



ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES: JANUARY 8, 2010  
REPORT TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

At our meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2010, the EAC discussed the following issues that we wanted to confirm with the Board.

### **Meeting Times/Dates.**

The EAC has changed the start time of its meetings to 7 pm, still on the first Thursday of every month. Maureen has already incorporated this into the schedule. We will be moving our meeting in April from April 1, 2010 to April 8, 2010, due to conflicts with religious holidays. **If Maureen could make this additional change it would be much appreciated.**

### **Membership.**

Bill Kolb is withdrawing as a member because of work demands. Bill has served the EAC well for many years, including as a past Chair, and he will be missed.

One of our most active members, Veronica Holmes, has been serving the EAC for the last year as an associate member because, with Bill Kolb, we already had a full contingent of seven members. The consensus of the EAC is to have Veronica now move to full member status, and we have asked her to submit whatever application is necessary to do this. We strongly support Veronica's membership. She has already taken the lead in organizing the Backyard Ecology Project over the past year, and our commitment to that project is discussed further below.

Resident John Presley attended the meeting on Thursday night and expressed interest in joining the EAC as an associate member. The EAC supports John's joining the EAC in this capacity and urged him to submit an application to the Board for associate membership.

Brittany Ray, a student at Immaculata University, recently attended an EAC meeting and expressed interest in helping the EAC's efforts. We look forward to Brittany's involvement and assistance in 2010.

All other members from last year expressed interest in continuing and, as an EAC, we support their memberships. As per my earlier email to Maureen, the EAC discussed the chairperson position and supported my continuing in that role. Please note that I believe this role should be passed to another member in 2011.

### **EAC Goals for 2010.**

As urged by Board member Bill Holmes in December, the EAC adopted goals for the next year. **We would like the Board to consider the appropriateness of these goals, which are set out**



**below, and to let us know if you have concerns or if there are other goals upon which the Board seeks the EAC's assistance:**

1. Continue to monitor the progress of the remediation sites, Bishop Tube, Foote Mineral, and Malvern TCE, on behalf of the Board and advise the Board on these issues as requested by the Board or as seems appropriate to the EAC. **Please note that a significant report will be made on the ongoing investigation of the Bishop Tube site at our February 4 meeting by DEP and the responsible parties and we would welcome the presence of any Board member who might wish to attend.**
2. Improve the EAC webpage to make it more of a resource for the Board and for residents, including by posting links to key environmental sites and resources. Brough Richey is taking the lead for the EAC on this issue.
3. Help implement the backyard ecology project in at least one location in the township in 2009.
4. Host an information session on alternative energy and energy use reduction issues for residences in which residents can hear from experts on issues such as geothermal energy and solar energy and available funding and tax incentives. We likely would try to do this at one of our monthly meetings and would especially appreciate the Board's input on how to get the word out to residents and involvement by residents.
5. Assist the Board in whatever other ways the Board determines appropriate on environment-related matters, assuming of course resources and competence.

### **Backyard Ecology Project.**

The EAC (particularly Veronica Holmes) has done substantial work with Chuck Marshall of the Valley Creek Restoration Partnership regarding the Backyard Ecology Project described in the attached brochure. For us to move forward with this, the process would require up front funding from the Township of \$1500 and the filing of a grant application. The EAC would like to move forward with this project this Spring, if the Board agrees and the funding is available. **Please advise as to the Board's agreement and the process that would be required to make the funding available. Let us know if the Board needs additional information.**

We on the EAC wish to express appreciation for the support we have received from the Board in the past year, and we look forward to working closely with the Board in 2010.

Please let us know if you have comments or concerns with any of the above, especially if you have concerns, questions, or input on the goals of the EAC for 2010.

# Control Flooding and Erosion through the Backyard Ecology Program for Valley Creek Neighbors

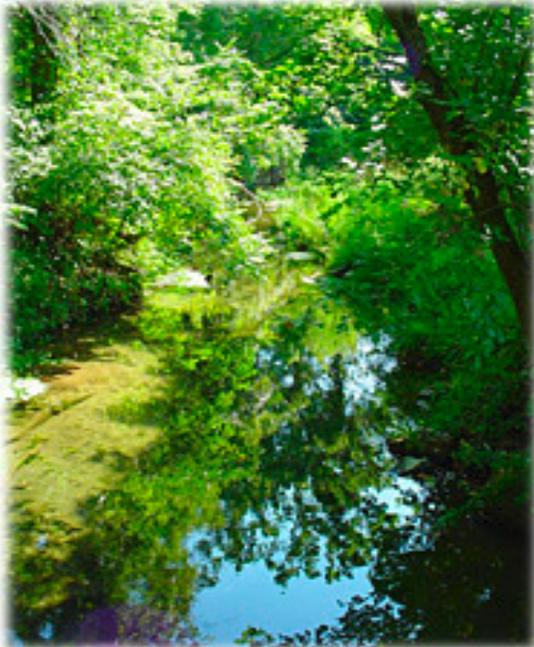


1. Does your property border Valley Creek?
2. Do you experience soil erosion or flooding after a heavy rain?
3. Are you interested in:
  - Enhancing your landscape with native plants and trees?
  - Reducing rainwater runoff and flooding?
  - Attracting butterflies and other pollinating insects?

We are launching this [Backyard Ecology Program](#) for Valley Creek neighbors. Sign up now to receive a free one-hour property consultation with a landscaping designer and stormwater specialist.

## How does it work?

- Interested residents should attend a one-hour orientation to be held on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> between 7:30-8:30 at the East Whiteland Township building.
- Residents interested in proceeding after this orientation can sign up for a free one-hour consultation with a landscaping designer and stormwater specialist.



- During the process the professionals will walk and assess the property with the owner.
- Toward the end of the one-hour tour the property owner will be given a list of suggested actions.
- These suggestions will include how to use plantings, rain gardens, grasses, wildlife-attracting trees and shrubs, invasive plant removal and rain barrels to reduce flooding and stormwater discharge into the environment.
- Since there are expenses in designing and implementing this program, the homeowner will then be asked to commit to implementing at least one of the three recommended designs.

## What benefits will the homeowner receive?

- Some free plants or trees will be available through the TreeVitalize program of Chester County.
- A rain garden design will be provided with the specific suggestions

for your property. If funds are available, rain barrels will also be given to each homeowner who signs up for a consultation.

## How to get started in this program?

- Attend the one-hour orientation meeting on Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the East Whiteland Township building.
- Email the EAC at: [info@eastwhiteland.org](mailto:info@eastwhiteland.org).

Sponsored by: Valley Creek Restoration Partnership, Cabrini College and East Whiteland Environmental Advisory Council

