

May 18, 2004

John Lerew
Chairman
Adams County Planning Commission
19 Baltimore Street, Suite 101
Gettysburg, PA 17325

Dear Mr. Lerew,

The Potomac Regional Water Resources Committee received your letter dated May 7, 2004, regarding the Adams County Planning Commission's request to designate the Marsh Creek watershed as a Critical Water Planning Area. The full regional committee will be informed about your request at the June 18, 2004 meeting, which will be held in Bedford County, Pennsylvania.

Section 3112(A)(6) of Act 220 of 2002 authorizes the "identification of Critical Water Planning Areas" in watersheds "where existing or future demands (on water) exceed or threaten to exceed the safe yield of available water resources." The Statewide Water Resources Committee met for the first time on May 10, 2004, and at their meeting, they formed an ad hoc workgroup to begin working out the details of the criteria to be used when considering the designation of an area as a Critical Water Planning Area. The Statewide committee has acknowledged the need to move quickly to determine what the criteria should be, and they realize the importance of basing the criteria on sound scientific principles. As soon as the criteria has been adopted by the Statewide committee and it is articulated to the regional committees, we will begin the process of considering Marsh Creek for designation as a Critical Water Planning Area.

In the mean time, I would appreciate your assistance in using the resources of the Adams County Office of Planning and Development to define the details available at the local level that would help justify the designation request by our Potomac Regional Water Resources. These details could include but are not limited to population density growth, localized studies of water availability and well yields, physical environmental problems being caused, etc. The Critical Water Planning Area designation is meant to be applied with a scientific basis and will not simply be a political designation placed upon an area by our group. The detail of your supporting information could help shape the statewide program. It would also benefit our understanding of your request if you could provide a delineation of the Marsh Creek Watershed area you truly make this designation request for.

You or your representatives are welcome at all our meetings. You would be welcome to make a more formal presentation of any detailed information you would choose to present. Thank you for your interest in our water planning efforts.

Sincerely,

Charles Bennett
Chairman
Potomac Regional Water Resource Committee