

To the Editor:

As the current officers and immediate past presidents of Lake Carey's Association of residents and property owners, we have proposed to the Supervisors of Tunkhannock and Lemon townships a course of action to end the present impasse waste water planning at the lake has reached.

Previous work updating the townships' Act 537 plan we believe was marred by a lack of representation in the planning process of the residents most affected, the previous consultant's lack of experience with problems of waste water management in lake watersheds, a poorly executed needs assessment conducted at the end not the beginning of the planning process, a failure to address residents' understandable concerns about development, and a long-standing failure to effectively regulate on lot systems in the lake's watershed.

We have therefore urged the Supervisors to act promptly on the following 6 recommendations:

1. Act 537 Planning should be resumed.
2. Planning responsibility should be vested in a Planning Group consisting of one supervisor from each Township and at least one representative of the Lake Carey Welfare Association.
3. A consultant should be hired with substantial experience in all forms of waste water treatment and their combinations: septic management programs, small and large on-lot cluster systems, land applications, and central sewers. The consultant should be experienced with and sensitive to the special problems to be encountered in waste water treatment at residential lakes. (The Association can provide a list of consultants with these qualifications.)
4. A valid needs assessment should be completed before evaluating the waste water treatment options and developing a well-reasoned recommendation. (The Association can assist in conducting this assessment.)
5. A land use ordinance for both townships as recommended in the 2005 North-Central Wyoming County Comprehensive Plan should be adopted after an informational campaign and presentation at public meetings in both townships. (The 2003 survey of Tunkhannock and Lemon residents on which the Plan was based revealed majority support in each for ordinances controlling development even before the growth of the gas and related industries placed traditional patterns of land use at risk.)
6. Until the planning has been completed and the recommendations for waste water are implemented, the townships should vigorously enforce existing regulations governing on-lot systems to minimize the impact of failed or failing disposal systems and to document treatment needs.

We believe that action on these recommendations will result in planning that effectively addresses the needs of Lake Carey and fosters widespread support for the process and its outcomes.

We are grateful to the supervisors at both townships for their genuine efforts to respond to the lake's needs and look forward to working with them on renewed Act 537 planning.

Sincerely,

Walter Broughton, President (Past President, 2005-07)

Edward Hetzel, Vice President (Past President, 1993-1997)

Virginia Tinner, Secretary

Louis Bierly, Treasurer

Alan and Trisha Thatcher (Co-Presidents, 2007-10)

David Rinehimer, (Past President, 2001-05)