

Connoquenessing Township's Supervisors public meeting to discuss the Act 537 Plan update was called to order by Chairman, Terry Steinheiser at 5:30 p.m. on March 3, 2016 at the PA National Guard Armory, located at 250 Kriess Road, Butler, PA 16001. Steinheiser opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer. The meeting started by the board and speakers introducing themselves. They included Supervisor Terry Steinheiser, Chairman; Ray Kroll, Supervisor/Roadmaster; Solicitor Andrew Menchyk, Jr.; Secretary Brenda Davis; and three representatives from Senate Engineering - Rick Barnett, Bill Braun and Michael Elisco. Brenda Davis took the minutes. Lee Kradel, Treasurer, was in attendance to greet the 134 people who signed in.

Rick Barnett from Senate Engineering presented a Power Point presentation on Connoquenessing Township's Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update. This presentation is included in the minutes.

Steinheiser called up 17 of the public who had signed up before the meeting to comment. Their names and one or more of their comments are below:

Bob Cichra of 141 Boy Scout Rd. voiced opposition to plan because he didn't fee it was in line with the 2007 "Comprehensive Plan". Mr. Cichra also feels a sewage authority board needs in place, not decided by supervisors and an engineer.

Laurie Melberg of 120A Bricker Ln. opposes the plan because her property looks down on the proposed site and is concerned about the lights, smells and noise.

Dennis Krenitsky of 552 Krenitsky Ln. wants his property to be included in the plan.

Hillis Kaltenbaugh of 138 Shannon Rd. feels the supervisors should take care of Rt. 68 and Winterwood area and eliminate the large sewage project that residents don't want.

Roy Gilliland of 129 Gilliland Ln. voiced concerns about the costs and said "Take care of 68 and Winterwood and leave the rest of us alone".

James Ewart of 693 Dick Rd. said the cost estimates of Senate Engineering were low and the plant size illustrated is not sufficient for the expected growth of the Township.

John Ewart of 682 Dick Rd. didn't agree with the cost estimates that were presented by Senate Engineering and questioned who is going to pay for the Sewage Authority board, administrative office person and plant operator.

Ed Tanski of 854 Evans City Rd. suggested the supervisors table the Act 537 plan until a Sewage Authority board could be created to do the planning.

Phil Lope of Zelenople asked why the BASA plan is so much higher? Mr. Barnett stated BASA will add a \$32.00 surcharge to each monthly fee.

Chris Klink of 212 Reiber Rd. main objective is to inform all residents about the Act 537 plan and stated she is against this plan and wants other options looked at. Ms. Klink handed a list of questions to Mr. Steinheiser to be answered which are attached to the minutes.

Charlotte Grimme of 734 Dick Rd. doesn't want the sewage plant on her property and said to put on Rt. 68 where it's needed. She also was upset that no one from the Township had the common courtesy to inform her of the proposed sewage treatment plant on her property.

Dave Brown of 118 Boy Scout Rd. said to fix Rt. 68 and leave us alone.

Charles Brandon of 1301 Whitestown Rd. feels it would be good to take care of the Rt. 68 corridor but doesn't feel the planned location for the sewage plant is a good idea.

Stephanie Slezak - 142 Winterwood Dr. said a sewer authority board does need established and mentioned if the sewage plant was put in a wetland, the board should be aware of the high flood insurance rates.

Jack Covert of 163 Shannon Rd. stated if it's not broke, don't fix it.

Jackie Carson of 120 Blair Ln. stated she would like the board to look at all cost options.

Jason Zang of 177 Stevenson Rd. was concerned how the board would be obtaining right-of-ways and if his farmland, fence or crops are damaged, who pays for that?

Steinheiser closed the meeting by thanking all for attending and sharing their comments and stated the board will consider all their comments. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

# QUESTIONS

How much money has the township spent to develop Act 537 Proposed Plan Report - SEO inspections - Engineering cost - plan printing - etc.? How much has been invested of the twp money and how much more?

Why haven't the twp enforced confirmed malfunction septic system. Why haven't the small flow treatment systems under Chapter 94 or Ordinance Section 20 requiring that all small flow systems perform monthly inspections?

Why not have a survey or questionnaire of our residents to see how and what twp money is to be spent on?

Will you investigate other alternatives that cost less money for Act 537?

*What can we as residents do to change the Proposed Plan with no public Sewage?*

# CONNOQUENESSING TOWNSHIP

## ACT 537 SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN UPDATE

### PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- ▶ What is an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan?
- ▶ Doesn't the Township already have one?
- ▶ What does the Plan Update address?
- ▶ How was the Plan Update developed?
- ▶ What does the Plan Update recommend?



## ACT 537 PLAN BACKGROUND

- ▶ The PA Sewage Facilities Act 537, enacted in 1966 requires every municipality to develop and maintain an up-to-date Sewage Facilities Plan
- ▶ The purpose of the Sewage Facilities Plan is to:
  - ▶ Protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents
  - ▶ Provide protection of waters of the Commonwealth
  - ▶ Correct the existence of untreated or improperly treated sewage
  - ▶ Prevent future sewage disposal problems from occurring considering area growth and development

## ACT 537 PLAN BACKGROUND

- ▶ The PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) can require municipalities to update their Sewage Facilities Plan when the existing plan does not adequately meet sewage disposal needs.

## PREVIOUS ACT 537 PLANS FOR CONNOQUENESSING TOWNSHIP

- ▶ Butler County Sewage and Water Supply Plan, dated December 1970 identified Connoquenessing Township as being served by private onlot systems through 1978
- ▶ Connoquenessing Completed a Special Study in 2006 in accordance with a Consent Order and Agreement between the Butler Area Sanitary Authority (BASA) and DEP.
  - ▶ The plan identified two areas in the Township that were already connected to the BASA system.
  - ▶ The Plan stated that the Winterwood Drive Area, Golden L Trailer Park, and portions of the Route 68 corridor could be tied into the BASA system.

## WHY DOES THE TOWNSHIP NEED ANOTHER ACT 537 UPDATE?

- ▶ DEP has required the Township to update their Act 537 plan for several reasons:
  - ▶ The Route 68 corridor remains unsewered
  - ▶ The Winterwood area has failed onlot systems that have not been addressed
  - ▶ Other areas have been identified with malfunctioning onlot disposal system (OLDS)
- ▶ The Township is being proactive by taking a long-term planning approach to include other areas of known sewage problems and areas likely to receive development.



## WHAT HAPPENS IF THE TOWNSHIP DOES NOT DEVELOP ITS OWN ACT 537 UPDATE?

- ▶ DEP could place the Township under a Corrective Action Plan
- ▶ If an approved Corrective Action Plan is not developed, implemented and completed, a Consent Order could be placed on the Township, requiring certain sewage improvements to be implemented within a given timeframe.
- ▶ *The Township, by being proactive, can now develop the Act 537 Plan Update on its own terms and schedule*

## CONTENTS OF AN ACT 537 PLAN UPDATE

- ▶ DEP requires the following to be considered in an Act 537 plan update:

▶ Previous planning	▶ Potable water supplies
▶ Area streams, lakes, etc	▶ Zoning and subdivisions
▶ Soils	▶ Floodplains
▶ Geology	▶ Stormwater management
▶ Wetlands	▶ Endangered/rare species
▶ Topography	▶ Historic/archaeologic concerns
▶ Existing treatment facilities	▶ Agricultural lands
▶ Existing septage and sludge	▶ Alternatives
▶ Land use	▶ Capital costs
▶ Future growth	▶ O & M costs
▶ Institutional issues	▶ Lifecycle costs

## GENERAL STEPS IN DEVELOPING AN ACT 537 PLAN UPDATE

1. Determine service areas based on sanitary surveys, projected growth and development, and economics
2. Develop preliminary alternatives to provide service to those areas
3. Develop construction, project, operation and maintenance and debt service cost estimates
4. Conduct environmental and other clearances for the proposed sites
5. Identify a preferred alternative

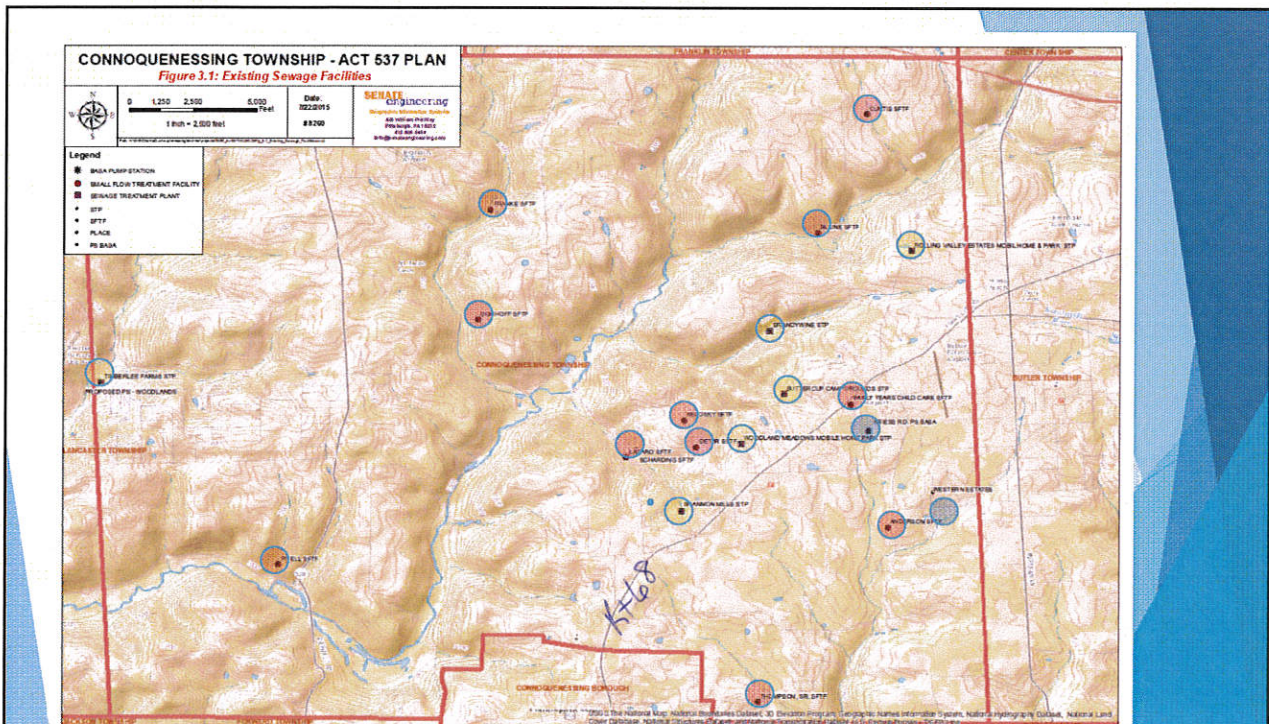
## GENERAL STEPS IN DEVELOPING AN ACT 537 PLAN UPDATE

6. Develop a draft Plan
7. Conduct public comment period
8. Address comments
9. Submit Plan to DEP for review and approval
10. Implement Plan through design, permitting and construction processes

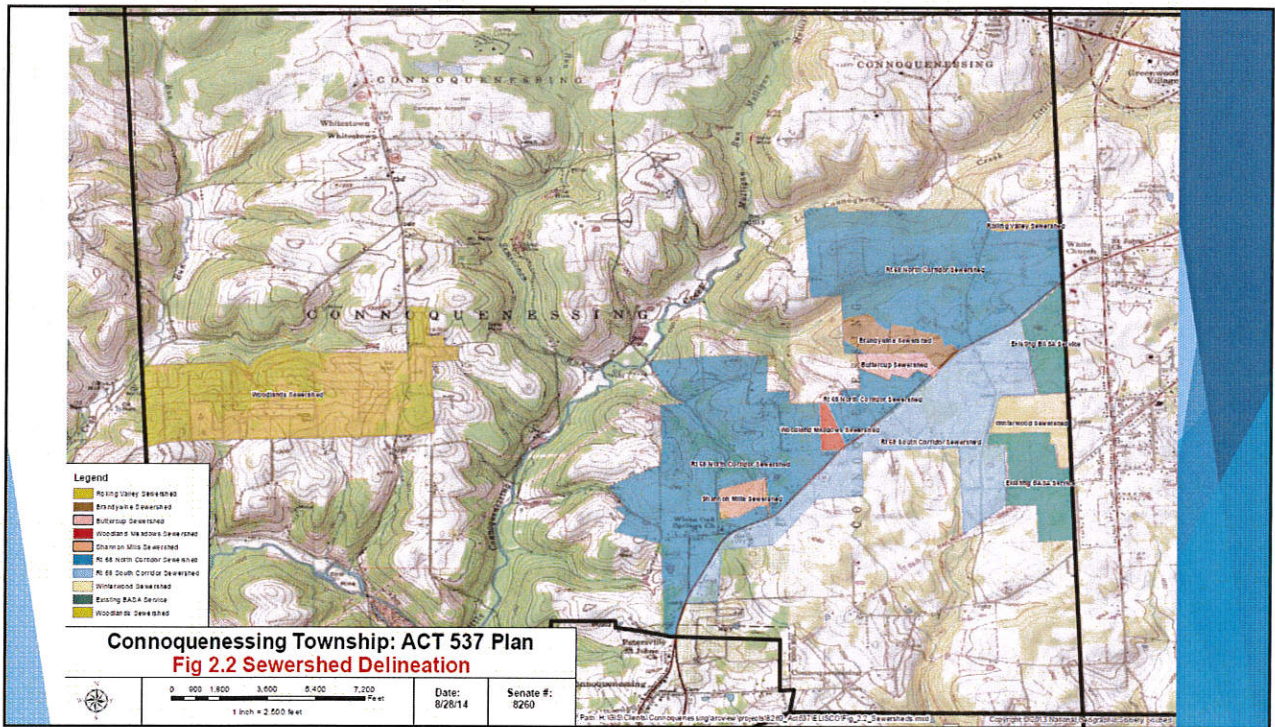
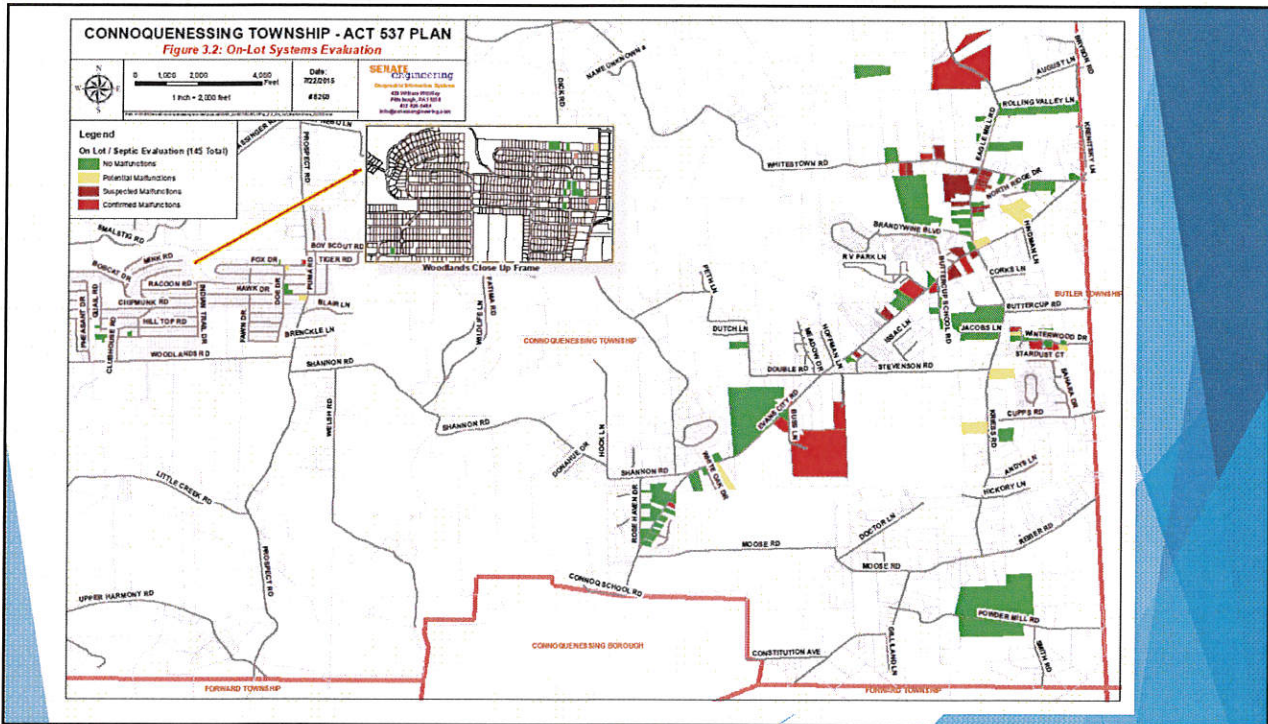


# EXISTING SEWAGE FACILITIES SUMMARY

- ▶ Certain areas of the Township are currently served by:
  - ▶ Privately owned sewage treatment plants
  - ▶ Small Flow Treatment Facilities
  - ▶ Pump Stations that discharge to the BASA system
- ▶ The remainder of the Township utilize individual onlot systems, the majority of which are a form of inground bed systems.
- ▶ Of the 144 onlot systems surveyed, 35% showed some type of malfunction with 20 confirmed, 19 suspected, and 12 potentially failing









## PHYSICAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS SUMMARY

- ▶ There two large watersheds of note in the Township, the Little Connoquenessing Creek and Connoquenessing Creek.
- ▶ Preliminary effluent limits from DEP indicated Little Connoquenessing Creek water quality can be maintained with secondary treatment and disinfection facilities
- ▶ The Route 68 Corridor and other isolated areas receive public water from reservoirs. The remainder of the Township utilizes ground water from private wells.

## PHYSICAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS SUMMARY

- ▶ Soils in the planning area generally not suitable for in-ground bed, sand mound, or spray irrigation septic systems
- ▶ Several of the soil types within the planning area are considered to be consistent with Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide importance
- ▶ The geology and geography of the planning area reduces the likelihood of nitrate contamination of ground water supply

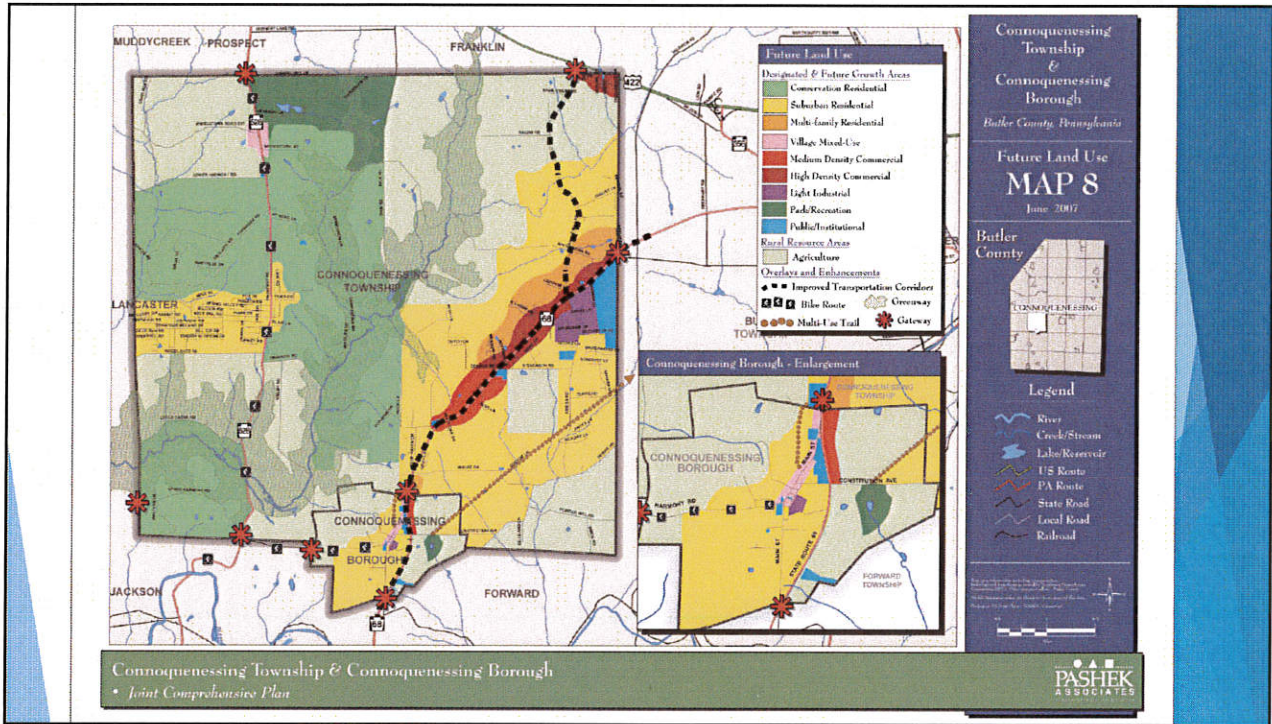


## FUTURE GROWTH AND LAND DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

- ▶ Based on census data, the Township grew at an annual rate of 1.4% from 2000 to 2010.
- ▶ The Southwest Pennsylvania Commission projects that the Township will continue to grow at 1.4% through 2040

## FUTURE GROWTH AND LAND DEVELOPMENT SUMMARY

- ▶ The Connoquenessing Borough and Connoquenessing Township Joint Comprehensive Plan broadly divides the Township into areas where growth should be promoted and areas where the rural character should be preserved.
- ▶ The Joint Comprehensive Plan specifically states that the lack of public sewers has discouraged certain business from locating along the Route 68 Corridor
- ▶ The Joint Comprehensive Plan also identifies the lack of public sewage in the Woodlands area as a significant problem.



## GENERAL ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- ▶ Reliance on individual onlot disposal systems (sand mounds, leach fields, etc)
- ▶ Community or “cluster” onlot disposal systems
- ▶ Continued use of existing private or non-municipal sewage treatment plants (STPs)
- ▶ Expansion of private STPs
- ▶ Regionalization (BASA, Connoquenessing Borough, Forward Township, etc)
- ▶ Alternative collection systems (gravity sewers, low pressure sewers, vacuum sewers, etc)



## ARE ONLOT DISPOSAL SYSTEMS A VIABLE LONG-TERM ALTERNATIVE?

- ▶ Individual Systems
  - ▶ Individual systems including onlot septic systems and small flow treatment facilities are difficult for the Township or Commonwealth to regulate.
  - ▶ Lots must be adequately sized for operational and replacement systems
  - ▶ Regular maintenance is often neglected with repairs made only after a failure
  - ▶ Numerous untreated or under-treated sewage discharges in the Township can have a negative impact on both surface and groundwater quality
  - ▶ The continued reliance on individual systems in the planning area does not adequately meet either existing or future sewage needs in areas of the Township.

## CAN EXISTING SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS BE USED?

- ▶ While a majority of the existing privately owner WWTPs are in adequate working condition and generally meet existing needs, these facilities will not meet future needs.
- ▶ The existing facilities do not have capacity to accept additional flows without significant upgrades.
- ▶ Some of the existing facilities are reaching the end of their useful design life and will require significant and costly upgrades.
- ▶ It is anticipated that the existing facilities will require significant and costly modifications when future NPDES permit requirements include biological nutrient removal.
- ▶ The continued use of existing non-municipal facilities is not a viable option.

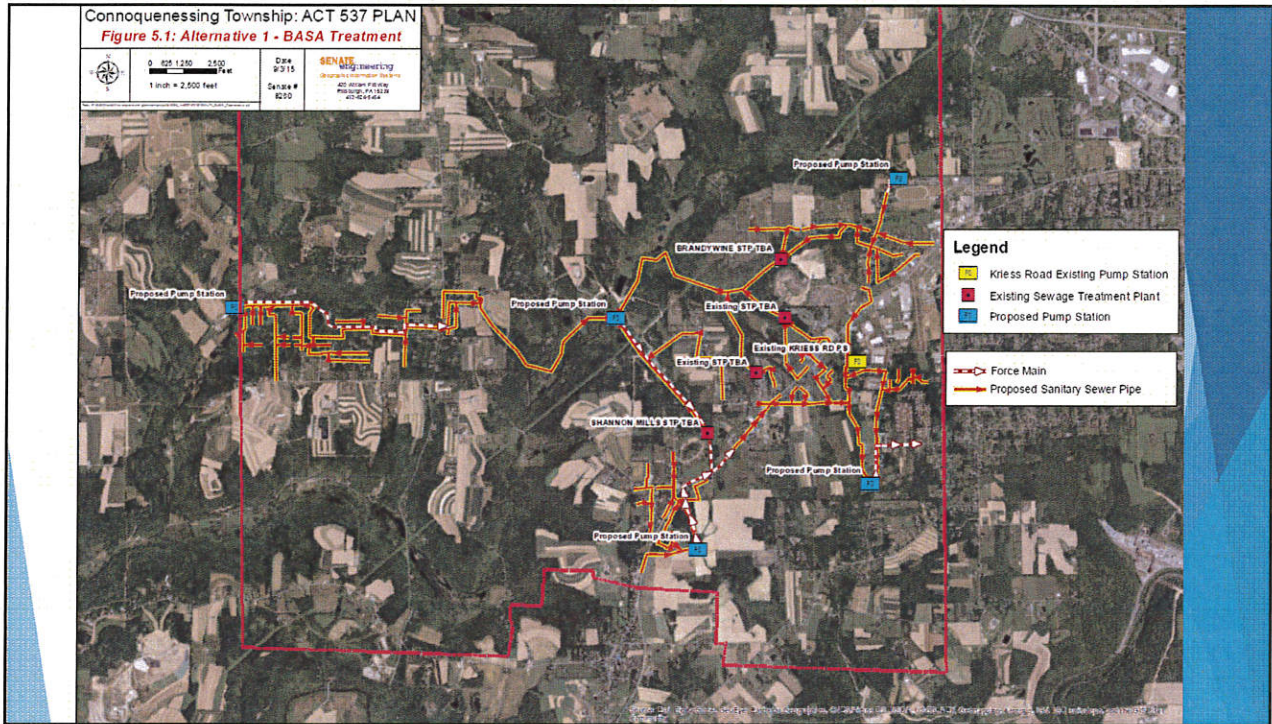
## 2 PRIMARY ALTERNATIVES WERE DEVELOPED FOR ADDITIONAL EVALUATION

- ▶ Alternative 1 - Construct a collection system and send flows to BASA for treatment
- ▶ Alternative 2 - Construct a collection system and build a new STP in the Township located for future growth and development

## ALTERNATIVE 1 - TREATMENT AT BASA WWTP

- ▶ The North Route 68 Corridor, including 4 existing privately owned WWTPs that would be abandoned, would gravity flow to a proposed Pump Station at the intersection of Dick Road and Boy Scout Road before being conveyed to BASA
- ▶ Woodlands Estates would flow to the Dick Road Pump Station.
- ▶ Flow in the South Route 68 Corridor would flow to 1 of 3 Pump Stations before being conveyed to BASA
- ▶ All flow would be conveyed through the BASA collection system for treatment at the BASA WWTP on Route 8 south.
- ▶ Customers would pay a new connection fee and monthly bills to BASA.

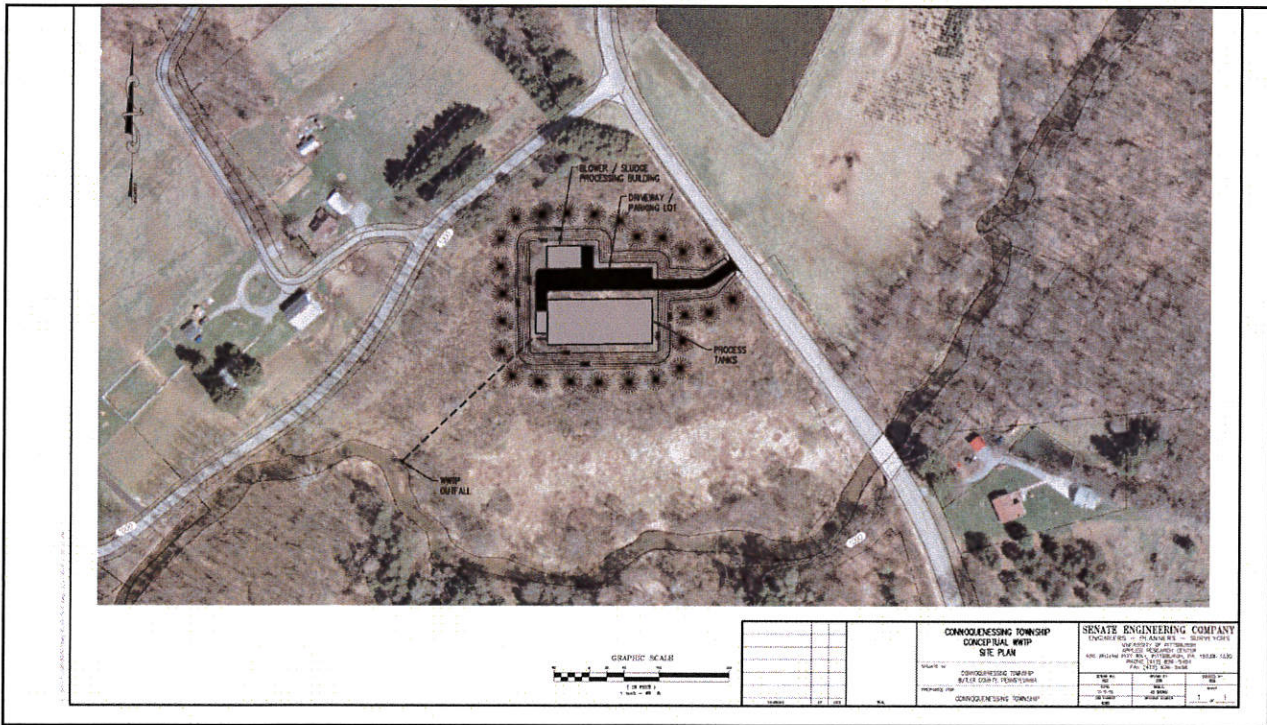
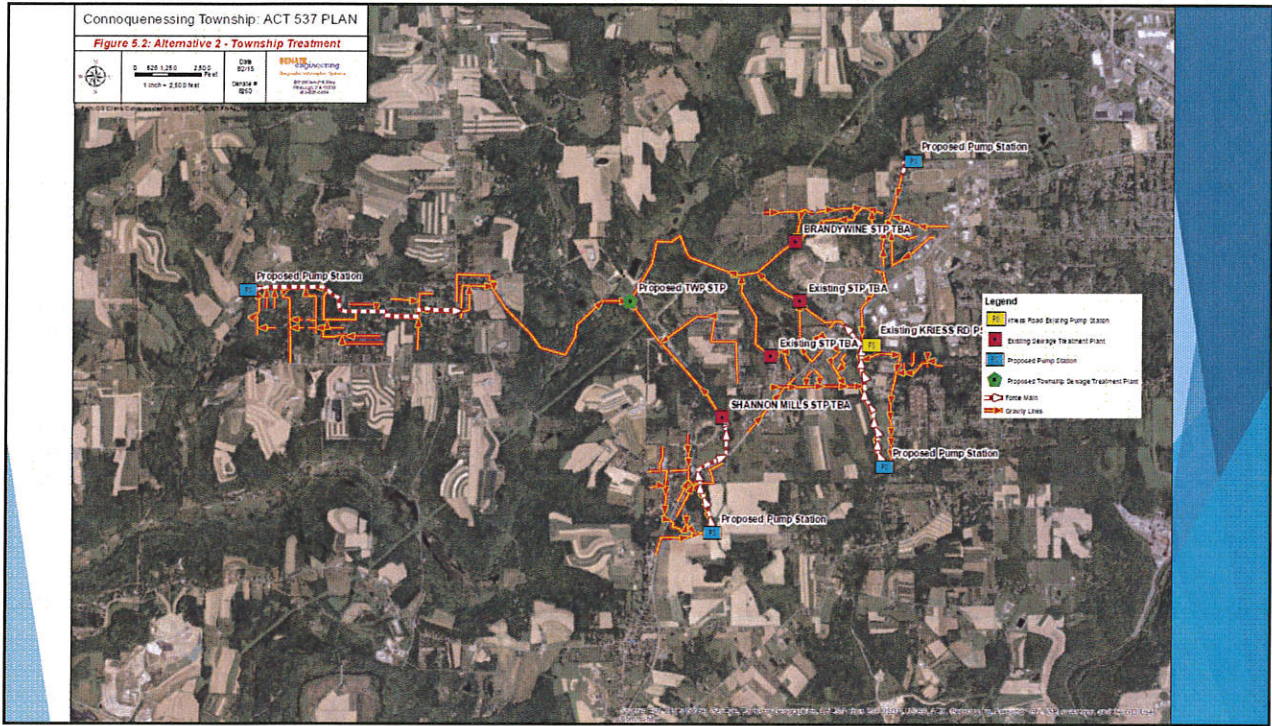




## ALTERNATIVE 2 - TREATMENT AT TOWNSHIP WWTP

- ▶ The collection and conveyance system is similar to the BASA alternate however, the Dick Road Pump Station would become a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP).
- ▶ The Kreiss Road and Moose Road Pump Station would discharge to the Dick Road WWTP instead of the Cupps Road Pump Station.
- ▶ The new WWTP would employ an activated sludge process with disinfection.
- ▶ Treated effluent would be discharged directly to the Little Connoquenessing Creek.







## COST ESTIMATES

- ▶ The Alternatives would be implemented to two phases
  - ▶ Phase 1 - Route 68 Corridor, Dick Road structure
  - ▶ Phase 2 - Woodlands collection and conveyance construction
- ▶ The anticipated construction, operation, and debt service cost for Phase 1 of each alternative are as follows:

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
<b>Estimated Phase 1 Project Cost</b>	\$ 14,300,000	\$ 14,800,000
<b>Estimated Annual O&amp;M Cost</b>	\$ 679,800	\$ 317,800
<b>Yearly Debt Service</b>	\$ 812,000	\$ 671,000
<b>Total Annual Cost</b>	\$ 1,491,800	\$ 988,800

## USER FEES

- ▶ Only customers connected to the new sewer system will be charged a user fee
- ▶ Township taxes will not be used to pay for the sewer system
- ▶ User fees are estimated by dividing the total annual cost of the system by the number of Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs)
- ▶ An EDU is equal to 220 gpd sewage flow per typical residential household

## USER FEES

- ▶ Based on a total of 1,210 estimated initial EDUs, the cost per typical residential household for each Phase 1 alternative is as follows:

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Estimated Annual User Fees	\$ 1,232	\$ 817
Estimated Monthly User Fees	\$ 103	\$ 68

## ESTIMATED TAP FEES

- ▶ Tap fees are a one-time cost to each customer prior to connection to the sewer system.
- ▶ The estimated tap fees for each alternative are as follows:

	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
BASA Tap Fee per EDU	\$ 3,190	\$ 0
Township Tap Fee per EDU	\$ 0	\$ 3,000
Total Tap Fee per EDU	\$ 3,190	\$ 3,000



## SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

- ▶ Environmental Concerns:
  - ▶ The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources do not anticipate a significant impact as a result of the project.
  - ▶ The U.S. Fish and Wildlife request that the project is completed in a manner to mitigate the impact to the Indiana Bat
  - ▶ The project will require the disturbance of wetlands. The Township will work closely with the DEP and Butler County Conservation District during the design process to mitigate the impact on the wetlands.
  - ▶ Any impacts to the floodway<sup>plain</sup> of the Little Connoquenessing Creek from construction of the WWTP will be addressed during the design and permitting process. The WWTP will be elevated to ensure no flooding occurs during the 100 year flood event.

## SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

- ▶ Alternative 2, Township Treatment is the most cost effective alternative that meets the existing and future needs of the Township.

## POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

- ▶ Potential funding sources that will be considered and investigated include the following:
  - ▶ Government Grants
  - ▶ Government Loan Programs (Pennvest, RUS, etc.)
  - ▶ Bonds
  - ▶ Private Banks

## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

- ▶ Public comments are received and addressed. — 1 month
- ▶ The Plan is adopted by the Township and sent to DEP for review and approval — 1 month
- ▶ The design and permitting phases are completed — 24 months



## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS? (con't)

- ▶ Funding is secured — 6 to 9 months
- ▶ Bids are received and the facilities are constructed — 24 months
- ▶ Construction is complete and ready for connection — 1 month
- ▶ The total process could take up to 5 years or more

*THANK YOU YOUR INTEREST AND  
PARTICIPATION.*

*QUESTIONS?*