



June 11, 2014

Commissioners
Radnor Township
Iven Avenue
Wayne, PA 19087

Dear Commissioners,

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network supports, endorses and encourages the request for a public meeting to discuss the North Wayne field project made and organized by local residents. As you all know, I have had concerns about this project since it was first proposed for a number of reasons:

- ✓ Detention basins are not an effective mechanism for reducing and avoiding flood damages – in fact, when operated as intended detention basins commonly exacerbate flooding and increase flood damages.
- ✓ The Township did not undertake a full and fair consideration of alternative approaches for addressing the flood damages in North Wayne – most of the options considered were simply varying forms of detention, with only a very limited set of other alternatives suggested and then quickly dismissed without much genuine consideration.
- ✓ The Township did not have an appropriate level of public information and dialogue before investing the tens of thousands of dollars that have gone into this detention-based approach – cutting off the opportunity for public input and consideration of viable alternatives before the Township committed significant resources to this one option. The Township didn't even engage with the Radnor Township School District who actually owns this property before embarking on this expensive endeavor.
- ✓ While the Township has recognized the deficiencies in its stormwater program and regulations, promising fixes that are yet to come and imposing a stormwater fee, it is failing to commit the requisite level of attention to addressing its own regulatory deficiencies in order to avoid future additional and growing harm – in other words, while the Township is investing heavily in temporary bandaids that provide limited benefit and potentially cause increased harm, it is failing to investing the same level of attention to avoid new and growing harms from new development and redevelopment projects.

- ✓ The Township is seeking a solution that deprives the community of valuable public spaces and resources without fully considering the negative community and environmental impacts of this decision, and negating the potential for a more effective solution that will protect the community, the environment, and important public resources at the same time.

I write this letter in my capacity as the Delaware Riverkeeper not a member of the stormwater advisory committee. I have been vocal about this issue since before creation of the committee and while I have advocated that this issue should most appropriately come before the committee for review, consideration, public dialogue and recommendation it has been made clear that that request is not to be fulfilled.

I look forward to joining you all on June 30 and hope that all Commissioners will endeavor to attend this important public meeting. It is important to note that this meeting has been organized and scheduled by local residents, not by the Township, and therefore is not part of the official public record on the matter. As such, I hope you are already considering how the Township can ensure an appropriate level of public dialogue that will occur on the official public record.

Respectfully,



Maya K. van Rossum
the Delaware Riverkeeper