary McLoughlin- Willistown Conservation Trust
Hugh Murray, Willistown Township

www.ctic.purdue.edu/crcwa/home.html
The Chester County Water Resources Authority (CCWRA) has received correspondence from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection notifying us of their intent to re-designate the West Branch Crum Creek from a “High Quality-Cold Water Fishes” (HQ-CWF) designation to “Exceptional Value” (EV). This letter is to notify you that CCWRA and the Chester County Planning Commission strongly support this upgrade of the West Branch Crum Creek and its associated tributaries, from HQ-CWF to EV.

Chester County, the municipalities and local non-profit organizations in the area have a long history of planning and implementing actions for the preservation and protection of the environmental quality in the Crum Creek watershed. In 2002, the Chester County Board of Commissioners adopted Watersheds as the water resources component of the County’s comprehensive plan LANDSCAPES. This upgrade supports several of the goals, objectives and strategies of Watersheds, including Goal 3: Preserve Natural Resources, and Goal 4: Improve Water Quality. Specifically, objective 4-2 of Watersheds states “Where supported by stream conditions and uses, petition for upgrades in state stream designations.”

Given the extensive efforts implemented to date by the Willistown Conservation Trust, Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Association, as well as the Crum Creek Partnership, and local municipalities to protect and restore this watershed, combined with the significance of the social, economic, and environmental amenities that this watershed affords the residents, visitors, and eco-system of this region, granting of the “Exceptional Value” status to this watershed is an important step.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment in support of the re-designation of the West Branch Crum Creek as Exceptional Value waters.

Sincerely,

Janet Bowers, P.G.
Executive Director

cc: William Fulton, AICP, Chester County Planning Commission
Ann Murphy, Chester-Ridley-Crum Watershed Association
Mary McLoughlin, Willistown Conservation Trust
Dear Judge McGinty:

I am a Supervisor of Newtown Township in Delaware County, which is in the Crum Creek Watershed. I am also President of Save Open Space, a nonprofit environmental and public service organization.

I am firmly in support of the West Branch of Crum Creek being designated as EV. I believe it is critical that this designation be given to at least a portion of the Crum Creek Watershed to discourage improper development and provide for tighter environmental regulation of the Watershed.

In my capacity as Supervisor, I am working hard to take the necessary steps to upgrade that portion of the Crum Creek which is in Newtown Township. We have worked closely with Pennsylvania Environmental Council to access all the streams in the Crum Creek Watershed in Newtown Township, which assessment is now on GIS. In addition, we have had drafted a Riparian Buffer Ordinance, a Shade Tree Ordinance and a Historic Ordinance, which are now before our Planning Commission and will hopefully be approved by the Supervisors this year.

I believe I speak for the majority of Newtown Township Supervisors in recommending EV status for the West Branch of Crum Creek.

I appreciate your efforts in this matter.

Yours truly,

John S. Custer, Jr.
Supervisor, Newtown Township
Something to consider in your evaluation of quality water standards:

As you are aware, the Harrisburg incinerator is located adjacent to this stream. As you are also aware, all of the ash solids that don't become airborne are being dumped on this property covered with alternating layers of fill. To the best of my knowledge there has never been a study as to components of this ash leeching into groundwater which directly affects Spring Creek.

Hopefully you will address this issue and include it as part of your study.

Thank you.

Bill Krasovic
786 Pine St.
Steelton, PA 17113

717-985-1735
Mr. Robert E. Nyce, Executive Director
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
14th Floor, Harristown #2
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Proposed Rulemaking: Stream Redesignations, Brushy Meadow Creek, et al. (#7-380)

Dear Mr. Nyce:

The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) received the enclosed comments regarding the above referenced proposed rulemaking from the following individual:

1. Mr. William Krasovic

Although Mr. Krasovic’s comments were received by the EQB on August 22, 2003, the EQB could not determine whether Mr. Krasovic intended to have his comments included in the public record for the Brushy Meadow Creek, et al Stream Redesignation Proposed Rulemaking. Upon further investigation, the EQB received confirmation on September 29, 2003, from Mr. Krasovic that he wished to have his August 22, 2003, comments considered by the EQB and included in the public record for the proposed rulemaking. Based upon this confirmation, the EQB has added Mr. Krasovic’s comments to the public record and is transmitting these comments, through this correspondence, to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission for its review. These comments will also be shared with the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committees.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Tate
Executive Policy Specialist

Enclosure