

APPENDIX G – Focus Group Results

NEW FOCUS GROUP 3

St. Clair County Northeastern Watersheds
Public Meeting #3 (May 18, 2006)

Compiled Results:

Question #1: *What are the best ways to limit stormwater runoff to roadway drains? and*

Question #2: *How can stormwater runoff be controlled from lot splits?*

- Group 1. Education on PUDs; allow clustering; wetland protection enforcement; buffers along roadways.
- Group 2. Detention by property owners. However, people don't maintain what they have now and fill in swales. Don't want standing water on their property. Need places to attenuate peak flows along road drain. Require swales between all houses below the level of the road ditch.
- Group 3. Require topo/grading plans for single site construction. Road Commission requirement or building inspection/Township Ordinance. Education.

Question #3: *Does it make sense to coordinate stormwater control techniques between communities and County agencies?*

- Group 1. YES, ensure coordination.
- Group 2. Quality standards should be the same across the board. Quantity is more difficult, but one conservative rate would be smart so developers don't push that predevelopment rate. Perhaps standardized rationale for determining predevelopment rate or same rate and appeals process to Drain Commissioner. County has bigger overview and more expertise. Townships adopt ordinance that the Drain Office reviews and developer takes or leaves what he recommends.
- Group 3. YES. Township's require Drain Office review.

Question #4: *How can County agencies work together to better control stormwater runoff?*

- Group 1. County agencies to provide model ordinances and education.
- Group 2. Educate developers and engineers regarding standards. Townships need to make developers aware of Drain Office checklist – delays projects when developers don't provide the information on the checklist. Preliminary review needs to be complete before the project goes before the planning commission.
- Group 3. Compare standards. Adopt similar standards.

Question #5: *How can communities reduce the amount of stormwater generated by existing and new development?*

Group 1. Education for residents & Township officials. Purchase of development rights.

Group 3. Reduce impervious surface requirements. Implement progressive development incentives.

Question #6: *How can communities address stormwater pollutants from farms?*

Group 1. Increase buffer zones. Manage subsurface drainage through the use “stop log structures” in drain tiles to bring water up to root zone where it can be used by plants. Increases productivity. This way ditches don’t have to be as deep.

Group 3. Education. Increase funding for Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs for farmers.

Question #7: *How can the County and communities best limit pollutants in runoff draining to waterways, road ditches, and county drains?*

Group 3. Ordinances for new development. Change stormwater facility maintenance policies. Require native vegetation. Education.