

**TESTIMONY OF MOLLY ROBERTSON  
BEFORE THE  
PA HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH  
HEARING ON CHLORAMINE  
JUNE 17, 2010**

The EPA has put forth new regulations to reduce the byproducts of Chlorine and one of the approved ways for water companies all over our state to achieve this goal is to switch to Chloramine to disinfect our drinking water. Not only is this the cheapest way to reduce these byproducts but it is also the most hazardous to our environment.

My name is Molly Robertson and I and my family live in the borough of Camp Hill. In the fall of 2008 our water company increased the water pressure to our system approximately 25 psi. This increase created havoc throughout our entire community. We had main break after main break, in addition to the main breaks we had repeated lateral line breaks of which many leaked for days and sometimes weeks before the water company was able to repair them. As I followed these breaks what I witnessed was the water companys inability to control and contain the thousands of gallons of water that was flowing directly into our creeks, steams and watersheds. At many of these breaks it took the water company HOURS before they could even turn off the water because the turn off valves were in such poor condition. Also in many of these cases as they would repair the break and turn the water back on it would break again a few feet down resulting in the water company having to replace entire blocks of water main.

Our community is in the middle of several watersheds, Conodoguinet, Yellow Breeches, and Cedar Run. As many know Chlorine will kill fish however, Chlorine also will evaporate/dissipate from the water when the air hits it. At least five major fish kills resulting from main breaks in Chloraminated service areas have been documented. In McLean, Virginia, the spill killed everything down to the earthworms. We can ill afford to jeopardize our states water ways such as the Yellow Breeches which is a nationally known for its fly-fishing and a source of tourist revenue for our area.

# Cumberland County Comprehensive Plan - Camp Hill -

1 inch = 1,000 feet  
0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

## Legend

- Major Roads
- Railroads
- Streams
- Stream Corridor
- Wetlands
- Slope > 25%
- 100 Year Floodplair
- Watersheds
- Water
- Parcels
- Municipal Boundaries



*23 months after  
pressure increase  
64 Breaks*

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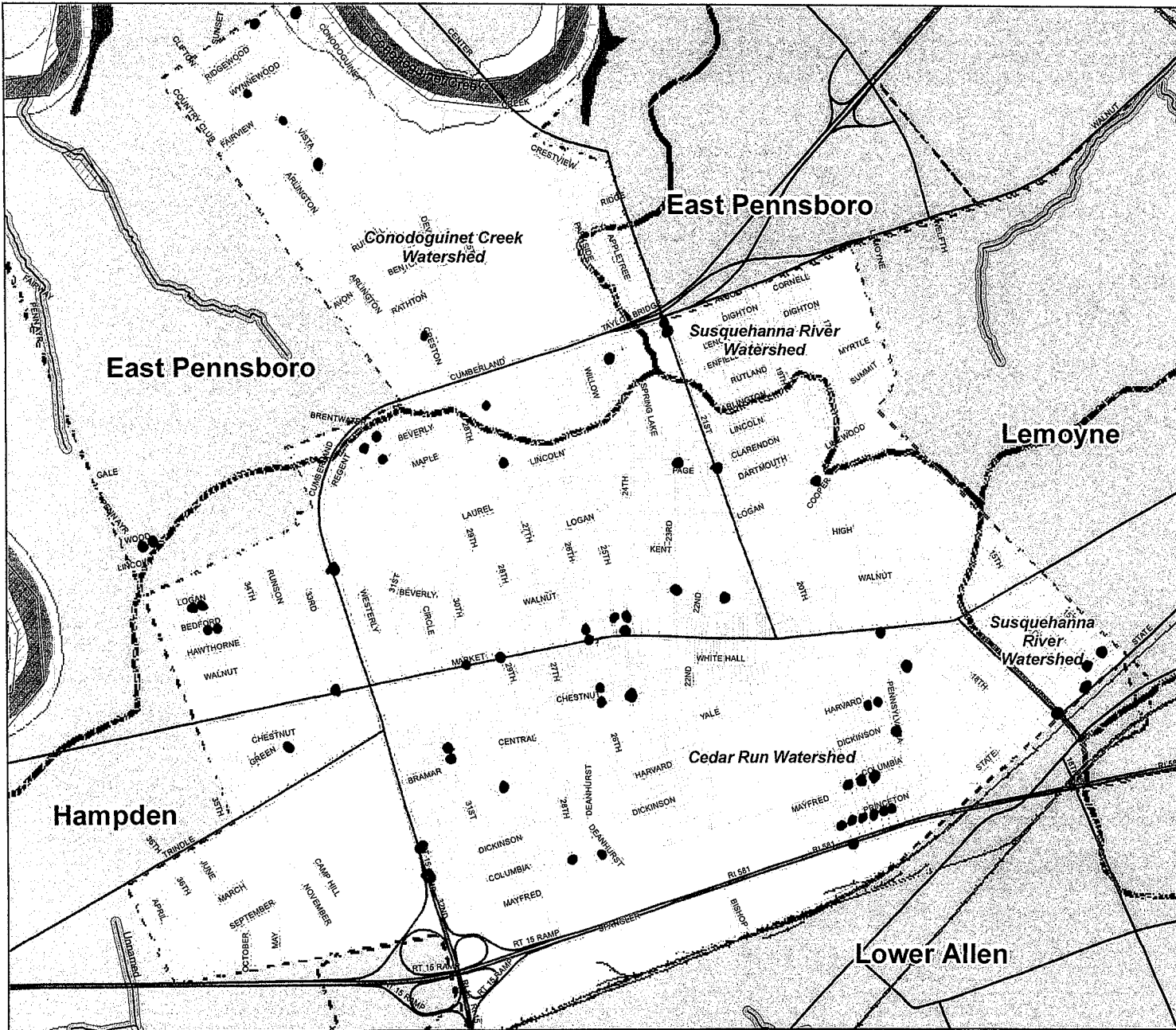
*32 months prior  
to INCREASE  
36 Breaks*

Data Derived from Cumberland County GIS - March 13, 2007

## Cumberland County Inset



● = MAIN & LINE BREAKS 8/2008 to 6/2010



**ARRC**  
The ARRO Group, Inc.

**RETTEW**  
We answer to you.

Map B.1.2  
Conservation  
Overlay

Dear Ms. Pickford,

With respect to Pennsylvania American Water Company's addition of chloramines to the public drinking water, please feel free to add and share this statement with anyone you wish.

The Mechanicsburg Area Environmental Club is concerned for the public's health both short term and long term... and for those creatures in our beautiful local waterways that have no voice...have no say in this matter of chloramination ending up in THEIR water.

At least 5 major fish kills have been documented in the U.S.A. and Canada where main breaks in chloraminated service areas ran into creeks and streams killing everything down to the earthworms. In British Columbia 1000 species of salmonids were destroyed as a result of a main break.

**We do not want the same destruction of wildlife to take place here.**

We ask for PAWC to delay the use of chloramines until the effects on the environment and public health can be studied further and appropriate safeguards implemented.

### **The Mechanicsburg Area Environmental Club**

is a grass-roots, non-profit group of citizens, with 125+ members of all ages, who are learning to live more environmentally aware. Members are very aware, concerned and involved in the well being of our land, air, and water, as well as the creatures that inhabit them both locally and globally.

**Paul Garrett**  
**Program coordinator**  
**Mechanicsburg Area Environmental Club**

Conservation  
District  
Programs

Cumberland County Conservation District  
Watershed Program

- Award Winners
- Chesapeake Bay Program
- Dirt & Gravel Roads
- Envirothon
- Erosion Control (Ch 102)
- Golf Tournament
- Nutrient Management Program
- Tree Sale
- Watershed Program

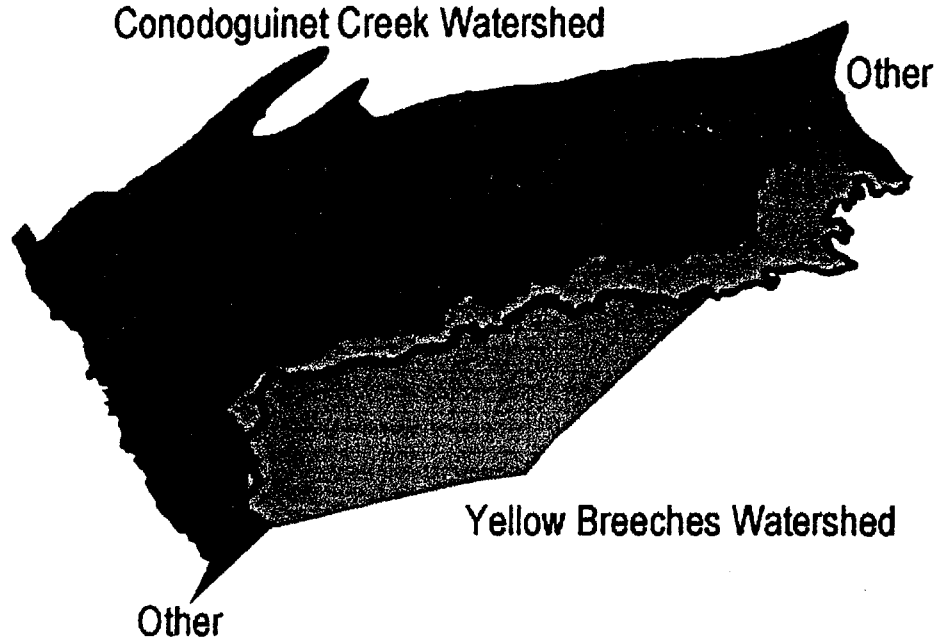
- District Directors
- District Staff
- Directions to Office
- Resources & Services
- Forms
- Links
- Frequently Asked Questions

District Home Page

Cumberland County  
Conservation District  
310 Allen Road, Suite 301  
Carlisle, PA 17013-9101  
717-240-7812  
Fax 717-240-7813  
conserve@pa.net

**What is a watershed?**

A watershed is the land area that drains into a stream, river, or body of water. In Cumberland County, there are two major watersheds, the Conodoguinet and the Yellow Breeches. A small percentage of the county at the eastern boundary drains to the Susquehanna River.



Within each of the major watersheds in the County, there are tributary streams that drain to the Conodoguinet and Yellow Breeches Creeks. These tributaries each have their own watershed. These are considered sub-watersheds of the larger watersheds. If you would like to know what watershed you live in, please call or email the Conservation District.

In July of 2000, the District created a new position to administer watershed related activities in Cumberland County. This position is primarily funded with a grant through Pennsylvania's Growing Greener Program. The Watershed Program in Cumberland County is targeted at administering or assisting with projects that improve the overall quality of our watersheds. These projects can vary from installing agricultural best management practices (BMP's) on farms to planting riparian buffers to assisting local watershed groups with their organization.

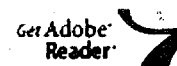
Since the start of the Watershed Program, the District applied for and received six grants totaling over \$675,000 to improve the watersheds of Cumberland County. Four of the grants are for installing BMP's on Cumberland County farms to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution. Below is a list of the grants received and the funding source:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding Program</b>
<u>Burd Run Stream Channel/Riparian Zone &amp; Wetlands Restoration Project</u>	Growing Greener
<u>Agricultural BMP's for TMDL Sub-Watersheds of the Conodoguinet Creek Watershed (pdf)</u>	Section 319 Program
<u>Agricultural BMP's for the Mount Rock Spring Watershed</u>	Growing Greener
<u>Agricultural BMP's for the Bore Mill Run Watershed (pdf)</u>	Growing Greener
<u>Agricultural BMP's for the Bulls Head Branch Watershed (pdf)</u>	Section 319 Program

Rain Barrel Project

PA Chesapeake Bay Educational  
Mini-Project Program

All documents are provided in Adobe Acrobat format.



**Local Watershed Groups**

Big Spring Watershed Association

Conodoguinet Creek Watershed Association

Letort Regional Authority

Middle Spring Watershed Association

Yellow Breeches Watershed Association

**Other Watershed Related Activities**

PA Cleanways of Cumberland County  
Monthly meetings held the third Thursday of every month, 7:00 pm at the District office.

**Funding Source Links**

<http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/growinggreener/site/default.asp>

<http://www.chesapeakebaytrust.org>

<http://www.pawatersheds.org/funding.asp>

If you have any questions about watersheds or the Watershed Program, please contact Adam McClain.