

**Frankford-Tacony Watershed Partnership  
Public Input Notes  
Frankford High School  
October 4, 2000**

## **Comments**

- Frustration was expressed by a resident who has been studying the creek independently and is tired of the blatant pollution of abandoned cars, sewage, etc. He mentioned specific problems such as stagnate water in the golf course that need to be taken care of as soon as possible.
- A teacher emphasized the importance of working with all the parties, even businesses, to bring change.
- A resident reinforced the idea that the problems encompass so much more than the creek itself. Behaviors by homeowners and businesses also impact the health of the creek.
- A representative of the Department of Environmental Protection agreed that agencies tend to focus scientifically by carrying out long-term studies, when the local public might care most about immediate removal of the visual problems.
- Concern was expressed about black sewage seeping out of the ground downstream from the golf course, and the old cemetery that now belongs to Frankford Hospital.
- The Water Department acknowledged that one value of a partnership is the knowledge and support brought by local neighbors who know the area best.
- A representative from the Friends of Tacony Creek said that the city has been negligent for too long. The Friends group is excited to join the partnership because they need a wider interest group that can organize on mutual, focused goals. He encouraged the group to take immediate action rather than get held up with long-term studies and education.

## **Questions**

- The question was raised as to when the agencies started working together. The Water Department explained that the watershed concept is relatively new, and that this meeting was really the kick-off for the Frankford-Tacony Watershed.
- Fear was expressed that pesticides would be used to control for West Nile Disease. The DEP explained that a biological control would be used, not pesticides.

## **Ideas**

- A school teacher spoke about the importance of engaging young people in the issues of water pollution. He suggested that people who feel passionately about the state of the creek come share their concerns in his classroom.
- Frankford Group Ministries offered to give creek tours to students in order to raise awareness about the watershed.
- One individual encouraged the presenters to make information accessible to the general public. She herself was not familiar with all the terminology used.

- Other education already underway includes a watershed lesson plan developed by the Awbury Arboretum and efforts by the Academy of Natural Science to bring science to families in the neighborhood.
- The PA Environmental Council (PEC) explained that the next step is to identify all the stakeholders and create forums for more discussion. PEC will participate as the facilitator, not a stakeholder.