**Focus Group 4: Environmental Restoration & Stewardship**

*Master Worksheet, v10*

*3/15/2018 post focus group meeting with additions*

| **#** | **Wish/Goal List:** “We wish that/there was/were \_\_\_\_\_\_ in Indiana County.” | **Assets:** Whatresources could contribute to achieving our wishes/goals? | **Needs:** What actions/resources are needed to achieve our wishes/goals? | | **Potential Partnerships:** Agencies/institutions /people) who need to be involved to achieve our wishes and goals? | **Recommended Actions:**   * What action steps need to be taken   + by whom to achieve our wishes and goals? |
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| **EDUCATION** | | | | | | |
| **1.** | **We wish that there was** a shared understanding among decision-makers/  agencies of *what residents knew about the environment* and *what issues they think are important* **in Indiana County**. | * ECO tour survey responses * IUP survey expertise * Planning office survey experience * Existing websites to post information * Task Force website | * Communication medium to reach residents (survey?) * Social media platforms * Champion person/agency | * Media outlets | | * Develop/Distribute surveys and Assets results   + - IUP   + Keep website and make sure all information is updated, fresh and managed |
| **2.** | **We wish that there was** a *shift in attitude* toward *environmental stewardship (protection, conservation, and restoration)* **in Indiana County through increased awareness of the environment and** school districts who would *prioritize* *environmental education* **in Indiana County**. | * Established/ongoing ECO tour * Tanoma AMD out door classroom * Environthon run by ICCD * Citizen Science being developed by IUP * Have water baseline for >30 streams in Indiana * County to help educated people * IUP testing water and doing research * FOYC, FOP * IUP has a grant and is developing a program – Erin Janeski and Holly Travis –conservation field days * IHS has very interested teachers * Many local schools participate in the ICCD Environthons * ICCD has information * Natural Heritage Inventory completed * Indiana Co Comp Plan completed * Sportsman’s clubs * Watershed Groups and Conservancy organizations | * Involve more people, spread knowledge * Broader PR * A series of presentations on our assets, (ie: streams, salamanders, etc – celebrate what we have * Banners to advertise presentations and things like the Eco tour * County transit available to get residents out to our county parks * A green recreation equivalent of the potter's tour, but year long * Citizen science groups * Hands on activities in classrooms (IE trout in the classroom) * List of resources/funding to provide to classrooms * Team to assist school districts * Stakeholders analysis * Fact sheet focused on environmental issues that could be distributed to anyone interested * Something visual that highlighted the connection between land and water quality | * County Agriculture Department – Penn State Office * ICCD * Game Commission (project Wild and other programs) * Local Watershed groups * Allegheny Arboretum * DCNR- YC Environmental Center * Small Wood lot management * Wildlife Society * Society of American Foresters * WPC * Evergreen Conservancy * Municipal Governments * OSMRE * IndiGO, IC Transit Authority * Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) * Appalachian Mountain Joint Venture (AMJV) * Media outlets * Develop /distribute fact sheets * ICOPD * Demonstrate products * School district * IUP science educators * Allegheny Land Trust -  (Mrs. Kester)- PA State Coordinator for Project Wet * Local Environmental Groups * School Boards | | * Hold a series of programs on environmental stewardship and what it means * By ICCD, Evergreen Conservancy, watershed groups * Start regular newspaper features of conservation efforts * Hole school programs on conservation, teachers and presenters and local experts IE Evergreen Conservancy, water shed specialist, IUP * Sponsor Project Wet and Project Wild Training in the county for teachers   + Watershed groups, GC * Appoint an EE team * ICTC, Commissioners * Involve teachers through Citizen Science Program   + IUP biology * Work with farmers to develop BMP’s   + ICCD, DEP * Identify and appoint group to lead the effort to do outreach via infographics, events with relevant stake holders * Tabling at public events (country fair) * Ad campaign * PSU County Extension programs * School Districts implement sequential science programs leading to environmental programs |
| **3.** | **We wish that there was** an awareness of importance of *stormwater management* among residents & municipalities **in Indiana County**. | * Stormwater Education Partnership formed and functioning * Volunteer identified to take the message to the other municipalities * IUP research on storms and stormwater County * Ongoing Act 167 planning at county and local levels (WT, IB) | * Municipalities to take an active role in stormwater management * A way to spread information that they will pay attention to… many outlying areas don’t have great Internet * Better connectivity for internet, broadband * A way to bridge the “digital divide” | * Comcast * SPC * Legislators – Reed/White * WT/IB * Gazette – stories on SW Issues * IUP Journalism classes * Stormwater Ed Partnership (SEP) * Allegheny Arboretum | | * Complete stormwater township/borough/county plans   + Municipalities, ICOPD * Educate municipalities to Adopt   + ICOPD * Make sure there is nothing to prevent doing stormwater BMP’s IE rain barrels and downspouts, etc   + Municipalities, ICOPD   + Clean brush from Creeks locally to prevent flooding on a regular basis without increasing flooding or erosion downstream… increase education on this issue |
| **4.** | **We wish that** *rainwater collection* was encouraged **in Indiana County.** | * Have swales, raingardens and rain barrels in place for demonstrations * Have done rain barrel workshops | * Funding for homeowners to put these green options into practice | * Borough Councils * Municipalities * Indiana Armstrong Builders Association * Architects | | * Set up a both at Builders Association for education purposes, Educate about swales, etc |
| **5.** | **We wish that there was** a better awareness of what *has been done AND what needs to be done* to *protect water and land* **in Indiana County**. | * Tanoma Wet lands as demo site * ECO tour * Tourist Bureau * We have a source water protection plan for Twolick and Yellow creek watersheds * We have a natural heritage inventory for the county * We have streams that are listed as High Quality | * Fact sheet focused on what has been and needs done to protect water and land that could be distributed to anyone interested * Utilize the source water protection plans to move forward in protection work * Update the Natural Heritage plan * Publicize the list of streams that are not high quality an work to cleaning them up | * Historical Society * Grant Township - learn from them * IUP Com Media – Videos of stories to tell of degradation an re-building with F Whte Story * IUP Environmental Engineering * Watershed Associations and Trout unlimited and NRA | | * Maintain, develop BMP’s that prevents runoff from abandoned mines, drilling activities, dirt and gravel roads, agricultural area and extraction from entering ground and surface water & Enforce   + DEP, * Identify priority watersheds for restoration * Test water – determine what to test for, start on one creek – prioritize (source water streams a priority) find a 3rd party source to do testing. Do macro testing,   Compile already tested results |
| **6.** | **We wish that** PennDOT would consistently employ *best management practices for land reclamation and water runoff* as part of their projects **in Indiana County.** | * A regulatory structure is in place * WPC has the knowledge and grant money for things like riparian buffer zones * ICCD has the knowledge for erosion and sediment controls * There is funding through state agencies and Foundation for PA watershed for high priority watersheds | * A way to track all violations Enforcement of the violations and fines * Involve stakeholders (local homeowners and watershed groups) when projects are being done so they can have input | * PENNDOT * ICOPD * ICCD DEP * WPC * Commissioners * Rep Reed/Sen White | | * Create a county wide wetlands management ordinance * Complete and enforce stormwater management plans throughout the county |
| **7.** | **We wish that there were** more *riparian buffer zones* along small waterways **in Indiana County.** | * Master Gardeners knowledge of native plants * WPC programs on Riparian Zones and projects * ICCD working on So Br Plum Creek to enhance riparian zones * IUP Biology department knowledge of Native plants and water (Larkin, Tyree, Janeski, Widzowski) * Evergreen Conservancy and watershed groups | * List of interested private property owners willing to install buffer zones * List of public land areas and managers willing to install buffer zones * Improve public awareness of value of riparian buffers * Include education on what buffers look like how they function and what they provide to the streams | * Grass Roots groups/Citizens * Municipalities * Architects L.A.’s and Engs * Insurance Companies * FEMA buy houses along streams * Farm Bureau to reach farmers * ICOPD - create a “run-off” add t Act 167 Plan SW authority * Nurseries – plants * Business Communities * SAF * Penn State County Extention * IC Conservation District | | * \*\*\*\*Create a county wide (greenway corridor)riparian buffer zone ordinance/ plan (restore areas, create jobs and increase economic development) on all waterways. Start with Blacklick Creek watershed. * Locate the best farm land in the county for protection   + ICCD * Provide incentives for landowners to implement riparian buffer zones   + ICCD, WPC * Identify and set priorities to establish vegetative or forested buffers of 50 to 150 feet on each side of every stream located outside of agricultural areas.   + By: Citizens, municipalities, conservation District, Planning Commission, Federal and State Agencies to execute the above * Engage Professional Land Managers & consultants |
| **8.** | **We wish that** PennDOT would plant *native trees* along roadways and streams as part of their projects **in Indiana County.** | * Comprehensive local knowledge and active local groups (ie. WPC, Penn State, IUP) | * PennDOT to engage local environmental groups (i.e. WPC) * Change policy to include training for PennDOT project managers * Change rules to make it mandatory to include these things in planning phases | * Local Environmental Groups * Local Nurseries * Townships/ boroughs * Local Architects * WPC * PennDOT | | * Develop a Community Tree Program   + Done byDCNR - forestry * Preview PENNDOT’s standards for plantings to update with native plant choices   + By IUP Biology or regional planning? * Send letters to PennDOt to request plantings when there is roadwork done to include natives and riparian buffers   + By watershed groups/conservancies/municipalities |
| **9.** | **We wish that there was** an adopted *countywide zoning ordinance* designed to encourage good land use and environmental stewardship **in Indiana County.** | * IC Comp Plan recommends countywide zoning * We have 10 state game lands, county parks, state park, trails, natural areas, and historical sites in the county * There are conservation ad restoration plans in place for several watersheds including: Bear Run, Aultman Run, Kiski-Conemaugh, Blacklegs, Upper Mahoning Blacklick Creek, and Upper Crooked Creek, Plum creek * Crooked Creek is one of 26 in the state that is a Qualified Hydrologic Unit (affected by AMD) and can utilize SMCRA funds for AMD remediation * Whites Woods | * Individual or agency champion * Aware and involved public * Additions to existing plans to protect the environment before there is a problem IE banning plastic bags, investigating ways to support building rain gardens, use of rain barrels ( ok to disconnect downspouts, etc..) | * County Commissioners * ICOPD * Municipalities * Developers | | * Present ideas at the Municipality Meetings (IC Townships/Boroughs Assn.)   + By environmental groups, IUP educators, * Identify large contiguous areas of land for preservation to protect natural resources and derive economic value with protecting open spaces. * Educate municipalities and do PR to their constituents * See note about #9 about greenway corridors and Laurie’s note about Greenways |
| **12.** | **We wish that** *Liquid Fuels and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding decisions* were based on the inclusion of *Best Management Practices* in local roadway and stormwater runoff projects **in Indiana County.** | * Active ICCD Dirt and Gravel Roads program in County making possible information sharing and oversite possibilities | * Need environmental impact of local road projects to be prioritized at County level * Need to make transparent liquid fuel funding decisions and include ICCD staff in process | * County Commissioners * Supervisors organizations * PennDOT * ICP and Trails | | * County prioritize liquid fuel money distribution to municipalities based on environmental impact in a transparent decision process   + Each county * Fair distribution and process for DGB money |
| **11.** | **We wish that there was** a greater awareness of the importance of *recycling* **in Indiana County.** | * Scientific knowledge is available through IUP, Indiana County Recycling Center (ICRC) * Plastics are picked up in WT and IB as part of ICRC program * PA Cleanways * 2007 Illegal Dump Survey | * Need prioritization of recycling at County level * Need local regulatory strategies/polices to restrict use of plastic bags and encourage reuse of existing containers for water and other fluids * Need ICEC to expand service areas * Expand plastic types for recycling * Bring industry in to the County to take recyclables and use them for other products instead of our products going out of County * Recognize and ID roadside dumps in the county * Funding to clean up the dumps * Expand curbside pickup of recyclables | * Local Grocery Stores * SWA * Schools * IUP – ECO club, etc * Parks and Recycling * Municipalities and Boroughs that can advocate for returnable glass for money, eliminating plastic bags, etc | | * Pass a bottle bill for glass recyclables * Pass rules about using plastic bags   + Ordinances passes by municipalities * Organize volunteer recycling programs in municipalities that do not have mandatory recycling   + Recycling Center * Expand plastic recycling   + Recycling Center * Bring companies into Indiana County to utilize plastics and other recycled materials in products   + By: COC, DI, Commissioners * Introduce concepts in schools   + By: Teachers, |
| **12.** | **We wish that** current and future *environmentally focused educational efforts* could be based on the *real science of ecology and ecosystems* and not on political discourse **in Indiana County.** | * Scientific knowledge is available through IUP * Penn State County Extension * Penn State Forestry and NR * DCNR and Parks, Forest * Conservation District | * Need to develop a method of distributing information to the community about upcoming projects, * Need to encourage public involvement to demonstrate importance of environmental issues * Need to communicate public sentiment to corporations interested in projects in the County. | * IUP Citizen science work * Foresters * Wild life society * Natural Resources managers * Penn State extension office &Master Gardeners * Newspapers/social media/ Radio * Programs – FOP / Evergreen Conservancy * ICTC or local school districts | | * Advance agenda items for ICBC, ICPC, ICSWA, Redevelopment Authority * Protect 70% of the water in the County. |
| **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** | | | | | | |
| **13.** | **We wish that** economic development planning and policy documents would *prioritize and encourage environmentally focused businesses to locate* **in Indiana County.** | * IC Economic Development Plan currently being developed by ICOPD * More than 6 established watershed groups in the county to guide policy development * Vacancies in County offices parks * Evergreen Conservancy, SEP, ICTC, IUP HIS and LWV | * Need to include local environmental groups in planning and policy development * Need to research and publish experiences of other counties seeking to attract the same types of businesses. | * Water testing Businesses * Engineering Firms * Appalachian Regional Commission Progressive Fund * Allegheny Ridge Corp. * Evergreen Conservancy, SEP, ICTC, IUP HIS and LWV * ICDC | | * Explore markets to utilize recycled materials in products   + COC, * Provide incentive for developers to obtain LEED Green Buildings or other green designations   + Commissioners, NGBS, EGS * Finish the Economic Develop Plan by ICOPD and implement * Greenway corridors   + ARC |
| **14.** | **We wish that** local and county land-use policy and regulatory documents would *encourage and prioritize the creative reuse of existing buildings and brownfield sites* **in Indiana County.** | * Local design/engineering professionals are knowledgeable about energy efficient and green technology * ICOPD is currently developing Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance * State and federal funding available through DEP, DCED, etc. for brownfield sites * County Comprehensive Plan and accompanying documents | * Need inventory of current brownfields in the County * Need improve awareness of reuse and brownfield development at local levels * Need regulatory documentation to support the policy | * ICOD * DEP/EPA * Development Corporation (non-profit) * ICDC * County, municipal and Borough * Planning Commission | | * Create and enforce regulatory documentation   + County, municipalities, Borough * Inventory of unused buildings and brownfields   + Include as part of ICOPD business Development Park |
| **15.** | **We wish that** funding was available for small, local communities seeking to *keep bacteria (ie. e-coli) and other pollution out of their waterways* **in Indiana County.** | * We have municipal services * Comprehensive plan chapter 5 water and sewer facilities information * We have historical data on water quality Indiana County has a water supply plan * There is a source water protection plan for Twolick and Yellow Creek watersheds | * Need updated list of streams and specific pollution issues to be widely distributed * Need DEP testing results to be publicly accessible * Need to increase public understanding of watershed plans and how they can be used to engage state and federal funding and local remediation efforts. * Baseline and regular testing to know when there are peaks | * TU/ICCD/PASEC/DEP/WPC – water testing * Grant researchers * Government/Private partnerships – grant matches - DCED-RCAP * State elected officials | | * Hire funding consultants to find grants to partner with government grants to fund projects * Education on baselines and resources on how to mitigate causes |
| **16.** | **We wish that there was** a demonstration project that highlighted use of newest *environmentally sensitive sewage system technology* **in Indiana County.** | * Some local sewage systems are operated by municipalities interested in “going green”. | * Need to create new jobs in this field * New technology | * Municipal Service authorities * Water Recycling Corporation of Am * IC Municipal Services Authority (ICMSA), Mike Duffalo | | * Identify sewage Locations on a map * Identify potential funding sources * Lead tours of sites with relevant individuals * Water recycling new technology |
| **17.** | **We wish that** local and county policy and regulatory frameworks would require developers/builders to *employ best management practices (i.e. wetlands, swales, rain gardens)* and green technology **in Indiana County.** | * ICOPD administers building code inspections for many of the municipalities in the County. * Local and County land use policy | * Need county and local policies and laws that mandate best management practices | * ICOPD * White Township * Local Municipalities * Conservation Districts | | * Educate Builders and contractors and municipalities   + ICCD * Put mandates in ordinances * Municipalities, borough, townships, Planning office   + Organize a steering committee to develop the economic development plan related to integrating environmental issues   + Hire a consultant to finish the Economic Development plan |
| **18.** | **We wish that** local and county-wide economic development planning and policy documents would build on the County’s long history of energy production by prioritizing and encouraging *energy creation that is more efficient, environmentally friendly, and sustainable* **in Indiana County.** | * We have businesses and business people who have been in the energy making field for many years * Many electric companies are now including renewable energy * The Commonwealth’s Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard requires that at least 0.5 percent of the electricity supplied to consumers by Pennsylvania electric distribution companies and electric generation suppliers come from solar PV by 2021.\*\* | * Need summary of history of energy production in County * Need to use existing knowledge to expand jobs related to new ways of energy production * Need to identify local champion for this issue to be included in planning and policy development processes * We need to have a completed Indiana County Economic Development Plan | * Sustainable Indiana CO Task force * ICOPD * COnsultant | | * Indiana County Economic Development Plan   + ICOPD and consultant and ICDC, COC, Local government and other Economic Development organizations in the county. |
| **19.** | **We wish that** local and county-wide economic development planning and policy documents would expand and encourage the use of *sustainable agriculture techniques* to reduce pollution, enhance water quality, and reduce carbon pollution **in Indiana County.** | * There is a Farm bureau in Indiana County with whom partnership is possible’ * ICCD helps with farm issues | * Need to highlight BMP in farming community * Need to provide incentive funding programs that encourage local farmers to make changes | * Farm Sen * ICCD * DEP * PSU Extension | | County Farm Bureau |
| **JOB TRAINING & CREATION** | | | | | | |
| **20.** | **We wish that** jobs and training in water treatment would be prioritized in Indiana County and thatformal public or private sector positions could be created at the county or local level to guide the remediation of the hundreds of mine discharges **in Indiana County.** | * We have a good conservation district in Indiana * We have local water assessment facilities in Indiana * Robertshaw business incubator is in Indiana | * Programs at WyoTec and ICTC to learn these jobs * Expand jobs at the conservation district so   they could spearhead more programs   * Expand jobs in water testing * Make funding available for start-up companies in these fields * DEP funding to be able to do their work to regulate / fine/ need field personnel Higher fees to fund DEP field staff | * ICTC * DEP * IUP Energy Program (environmental engineering | | * Establish a company in the county that could do stream restoration, AMD mitigation and find funding * Develop programs to teach people how to do restoration * There should be an inspection/review service to make sure BMP’s are used in installations * Finish the Wherum Treatment plant on Blacklick Creek that was promised 15 years ago. * Develop a company to develop aeration systems for AMD passive treatment systems using solar energy to create air pressure (dissolved oxygen) in the water. |
| **21.** | **We wish that** jobs and training related to emerging methods and techniques used to install and maintain *permeable surfaces including pavers, power systems, solar, wind and other green infrastructure and in relation to Abandoned mine discharges (***such as Trompe or solar fabrication/parts)** were available **in Indiana County.** | * There are companies outside the county that do this. * Some local companies are trying to learn more about green technology * Robertshaw Business Incubator is in Indiana | * Bring in satellite companies based in the county * Create new jobs for maintenance (after Lancaster created many impermeable surfaces companies grew to o the maintenance) * Create jobs for solar panel installers * Create jobs for restoration and stewardship Funding and job training – scholarships for people for training * Programs at WyoTec and ICTC to learn these jobs | * ICCOC – bring Co into County * Consumers * Architects * Engineers * Indiana Armstrong Builders * ICTC * WYO-tech like * WCCC * St Francis U – Loreto * Fish Commission | | * Develop a county energy plan that rewards conservation and encourage renewable energy   + Start businesses that can maintain permeable surfaces.   + Develop financial incentives in PA to install green technology. * Identify sites for demonstration, map, projects * By: ICCD * Complete a survey of all mining, quarrying or other   extraction discharges into the streams of Indiana County, prioritize reclamation needs and publicize the list.   * + Get information from DEP as to what discharges are already mapped   + DEP to finish QHUPs for all the watersheds in Indiana County or hire professionals to do them – do not rely on private volunteers. |