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<i>Dave Kirk</i>	
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The mission of the Conservancy is to promote a better understanding of the Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed and its ecosystems and to protect, restore and enhance the watershed through proper management and watershed stewardship.

President's Message - Peter Wulfhorst

Pike County and the Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed have been the recipient of significant amounts of rainfall and snow over the last 8 months. This has resulted in road closures and repairs for state, township and community roads. The Conservancy is trying to address the issue of stormwater runoff by looking at grant funding to correct these problems. However, in order to achieve this solution, we need to partner with local property owner's associations, Shohola Township, Shohola Fire Department, PennDOT, Pike County Conservation District and others to develop a plan to address this issue. The Conservancy will be coordinating this effort over the next several months. We hope to submit a Growing Greener grant during the next funding

round that will be funded by PA DEP. We look forward to the support of our residents in achieving this goal.

If you care about the water quality of our watershed and want to ensure that it remains healthy and pleasant, then **we need you to become a member of the Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy as well as renew your membership each year.** Membership information is found on page 4 of the newsletter. To become a member, contact me at 570-296-2244 or visit our website at www.twcwc.com. All membership contributions are tax deductible.

Managing Stormwater in Community

Associations - Peter Wulfhorst

As the urbanization of Pike County's landscape continues, residents are increasingly experiencing stormwater related problems. The negative impacts of stormwater run-off include degraded lakes, streams, and wetlands, contaminated drinking water, property and infrastructure damage and even conflicts between neighboring residents. Remedying existing problems as well as lessening the impacts of increased stormwater from future development will continue to present challenges. However, options do exist.

Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy will host a public education program, "Effective Stormwater Management for Community Associations" on **Saturday, June 25** at 10 am at the Walker Lake Clubhouse. John Jose, Watershed Specialist with the Pike County Conservation District, will discuss how land development increases stormwater run-off, the impacts of stormwater, and options for community residents and associations to address both existing as well as potential future stormwater problems as development continues. A discussion session will follow.

Keeping an Eye on Our Lakes - Joyce Laudise

The Conservancy spent \$975.00 for testing in 2004. Volunteers collected water samples in June, July, August and September. The probe was used primarily to record water temperature and dissolved oxygen (DO). Other volunteers recorded secchi disk readings. The samples and the on site data sheets were delivered to FX Browne at Marshalls Creek. Total phosphorus and chlorophyll *a* were tested in their laboratory. Knowing the results for the parameters measured one can calculate a Carlson Trophic State for each lake. FX Browne compiled a report. This report for summer 2004 indicates that the trophic state for all 3 lakes appears to be improving or stabilizing. They point out, however, that there was above normal precipitation in both 2003 and 2004 and the summer of 2004 was a summer of below normal temperatures. They conclude that the decline in the trophic state may be weather driven rather than a permanent improvement. It is the significant variations in trophic state over decades due to human activities that concern us. We can only acquire this data through annual testing. If anyone wishes to read the full report please let a board member know. A copy is on file in the laboratory.

In June, Chet Dawson from Walker Lake and Joyce Laudise from Big Twin Lake met with the sales person for the probe manufacturer in the kitchen of Meg and Derek Warden's home to learn short cuts to calibrating the probe and to learn how to enter data from the probe directly to the conservancy's computer. Unfortunately the probe does not record depth readings and we need to measure several parameters through the water column so we will still have to enter data manually but we did learn a few tricks to calibrating the probe. Some chemicals in the laboratory are outdated and the metal hardware on the Van Dorn bottle that is used to collect samples below the surface shows signs of wear. The Conservancy will need to spend about \$300 to replace the chemicals and purchase a new Van Dorn bottle. It will be less if a handy person can be found to make and replace the hardware on the bottle.

Testing for bacteria was done and paid for by the individual associations as in past years. This testing is done as a safety precaution and will be repeated in 2005. All results indicated the lakes were safe for recreational use throughout the summer. Data for all 3 lakes was added to that collected by Kent State University in Ohio on World Water Monitoring Day in October. We were asked to submit our data by the PA DEP. The information can be used to indicate regional and global trends in water quality. Since the water available to everyone is finite it is a good idea to know as much as we can about the world's supply. This project will tell the tale.

It would not be possible to monitor the lakes without volunteers. The Conservancy Board especially wishes to thank Robin Kadlec from Little Twin Lake, Peg Bruton, John Laudise, Janet Perper, Nancy Eisenhower and Rich Schuster from Big Twin Lake plus Pat and Chet Dawson from Walker Lake.

We are grateful to the Walker Lake Landowners for allowing us to use space at the club house for the laboratory and for allowing us to hold meetings there. As we continue to keep an eye on our lakes we will be asking for donations from the associations to help pay for the 2005 testing and analysis to be done by FX Browne.

Spreading the Word - Joyce Laudise & Dave Kirk

Pike County Conservation District organized a workshop for Community Associations, titled "Community Associations: Planning for the Future" in October 2004. Two of the five presentations were made by T&WCWC board members.

Dave Kirk discussed "The Beginnings of the T&WCW Conservancy and Environmental Monitoring". He mentioned how the Conservancy began with a group of concerned citizens. He briefly discussed the major administrative steps that included (1) defining the boundaries of the watershed, (2) identifying interested stakeholders within those boundaries, (3) holding an exploratory meeting, electing a charter board and writing a constitution and by-laws, (4) signing a promissory contract with the state, (5) preparing a brochure for residents, (6) collecting donations and holding a first general meeting, (7) incorporating, opening a checking account and filing for 501c3 status and lastly (8) filing for a Growing Greener Grant and complying with the monitoring requirements of the Grant. Dave discussed the water quality monitoring process undertaken by the Conservancy including developing a Study Design Manual, training volunteers to do the actual monitoring, purchasing and calibrating equipment and conducting the monitoring. The grant was completed once base line data was obtained and analyzed by an independent laboratory. Volunteers continue to collect samples and data every summer. Some samples can best be tested in an independent laboratory. The Conservancy pays for the necessary testing and interpretation of the results. Using the base line data and the results of continuing testing any long term trends can be seen and problems can be identified before they become insurmountable.

Joyce Laudise's topic was "Septic System Questionnaire". She pointed out how local governing bodies do a good job regulating the design and installation of septic systems but do not regulate the care or maintenance of septic systems once they

are installed. In order to protect our ground and surface waters, our septic systems must be functioning properly. Joyce discussed two surveys conducted in the watershed, which are effective tools to educate homeowners on their septic systems. In 2000-2001 the Twin Lakes Property Owners Association approved a questionnaire that was sent to 100 residents around Big and Little Twin Lakes. There was a 43% return rate for the questionnaire and more importantly at least 10 residents voluntarily replaced old metal underground tanks and others were motivated to have their tanks cleaned. In 2004 a modified questionnaire was sent to 750 residents of the Twin and Walker Creeks Watershed. In the modified questionnaire very basic questions about septic systems were asked along with ones about underground oil storage tanks. For more information on the watershed questionnaire see the article below on this page.

Storm Water Problem Site at Twin Lakes Park - Joe Messineso

A problem site at the Twin Lakes Park beach has been investigated by Joe Messineso with help from John Coleman of the PCCD. Measurements were taken and a plan to remedy the problem was formulated. A drawing was made with dimensions, elevations and other pertinent information. Ellen Salak of the PCCD visited the site and assisted with the final plan. The storm water gutter running down the edge of the private road will be rerouted before it enters the lake, cross an existing parking area and enter a three foot deep pond to be excavated in a wooded area. Funds for the project will be requested from the Twin Lakes Park Association at its Memorial Day meeting. Upon approval of the funding, the work will commence shortly thereafter.

2004 Septic System Survey Results— Ralph Cioppa

The Conservancy received a grant from the Canaan Valley Institute to conduct a septic system/oil tank survey. A component of this educational outreach was a septic tank/oil tank survey. A total of 750 mail surveys were sent with a total of 243 returned or a 32% response rate. The survey results have been tabulated and analyzed and we have provided a summary of the some of the results:

Type of Septic Tank	Age of Septic Tank
4% (10) had cesspools	14% (35) 40 years + old
11% (27) didn't know type of septic tank	12% (29) 30 - 39 years old
2% (4) had aerobic tanks	34% (35) 20 - 29 years old
8% (20) had metal tanks	24% (58) 10 - 19 years old
73% (178) concrete tanks	24% (58) under 10 years old
Pump-out of Septic Tanks	Type of Absorption Area
19% (46) pumped out in 2003 & 2004	12% (30) unknown
12% (30) pumped out in 2002	42% (103) in-ground absorption area
7% (18) pumped out in 2001	45% (109) elevated sand mound
15% (33) pumped out in 1991-2000	
23% (56) not known	

As a result of the septic system/oil tank survey, there are some concerns for the Conservancy with regard to possible non-point source pollution to the water quality of our watershed. Several homeowners need additional education about their on-lot septic systems. There could be a significant number of metal septic tanks as well as some septic tanks that have never been pumped out. Also, there are some septic systems absorption areas that are less than 50 feet from a well or one of our lakes. The Conservancy will be assessing methods to reach watershed residents that didn't participate in the survey such as focus groups and household visits to educate those residents of the importance of maintaining their septic system.

Finally, the information from the survey will be posted on the Conservancy's website at <http://Www.twcwc.com/>

**Twin & Walker Creeks
Watershed Conservancy**

100 Walker Lake Road
Shohola, PA 18458
570-296-3400
Www.twcwc.com

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*Next Meeting 10 am—
June 25, 2005 at the Walker Lake
Clubhouse*

Resident
RR 2
Shohola, PA 18458

2005 CONSERVANCY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I am concerned with the future quality and quantity of the water resources in our neighborhood and would like to support the conservation efforts of the Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy through a yearly membership.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

I am interested in learning more about volunteer monitoring efforts

Check type of membership

Senior/Student—\$5.00

Individual— \$10.00

Family— \$15.00

Corporate— \$40.00

In support of the Conservancy's efforts, I would like to provide an additional gift in the amount of
\$ _____ Total Enclosed _____

Mail this form with check payable to:

**Twin/Walker Creeks Watershed Conservancy
100 Walker Lake Road
Shohola, PA 18458**