

PA Senate Environmental Resources & Energy Committee Public Hearing on MS4 Requirements
September 11, 2019

Testimony Submitted by Steve Miller
Council President, Borough of Greencastle, PA

Chairman Senator Yaw, Executive Director Troutman, Distinguished Guests, Visitors and
Citizen's of the Borough of Greencastle,

Greetings and my sincerest thanks for all of you to make the time to come to our community to
hear directly from us our concerns regarding the implementation and impacts of MS4 Municipal
Separate Storm Sewer System.

As Borough Council President of Greencastle, Franklin County, Pennsylvania, I am requesting
your support to revisit imposed requirements by the MS4 and Chesapeake Bay Implementation
Plan. Current cleanup requirements are formulaically calculated based upon estimates with
heavy emphasis on reduction of sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus generated primarily by
farmlands not a small 1.6 square mile urban borough, such as ours. Requirements should be
based on what a municipality generates within its corporate boundaries, as determined by
actual pollutant data of stormwater outflows that feed tributaries to the Bay. All cleanup
project efforts by a municipality should be limited to what can be performed within the
municipal corporate limits. In the end, if a municipality has done everything it can within its
area of direct control, then requirements should be based upon sustaining clean-up pollutant
reduction projects using continued stormwater outfall sampling as evidence of same.

On May 30th 2019, the Borough Council approved establishment of a Borough Storm Sewer
Utility. The only reason we created a Storm Water Utility was because legally we cannot raise
property taxes high enough (above 30 mils) to generate sufficient revenue to cover MS4 costs.
Now the citizens and businesses of my community face the ugly reality of how to pay MS4
service fees. Many have told me their intentions are to leave the boro. We are concerned
about falling property values and abandoned properties. On the other hand, if we did not
approve, the alternative was having major fines imposed by DEP for non-compliance which
could lead to financial municipal insolvency.

With few exceptions, the majority of Greencastle's citizens understand the need to control
pollutants and sustain our environment for generations to come. But nearly all do not
understand why the Borough of Greencastle has to pay for MS4 stream restoration projects
outside of our corporate limits, in order to generate enough pollutant pound credits to avoid
being fined. Beyond that, for the next cycle of MS4, the Borough has to find new streams to
restore to generate sufficient credits – the emphasis is not on actual water quality sampling
sustainment which it should be.

I read that Maryland Governor Hogan recently sent a letter to Governor Wolf stating in essence
that PA needs to do more regarding the Chesapeake Bay. Reports I have read show that the

Bay is improving not getting worse. What I am convinced of is that PA is not being as smart and fair as it can be regarding pollutant reduction. Municipalities should be responsible for what their citizen contribute, not to subsidize those outside of the municipality. I am not advocating that the state or counties provide funding to subsidize projects – all that does is just add a tax/fee increase for all PA citizens behind a smoke screen, with more costly bureaucracy to oversee how the money is divvied out – in essence it will become a big grant writing exercise with politically based evaluation criteria to award grants.

My beloved town is damned if we do or damned if we don't, major economic impacts on one-hand or steep fines on the other. I voted to approve because I have faith, in not only my boro but also faith in you, that my plea for assistance to provide requirements relief will be heard.

//signed//
Steve Miller
President of Council
Borough of Greencastle