

*Connoquenessing Public Meeting Results-Combined*

**1. What do you like most about living in the area? What are the positive things about the watershed?**

- | <u>Reply</u>   | <u>(# of votes)</u> |
|--|---------------------|
| - Rural characteristics of the small town environment and the privacy it provides  | (43)                |
| - Variety of recreational opportunities including state and local parks that host different activities at each park  | (33)                |
| - Natural Resources, including the diversity of the stream, the beauty of waterways, and the scenery   | (27)                |
| - Good wildlife with rebounding bird populations   | (21)                |
| - Kayaking and canoeing along the Connoquenessing and its tributaries; the development of the water trail; the last five miles are excellent for rafting             | (17)                |
| - Interconnected trail systems with rail trails, walking trails, and bike paths.   | (13)                |
| - Organizations are involved in conservation; annual trash cleanups are held   | (9)                 |
| - Connoquenessing Creek is cleaner than in the past  | (9)                 |
| - There is community support of local initiatives and good local government<br>Municipal supervisors are concerned about the area and consider impacts before acting | (8)                 |
| - Good mix of land uses (Little Connoquenessing watershed is 55% forested)   | (8)                 |
| - Price of land  | (7)                 |
| - Air quality is better than city  | (6)                 |
| - Agriculture is a viable industry   | (6)                 |
| - Recreation value of the stream and the awareness of the value  | (6)                 |
| - History of the area is a resource, and is being highlighted and supported such as the Washington trail   | (6)                 |
| - Good commercial/retail activities and in certain areas industry is growing   | (4)                 |
| - Riparian zones are mostly intact and there is an increased effort of restoring riparian corridors (CREP)   | (3)                 |
| - Lots of possibility for change in the region   | (2)                 |
| - Good transportation  | (2)                 |
| - Mercer Street Bridge project- lessons used, recognizing the community as the driving force towards the bridge design   | (1)                 |
| - Agricultural preservation (added after voting)   |                     |
| - Rivers of Steel Heritage Area –in the process of adding Butler County to the region (added after voting)   |                     |
| - Drinking water source (added after voting)   |                     |

**2. If you could change something about the area, what would you like to change and why? What improvements are needed?**

- | <u>Reply</u>  | <u>(# of votes)</u> |
|---|---------------------|
| - Illegal dumping, and junk cars; need stronger ordinances and enforcement; there is litter in stream corridors mostly coming from specific areas | (20)                |
| - Industrial pollution and the reduction of industrial waste  | (18)                |
| - Flood control – improve flood retention by controlling development and eliminate encroachment into floodplains                                  | (17)                |

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- More funding, volunteers, and large dumpsters are needed for cleanup, as well as cooperation from the community (17)
- A need for more focus and education on waterways with stormwater affecting streams and the water trail that is being established (15)
- Wetland destruction – need wetlands restoration (15)
- Better, quicker alert to flooding; localized flood warning system (13)
- Debris from Hurricane Ivan and other sources needs to be removed to prevent damage, in addition to eyesores; financial incentives are needed (13)
- Better septic and sewage control; extension of sewage systems by municipality rather than small development systems (12)
- Flooding (12)
- Joint municipal entity efforts, working together for betterment of creek (11)
- Lack of communication between municipalities (10)
- Improper dirt and gravel road management - berming and dumping into the creek (9)
- Provide more stream access (9)
- Teach conservation earlier and as students get older; keep it interesting; try to get away from the “what is in it for me” mentality; also educate adults and parents to be role models for their children (7)
- Sewage overflows into streams; establish detention ponds for sewage waste as a back up when systems malfunction (7)
- Riparian tree plantings; better streamside vegetation (7)
- Instill recycling as an important community activity; have recycling bins available at community events and encourage churches to get involved; improve the process by creating incentives to increase recycling such as pay per bag, rebates, and incentives for small business; explain Act 220 and the incentives to municipalities; better marketing of incentives to the general public (6)
- Need more pride in local environment (6)
- Creek silted in, needs dredged (5)
- Clean the entire length of Breakneck Creek (5)
- Address the growing drug problem (5)
- Need conservation policing – someone to enforce existing ordinances (5)
- Power line spraying – herbicide (5)
- Fishing debris, more responsibility (4)
- Siltation and sediment in area streams (4)
- Higher level of municipal involvement (4)
- ATV illegal use and trespassing (4)
- Provide recreation opportunities as area grows and increase funding (4)
- Continue improving water quality (3)
- Better oversight of municipal budgeting (3)
- Impacts from incinerator in East Liverpool, seems to be a lack in reptile and amphibians since the incinerator was established; needs a study (3)
- Improve streams to meet designated use (3)
- More finances and commitment to state routes (2)
- Identify and provide resources to protect critical habitats (2)
- Continue school environmental programs encouraging hands on education (1)

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- More activities related to youth interest and more advertising or marketing of these activities (added after voting)
- Connoquenessing Creek and Breakneck Creek have filled with debris after flooding (added after voting)
- Be progressive with maintaining history (added after voting)
- Less development (added after voting)
- Better zoning protection in Jackson Township (added after voting)
- Municipal land development planning (added after voting)
- Resources protected (added after voting)
- Railroads; maintain culverts and corridors, etc. (added after voting)
- Revitalize existing infrastructure; use abandoned buildings for new business as opposed to developing green areas (added after voting)
- Reduce E-coli in Breakneck Creek (added after voting)
- Improve impaired stream segments and identify solutions (added after voting)
- Soil conservation (added after voting)

**3. What would you like to see for the future of the watershed in five, ten, twenty, or fifty years?**

- | <u>Reply</u>  | <u>(# of votes)</u> |
|---|---------------------|
| - Permanent public access to stream corridor  | (19)                |
| - Watershed-based environmental advisory council or councils of government  | (18)                |
| - Proper dredging   | (17)                |
| - Local municipalities to take into account impacts to the watershed and streams when considering development projects                          | (15)                |
| - Improve stream sides, increasing attractiveness for new businesses  | (14)                |
| - Establish creek side paths; Pullman Park to rail trail along streams; lighted paths for night use   | (13)                |
| - Removal of the dam at Hartman Road for boating and fish passage, or establish a portage around the dam  | (12)                |
| - Expand public sewage, using alternative methods in rural areas  | (11)                |
| - Remove repetitively flooded structures from floodplain; repetitive loss program—purchasing of frequently flooded properties in the floodplain | (9)                 |
| - Disaster plan for railroad along river  | (8)                 |
| - Education of youth about the local environment; Butler Jr. High as an example, but spread throughout watershed                                | (8)                 |
| - Better in-stream habitat  | (7)                 |
| - Smart Growth Plan needs developed and enacted   | (7)                 |
| - Restore and improve areas in the city, such as the south side viaduct   | (7)                 |
| - Control invasive species  | (7)                 |
| - Increase programs educating residents about the watershed, both school programs and community programs for adults                             | (7)                 |
| - Stream corridors preserved as is  | (7)                 |
| - Watershed to stay in present condition  | (6)                 |
| - Re-erecting dam   | (6)                 |
| - More flexible/less costly projects for Army Corps of Engineers involvement  | (3)                 |

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- More balanced transportation including public service and state roads (3)
- Better and updated information and studies from FEMA about the floodplain (3)
- More water in the stream for recreation (3)
- Name-the-Tributary program to enhance local awareness (3)
- Adopt-a-Highway section expanded (2)
- Municipal drop-off day (2)
- Open access at Rock Point (1)
- Dam at Hartman Road: establish hydro-electric power to provide alternative energy for the region (1)
- Increased recreational use and appreciation of natural resources (added after voting)
- Less “flashy” character when it rains (added after voting)
- More cooperation and responsibility from railroad companies (added after voting)
- More authority to Fish and Boat Commission officers for litter, increase fines (added after voting)
- Less development (added after voting)
- Economic stability (added after voting)
- Good quantity of clean air and water (added after voting)
- Better drinkable water quality (added after voting)