

PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE AIR AND WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT

2007

April, 2008

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE AIR AND WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

**Pennsylvania General Assembly
House of Representatives
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TO: All Members of the General Assembly

**FROM: Representative Scott E. Hutchinson, Chairman
Senator Raphael J. Musto, Vice Chairman**

SUBJECT: 2007 Annual Report

DATE: April, 2008

***“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.”
- Henry Ford (American Industrialist)***

As concerns continue to grow about the Commonwealth's natural resources it is increasingly apparent that a shared environmental vision and strategy are needed to achieve meaningful progress. That simple but powerful belief has served as the keystone for the creation of a bipartisan, bicameral legislative service agency known as the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee (Committee).

The Committee is built on the premise of improving communication and information access to help address the Commonwealth's environmental issues. It seeks to create an environmental community, bringing together key decision makers including educational, governmental, industrial representatives and concerned citizens interested in environmental research, conservation, and management. The Committee's goals are to advance environmental related issues, promote the use of quality information, and to share that information with the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

The scope of Committee activities has expanded to include several comprehensive ongoing programs and projects on specific environmental issues. These include the Legislative Forestry Task Force and the Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force. In the pages following, you will find a summary of all of our 2007 activities and how we made a difference, as well as insights into the work ahead. Please take a moment to peruse the report and feel free to call with any questions, concerns or observations you may have about the Committee.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

2007-2008 Session

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Rep. Bryan Cutler
Rep. Camille George
Rep. Richard Grucela
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THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE AIR AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

In 1967, legislation (Act 448, P.L. 1022) was enacted creating the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee. The Committee consists of 18 members of the General Assembly. Nine members are appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, five from the majority party and four from the minority party. The Speaker of the House of Representatives also appoints nine members, five from the majority party and four from the minority party.

The Committee's powers and duties according to Act 448 include:

- **Conducting continuing studies of air and water pollution laws and recommending needed changes to the General Assembly.**
- **Conducting continuing studies of the enforcement of air and water pollution laws, and in conjunction with such studies making necessary trips to various sections of the Commonwealth to hold public hearings.**
- **Conducting continuing studies of mining practices, mining laws, and reclamation of mined lands.**
- **Holding public hearings and receiving comments regarding any or all of the above subjects of study.**

Since its creation, the Committee has been instrumental in the development of Pennsylvania's environmental laws and policies. The Committee staff is available at all times to assist members of the General Assembly with environmental and conservation issues. The Committee's files and library are extensive. Also, the staff has access to information from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), other state and federal agencies, private industry, and trade associations.

WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT

Legislative Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force

Over nine million Pennsylvanians rely on their wastewater collection and treatment systems to protect public health and the environment. Regulated under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act) and the Pennsylvania Clean Streams law, community wastewater collection and treatment systems are critical elements in the state's infrastructure.

In many instances, local communities have received financial assistance from federal and state programs. However, even with maintenance and repair activities, infrastructure deteriorates over time and eventually needs to be replaced. The estimated needs for upgrading existing facilities and building new ones are very large. Recent estimates by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and DEP suggest that Pennsylvania communities will need billions of dollars to construct and upgrade aging wastewater treatment facilities, sewer systems, and other projects that improve water quality and help safeguard public health and the environment. As an example, the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (made up of the city of Pittsburgh and 82 neighboring municipalities in Allegheny County and parts of communities in Washington and Westmoreland counties) is said to be facing more than \$3 billion in system improvements.

Wastewater collection and treatment systems already represent billions of dollars of capital investment and must operate around-the-clock, while having to meet more stringent federal water quality standards. The systems often represent a community's largest environmental investment and play a key role in maintaining environmental health as well as being factors in a community's economic development and growth.

Despite increasing need, federal investment in infrastructure funding, such as the Federal Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), continues to shrink. The CWSRF provides money to states for wastewater treatment projects, nonpoint source pollution control and watershed management. Federal and other sources of funding for water and wastewater infrastructure amounted to 90 percent at one time, but no longer. Compounding this problem is the fact that utilities in general have not set their rates at levels that cover infrastructure maintenance and replacement. In addition, new federal standards push the need for enhanced wastewater treatment systems, as well as the sometimes costly programs to address stormwater, combined sewer overflows and separate sanitary overflows. Together, this has led to a significant funding gap.

It is important that Pennsylvania focus attention on this issue before it becomes an even greater crisis. In an effort to get up-to-date information on wastewater needs, the Committee held a number of public hearings to review municipal wastewater infrastructure financing options and processes. The Committee recommended the creation of a wastewater infrastructure task force to further investigate wastewater management issues. House Resolution 88, Printer's Number 560 was introduced in February, 2005.

With the passage of the resolution in November, 2005, the Committee formed a partnership with government, business, and industry to study and investigate sewage management in Pennsylvania including compliance needs, costs, concerns regarding treatment processes and regulations, and new and innovative technologies that could address problems in Pennsylvania. The resolution created a wastewater task force consisting of four members of the General Assembly and a 22-member advisory committee consisting of wastewater service providers, state and federal environmental administrators, consulting engineers specializing in sewage treatment system design and operation, and experienced practitioners of public accounting, finance or economics related to the design, construction, operation or maintenance of public sewer systems.

The task force met on the following dates:

- **September 12, 2006 – Hershey, Pennsylvania**
- **February 8, 2007 – State College, Pennsylvania**
- **June 21, 2007 – State College, Pennsylvania**
- **October 25, 2007 – State College, Pennsylvania**

As one of the first steps in assessing Pennsylvania's wastewater infrastructure, the task force reviewed the EPA's 2000 Clean Water Needs Survey as it applies to sewage treatment systems in the Commonwealth. In addition to the Clean Water Needs Survey, the task force reviewed federal and state financing options for sewage treatment and collection systems in Pennsylvania, and a presentation on the work of the Regional Water Management Task Force. The task force is an 11-county effort to improve regional cooperation in addressing southwestern Pennsylvania's water and sewer challenges.

These meetings provided a unique opportunity for a wide range of dialogue with task force members, government and industry leaders, and interested members of the public on the status of wastewater systems in Pennsylvania and on ideas for improving infrastructure in the future. Speakers included the executive director of DEP's Water Planning Office, the executive director of the Pennsylva-

nia Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST), and representatives from EPA and the Maryland Department of the Environment.

Pennsylvania has leveraged and carefully managed both federal and state funds to build and maintain a healthy wastewater infrastructure across the state. Pennsylvania's goals have always revolved around restoring impacted water bodies and ensuring that the people of the Commonwealth have adequate clean water.

The findings of the task force suggest that over the past 40 years there have been many changes to the programs used to fund wastewater infrastructure. At one time, the state was successful in getting necessary infrastructure built and maintained. The mechanisms in place today, however, are not adequate to stimulate needed repairs and replacement, causing the potential return to polluted waterways. The task force recognizes that no single solution addresses the full range of wastewater infrastructure and related challenges. All levels of government and the private sector must share responsibility for effective, efficient and fair solutions.

In 2008, the task force will continue to address the serious environmental and economic infrastructure challenges facing many Pennsylvania communities. Additional information concerning the Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force may be obtained by calling the Committee office at 717-787-7570.

FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Legislative Forestry Task Force

Forests have long defined Pennsylvania's natural, economic and cultural landscape. Pennsylvanians look to forests as a source of timber, recreation, clean air and water, and fish and wildlife habitat. The forest industry is a major contributor to the economy of Pennsylvania and is the key economic driver for many rural communities.

As Pennsylvania grows, and as its economic base changes and its cultural values shift, the relationship Pennsylvanians have with forests becomes increasingly complex. Seeing through that complexity to a more complete understanding of the issues and forest conditions is critical to making informed decisions about Pennsylvania's forest landscape.

Because of the importance of the forest industry to the economy and its rural communities, the Legislative Forestry Task Force and Advisory Committee were first established in 1994, pursuant to House Resolution 263. The resolution itself was introduced after three statewide public hearings held by the Committee in 1993. The formation of a task force was a direct recommendation of the Committee.

For more than a decade, the Forestry Task Force has been composed of four members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly; two members of the Senate and two members of the House of Representatives. The Advisory Committee is a broad-based coalition of state forest administrators; representatives of the timber products industry; the Pennsylvania Game Commission and others dedicated to preserving and protecting the health, environmental and economic gains that Pennsylvania's forests provide.

Since its inception in 1994, the task force has continued its work through a series of legislative resolutions enacted in succeeding legislative sessions, with staff assistance from the Committee. The most recent resolution, Senate Resolution 137, Printer's Number 968, adopted on January 30, 2006, provided the task force with a broad and challenging two-year mission. The legislative resolution outlined five issues that the task force considered as basic elements of importance to the forest industry. These issues are as follows:

- **The growing threat of forest pests and diseases;**
- **The impact of municipal ordinances on accessing private forests;**
- **The United States Forest Service's survey of private forest landowners in Pennsylvania;**
- **Prescribed burning as a forest regeneration management tool; and,**
- **The impact of government's increasing acquisition of private forest land.**

As part of Senate Resolution 137, the task force conducted four public meetings between January, 2006 and April, 2007 in State College, Pennsylvania. Each meeting provided task force and advisory committee members with a background presentation about one of the issues prescribed in the legislative resolution and offered the opportunity for comment.

The task force issued a report in December, 2007. The report's twenty recommendations are predicated on the information gathered from a variety of organizations, including DCNR's Bureau of Forestry, Penn State University's School of Forest Resources, the USDA Forest Service and others, and reflect the comments

and discussions by task force and advisory committee members. Key recommendations include:

- **The Pennsylvania General Assembly should appropriate adequate funds so that state agencies have the resources to address invasive species problems promptly and comprehensively over the long-term.**
- **The Bureau of Forestry should work with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Penn State University, forester and landowner stakeholders and local governments to develop educational products and messages that instruct local governments on the appropriate use of ordinances to support sustainable forest management and traditional uses.**
- **The Bureau of Forestry should work with Penn State University, the forest products industry, non-government organizations and other interested stakeholders to strengthen and expand current programs to inform private forest landowners and the general public about sound forest management practices, and the concept of sustainability.**
- **DCNR should continue to collect and analyze data on the status of natural resources and recreational needs and adjust its acquisition strategy appropriately.**

A presentation on prescribed burning as a management tool provided a starting point for a series of roundtable discussions which were intended to address some of the concerns regarding prescribed burning. In April, August and October of 2007 Committee staff met with various forest stakeholders to assess current challenges and discuss future directions for prescribed burning in Pennsylvania. One goal of the roundtables was to bring together many of the key stakeholders and partners in the prescribed fire arena to discuss current approaches and ongoing programs.

Virtually all of the roundtables included discussions on liability/legal issues and the parameters for training, preparation and safety for the use of prescribed burning. Participants shared the view that these issues must be resolved in regard to current and future prescribed fire objectives. The roundtable discussions evolved into a specific recommendation for the task force report.

- **Legislation should be created to regulate prescribed burning practices and limit liability for burners as long as they follow procedures established by the Bureau of Forestry's Division of Forest Fire Protection.**

Legislation is currently being developed that regulates prescribed burning practices and provides certain civil and criminal immunity.

The 2007 Forestry Task Force Report is available on the Committee's website at <http://jcc.legis.state.pa.us>, or by calling the Committee office.

ELECTRONIC WASTE RECYCLING

States, Companies Offer Safe Recycling Options for Old Electronics

Electronic technology is evolving so rapidly that consumers are faced with the fact that no matter what they buy today, it is going to be obsolete rather quickly. Computers and cell phones become obsolete as chips become smaller, faster, and cheaper, resulting in millions of computers and cell phones being scrapped every year in the United States. At the same time, the advent of high-definition television sets is expected to create a rush of obsolete TV's after a federally mandated switch from analog to digital broadcasting takes effect in February, 2009.

Used or unwanted electronics (known as e-waste) is the fastest-growing category of municipal solid waste. E-waste totaled between 1.9 million and 2.2 million tons in 2005, according to EPA. Of that, only about 350,000 tons were recycled, with the remainder going to landfills. While recycling of newspapers and aluminum cans has been commonplace for decades, the opportunities to recycle electronic waste are limited.

Currently, most consumers who want to dispose of televisions and other e-waste simply put them out with the rest of their trash. Pennsylvania does not prohibit setting e-waste out in the trash, but cautions that many electronic components contain toxic substances. For example, in computer monitors and televisions, the picture tube, known as the cathode ray tube, can contain lead glass. And some electronics contain mercury. In addition, electronics can contain metals such as chromium, cadmium, mercury, nickel and zinc.

In October, 2007 the Committee held a public hearing in Harrisburg, Dauphin County to learn more about how other states are handling e-waste recycling, in order to formulate a legislative direction for Pennsylvania. The hearing featured testimony from several individuals including State Representative Chris Ross, who is developing e-recycling legislation; Mr. Thomas Fidler, DEP's Deputy Secretary for Waste, Air & Radiation Management; Ms. Meggan Ehret, senior counsel for Thomson, Inc., a member of the Electronic Manufacturers Coalition for Responsible Recycling; and Joseph Nardone, Environmental Health and Safety Director for Amandi Services, Inc., in the e-recycling business. Also testifying were E-World Recyclers of California, the Consumer Electronics Association, the Council of State Governments and the Pennsylvania Recycling Markets Center (RMC).

Witnesses gave the Committee information on legislation enacted in other states, current recycling efforts supported by the electronics industry, and anticipated future trends and recovery alternatives. Two major proposals being considered as e-waste models are an advanced recovery fee (ARF) or extended producer responsibility (EPR). Also under consideration is a hybrid of the two.

In the absence of a national system, several states have enacted their own financing systems through legislation to help ensure environmentally preferable management of used electronics. For example, in 2005, California implemented an ARF on all new video display devices, such as televisions and computer monitors, sold within the state. The fee is charged to consumers at the time and location of purchase and can range between \$6 and \$10. The revenues generated from the fee are intended to deal with a key concern – used electronics in storage, or “legacy waste.”

While California’s ARF focuses on consumers of electronics, Maine’s approach focuses on producers through an EPR system. In 2004, the state passed legislation requiring computer and television manufacturers who sell products in Maine to pay for the take back and recycling of their products at end of life. Under this plan, consumers are to take their used electronics to a consolidation point, such as a transfer station, where they are sorted by the original manufacturer. Each manufacturer is financially responsible for transporting and recycling its products, along with a share of the products whose original manufacturer no longer exists. A key challenge of Maine’s EPR system is the lack of a financial incentive for consumers to take their used electronics out of storage.

Several other states have implemented or are considering implementing financing systems for e-waste. In 2006, Maryland passed legislation requiring all computer manufacturers that sell computers in the state to pay \$5,000 into a fund to help implement local recycling programs. Other states, such as Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, and Massachusetts, have allocated grants to help pay for the recycling of e-waste. New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont are considering enacting EPR-like programs.

The differing financing systems of California and Maine, as well as those being considered by other states, suggest that in the absence of a national approach, a patchwork of potentially conflicting state requirements is developing. Further, this patchwork may be placing a substantial burden on manufacturers, retailers, and recyclers. For example, a manufacturer in one state may have an ARF placed on its products; whereas in another state, the same manufacturer may have to take back its products and pay for recycling.

The Committee will continue to monitor state e-waste recycling laws and industry practices and encourage the development of appropriate approaches to this issue.

At a Committee Environmental Issues Forum, Mr. Michael Smith, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh, described the unique partnership that Goodwill Industries has formed to deal with the problem of e-waste in western Pennsylvania. In 1995, Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh became the first Goodwill in the U.S. to initiate a computer recycling program. Since that time, Goodwill has been partnering with Dell Computers, the city of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County and the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare in its e-recycling venture.

The centerpiece of the project is the Computer Recycling Center in Pittsburgh's Lawrenceville section, which recycled its one-millionth pound of electronic parts and equipment. In addition, the project is part of a successful workforce development effort with welfare-to-work participants.

In an effort to promote markets, the Committee in partnership with RMC, sponsored a Recycled Electronics Economic Development Forum in December, 2007. The forum brought together 30 electronic industry stakeholders representing manufacturing, collection, processing and end markets to identify economic development opportunities for utilizing electronic discards in the Commonwealth.

The RMC, which opened July 1, 2005, is part of DEP's initiative to encourage growth of the state's recycling industry. For more information on RMC, visit its website at www.parmc.org.

The Committee will continue to examine e-waste recycling issues in 2008 and additional recommendations will be forthcoming. For more information, or for copies of the public hearing transcript please contact the Committee office.

RECREATION AND TOURISM

Heritage Parks

Almost everything these days is a by-product of petroleum: clothes, countertops and carpet. It is used in medical technology and building, in auto making and computers. Though northwestern Pennsylvania no longer produces as much oil as other areas of the United States, it is where the first commercially successful oil well was drilled – in Titusville, Crawford County.

The Committee traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with members of Congress and their staff to generate support for the “National Sesquicentennial Commemoration Act”, an act to establish a commission to assist in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the discovery of oil at Drake Well near Titusville and the resulting development of the American petroleum industry. August 27, 2009 is the sesquicentennial of the first successful commercial oil well, which led directly to the development of the petroleum industry.

The Keynote speaker at the meeting was U.S. Congressman John Peterson, of Pennsylvania’s 5th District (Venango County), where the Drake Well is located. Congressman Peterson, who is spearheading the federal legislation, also led the seven year campaign to gain national heritage area status for northwest Pennsylvania’s Oil Heritage Region.

The Committee has been an active participant in promoting Pennsylvania’s Heritage Parks Program and heritage development since 1996 and will continue to support and assist the program in the future.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Pennsylvania has always been a popular tourism destination. The Commonwealth has a prime competitive advantage because of its historical, natural and cultural attractions. Yet many of the components of this image, including historical sites, transportation, interpretation and signposting, wildlife management, litter collection and roadside maintenance lack the constant attention they need to maintain high standards.

Since 2005, the Committee has been promoting the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful (KPB) alliance as an excellent organization for economic development, education, community preservation and tourism. The KPB alliance is a collection of state and local governments, business and industry, non-profit organizations and community groups dedicated to keeping Pennsylvania beautiful. In 2007, the Committee continued its commitment to KPB. The Committee’s Earth Day Environmental Issues Forum featured Ms. Julia Marano, executive director of KPB. Ms. Marano provided an overview of KPB’s progress in the areas of litter and illegal dumping prevention and cleanup, community enhancement and beautification, and proper waste handling.

In addition, Ms. Marano described some of KPB’s projects that involved partnerships with state agencies and other organizations. Included in these projects is a campaign to improve Pennsylvania’s roadside aesthetics, college in-

ternship opportunities and results, an update on the 2007 Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, the “Litter Free School Zone” project and the “Clean Up Our Anthracite Lands and Streams” beautification program.

The Committee joined with KPB in a “Roadside Aesthetics” workshop involving several state agencies including the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), community organizations and speakers from other states. PennDOT, a state agency previously known for focusing on safety while giving aesthetics a much lower priority, now seems open to new ideas and the inclusion of urban planners, architects, landscape architects, and other designers in its decision-making process.

In September, 2007, the Committee co-sponsored the third annual KPB Roadside Aesthetics Summit and Workshop in Camp Hill, Cumberland County. The focus of the summit was furtherance of the effort to improve Pennsylvania’s roadside aesthetics through anti-littering efforts, cleanups and highway beautification.

The keynote speaker was Mr. Chad Pregracke, founder and president of Living Lands and Waters located in East Moline, Illinois. Also featured was a session on beautification efforts in other states, including Georgia, West Virginia and California, and nationwide information from Keep America Beautiful. For more information on KPB, visit its website at www.keppabeautiful.org.

During the latter part of 2007, the Committee hosted a series of meetings to discuss residential waste collection systems, recycling and illegal dumping in rural Pennsylvania. The Committee, along with principals from KPB, the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP), Pennsylvania Cleanways and other interested stakeholders met to discuss the economic feasibility of various alternative waste collection systems in small communities and rural areas of Pennsylvania.

It is estimated that the average resident disposes of nearly one ton of solid waste each year. Clearly, collecting and disposing of that volume of material is a major problem. This is especially true in rural areas where collection and disposal is often left up to the individual household. A result is often illegal rural roadside dumps which create environmental and health problems.

There are two alternatives for rural solid waste collection. One is drop-off convenience centers, and the other is mandatory door-to-door service. These two alternatives may be used exclusively or in combination. Local community decision makers must choose which system or combination of systems best fit their requirements.

Rural convenience centers are strategically placed solid waste collection sites. The centers are attended during open hours and are designed to handle the solid waste and recycling of a rural area. The typical standard convenience center consists of a number of green boxes conveniently located for easy access. As residents deliver waste, a certain amount of waste separation can occur. Separate containers for paper, glass, plastics and metals may be provided. An attendant is available to help residents with separation.

The more expensive of the two rural collection systems to operate is the mandatory door-to-door collection system. Mandatory door-to-door collection could reduce the amount of illegal waste dumping, self-disposal and illegal burning. Adoption of a mandatory solid waste collection program could also have an adverse impact on certain sectors. Requiring rural residential waste generators to subscribe to and pay for collection could place an unfair cost burden on those generators. Rural generators often generate small amounts of waste and, in some instances, have found legal and acceptable methods for disposing of these wastes.

The Committee will work to improve realization and understanding of the complexities of the issues and looks forward to working with organizations like KPB, PROP and Pennsylvania Cleanways and their partners in 2008.

MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY STATEWIDE SURVEY – 2007

Pennsylvanians' Opinions on Water Quality

Since 1997, the Committee has commissioned a series of questions included in the annual Mansfield University Statewide Survey (formerly known as the Public Mind Survey of Mansfield University) to inform state, local and federal policymakers, encourage discussion, and raise public awareness about a variety of environmental issues facing the state. The Mansfield University Statewide Survey provides the legislature, policymakers, and the general public with objective, advocacy-free information on the perceptions, opinions, and general public policy preferences of Pennsylvania residents.

The 2007 survey provides a benchmark for understanding the public's awareness and interest in municipal water and wastewater services. While it is true the Committee asked some similar questions in 2002, this year's questions were inspired by and asked in cooperation with the Regional Water Management Task Force.

The survey showed most Pennsylvanians were pleased with the quality of their water. More than 90 percent thought it was very important to have clean water in Pennsylvania's rivers and streams. More than 82 percent strongly linked water issues to the Commonwealth's economic competitiveness, and nearly 96 percent thought the two were at least somewhat related.

The Regional Water Management Task Force's responses to these questions were strikingly similar, varying only in magnitude. A smaller majority, but still a clear majority, (64.5 percent versus 72.4 percent) rated their water quality as excellent or good, and one-third of the people responding to the task force survey considered their water fair or poor (it was one-fourth in the Committee survey). In nearly identical margins, respondents made the connection between water issues and economic competitiveness.

The Mansfield University Statewide Survey is a scientific telephone survey of adults in Pennsylvania. Conducted between February and March, 2007 it contains the opinions of 920 respondents.

Survey results and additional information concerning water and wastewater infrastructure issues may be obtained by contacting the Committee office.

RECYCLING

Waste Tires

Pennsylvania has managed to build one of America's most successful recycling programs since the passage of Act 101 in 1988, the Municipal Waste Planning, Recycling and Waste Reduction Act. The recycling industry is a growing industry and has the potential to have a tremendous impact on the economy and environment of Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth is home to numerous recycling businesses that manufacture a variety of materials and products. These businesses have clearly demonstrated the positive effect they have on the state's economy. In addition, there are new companies coming into the state that have their foundation in recycled materials. Consequently, efforts need to be focused on developing opportunities to attract and enhance recycling businesses within the state.

An example of the opportunities for success in assisting the growth of recycling businesses can also be seen in the state's waste tire recycling program. The Committee took an active role in developing the state's Waste Tire Recycling Law (Act 190 of 1996) and a follow-up measure to expand the original law (Act 111 of 2002). Since the legislation's enactment, the Committee has held a number of

meetings on waste tire issues and toured a number of rubber recycling operations in Pennsylvania.

In January, 2007, the Committee toured two different recycled rubber product manufacturers. Edge Rubber in Chambersburg, Franklin County, is the longest running and most successful facility producing fine and ultra-fine rubber powders in the United States. Zartman Farms Cow Comfort Systems in Ephrata, Lancaster County produces and markets rubber-based flooring products for use with livestock. All are made from recycled Pennsylvania tires.

In March 2007, the Committee traveled to Braddock, Allegheny County, to tour the Liberty Tire Recycling facility. In 2006, Liberty handled approximately 70 million tires, most recycled for use as fuel or in products such as welcome mats, athletic fields and railroad ties, and in rubber-asphalt mixes for highways. At the facility, waste tires are shredded and processed to produce crumb rubber. The shredded rubber is frozen with liquid nitrogen, then shattered into crumbs as fine as talcum powder.

In May, 2007 the Committee and RMC hosted a Pennsylvania Recycled Tire Economic Development Forum. The forum promoted the development of recycled tire markets in Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic region. End users, processors, suppliers, business consultants and agency representatives were in attendance.

The Committee's efforts in the past have helped raise awareness and visibility of the state's waste tire market development programs. The Committee is continuing its discussions and work on waste tire recycling issues in 2008.

Recycled Glass

Each year, recyclers collect and process thousands of tons of container-glass for use in the manufacture of new glass containers. In the process, some of the collected glass becomes broken, color-mixed, or otherwise contaminated and cannot be used in container manufacturing.

The Committee and RMC met to discuss the challenges of recycling glass in Pennsylvania. The main focus of discussions was developing markets for such glass, including applications for recycled glass as an aggregate.

Information gathered at the meeting suggests that one important consideration is the desired quality of the processed glass aggregate. Industrial applications require materials to meet strict standards of size, angularity and purity. Glass pul-

verization systems specifically designed to produce glass cullet that meet strict grading requirements should be used to avoid such problems. However, systems capable of producing cullet of this quality typically require substantial capital investment.

Over the course of 2008, the Committee will continue to examine issues related to glass recycling, particularly those relating to market development.

ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION

Federal Reauthorization/Switchgrass

Abandoned mine lands (AML) impact some 184,000 acres of land in 44 counties of Pennsylvania. More than 4,800 stream miles in Pennsylvania are biologically dead because of abandoned mine drainage. Approximately 1.4 million Pennsylvanians live within one mile of an abandoned mine land site. Pennsylvania has the most abandoned mine sites in the nation. The reclamation costs to reclaim priority AML are estimated at 1.5 billion dollars.

Since its creation in 1967, the Committee has been involved with mining issues, specifically the Commonwealth's reclamation of abandoned mine lands. One of the duties outlined in the Committee's enabling legislation was to conduct continuing studies of mining practices, mining laws, and reclamation of mined lands.

The federal reauthorization of the AML Fund will mean a significant increase in funding in Pennsylvania to reclaim abandoned mine lands. At a Committee Environmental Issues Forum, plans for the use of the funding were discussed by DEP's Deputy Secretary of Mineral Resources Management, the Director of DEP's Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, and the Administrator of the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program.

Finding alternative uses for excess manure and reclaiming Pennsylvania's abandoned mine lands are two significant problems facing rural areas of the Commonwealth. Committee members, legislators and staff made an on-site visit to an experimental project on mine reclamation land in Hegins Township, Schuylkill County. The Pennsylvania Environmental Council is managing a project that allows mid-state farmers to send poultry manure to Schuylkill County mine fields needing nutrients. The restored mining area will be used to grow switchgrass for fuel. In addition, switchgrass also has a value for its carbon sequestration credits.

FUTURE COMMITTEE PROJECTS

The Committee will continue to identify environmental issues for the General Assembly's attention. Activities range from information sharing and discussion to symposiums or public hearings.

Governor's Executive Order 2008-02 established the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force that will study not only funding options but also alternate measures, like conservation and water re-use that may reduce the need for capital upgrades. Principals from the Committee's Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force and the governor's task force have met and are planning ways to work together while still accomplishing their individual missions.

The Committee will continue to work on issues related to e-waste recycling and prescribed burning. The Committee will also continue to invite experts to Harrisburg to speak at its Environmental Issues Forums.

In addition to the activities of the Committee itself, Committee staff works on various special projects and outreach activities on an ongoing basis. In consultation with Committee members, Committee staff attends local, state and federal policy forums, including the Pennsylvania Hardwoods Development Council, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and other environmental events.

The Committee looks forward to working closely with the General Assembly on these and other important environmental issues during 2008.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

January 23, 2007 – The Committee toured the Edge Rubber facility in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. Edge Rubber is the longest running facility producing fine and ultra fine rubber powders in the United States. Afterwards the Committee toured Zartman Farms Cow Comfort Systems which produces rubber cow mattresses and other rubber-based flooring products.

January 26, 2007 – Committee staff met with representatives of the Pittsburgh-based Regional Water Management Task Force to discuss its approach to management of water resources in southwestern Pennsylvania.

February 8, 2007 – Pursuant to House Resolution 88, the Legislative Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force and Advisory Committee met in State

College, Pennsylvania. The meeting focused on finding solutions to Pennsylvania's wastewater system needs, including new funding options on the federal and state level. Afterwards, members toured the University Area Joint Authority Sewage Treatment facility.

February 27, 2007 – The Committee traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with members of Congress and their staff to generate support for the national “Petroleum Sesquicentennial Commemoration Act.” The bill would establish a commission to assist in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the discovery of oil at Drake Well near Titusville, Pennsylvania.

March 1, 2007 – The Committee and RMC co-sponsored a meeting to discuss the challenges of recycling glass in Pennsylvania. One important consideration is the desired quality of the processed glass aggregate. Industrial applications require materials to meet strict standards of size, angularity, and purity.

March 12, 2007 – The Environmental Issues Forum featured Ms. Terry Miller, director of the University of Pittsburgh Institute of Politics, and Mr. D. Tyler Gourley, project manager for the Regional Water Management Task Force, who discussed the task force's 11-county effort to improve regional cooperation in addressing southwestern Pennsylvania's water and sewer challenges.

March 19, 2007 – The Committee traveled to Braddock, Allegheny County to tour the Liberty Tire Recycling facility. At the facility, waste tires are shredded and processed to produce crumb rubber.

April 16, 2007 – The Earth Day Environmental Issues Forum featured Ms. Julia Marano, executive director of the KPB Alliance, discussing KPB's efforts to prevent and clean up litter, stop illegal dumping and improve Pennsylvania's roadside aesthetics.

April 24, 2007 – In an effort to promote the use of prescribed fires as a forest management tool, the Committee conducted a roundtable discussion and input session. The purpose of the meeting was to initiate a discussion among various stakeholders to assess current challenges and discuss future directions for prescribed burning in Pennsylvania.

April 26, 2007 – Pursuant to Senate Resolution 137 the Legislative Forestry Task Force and Advisory Committee met in State College, Pennsylvania. The topics for discussion were the impact of timber harvesting ordinances on private forest landowners and the impact of government land acquisition strategies on forest landowners.

May 21, 2007 – The topic of the Committee’s Environmental Issues Forum was the federal reauthorization of the Abandoned Mine Land Fund which could mean a significant increase in funding in Pennsylvania to reclaim abandoned mine lands. A panel of presenters representing DEP and the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program discussed plans for the use of the funding in Pennsylvania.

May 21, 2007 – The Committee along with RMC hosted the Pennsylvania Recycled Tire Economic Development Forum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The forum promoted the development of recycled tire markets in Pennsylvania and the mid-Atlantic region. End users, processors, suppliers, business consultants, and agency representatives were in attendance.

June 11, 2007 – The Environmental Issues Forum featured Mr. John Quigley, director of Legislation and Strategic Initiatives for DCNR. Mr. Quigley discussed the future of the use of carbon sequestration in Pennsylvania and DCNR’s potential role in its use.

June 21, 2007 – The Legislative Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force and Advisory Committee met in State College, Pennsylvania to analyze issues related to cost-effective and sustainable investment in the state’s water and sewer infrastructure.

June 27, 2007 – A special organizational meeting of the Committee was held to elect officers for the 2007-2008 legislative session. Representative Scott E. Hutchinson was elected Chairman, and Senator Raphael J. Musto was elected Vice-Chairman.

June 28, 2007 – The Committee attended a KPB Alliance and PennDOT sponsored Pennsylvania Roadside Aesthetics Workshop in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. The focus of the workshop was on the new “Sponsor-A-Landscape” program similar to PennDOT’s Sponsor-A-Highway program.

July 31, 2007 – As a follow-up to the Committee’s November, 2006 public hearing on the Kilbuck Township landslide, the Committee attended a DEP public hearing in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania regarding the proposed stabilization plan designed to remediate the landslide-prone River Pointe Plaza parcel.

August 20, 2007 – The Committee hosted a roundtable discussion with various forestry stakeholders to promote the exchange of information, techniques, and experiences of the Pennsylvania prescribed fire community.

September 12-13, 2007 – The Committee attended the third annual “Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Roadside Aesthetics Summit and Workshop” in Harrisburg,

Pennsylvania. The summit, cosponsored by the Committee, examined roadside aesthetics in Pennsylvania.

September 24, 2007 – The Environmental Issues Forum featured DEP’s Bureau of Waste Management Environmental Engineer Mr. Stephen Bartos. Mr. Bartos discussed the public-private partnership between state government, environmental organizations, community groups and businesses that have joined forces to clean up illegal dumpsites in the Commonwealth.

October 2, 2007 – Committee staff met with representatives of KPB and PROP to discuss rural waste collection systems in Pennsylvania. Disposing of municipal solid waste in an irresponsible way not only reduces the aesthetic appeal of a community, but it can also cause damage to the area, impacting local water quality.

October 4, 2007 – The Committee held a public hearing in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania to discuss current e-waste recycling proposals in Pennsylvania. The purpose of the hearing was to collect information on e-waste recycling programs in other states.

October 15, 2007 – The Environmental Issues Forum featured a presentation by Mr. Brian Hill, president and CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, on the “Climate Roadmap for Pennsylvania”, and the benefits of home energy conservation efforts.

October 25, 2007 – The Legislative Sewage Management and Treatment Task Force and Advisory Committee met in State College, Pennsylvania. The meeting focused on the work of the Regional Water Management Task Force.

October 29, 2007 – The Committee hosted a roundtable discussion with forestry stakeholders to discuss prescribed fire as a management tool in Pennsylvania.

November 1, 2007 – The Committee made an on-site visit to an experimental project on mine reclamation land in Hegins Township, Schuylkill County. Pennsylvania Environmental Council staff conducted the tour and provided valuable information.

November 15, 2007 – The Committee met with officials from KPB, PROP and other key individuals and organizations, to continue to examine the issue of rural waste collection systems in Pennsylvania.

November 19, 2007 – The Environmental Issues Forum featured Mr. Michael Smith, the president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Pittsburgh. Mr. Smith de-

scribed the unique partnership that Goodwill Industries has formed to deal with the problem of e-waste in western Pennsylvania.

December 5, 2007 – The Committee released its report, “Report of the Forestry Task Force”, pursuant to Senate Resolution 137 of 2005. The report contained 20 recommendations regarding Pennsylvania’s forest resource.

December 11, 2007 – The Committee and RMC cosponsored a Recycled Electronics Economic Development Forum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the forum was to bring together electronic stakeholders to share perspectives about opportunities to increase both the recovery and economic activity from electronic waste recycling.

COMMITTEE LIBRARY

The Committee maintains an extensive, publicly available reference library of environmental and legal materials. A valuable resource on environmental protection, the library holds over 1,200 publications, many of which are unavailable elsewhere. The library holds materials that Committee staff uses for their research, as well as material useful to the public.

COMMITTEE WEBSITE

If a tree falling unheard in the forest makes no sound, then a story unread might just as well not have been written. Key to the Committee’s impact is our ability to take the research and make it available to everyone. When established in 1967, the Committee’s principal publishing tool was print; today it is the Internet. We invite everyone to visit our website (<http://jcc.legis.state.pa.us>) to see the Committee’s brand of in-depth, long-term and non-partisan research and reporting.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FORUMS

The Committee seeks to provide timely and interesting information on a variety of environmental topics. One way in which the Committee accomplishes this is through its Environmental Issues Forums. The forums are public informational sessions at which prominent guest speakers present information on topics of interest related to the Committee’s mission.

Forum programs are open to the public and are intended to reach a wide audience. Participants in the forums include policy makers, scholars and business and community leaders. Forum topics are as diverse as the speakers themselves, and include everything from carbon sequestration to roadside aesthetics.

The forums are held on legislative session days and are normally conducted once a month in those months in which the General Assembly is in voting session. Please check the Committee's website for upcoming forums, or contact the Committee office for information.

COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Environmental Synopsis

For the past 29 years, the Committee has published the **Environmental Synopsis**, which richly deserves its reputation as a preeminent environmental newsletter in Pennsylvania. The newsletter covers state, national, and international environmental issues. Articles covered in 2007 included a diversity of topics ranging from supermarkets warning shoppers about mercury in seafood to the environmental benefit of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

The **Environmental Synopsis** is distributed to all members of the General Assembly and to more than 400 other recipients including business and industry, environmental organizations, government agencies, colleges and universities and citizens.

Over the years, the Environmental Synopsis has been expanded significantly to include photographs, and research information, and readers have expressed gratification for the quality and content of each monthly issue. The **Environmental Synopsis** is part of the Committee's ongoing effort to provide its members with timely information on upcoming events, reports on events that have recently concluded, and other interesting features. Information in the synopsis does not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Committee or the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

The **Environmental Synopsis** is available in hard copy or in an electronic version, as well as on the Committee's website. Please contact the Committee office if you wish to be included on either the hard copy or electronic mailing list. Back issues are available upon request.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Committee has a library of more than 60 reports its staff has researched and prepared on a variety of environmental issues. They include:

1. Comprehensive Review of the Water Pollution Enforcement Program, 1970.
2. Comprehensive Review of the Municipal Solid Waste Management, 1975.
3. Integrated Flood Management: A Pennsylvania Perspective, 1981.
4. Public Utility Commission Regulation of Water Supply Systems, 1982.
5. Research Monograph: Safe Drinking Water Act, April, 1983.
6. Coal Reclamation Report: Part I. Remining Previously Affected Areas, 1984.
7. Coal Reclamation Report: Part II. General Reclamation Program, 1984.
8. Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal: A Special Briefing on the Proposed Appalachian Compact, 1985.
9. Research Monograph: Pennsylvania Hazardous Waste Treatment and Disposal Facility Siting Criteria, September/October, 1985.
10. House Resolution No. 6, Land Application of Sewage Sludge: Part I: Administrative Issues, 1986.
11. House Resolution No. 6, Land Application of Sewage Sludge: Part II: Technical Criteria, 1986.
12. Research Monograph: Protecting Water Quality With Well Construction And Location Standards, May/June, 1986.
13. Research Monograph: Resource Recovery: An Examination Of Current Technologies, Environmental Factors, And State Air Emission Standards, October, 1986.
14. Pennsylvania's Water and Sewerage Infrastructure Needs, 1987.
15. Research Monograph: The Safe Drinking Water Amendments of 1986, February/March, 1987.
16. Research Monograph: The State Role In The New Federal Superfund Program, May/June, 1987.
17. A Review of the Pennsylvania Oil and Gas Act, Act 223 of 1984, as amended, 1988.
18. Pennsylvania State Parks, 1989.
19. Watershed Protection and Senate Bill 1012 of the Session of 1989, 1990.
20. The Use and Regulation of Roadside Springs in Pennsylvania, 1990.

21. Research Monograph: Endangered Funds For Species of Special Concern: A Review Of Pennsylvania's Wild Resource Conservation Act, May, 1990.
22. Research Monograph: Urban Storm Water Management, May, 1991.
23. Septage Management and Disposal in Pennsylvania, July, 1991.
24. A Review of PENNVEST - The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority Program, 1991.
25. Water Resources Management in Pennsylvania, 1992.
26. 1991 Annual Report, January, 1992.
27. Research Monograph: The Recycling and Regulation of Used Oil, February, 1992.
28. The Use of Geothermal Heating and Cooling Systems in Pennsylvania, 1992.
29. Research Monograph: Using Employer Trip Reduction Programs to Improve Air Quality, December, 1992.
30. 1992 Annual Report, January, 1993.
31. Special Report on the 1993 Water Resources Management Conference, 1993.
32. Research Monograph: Recycling Residential Graywater for Other Uses, August, 1993.
33. Report on the hearings held on Forest Resources Management, 1994.
34. 1993 Annual Report, January, 1994.
35. Research Monograph: An Assessment of Unit Pricing for Municipal Solid Waste, September, 1994.
36. 1994 Annual Report, January, 1995.
37. Research Monograph: Entrance Fees: A Supplemental Resource for State Parks, April, 1995.
38. 1995 Annual Report, February, 1996.
39. 1996 Annual Report, February, 1997.
40. Forestry Issues For Pennsylvania: Report of the Forestry Task Force Pursuant to House Resolution 263, March, 1997.
41. Pennsylvania's Environment and the Future of Independent Power Producers, March, 1997.
42. 1997 Annual Report, February, 1998.
43. Pennsylvania's Heritage Parks Program, March, 1998.

44. Report of the Forestry Task Force Pursuant to Senate Resolution 29, January, 1999.
45. 1998 Annual Report, February, 1999.
46. Report on the Infiltration of Water into Sewage Treatment Systems Pursuant to House Resolution 376 of 1998, October, 1999.
47. 1999 Annual Report, February, 2000.
48. Report on Water Quality Credits and Trading Pursuant to House Resolution 361 of 2000, 2001.
49. 2000 Annual Report, March, 2001.
50. Report of the Forestry Task Force Pursuant to House Resolution 13 of 1999, June, 2001.
51. Report on Combined Sewer Overflows in Pennsylvania, November, 2001.
52. Infiltration and Inflow: Report of the Infiltration Task Force, February, 2002.
53. 2001 Annual Report, February, 2002.
54. Green Paper: Arsenic in Pressure-Treated Wood, April, 2002.
55. Green Paper: Fuel Cell Technology, July, 2002.
56. 2002 Annual Report, March, 2003.
57. Green Paper: Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention, March, 2003.
58. Report of the Forestry Task Force Pursuant to Senate Resolution 81 of 2001, April, 2003.
59. Report on A Proposed Moratorium on the Use of Fly Ash in Mine Reclamation Projects, February, 2004.
60. 2003 Annual Report, February, 2004.
61. 2004 Annual Report, February, 2005.
62. Report of the Forestry Task Force Pursuant to House Resolution 256 of 2003, June, 2005.
63. Oil and Gas Leasing Activities on Commonwealth-Owned Lands, Pursuant to House Resolution 394 of 2003, January, 2006.
64. 2005 Annual Report, March, 2006.
65. 2006 Annual Report, March, 2007.
66. Report of the Forestry Task Force Pursuant to Senate Resolution 137 of 2005, December, 2007.