

Good Afternoon.

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today on the MS4 Program and the financial obligations within the program. My name is Chelsey Ergler and I am speaking today as the Stormwater Coordinator of the Blair County Conservation District and the Blair County Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee, known as here and throughout as the ISC.

As Ms. Fisher stated, regionalization within Blair County has been beneficial to those Municipalities affected by the MS4 regulations. However, financial strain is beginning to overwhelm individual municipalities as they remain in permit compliance. In January 2019, the Blair County ISC executed a 5-year term agreement in which municipal members will contribute administrative funds, as well as, project funds regarding the implementation of the Collaborative Pollution Reduction Plan.

For Blair County's Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP), they are required to reduce a total of 1.4 million pounds of sediment per year by the year 2023. The ISC laid the groundwork for the next 5-year MS4 permit cycle including establishing projects necessary to meet the required sediment reduction of the PRP, prioritizing the potential projects, and formulating a budget to design and construct the proposed projects. A priority list consisting of eight projects, primarily stream restoration projects, is projecting an estimated cost of \$6.9 million.

To determine the 5-year term budget to encompass PRP Projects and ISC Administration the Municipal Percentage Allocation Formula was used on the basis which the annual costs are to be shared by the member municipalities. The Allocation formula was originally developed by the Environmental Finance Center and is based on population, stream length, and impervious surface. The estimated cost of the proposed PRP projects at \$6.9 million and the \$500,000 Administrative Cost was divided on a percentage basis among the municipalities to determine their financial responsibility over the 5-year term. Please reference the table provided entitled "Blair County Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee 5-Year Budget Summary For PRP/Administration" that outlines financial costs for each Blair County MS4 Municipality.

It is a financial burden for municipalities to remain in compliance for this mandated program. What does this mean? For Blair County an MS4 municipality has estimated a 7.2% of their entire General Fund expense budget will be spent on MS4 mandates in 2020. In 2021 it is estimated to increase to 10.2% of the total general fund expense budget, which is approximately a half million dollars of tax revenue for that municipality. Limited grant funding for projects is available and the ISC is actively seeking funding opportunities along with the Blair County Conservation District. However, no guarantee exists as to whether or not funding will be obtained or fully allocated. Municipalities are beginning to resource reserve accounts and researching alternative methods for implementing a stormwater fee and/or tax ultimately affecting local homeowners and business owners.

We understand the obligations set forth for MS4 Communities and the requirements that need to be achieved by the year 2023. We hope that through meetings such as the one today, that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Agency understand the magnitude of the financial obligations for the MS4 Program. We respectfully request consideration for earmarking financial assistance to MS4 Municipalities.

In conclusion, I believe the Blair County Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee will strive towards compliance of the MS4 Program even though the cost for implementation has dramatically increased. Stormwater Pollution is coming to the forefront nationwide and it is only through collaboration with and assistance from governmental agencies that will fully allow these concerns to be addressed.

Blair County Intergovernmental Stormwater Committee 5 Year Budget Summary for the PRP/Administration

Summary

	Allegheny Township	City of Altoona	Antis Township	Bellwood Borough	Blair County	Blair Township	Duncansville Borough	Frankstown Township	Hollidaysburg Borough	Logan Township
PRP Project Costs	\$931,109.65	\$2,672,216.37	\$373,796.53	\$116,859.35	\$40,022.24	\$419,884.85	\$139,938.38	\$456,281.38	\$560,729.66	\$1,261,676.59
Administrative Costs	\$66,770.00	\$191,625.00	\$26,805.00	\$8,380.00	\$2,870.00	\$30,110.00	\$10,035.00	\$32,720.00	\$40,210.00	\$90,475.00

	TOTALS
PRP Project Costs	\$6,972,515.00
Administrative Costs	\$500,000.00

Overall cost for PRP &
Administration for 5 **\$7,472,515.00**
Year Term