

Local Government Entities in Improving AMD Impaired Waters¹

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Abstract: For many years in Pennsylvania, watershed groups and other locally based conservation groups have been working on addressing non-point sources of pollution. Local townships have always been a great partner in these endeavors, if a group can get them onboard. In many cases a partnership between a watershed group and this type of local government entity can be vital to getting a project completed because the township can supply equipment and manpower. It is rare though to have a township take the lead in the restoration of a watershed but Broad Top Township in Pennsylvania is an example of a government entity that has as one of their priorities to restore abandoned mine drainage (AMD) affected streams in their jurisdiction.

Broad Top Township is a very rural township located in Bedford County, PA. They have a very progressive and unique approach for dealing with non-point source sources in their township including AMD, sewage, and illegal dumping. Not only do they work at acquiring funding for projects but they also do their own construction.

Work the township has completed has enabled one stream to be moved from being impaired to attaining on the Pennsylvania 2014 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report. Another stream may follow in the near future. Broad Top Township is considered a role model in demonstrating what a township can do to improve local water quality and they have met with others to show what they have accomplished. This presentation will demonstrate what a very involved township can do to address nonpoint source pollution with an emphasis on AMD pollution.

Additional Key Words: Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD), passive treatment systems, Broad Top Township.

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