

Cooper, Kathy

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From: Diedra Heitzman [diedra@camphillkimberton.org]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2010 3:25 PM
To: IRRC
Cc: 'John Hoekstra'

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2010 SEP 24 P 3:52

To The Commissioners:

RE: Beaver Run/ French Creek Upgrade, IRRC No. 2872, Reg. No. 7-461

On behalf of Camphill Village Kimberton Hills, I wish to express our strong support for the upgrade of French Creek and the Beaver Run from a "High Quality" designation to the designation of "Exceptional Value," and we encourage the members of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to approve the EQB's and Department's recommendation.

The French Creek and the Beaver Run are held in high regard by the people who reside within these watersheds and by residents throughout the region. The protection of the whole watershed is important to all those who live here and nearby, to the aquatic, amphibian, and avian populations, as well as many other fauna, and of course the entire larger watershed.

As riparian property owners we understand our commitment to play an active role in safeguarding and improving the water quality of these systems by implementing Best Management Practices on our properties. We have installed riparian buffering, a constructed wetlands wastewater system and on-lot solutions to runoff. This stewardship is important for the municipalities that contain these precious water resources as well as Chester County as evidenced in the county's watershed action plans.

A municipal example of this pro-active attitude is West Vincent Township who is already about to increase their stream buffer requirements to 150 feet which the IRRC only recently approved in the new Chapter 102 requirements. Another example is the Federation of Northern Chester County Communities' (the Northern Federation) development in coordination with Chester County Planning Commission of the "Regional Resource Protection Plan" which was published and adopted in October of 2006. The stated goal of this plan is "to provide regionally consistent recommendations and actions for the identification and protection of the Region's Natural, Historic, Scenic, Agricultural and Recreational resources." A detailed list of

standards and recommendations are contained in this plan for each individual municipality that makes up the Northern Federation. The municipalities within the recommended upgrade area have and continue to implement those recommendations but go farther by considering even more protective measures for their water resources.

In Summary, over the course of the last 6 years since this petition was filed, the Department has done an exhaustive analysis of the conditions in French Creek and Beaver Run and have come to the conclusion that the Beaver Run and the main stem of French Creek from the confluence of the Beaver Run downstream to the Kennedy Covered Bridge should receive the designation of "Exceptional Value". We ask that you support their recommendation.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Diedra Heitzman

Executive Director

Camphill Village Kimberton Hills

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