

Initial Public Meetings Visioning Session Results  
July 2005

These are the views expressed by individuals attending the public meetings and do not represent the views of Western Pennsylvania Conservancy or the Red Bank Creek Watershed Conservation Plan Steering Committee.

**Protection:**

- (34) Outdoor recreation including – hiking, canoeing, fishing, camping, and hunting
- (20) Being able to own land and being able to do what you want, unzoned, undeveloped areas – landowner freedom
- (14) Resources are available to support yourself, such as gas and timber
- (11) Wide diversity of wildlife and wildlife at your doorstep
- (10) Environmental quality, such as clean water, low noise, clean air, etc.
- (9) Natural beauty, rural area, natural surrounding, and solitude
- (9) Not overcrowded, no traffic, no long waits in line, etc.
- (8) Forested areas
- (8) Local history, including historical structures and places
- (7) Low taxes
- (5) Not far away from wilderness and close proximity to state parks
- (3) Family and ancestors were here
- (2) Good education opportunities
- (1) Healthy and safe environment to raise a family; low crime
- (1) Community pride and orientation
- (0) Close to urban areas for culture
- (0) Climate
- (0) Ease of east-west (interstate) travel

**Improvements:**

- (27) Improvement of existing infrastructure and new infrastructure is needed for businesses to come into the area. Improve infrastructure, including local water, sewage, internet, direct link access from I-80.
- (21) Increase community awareness about watersheds, conservation, AMD, and other issues and increase funding available for environmental education. Educate the public about what we have and conserving it.
- (21) Redesign dam in New Bethlehem to include adjustable gates
- (19) Increase accessible recreational facilities, such as specifically designated trails for ATVs, hiking, biking, and horseback riding; parks, facilities, and activities for kids, etc.
- (14) Increase inter-municipal cooperation and agreements
- (14) Canoe access improvements and designated camping areas along streams
- (14) Dredging of creek needed for flooding and recreation
- (9) Treat abandoned mine drainage and unreclaimed abandoned mine lands

- (9) Increase the number of good-quality jobs and diversify the types of jobs in the area so they are not all tourism based
- (8) Encourage industry to move in
- (7) Need for planning – there is no county-wide planning and currently planning is reactionary. Lack of zoning and regulation. Reluctance to change and plan for growth.
- (6) Establish more awareness of impacts businesses coming in have on local communities, streams, groundwater, and their effects downstream
- (6) “Townners” – Illegal dumping, town mentality, out of sight, out of mind
- (6) Educate government officials
- (5) Sewage improvements in urban areas
- (5) Keep ATVs off riparian and public areas and increase awareness of why they are being kept off these areas
- (4) Increase assistance to agricultural community for technical assistance and money for best management practices
- (3) Improved forest management
- (3) Establish a water trail to get landowners involved and generate interest, and to delineate access points and danger points
- (3) Repair riparian corridors
- (3) Increase involvement at school level
- (3) Increase community involvement and volunteerism
- (3) Better communication between municipalities and counties, such as flooding notification. Eliminate the mentality that each community is separate.
- (2) Motivate people not to be apathetic
- (2) Reclaim unreclaimed mines
- (2) Improve cost-effective on-lot sewage options
- (2) Locally controlled zoning in urban areas
- (1) Better utilization of Alcoa Park and upgrade equipment
- (1) Need for winter recreation activities (Dec-Apr), such as an area for snowmobile use
- (1) Downtown revitalization is needed to restore storefronts
- (1) Need for historical preservation
- (0) Rural road improvements; dirt from gravel roads ends up in streams
- (0) Travel north-west – there is no easy route
- (0) Repair failing on-lot septic systems
- (0) Increase fire protection

### **Future Visions:**

- (15) Preservation of railroad corridors, including Rails to Trails
- (12) Clean up water and get rid of sewage problem
- (10) Lessen power of environmental agencies, including Department of Environmental Protection, and be less restrictive to agriculture
- (9) Eliminate township supervisors’ ability to legislate
- (7) Establish a go-between for the community and Department of Environmental Protection

- (6) More participation in recycling, servicing by provider (emptying the bins), and education about what can be recycled is needed
- (5) Decrease the amount of low-income housing
- (5) Encourage local communities and governments to work better together
- (4) Tree cover on reclaimed strip mines, flooding, other benefits
- (4) Better enforcement of sediment and erosion controls and point source discharges
- (3) Conserve natural resources we have
- (3) Better regulations and management of pollution from runoff, including industrial commercial, residential, salt piles, and truck stops, is needed
- (3) Establish more agricultural best management practices, such as manure storage and conservation easements
- (2) Specific recreational use areas and access including boat launches and trailheads, etc.
- (2) Improve water quality of entire Red Bank Creek watershed to reach the water quality that North Fork currently has
- (2) Better connection between taxes and availability of services
- (2) Increase tipping fees to get more money
- (1) More environmentally sound infrastructure and businesses are needed
- (1) Consider soil type and quality in planning and development
- (1) Establish better government oversight on gas well exploration the impacts and interests
- (1) Establish an evening place for teens to gather
- (1) Establish more, affordable local cultural activities, such as plays, concerts, etc., for everyone (variety)
- (1) More accessible library hours
- (1) Having a watershed no longer being impacted by abandoned mine drainage
- (0) Responsible zoning is needed to protect agricultural and other lands
- (0) Future transportation improvements
- (0) Establish plans to control hazardous spills
- (0) Reasonable balance between people's interests and wildlife protection

**Other things to include in the plan:**

- (8) Cultural, historic, and prehistoric resources
- (5) How to get funding for different projects, reclamation, etc. and make it fair
- (2) Don't want unreasonable development restrictions, such as dredging, sidewalks, access, etc.
- (1) AMD issues
- (1) More power to clean up, get support, and address land ownership issues
- (0) Flood control