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INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3810

May 11, 2007

RECEIVED
MAY - 2007
Susquehanna County
Emergency Management

Dear Mark,

As you know from experience, our region has endured an unusual number of destructive storm events over the past several years. The damage to public and private property has been enormous. Municipalities, businesses, and property owners have all suffered a heavy financial burden as a result of the massive flooding.

It should be clear to us by now that responding to storm events as we have in the past is not financially or environmentally sustainable. We must take a more pro-active approach to minimize the threat of flooding from future storms. Reaching this goal will require all of us to be better trained and equipped to meet this challenge head on.

To that end, the Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council is coordinating the first ever "Flood Summit" for Susquehanna and Wyoming counties. My office has been closely involved in the planning efforts for this important workshop.

The Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties Flood Summit will be held on Friday, June 8, 2007 at Keystone College from 8 am to 3:30 pm. Experts on watershed management and flood prevention will provide the technical training and informational resources your municipality needs to be better prepared for the next storm. A brochure that describes in greater detail the agenda for the summit, as well as a registration form is included with this mailing. Please be sure to send your registration to the Endless Mountains RC&D Council.

This event is open only to elected officials, county planners, emergency management coordinators, and natural resource agencies. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity to learn how to reduce the threat of future flooding in your community. By working together as a team, I am certain we will all be better prepared for when the next storm arrives.

Sincerely I am,

Christopher P. Carney
Member of Congress

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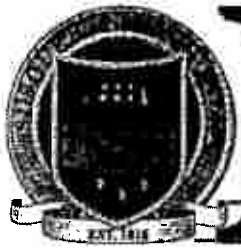
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Flood Summits Agenda
Susquehanna/Wyoming-Keystone College, Evans Hall
June 8, 2007

- 8:00AM Registration**
- 9:00AM Welcome**
Jim Weaver, Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council
Ed Zygmunt, US Congressman Chris Carney's Office
Arnie Kiner, PA Senator Roger Madigan's Office
MaryAnn Warren, Susquehanna County Commissioner
Tony Litwin, Wyoming County Commissioner
- 9:20AM Why are we here?**
Gene Dziak, Wyoming County Emergency Management
Glenn Shupp, Tunkhannock Township
- 9:40AM History of Development and Stream Dynamics**
Carl DeLuca, PA Department of Environmental Protection, NE Region
Mike Lovegreen, Bradford County Conservation District
- 11:00AM BREAK**
- 11:15AM Changing the Landscape of Watersheds**
Tom Wilson, Kurowski & Wilson Engineers
- 12:00PM LUNCH**
- 1:00PM Political and Economic Realities of Floodplain Management**
Kerry Wilson, PA Department of Community and Economic Development
Mark Wood, Susquehanna County Emergency Management
Gene Dziak, Wyoming County Emergency Management
- 1:30PM Flood Toolbox Overview**
Fran Jones, Lycoming County Planning Commission
Tess Grubb, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- 1:45PM Roundtable Discussions**
Jim Weaver, Endless Mountains RC&D Council
- 2:15PM Roundtable Reporting**
- 3:15PM Where do we go from here?**
Jim Weaver, Endless Mountains RC&D Council
Ed Zygmunt, US Congressman Chris Carney's Office
- 3:30PM Adjourn**



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Senator Jones highway bridge reopened

By Helen B. Foster
State, local and PennDOT officials were on hand June 7 for the official reopening of the Senator Edward E. Jones highway bridge in Harford.

Supervisor Sue Furney. Also on hand for the ceremony were Bill Hector, County Maintenance Manager; Chet Patel, Roadway Squad Manager; Bill Eckenrode, PennDOT Construction; Leo Charney, PennDOT geotechnical engineer and Al Felinski, bridge squad leader.

PennDOT spokesman, Karen Dussinger construction was completed on May 16 of this year. The project began with the removal of an existing concrete slab bridge and replaced with a pre-cast reinforced concrete box culvert. The construction also included sewer line relocation, pavement, guidrails and erosion control measures.



PHOTO BY HELEN B. FOSTER
Front row from left: Susq. Co. Commissioner Jeff Loomis, Commissioner MaryAnn Warren, State Rep. Sandra Major, Harford Twp. Supervisor Sue Furney, Commissioner Roberta Kelly, Steve Shimko, PennDOT. Back row: Bill Hector, Chet Patel, Bill Edwards, Leo Charney, all of PennDOT, Butch Kriger and Al Felinski, Kriger Construction.

Municipal leaders gather at Flood Summit

Floodplain management, ordinance enforcement at forefront; some still advocate dredging

By Staci Wilson
At the June 8 Flood Summit, held at Keystone College, Susquehanna and Wyoming county municipal leaders were told, "Our streams are more complicated than dredging," by DCED's Kerry Wilson.

Emergency Management Director Mark Wood spoke about the cost of repetitive losses due to flooding to municipalities and the county. According to Wood, in the 18 communities hardest hit by the June flood, the county collected more than \$11.3 million in real estate taxes from those municipalities prior to the flood.

At the close of the summit, roundtable group discussions were held to shed light on problems, obstacles and possible answers to flooding issues. Most groups pointed to a need for more money to better manage the floodplain and alleviate losses. Several groups also mentioned the need for more public education.

Grad found purpose after family tragedy

By Josh Moronski
Staff writer

MONTROSE - After her mother's death in January, senior Abigail Warner didn't just continue to attend school. She also formed a Relay for Life team for the American Cancer Society and started two scholarships with her father, Pat.

studies. She is planning to study pharmacy at Ohio State University. "I have a really big interest in cancer treatment and drugs," the student council member said.

"I started that because education was such a big part of her life," Ms. Warner said. "My mom was crazy about her students, and she loved teaching."

Her mother's cancer went into remission for two years. "You can't take things for granted," Ms. Warner said.

The tragedy, and her mother's fight with cancer, also piqued Ms. Warner's interest in pharmaceutical

A complete graduation section will appear in the June 20th edition of the Susquehanna County Independent

Wilson outlined the two main obstacles to solving flooding problems. The first is the cost factor. Second is attitude. "The attitude toward comprehensive floodplain management sucks," said Wilson.

He encouraged municipalities to look at their ordinances and management practices. "Get out the ordinances. Do some enforcement of those ordinances. Educate homeowners," advised Wood.

The summit was sponsored by Congressman Christopher Carney, Keystone College and the Endless Mountains Resource, Conservation and Development Council.

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Millions for Railroad facility project on the line

Vote to remove Authority Chair fails; funding may be pulled

By Staci Wilson
The \$2.5 million in state grant money earmarked for land acquisition and the construction of a transloading facility in the New Milford area would have expired in 2006, but the project was deemed so worthy, State Senator Roger Madigan's

office had the timeframe extended. But now, it seems the Senator's patience with the Susquehanna County Railroad Authority (SCRA) may have run out.

and neither, it seems, is the Bureau of Rail Freight. "We will be re-evaluating the status of the grant with the Bureau of Rail Freight to see if it will go forward," said Shuey after the SCRA meeting on June 8. "We have been trying to keep the project alive and do not believe the same level of effort to do the right thing is being taken into consideration by the rail continued on page 2

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Flood Summit Meeting To Be Held

Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council will be hosting a Flood Summit for Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties on June 8, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Keystone College-Evans Hall on campus.

The meeting will bring together a variety of local leaders to discuss the problem of flooding in Wyoming and Susquehanna Counties. Recent flooding problems occurred in the area in June and November of 2006, April 2005, and September 2004.

The summit will lead state, local, and county decision-makers through the history of land development in the area and discuss how development affects stream dynamics. Sessions will also discuss the dangers of flooding, damages and repair costs, and how existing resources can be used to reduce or prevent flooding. The event will conclude with a roundtable discussion of the problems and suggestions of possible solutions.

Partners sponsoring the event include the Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council; Bradford, Lycoming, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga and Wyoming County Conservation Districts; the office of U.S. Representative Chris Carney; the State Senator Roger Madigan; Keystone County, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; and the Lycoming County Planning Commission.

The summit is designed for municipal officials, county planning commissions, emergency management coordinators, and state and federal legislators. For more information, contact the Endless Mountains Resource Conservation and Development Council, 265-5288 ext. 5 or visit <http://www.endlessmountain-srcd.org/>.

PennDOT Recognizes '07 Stars Of Excellence

PennDOT Secretary Allen D. Blehler, P.E. announced that 29 employees statewide were honored with Stars of Excellence Awards. Two employees were from District 4-0.

Ronald P. Bonacci, Olyphant, and Connie Burgh, Montrose, were recognized for their tremendous dedication and outstanding service to improving the state's transportation system for millions of Pennsylvania's citizens. They received their awards from Secretary Blehler during a luncheon at the governor's residence in Harrisburg.

Pictured (l-r) are: Ron Bonacci, Connie Burgh,



and District Executive Stephen Shimko at the Stars of Excellence Awards in Harrisburg.

Bonacci, a PennDOT District 4-0 Traffic engineer for 17 years, is considered by his colleagues to be an excellent teacher and role model, and is admired for his pursuit of safety and receptiveness to innovative engineering solutions. He was the driving force in helping launch District 4's ITS program; spearheaded the Wrong-Way Ramp Initiative, and was instrumental in instituting the "Sign Upgrade Program," later adopted statewide. In tornado-rav-

See "PennDOT" Page 6

Lest We Forget...

As so many communities across the country did on May 28, Susquehanna Borough honored our country's veterans, past and present, with a parade and ceremony.



Congressman Chris Carney, featured speaker at the Memorial Day ceremony in Susquehanna Boro.

After the parade, attendees gathered in the Shops Plaza at the Veterans Memorial for a ceremony emceed by Jesse Gow of American Legion Post 86.

Invocation was given by Father Robert Simon of St. John's Roman Catholic Church. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by members of Boy Scout Troop 81.

Featured speakers were Post 86 Commandar Joe Bucci, Susquehanna Mayor Denise Reddon; County Commissioner Roberta Kelly; District Attorney Jason Legg; President Judge Kenneth Scamans; and Congressman Chris Carney.

A memorial prayer and poem were read by Post Chaplain Stan Lindow.

Wreaths were placed at the memorial by Linda Norma of the Post 86 Auxiliary, Bill Deakin of the Post 86 SAL, and Commander Bucci.

After a 21-gun salute, "Taps" was played by the Susquehanna High School Band, under the direction of Theresa Marino.

The closing benediction was given by Rev. Ken Biller of the Susquehanna United Methodist Church.

Those in attendance who were singled out for recognition were county Prothonotary Sue Eddleston, Sheriff Lance Benedict, Susquehanna Community School Superintendent Bronson Stone, General Millet Perry, and the Post 86 Legion Riders, who were just back from a trip to the veterans' memorial in Washington, DC.

In front of the speakers' podium was an empty chair, draped with the POW/MIA flag. Commander Bucci explained that it represents all those who remain unaccounted for, from all conflicts.

All of the speeches given had one universal theme, honoring members of the military; veterans who served in the past, who helped make our great country a place where people know what freedom is, and those who are currently serving, so that others may come to know what we cherish.

To paraphrase the speakers, Memorial Day is not about having a day off. It is to appreciate and show gratitude for the many sacrifices that have been made for all of us. We would do well to follow the example of those who have served, and give thanks for all those who served in the time of need, to protect what we believe in. We should recognize that we know freedom because ordinary people did extraordinary things and performed selfless deeds. Ever keep the light of freedom burning in their honor... lest we forget.

Prepare For Hurricane Season

In preparation for the summer hurricane season, which began June 1, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) urges all state residents and municipal governments to act now to protect lives and property.

"Since flooding has prompted a presidential disaster declaration in Pennsylvania in each of the past four years, it is essential to recognize the risk that floods pose to residents living in flood-prone areas, and to prepare yourself for the devastation flooding and other severe weather can bring," PEMA Director James R. Joseph said. "Pay attention to flood watches and warnings. Pennsylvania is one of the most flood-prone states in the nation."

Residents are encouraged to find out if they live in a flood-prone area from their municipal government office. Ask whether your property is above or below the flood stage water level, and learn about the history of flooding in your region.

Learn flood-warning signs and your community alert signals. Request information on preparing for flash flood conditions, and have check valves installed in building sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up in sewer drains.

Plan and practice an evacuation route. Contact the

local emergency management office for help.

Develop an emergency communications plan. In the event family members are separated from one another during floods, have a plan for getting back together.

Ask an out-of-town relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." Make sure everyone in the family knows the name, address and phone number of the contact person.

Make sure that all family members know how to respond after a flood or flash flood and teach all family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity and water.

Teach children how and when to call 9-1-1, the police, the fire department, and to which radio station to tune for emergency information.

Joseph advised municipal governments to prepare for severe storms and flooding. Before bad weather arrives, municipalities should perform pre-flood season inspections and remove debris from drainage systems. Bridges are susceptible to scour damage around piers and wing walls; clearing tree and brush debris from inlets helps water flow and

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