

Salisbury Township Environmental Advisory Council
2900 South Pike Ave.
Allentown, PA 18103

January 30, 2015

Salisbury Township Board of Commissioners
Mr. Randy Soriano, Township Manager
2900 South Pike Ave.
Allentown, PA 18103

RE: Salisbury Township Environmental Advisory Council
Annual Report for the Year 2014

Dear Board of Commissioners and Township Manager:

The Members of the Salisbury Township Environmental Advisory Council would like to take this opportunity to present our Annual Report for 2014.

Activities

1. In 2014, the EAC held monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month with the exception of October 2014, which was cancelled due to a lack of a quorum. Meeting topics in 2014 included:
 - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) program compliance and the role of the STEAC.
 - Planning for the retrofit of the Township Municipal Campus storm water basin.
 - How to raise the profile of Salisbury Township as a critical ecosystem related to water quality, air quality, and wildlife habitat.
 - Recommendations for the Salisbury Township advertising map to include environmental links.
 - How to best communicate with the Salisbury Township School District, St. Thomas More, and the Swain School on projects that support environmental awareness by involving students.
 - Discussion of potential STEAC Projects to:
 - Distribute flyers regarding planting and maintenance of street trees.

- Help property owners understand the importance of trees to our township's ecosystem.
 - Raise public awareness of invasive plants, their negative effects, and best control practices.
 - Coordinate events that promote the benefits of landscaping with native plantings that improve storm water runoff and provide wildlife habitat.
 - Restore Trout Creek's riparian buffers.
 - Encourage habitat design as part of the Audubon's Green Corridor Stewardship program with emphasis on projects both for Salisbury Township parks and to encourage township land owners to consider habitat as part of their landscape design.
2. The EAC members attended various meetings, workshops and conferences related to topics that affect Salisbury Township including:
- Keystone Consulting Engineer, Dave Tetterer provided a presentation outlining the MS4 program and the potential involvement of the STEAC. Although it is a Federal mandate of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the MS4 program is managed by the State of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Tetterer's presentation outlined the Township's obligations to satisfy our MS4 permit's requirements. The program mandates six Minimum Control Measures (MCMs). Municipality's EACs typically address the first two of these MCMs: 1) Public Education and Outreach and 2) Public Involvement/Participation.
 - Kreg Ulery represented Salisbury Township at the Audubon Bird Town Summit Workshops on January 18, and December 14, 2014 at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, 1201 Pawlings Rd, Audubon PA 19403.
 - Mr. Ulery is a member of the Lehigh Valley Bird Town Coalition (LVBTC) executive committee and attended their 2014 monthly meetings. The coalition represents multiple organizations and includes four Bird Towns: Salisbury Township, Lower Macungie, Allentown, and Bethlehem. The LVBTC encourages individuals and groups to create bird habitat by employing native plants in landscapes and restoring disturbed natural areas.
 - Several STEAC members attended the LVBTC Native Plant Design Workshop and Plant Sale on May 3 in Bethlehem.
 - Mr. Ulery met with the Director of Public Works to evaluate potential sites for placement of the metal Bird Town road signs. It was recommended to install the signs in strategic areas such as parks and the Township Municipal Campus.

Accomplishments

1. We hosted the second Earth Fair Celebration on April 26, 2014 at Lindberg Park with table displays and four presentations:
 - a. Composting presented by Lehigh Valley Master Gardeners
 - b. Creating a sustainable culture presented by Lehigh Valley Health Network

- c. Salisbury Bird Town presented by Lehigh Valley Audubon
 - d. Recycling and hazardous waste management presented by Waste Management
- The event was covered by reporters from The Morning Call and the Salisbury Press; an online video from the event was posted by The Morning Call.
2. The EAC members coordinated with the Township Manager to create an EAC bulletin board and educational materials display focusing on projects and environmental initiatives. This area is now complete and displays just inside the Municipal Building's lobby. Its content is kept current by EAC members.
 3. The EAC participated in collecting environmental information for inclusion on the advertising map specific to Salisbury Township.
 4. We conducted an inventory of plant species and trees in the area of the proposed storm water basin retrofit project. The State Regional Forester assisted by providing identification tags on trees. He also identified a Hemlock tree in good condition and worthy of treatment to rid it of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestation that has severely damaged or killed all others in the basin area.

Goals and Objectives

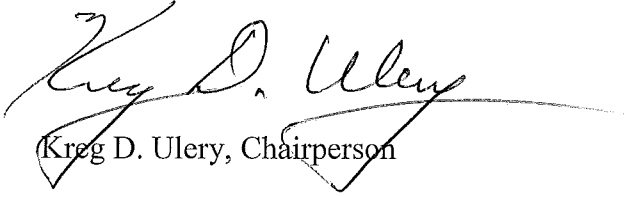
1. To play the lead role in satisfying the Township's obligations for MCM #1 and MCM #2 as outlined in Salisbury Township's MS4 permit.
2. To raise the profile of Salisbury Township as a critical ecosystem for the wellbeing of the Lehigh Valley, particularly related to wildlife habitat, air quality, water quality and our watershed.
3. To establish communication with the Salisbury Township School District, St. Thomas More School, and the Swain School to discuss potential environmental awareness projects on school property and to involve students in both these and township-sponsored projects.
4. To continue environmental awareness efforts for township residents.

Going Forward

1. The EAC thanks the Board of Commissioners for its continued support and welcomes the opportunity to discuss any environmental issues with the Commissioners.
2. During the month of October, one of our EAC representatives, Ms. Sandra Thomas, resigned her position due to personal reasons. Several applicants applied to fill the vacancy, and Mrs. Karen El Char was named by the Commissioners to fill the vacancy starting in January 2015.
3. We are committed to clearly outlining any proposed costs of upcoming projects for review and discussion by the Board of Commissioners as we seek their approval to proceed.

4. We also seek your assistance to add new members to serve on the Task Force for key issues of concern, as well as to promptly fill any EAC vacancies that may arise during the upcoming year.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kreg D. Ulery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kreg D. Ulery, Chairperson

Salisbury Township EAC Members:

Kreg Ulery, Chairperson

Mr. Glenn Miller, Vice-Chairperson

Mary Anne Stinner

Jane Benning

Sandra Thomas

Joseph Hebelka, Planning Commission Representative

JoAnne Ackerman, Board of Commissioner Representative

Cynthia Sopka, Secretary