

To: Senator Yaw

From: Kendall Scott

RE: Streambank Flooding

Senator Yaw:

This is a letter to ask about the possibility of assistance for reconstruction of the streambank of Silver Creek behind my home.

My house lot, which is only 1.1 acres, has been eroded away at an alarming pace with each of the heavy rainfall events of the past few years. The 150 foot border of my property along the stream is bordered both upstream and downstream by Salt Springs State Park property. Therefore, repairs would involve mostly repairs on their streambank.

The streambank, which involves an approximate 12 foot drop from the edge to the stream, has eroded exceptionally fast since 2006. At that time a clump of hemlock trees upstream from my property began falling into the stream. Tons of soil have washed away and the bank is still collapsing rapidly. A corner pole of Claverack Rural Electric three phase line was located near the stream on my property and during tropical storm Lee a support wire of this pole, which was anchored near my home went into the stream. The support wire actually broke the pole, shorted out the electric lines and caused a power outage for 1,100 customers. For the repair, two poles were used, one on each side of my property. One of the new poles had to be placed near the eroding bank of Silver Creek just upstream from my property and no doubt without streambank repairs the pole will soon be in danger. I must also note, the eroding stream will soon be compromising my septic system!

Downstream the curve created in the stream is directing the waters into the parking lot of Salt Springs State Park. It is also changing the course of the water going under the bridge at the Park.

In 2006 as well as in 2011 I applied for assistance from FEMA. Both times I was directed to SBA for a loan. In 2006 I was approved for a loan but didn't feel I could afford it. In 2011 I was disapproved for the loan because of my inability to repay. I was then referred back to FEMA. FEMA again said no.

I am a 63 year old retired dairy farmer. I left farming with a large debt load and cannot shoulder this repair alone. Also, the project would require cooperation from Salt Springs State Park for their part of the repair.

I have requested assistance from NRCS but no funding has been received yet. NRCS estimated the loss of soil on my 146 feet of streambank to be 3,893 tons. A rough estimate to grade and place stone on that 146 feet is \$26,000.00. However, this would be without repairing the streambank upstream. To repair the damage upstream on Salt Springs State Park property would be another \$75,000.00. Susquehanna County Conservation District has inspected the site and assured me that permits could be obtained for the project.

In this case, as well as many others, care of the stream by the state such as gravel bar removal and downed tree removal could have greatly reduced the significant flood damage.

Respectfully submitted,
Kendall Scott