

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak on behalf of the residents of Great Bend Township, Susquehanna County. My name is Sheila Guinan and I am a Supervisor and the Secretary/Treasurer for our Township. The Susquehanna River travels north through our township from Susquehanna, PA to Conklin, NY. We also have four large, named streams that flow through the township: Denton, Du Bois, Trowbridge, and Salt Lick Creek. Numerous unnamed creeks dump into these four main streams (see the map on the following page). The named streams and the unnamed creeks tend to also follow beside state and township roads. I would also like to add the terrain in our township is mountainous with flatlands in the vicinity of the large streams and the river. When there is a heavy rain event, the unnamed creeks have an increased amount of water flowing downhill at an alarming speed, rolling rocks and debris down the creek channel, this then meets up with the already swollen named streams, combines with more debris and heads to the river. If it's lucky, it makes it there. More often than not the debris clogs the stream channel and forces the water to widen the existing stream channel or it even creates new stream channels. This debris clogs sluice pipes and eats away at existing banks and even destroys homes along the way. That's why we are here.

It is absolutely necessary to consistently clean the creeks, streams channels, and the river too. Residents in our area have lost most of their yards on the mild side of things and we've had one home literally disappear into the water. People are nervous and afraid every time there is a call for any amount of rain; and with good reason. The creeks are unpredictable. As it stands right now, landowners on the streams are able to get permits to stabilize their portion of the bank with stipulations and if there is a gravel bar, they can only remove it to a depth of 6 inches above the water level at the time of the project.

We are running into several problems: many times the stream is no longer flowing in its channel; it has found its way into a resident's backyard or through their basements and under the current regulations, they aren't allowed to return it to its original channel. They are also unable to build the banks to the height they were originally and the stream channel is now several feet higher than it ever was. The streams are full of debris. The streams are spread out instead of being a consistent channel. And the biggest problem is not all landowners are willing and in many cases aren't financially able to pay to have the bank stabilization and gravel bar removal work done. The people that do pay to have the work done in the stream channel on their property find that they have wasted their money because the next storm event causes the same or worse damage due to the lack of consistency in the channel. As far as the Township roads go, FEMA spent over \$750,000.00 to rebuild the roads and sluice pipes damaged from the clogged streams in 2006 and over \$50,000.00 this time around when the amount of water in the unnamed creeks was considerably less than in 2006. We have a section of Du Bois Creek that was taken over by the County after the Flood of 2006, they came back and cleaned their portion after Tropical Storm Lee but the state has yet to clean under the bridge on SR 1033 connecting the two areas cleaned by the County giving the water no outlet and causing it to pool on the upper side of the bridge where homes and a business are located. We have one more instance where the Township had to replace and improve a sluice in 2006 but a little further downstream, the State has not cleaned their sluice so material has backed up flooding a neighborhood of four homes.

Another problem we face is the fact that New York State DOT is cleaning their streams. Many of our residents read the Binghamton Press and Sun-Bulletin newspaper and drive by the

clean-ups on their way to work. They want to know why our state can't do the same. We also need the river dredged; we have an instance where Trowbridge Creek flows into the Susquehanna River and the creek is lower than the river due to a sand bar in the river.

I recommend the State design a plan to consistently clean the unnamed creeks, stream channels, and the Susquehanna River. They need to be put back into their original channel or as close as can be determined and they need to be deep enough in the center to handle the flow of the water. Thank you for your time.