



Lancaster's Municipal Liaisons

Lancaster's 1,400 miles of waterways span 60 diverse municipalities, creating a web of stormwater, water quality and local policy challenges and complexities that cross natural and municipal boundaries. Municipal leaders face uncertainty around changing stormwater regulations and can use a trusted peer to help them navigate tough topics. In fall of 2024, the Lancaster Clean Water Partners contracted two Municipal Liaisons to research stormwater needs using a creative and personal approach, serving as a local trusted advisor to connect with municipal peers for watershed-based results. The Liaisons led a diverse portfolio of engagements to collect stories, needs, successes, and bolster participation in stormwater initiatives, which included an updated stormwater management plan, the countywide action plan (CAP), and new MS4 permit opportunities.

Meet the Liaisons

Ben Webber

Ben's family moved to Lancaster when he was a three year old. Much of his childhood was spent among the agrarian landscape of Manheim Township, playing in the streams close by, and camping whenever possible. His work as a civil engineer is nearly four decades long, the largest portion as a municipal engineer.



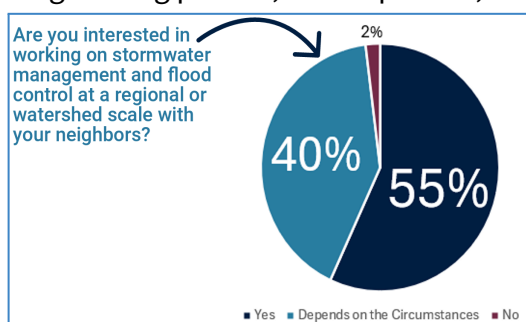
Terry Martin

Terry is a native of Eastern Lancaster County and has spent most of his years playing and working in and around the Conestoga River Basin, involved in agri-business, construction, and local government. He has been a Caernarvon Township supervisor for a little over 10 years and has served as the Township Roadmaster for 14 years.

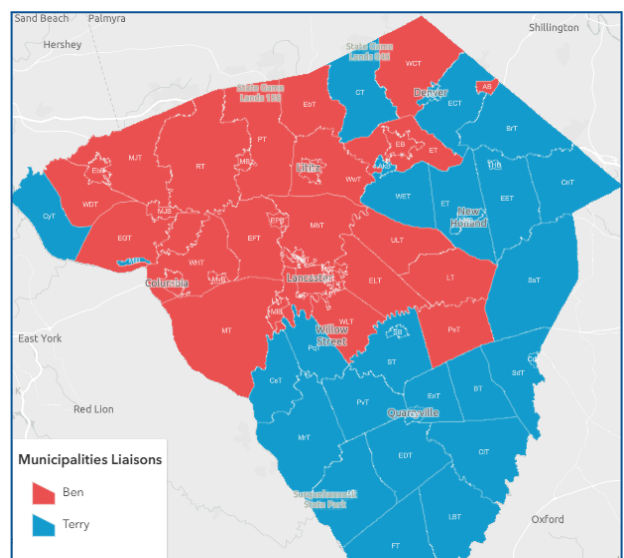


This Project's Approach to Lancaster's Municipal Landscape

Each liaison was assigned municipalities that match their unique skillsets within rural and developed communities. Through peer-to-peer outreach, they met one-on-one with municipal managers, public works staff, engineers, officials and stakeholders to collect qualitative and quantitative data on stormwater achievements and challenges. They connected people with collaborative opportunities such as Lancaster's Stormwater Action Team, MS4orum, stormwater BMP tours, and stream delisting catchment meetings. The Liaisons & Partners presented at events for the Lancaster County Association of Township Supervisors, Boroughs Association, PA State Association of Township Supervisors, and Hourglass. Liaisons identified opportunities and challenges working across neighboring parcels, municipalities, and even counties to build



relationships for regional or watershed scale collaborative projects.



Act167 Stormwater Management Plan

The Liaison’s work aligned with Phase I of Act167 planning, gathering municipal feedback to develop the scope of work needed for a strong countywide stormwater management plan and model ordinance. Liaisons boosted participation in the watershed planning advisory committee (WPAC) for in-person events and survey participation. Liaisons presented Act 167 at the Lancaster County Association of Township Supervisors event, and they contributed to phase I with the Lancaster County Planning Department and HRG.

Rank	Response	Number of Responses (Per Rank)						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Stream flooding	9	18	6	6	6	3	3
2	Soil erosion and stream bank loss	18	5	3	13	5	5	3
3	Damage to public infrastructure (bridges, water and sewer, parks, buildings)	5	7	15	12	3	5	3
4	Street flooding	9	8	14	4	4	7	3
5	Stormwater pollution	5	6	6	7	17	9	2
6	Obstructions in waterways and at bridges and culverts	1	4	5	5	4	4	18
7	Impacts from upstream sources	3	2	0	2	9	14	14
8	Improved aquifer recharge	2	2	3	3	4	5	6

Above are the municipal survey results. More survey results are available [here](#).

CAP & Stream Delisting

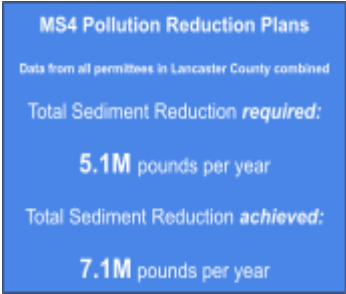
Liaisons located project opportunities, landowner incentives, and showcased stream delisting successes. Terry Martin led county commissioners, state legislators, township managers, public works directors, stormwater engineers, and other municipal staff on 14 tours of watershed restoration projects in agricultural catchments, prompting interest and ongoing meetings between neighboring landowners along headwater streams. Ben Webber interpreted ordinances in developed communities to identify where riparian buffers and green infrastructure would reduce runoff and lower stormwater costs for residents and businesses.



Terry Martin leading a riparian buffer tour

Data Collection

Ben compiled recent annual MS4 reports, current stormwater ordinances, and approved PRP/TMDL data for evaluation. He examined progress towards required sediment reductions under the current permit for all 42 Lancaster MS4s, which was supplied by municipal engineers and calculated for a countywide result. Cumulatively as of 2024, [Lancaster’s Pollution Reduction Plan](#) projects have reduced over 2 million pounds of sediment beyond their requirements - and more projects are underway.



MS4 Permit

In early 2025, DEP released draft guidance for the next MS4 permit. The Liaisons’ joint experience from regulated and waived municipalities provided insight into a range of implications from the proposed changes. Ben provided a thorough review of the draft MS4 permit to serve as the foundation for a collection of public comments gathered from stakeholders, which the Partners submitted to DEP on behalf of the network. Info session notes, public comments, and Stormwater Action Team information are available [here](#).

Continuing municipal stormwater momentum:

- Stormwater Management Plan (Act167) scope of work proposed at the fourth round of public meetings (WPAC) in the Fall 2025.
- Municipalities continue implementing project in focus catchments as part of the collaborative delisting strategy
- Continued engagement with county staff and state legislators so they are strongly connected with the municipal voice - the Local Government Advisory Committee’s Peer-to-Peer York-Lancaster stormwater leaders bus tour
- Partners’ revised Common Agenda strategies for collaboration and consistency across boundaries.

*Thank you to Lancaster Township and Caervarvon Township for endorsing the Liaison role, and to the Kentfields Foundation for their clean water support.