

Storm water management studied at seminar

By KENDACE BORRY ELIZABETHTOWN — The impact of storm water management on water quality and control was the focus of a workshop held last Friday at the Elizabethtown College. People gathered to hear many speakers talk on subjects that related to the various aspects of storm water management and the Pa. Storm Water Act 167, which had been approved by the state last year.

The Storm Water Management Act requires Pa. Counties to prepare and within two years after declaration of the guidelines, to adopt a watershed storm water management plan for each watershed that is in the county. These plans must include several items, including a survey of runoff characteristics, an analysis of the development in flood plains and its sensitivity to damages of drainage problems and proposed solutions, an assessment of alternative runoff control techniques and a 10 year plan for storm water collection and control facilities. The plan also must have standards for the control of runoff from existing and new development; with priorities for the implementation of actions within each plan.

Each county must also prepare and adopt joint plans with neighboring counties where watersheds contain land in more than one county, and also establish for the development of a watershed plan, an advisory committee which includes each municipality and the conservatin district. Each Pa. municipality must adopt and implement zoning, subdivision, building code, erosion and sedimentation and other ordinances as are necessary to regulate development in the municipality in a manner consistent with the county-adopted watershed plan within six months after the approved plan.

The Department of Environmental Resources will publish guidelines for storm wzter management and model ordinances for use by counties and municipalities, and coordinate the management of storm water in the state.

The DER also will enforce

this act, compelling counties to adopt and submit plans, and issuing notices of vliotion to non-complying municipalities.

Any person who is in engaged in the alteration or development of land will implement measures consistent with the provisions of the watershed plan to control runoff and prevent injury to others. They will also be required to comply with the ordinances adopted by the municipalities to implement the plan.

This means that all state, county, and municipal agencies, and private persons, will be required to locate, design, and construct storm water management systems, water obstructions, flood control projects, subdivisions and major land developments, public utility facilities and facilities owned or financed in part by the Commonwealth, in a manner consistent with the watershed plan.

The above is part of a summary of the Storm Water Act 167 that was presented to those who attended the seminar last week.

The Act is expected to be implemented in about two years, according to Gilber Kyle, acting director, Bureau of Dam Safety, Obstructions, and Storm Water Management, DER, Harrisburg.

Kyle was one of four speakers who took part in a morning program, Perspectives on Storm Water Management.

Kyle told that what he and his staff is working on is "guidelines; guidelines that are workable, enforcable, and flexible. We want models that won't be bogged down in details, and we want to get them to the General Assembly for approval"

"The purpose of the act is to encourage the planning and management of storm water," he explained. "We want to preserve the natural storm water management and also encourage local legislation that will cover the issue."

Joining Kyle on the speaker's stand were Robert McCullough, environmental coordinator-planner, Lycoming County Planning Commission, Williamsport;



Gilbert Kyle, acting director, Bureau of Dam Safety, Obstructions, and Storm Water Management, Pa. DER, speaks on the role of the state, at the Impacts on Storm Water Management held at Elizabethtown College last Friday.

Ronald Ehlinger, B. C. Gohn Associates, Inc., Mount Joy; and John Taggart, Dickinson Realty, Chaddis Ford.

Noting that "Conservation makes the difference", McCullough told the audience that he thought the best step to take was for people to visit their Soil Conservation District for information and help in storm water management.

"You've got to involve the local people," he explained. "The matter need not be complicated, education of the public is the answer."

Representing the engineers, Ehlinger related that when it comes to storm water management in a development, there are two possible ways to handle the issue.

The first method involves reducing the amount of runoff on the land to practically nothing; the second reduces the amount of impervious surface, thus lessening runoff.

He stated that both the municipality and the developer share responsibility for problems on the site, and that the engineer should be willing and ready to assist.

Taggart, telling the developer's viewpoint, said that he thought sub-divisions should be an extension of already existing communities.

"A good development starts with good engineering and a good contract," he concluded.

Questions were heard and answered b;y the speakers after the conference.

In the afternoon session, topics concerning both the rural and the urban community were covered by several speakers.

The conference was sponsored by the Pa. Environmental Council, Inc., and the Pa. Environmental Research Foundation, Inc.

State Farm-City week dates set

UNIVERSITY PARK — Pennsylvania will observe the 25th anniversary of Farm-City Week November 16-22, it was announced recently by officials of the State Farm-City Council.

The observance is designed "to bring about a better understanding between the rural and urban segments of society, thus making for a stronger

America." The 1979 theme is "Farm City-Pride in the Past and Faith in the Future."

Officers of the State Farm-City Council for 1979, elected May 18, are chairman, Frederick Bubbs, of the U S Soil Conservation Service, Harrisburg; vice chairman, John Michael Krauss, Bureau of Rural Affairs, Pennsylvania Department of

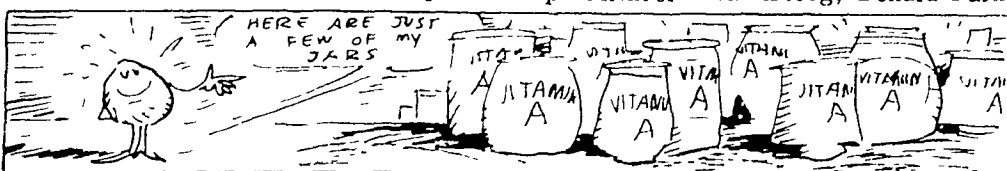
Agriculture, Harrisburg, and secretary-treasurer, Theodore Brookhouser, of State Kiwanis, Camp Hill

Named to the executive committee are: Thomas Imswiler, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg; Richard Pennay, US Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Harrisburg, Donald Parke,

of Ephrata; and Kenneth Beachley, of Camp Hill.

The state council functions to coordinate the work of county Farm-City Week committees and to provide promotional materials to assist in county and area observances.

Dr Thomas B. King, associate dean for Extension at The Pennsylvania State University, points out that county Farm-City Week committees will be organized in the next several months. They will plan programs and activities to be carried out during the November observance



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