West Vincent Township Environmental Advisory Council
August 6, 2026, 7:00 P.M.
Minutes

The Meeting was called to Order at 7:01pm

Attendance

Committee members: Barbara Mako, Donna Delany, Drew Wallace, Holly DeCovny, Rachel McKay
Charlene Briggs
Supervisor Liaison Dana Alan by phone

Minutes

Donna made a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting; Barbara seconded; the minutes of the July meeting were unanimously approved

Motion

Donna made a motion that the EAC formally thank our Supervisors for joining with 6 other Chester County townships to request restoration of Chester County Open Space funding; Rachel seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Healthy Yard Recognition

Mike Maher received Healthy Yard Recognition, but was not available to come to receive his lawn sign

Fall Fest

The EAC discussed holding our fall plant swap at Fall Fest and manning a table. There could be a tour of the Botanical Sanctuary. Members will collect ideas for engaging our community over the next month and share them at our Sept. meeting. Final planning will be done then.

Road Salt Storage Update

The road salt pile at Wawa is being addressed. Going forward, the EAC should pay attention to road salt piles in our township. At the very least, they need to be covered. Come the end of the winter season, they should be removed. The township could offer to do the removal and store the salt with the township supply, perhaps thereby needing to purchase less salt in the next season and saving tax payer money. Stroud sent out materials pertaining to this issue, which are attached at the bottom of these minutes.

Nature Tenders

- Park and Rec has invited us to visit Wilson's Corner Park with them in August to brainstorm on BMP.

- Donna made the following motion:
  Motion –The Committee recommends to the Board of Supervisors that it pursue the following with Toll Brothers –

  1. That the greenway created by the development be dedicated to the Township as opposed to being held by the HOA
  2. That the 'conservancy lot' along Rt. 401 be dedicated to the township instead of being added to the current horse farm along Rt. 401
  3. That a conservation easement be placed on the above lands by the township to protect agriculture and the ecological health of the open spaces for the future.
  4. That the transfer of ownership of the land should not occur until the planned trail and landscaping have been installed by Toll Brothers.

  The committee is concerned that an HOA may not have the resources, knowledge or ability to manage woodlands, a viewshed, and riparian buffers in a manner that enhances the ecological health and beauty of our community. The Weatherstone development and the apartment development on Rt. 100 used this same method – so there is precedent in our township for turning the greenway land over to the township and then the township placing conservation easements on it. This has enabled Green Valleys, French & Pickering, and the WV EAC to hold educational events and stewardship events on these lands. It has enabled the continuation of agriculture on these lands. Because the township owns the land and agreed, Green Valleys restored a riparian buffer on the Griffith Farm and the EAC has held stewardship service projects there. The first ever Litter Lifter event was created jointly by Donna as French & Pickering's Stewardship Coordinator and a Weatherstone resident, Peter Reitmeyer, on designated Weatherstone Open Space. French & Pickering will monitor the easement annually, and they will alert the township to any cause for environmental or physical concern. There is high value in protecting our agricultural land for the future. The current horse farm along Rt. 401 is functioning well with its existing acreage; adding the conservancy lot to it might actually make it less marketable.

  Barbara seconded. The motion passed with 4 yes votes. One member abstained because he is not familiar with the property.

Pollinator Pitstop

- Fall Plant swap – coordinate with Fall Fest

Healthy Yard

- Lawn to meadow update – the county has the project out to bid with contractors. Part of the proposed meadow area is currently meadow.
- Pre-Development Soil Testing – Is testing for PFAS in soil and remediation already included in our zoning code? We will follow up to find out.

- PECO Pesticides – Dana now has a contact at PECO who can help us navigate their herbicide program. Dana gave her a Healthy Yard sign, told her about our Pesticide Alert webpage, and let her know our preference that herbicides not be used

Birdtown –

- The 5 baby Kestrals have fledged!
- Purple Martin condo updates from Barbara - Very successful first season for our new PM condos. We had 3 PMs fledge and 2 more getting ready to fledge. In addition, the team created a Google doc to document adult bird activity and nest monitoring. A combination lock was added to the pulley system to deter unwanted human activity.

Next steps will be to take down the gourds at the end of the summer, clean and store for the winter. We start again in the spring of 2027.

Moving forward - Create list of responsibilities that volunteers need to agree to including:

- Must accompany EAC member on at least one nest monitoring training visit.
- Willing to nest monitor at least once per month during the spring/summer.
- Must enter data into Goole docs within 48 hours of nest monitoring visit.
- Ability to communicate via email.
- Also, create list of PM volunteers with email addresses and phone numbers.

- Lead Poisoning Awareness updates – Holly did not receive any volunteers from reaching out to the NCC-EAC group. She is zooming with Heidi from Bird Town on Monday. She would like to find a way to meet and interact with hunting groups. Perhaps the PA EAC conference will be a good time to get more traction on this important topic.

Botanical Sanctuary

Update from Charlene – one half of the sanctuary was brush hogged by the township! Thank you! The wood chips down, thanks to Frank's hard work! Thank you, Frank! Charlene needs a key to the gate so as to drive in to deliver water – the next step is to find stepping stones to create a path through the garden. Charlene hopes to plant more plants in late September.

Plastice Bag Ordinance

Donna noted that New Jersey's statewide **"Skip the Stuff" law** took effect on August 1, 2026. It prohibits food merchants and delivery apps from automatically including single-use plastic utensils, straws, napkins, and condiment packets in takeout and delivery orders unless the customer explicitly requests them.

Donna is still working on getting sample store signs to the township.

Updates From Other Committees – none

Public Comment - none

Adjourn Donna made a motion to adjourn at 8:17; Rachel seconded, the motion passed unanimously

Future Dates
Fall Fest, Opalanie Park, October 10
Oct 24 - PA EAC Conference – Fort Washington, PA

Stroud Road Salt Materials

Finding Salt Piles – Instructions

Introduction

Road salt contamination of streams, wetlands, and groundwater has been documented and discussed for decades, beginning as early as the 1970s in North America. While most studies have found that salt applied to roads and parking lots is the predominant source of salt that contaminates water resources, there can be local issues such as a salt pile or discharge from a wastewater treatment plant that may directly affect an individual stream or stream reach, but generally not across a broader stream network. Road salt storage sites can range from large, permanent facilities used by state and larger municipalities that store 1000 or more tons of road salt to medium/small permanent storage sheds that hold <100 to several hundred tons of salt for smaller and more rural municipalities and a variety of commercial and private operations. The permanent nature of these sites is important as it means local salt contamination can occur annually over decades. Private applicators often create relatively small storage piles consisting of 1–5 ton piles that are temporary and distributed across the company's service area or territory. These locations can change depending on the applicator and clients.

Ideally, this protocol is used in association with stream salt monitoring data (i.e., salt snapshots) to identify where road salt is stored and managed relative to stream sampling sites to see if and when the presence of these salt piles shows up in water samples from nearby stream sites. Information about salt piles is also important for residents as they begin to talk about their stream sampling results and local concerns. While these salt storage sites are small relative to the watershed area, they are locations with the most intense salt presence (per unit area) in a watershed, and therefore have an elevated potential for local stream and groundwater contamination. Below we describe a process for finding salt piles and documenting nearby conditions to support community groups addressing road salt management issues and possible associated pollution of streams, rivers, and other waterbodies. The process is relatively simple and benefited from conversations with participants in the Stroud Center's salt monitoring network, as well as instructions developed for a similar purpose by DJ Varner and Cindy Mehallow as part of the Newtown Township (PA) Environmental Advisory Council.

Overview

In Pennsylvania road salt application is generally done by state, local, and private applicators. PennDOT, the state agency that conducts winter maintenance on state (and interstate) highways and roads has 599 salt storage facilities and these locations are publicly available via the PennDOT Facilities ArcGIS Hub (https://data-pennshare.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/penndot-facilities/explore). We recommend that individuals or groups take the time visit this website (and download the list of sites) to understand if any of their stream sampling sites may be affected by a state salt storage site. Most counties have several state salt storage facilities (e.g., Allegheny = 24, Chester = 13, Dauphin = 20, Lancaster = 11, York = 13), but many smaller watersheds and subwatersheds do not. Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) operates 36 salt storage facilities distributed across 23 maintenance sheds that are not on this list, but should be located if of local interest to a group. Any list of salt storage sites of interest to a group should include these state facilities given their size and permanence. Because locations of state salt storage facilities are publicly available, we focus here on methods for locating municipal and privately owned/managed salt piles.

There are 2,560 municipalities in Pennsylvania, and we assume that each municipality has at least one designated area for salt storage. That means there are at least 2,560 municipal salt pile locations distributed across Pennsylvania (one per 17.5 square miles). We are not aware of an inventory of municipal salt pile locations similar to what is available for state locations. It has been our experience that the municipal salt piles are near where other public works equipment is stored and salt brine is mixed. Municipal salt facilities tend to be smaller than the state facilities (although some large cities have large salt sheds and hold 1000s of tons of salt), but generally include permanent structures to protect the salt pile from precipitation and manage runoff across the site and away from the salt pile. The size of salt piles and quality of these structures vary greatly, as do the management efforts to reduce salt contamination associated with salt piles. This article illustrates the range of municipal structures:
https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/late-salt-deliveries-could-hamper-storm-response-in-some-towns/

Permanent salt storage structures can also be found when large commercial or other private/public properties with extensive roads, parking lots, and sidewalks are managed as a single unit. Examples of this type of situation might be large educational campuses (university, college, community college, and school district campuses), recreational and tourist centers (e.g., golf courses/country clubs, large botanical parks, zoological parks), medical complexes, warehouse and distribution complexes, large shopping malls and town centers.

Finally, there are the smaller salt piles that are managed by private contractors (i.e., property management, winter maintenance, and/or landscaping companies). These sites generally are temporary and are distributed across the company's service area or territory. They often change depending on the service company and clients. They generally do not include permanent

structures to limit exposure of the salt pile to precipitation and runoff making them potentially significant sources of salt contamination in nearby waterbodies. These piles may be covered only by tarps that are often dislodged, exposing the pile to precipitation; furthermore, these piles often sit directly on parking lot asphalt and runoff may flow through the piles carrying salt with it to nearby storm drains, catchment basins, and streams. Please note that many private contractors do not work from salt piles but rather use bagged salt.

Because locations of state salt storage facilities are publicly available, this document is more focused on locating: 1) permanent salt piles managed by local municipalities and larger educational campuses and business/commercial sites that have their own winter maintenance teams and equipment, and 2) smaller salt piles being managed by private contractors (i.e., property management, winter maintenance, and landscaping companies). Local municipalities as well as educational campuses and larger business/commercial sites will usually have designated areas for salt storage that includes a permanent structure that protects the salt pile from the weather and runoff. Once these sites are identified they probably do not need be revisited annually (unless management practices are in question such as leaving salt piles outside of the protective shelter or if piles can be flooded during high water events from nearby streams and rivers). In contrast, private contractors often establish their salt piles in low use areas such as on the back edges of parking lots. These salt piles are often not well protected and may leak salt into the surrounding environment during winter months or throughout the year (depending on how long salt is stored at the site). In addition, as noted above, these sites are often temporary and can change depending on the contractor and clients. Thus, these small contractor sites may need to be visited annually, or even more frequently to better understand the nature of these temporary storage sites. They may be more prone to mismanagement and may be sources of salt pollution to nearby waterbodies and groundwater. However, because they are much smaller, their local impact may actually be less than at one of the permanent sites (data from this protocol may help to inform this question).

Finding salt piles by initially “just looking around” may be very challenging without significant help or luck. A more productive approach may be to leverage local resources.

1. First, get the word out about what you are looking for through social media and connections with local environmental and community organizations. Local residents know about many of these sites, both large and small, and can help you by providing some necessary location details.
2. Second, while waiting for Step 1 responses, get started by accessing the PADOT list of state managed sites and determine if any occur in your area of interest.
3. Third, call or visit the department of public works offices for municipalities of interest. In person may be more productive because the salt pile can be part of the public works complex. As part of that municipal conversation, inquire about nearby non-municipal salt piles. Municipal workers know their landscapes.
4. Fourth, make a list of larger educational campuses, business/commercial properties, warehouse complexes, etc. that may have their own winter maintenance teams and equipment and identify who to talk to about these properties. Combine this information with information that was acquired as part of the public outreach in Step 1. It is through

this process that smaller salt piles can be identified, and that new information (shared again with residents) may lead to new contacts once people understand what you are looking for.

5. Finally, visit each site and document conditions, including confirming or correcting any information that was initially shared about the sites.

Method

Tools/Equipment/Supplies

- Computer with internet access
- Model My Watershed (https://modelmywatershed.org/)(publicly accessible, no login required) to delineate watersheds and identify locations within the watershed with more intensive development
- Stroud Center Salt Snapshot map (INSERT LINK WHEN NEWEST VERSION AVAILABLE) with sites and municipal boundaries highlighted
- Google Maps or Google Earth to help identify locations and directions
- Transportation (car, bike, foot)
- Smart phone:
    - GPS capabilities for longitude and latitude of site (in decimal degrees)(e.g., Google Maps)
    - Mapping app for travel directions (e.g., Waze, Apple Maps, Google Maps)
    - Camera to document site
- Notebook to record initial site details and field observations
- Salt Pile Data Sheet (see Appendix A)
    - Hard copy (as needed)
    - Electronic copy (for final digital recording of salt pile findings)

Step 1. Organize. Get the word out about what you are looking for through social media and connections with local environmental and community organizations. Local residents know about many of these sites, both large and small, and can help you by providing some necessary location details.

- Assemble your team.
- Who to contact.
- How to contact.
- How to handle responses.
- If working as a team, how to avoid duplicating efforts – assign communication pathways. Consider use of a shared document, e.g., Google sheet or document in Salt Pile Data Sheet (see Appendix A).

Step 2. State Facilities. While waiting for Step 1 responses, get started by accessing the PADOT list of state managed sites.

- Access PennDOT Facilities ArcGIS Hub (https://data-pennshare.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/penndot-facilities/explore) and find salt storage/distribution locations in your area of study.
- If you have a state site, practice data collection using mapping and/or site visit.
- Enter site information into Salt Pile Data Sheet.

Step 3. Municipal Facilities. Call or visit the public works offices for municipalities of interest. Visiting in person may be more productive because the salt piles can be part of the public works complex and/or located off-site. As part of that municipal conversation, inquire about nearby non-municipal salt piles. Municipal workers know their landscapes.

- Identify relevant municipalities, and then location of public works offices and person to contact.
- Use Model My Watershed to outline watersheds upstream of sampling sites. Combine with other boundaries of interest such as municipal lines.
- If visiting in person, make sure to record site information at that time (see Step 5).
- Municipalities may also have maps that identify roads and parking lots they do not oversee. For example:
    - PennDOT map of municipal roads for Newtown Township https://www.newtowntownship.org/DocumentCenter/View/2535/PennDOT-Map-10-19-rev
    - Snow removal map for West Whiteland Township https://www.westwhiteland.org/DocumentCenter/View/2469/SNOW-PLAN-MAP-2025-2026
- Municipalities may also have maps that show HOAs (Home Owner Associations) that are responsible for their own winter road maintenance. Follow up on these non-municipal leads in Step 4.

Step 4. Private Facilities. Identify major private properties that have large areas of paved surfaces and may have their own salt management/application services and/or contractors. Use information that was acquired as part of the public outreach in Step 1 to inform this process.

Salt piles that are on private property and managed by private companies are often small and undocumented; therefore, finding them will likely require more extensive field reconnaissance (Step 5) than for state and municipal piles. Furthermore, these types of salt piles are often temporary with minimal containment and protection from precipitation (e.g., tarps and concrete blocks) making them potentially more vulnerable to unintended salt loss/leakage (Figure 1).

It is through this process that smaller temporary or minimally managed salt piles can be identified – that new information (shared again with residents) may lead to new contacts once people understand what you are looking for.

- Identify larger educational campuses, business/commercial properties, warehouse complexes, homeowners associations (HOAs), etc. that may have their own winter maintenance teams and equipment and identify who to talk to about these properties.
    - Use local knowledge/networking with local residents.
    - Use Model My Watershed – e.g., identify the highest intensity developed areas in your study region.
    - Use Google Maps – e.g., search for "HOA"
    - Access records via local Planning Department, Zoning Office, or Tax Assessor.

Figure 1. Exposed temporary salt pile in commercial property parking lot. Photo by Carol Armstrong.

Step 5. Visit and assess salt piles. Based on sites identified in Step 1 and 4 (and as part of Step 3), conduct site visits (i.e., field scouting/reconnaissance) and record site specific information. These visits are necessary to document salt pile locations and current conditions, including confirming or correcting any information that was initially shared about the site. Repeat visits may be appropriate to document changes during salt pile usage. After assessing all of these sites, reexamine the map to see if there are areas that seem to be missing information (e.g., a large parking lot or neighborhood). These areas may require additional examinations, especially in the middle of winter when temporary salt piles might be present.

1. Conduct field investigations (by vehicle, bike, foot, etc.) and document results. Record information in Salt Pile Data Sheet (see Appendix A) such as salt pile location (lat/long), conditions, and other site-specific information (e.g., nearby streams/rivers, storm drains, stormwater basins, etc.).
    a. Organize team of people to target high priority areas identified in previous steps and consider timing of investigation(s).
        i. Preferred time of year is late fall/early winter once salt piles have been established or replenished. If a salt pile was expected but not observed, schedule a revisit to the site in Jan/Feb to confirm that the site is no longer used for salt storage.
        ii. Salt piles can be monitored as they are used and change through the winter if time/personnel allow for it – be prepared to record multiple visits to salt piles.
    b. Work in pairs for safety. Make sure team leader/others know the plan, departure time, and expected return time. Make sure contact information is exchanged among leader(s) and participants.
    c. Explore as many high priority areas as possible via driving, walking, or biking. Look for typical signs of salt pile usage and places where salt piles are often located including:
        i. At the edge or in the corner of parking lots of the commercial properties and at the edge of residential developments near maintenance or HOA office structures.
        ii. Near landscaping contractor equipment (these same contractors are often those who do snow removal and salt application).
        iii. Near snow removal equipment, landscaping equipment trailers, donation collection bins, and/or waste/recycling dumpsters.
        iv. Large concrete blocks and plastic tarps are commonly used to contain and cover salt piles.
    d. Documentation of salt piles. For each salt pile located record the following information (use electronic Salt Pile Data Sheet for final record keeping, attached):
        i. Salt pile ID (name/#)
        ii. Date
        iii. Latitude/Longitude (in decimal degrees, e.g., 39.858952, -75.783011)
        iv. Private, Municipal, or State pile? (P/M/S)
        v. Permanent or Temporary pile? (P/T)
        vi. Narrative description of salt pile and area around pile (risks, details on improper pile coverage, nearby streams, storm drains, stormwater catchments, etc.)
        vii. Name of data collector(s)
        viii. Photographs – of salt pile (multiple angles, problem areas), surrounding landscape, nearby storm drains, stormwater retention basins, streams, rivers, ponds, wetlands, etc.

e. Consider having literature on hand to pass out if needed.

2. Once salt pile sites have been identified (or at least started), please share with Stroud Water Research Center so that we can upload data to a map and include the sites in the broad scale analyses. This will help others see where salt piles have been found (or not found), and any indication of their impact on stream condition. Including the salt pile impacts in analyses of salt snapshots will help us to better express the role of salt piles in local salt problems.

3. Follow-up options/considerations
    a. Display salt pile locations (and associated info) on a map (online and/or hard copy).
    b. Follow up with sampling of nearby streams (downstream/upstream) to measure dissolved salt (specific conductance and chloride) near the salt pile relative to other locations in your area of interest. If salt pile appears to drain to a stormwater retention basin, consider sampling the water in the basin and or water draining from the basin.
    c. Consider communicating with local leaders and community.
        i. Communicate concerns and recommendations with property owners/managers.
        ii. If mismanagement is identified, consider informing municipal leaders and elected officials to prompt and inform government policy. Be respectful and consider talking directly to salt pile owner/managers before reporting to local or state authorities.
        iii. When discussing salt storage, remember that most salt measured at most stream sites came from land application efforts and not salt storage sites. Studies have shown that salt contamination of most of our streams and rivers is primarily a reflection of road salt use on roads and parking lots.

APPENDIX A. Salt Pile Data Sheet – use in reference with associated Finding Salt Piles protocol (use Excel spreadsheet electronic copy for final digital recording of findings and to print copies for data recording by hand).

Salt Pile Data Sheet (Stroud Water Research Center, DRAFT, July 2026)						
Salt pile ID (name/#)	Date	Latitude (Decimal Degrees)	Longitude (Decimal Degrees)	Private, Municipal, or State pile? (P/M/S)	Permanent or Temporary pile? (P/T)	Narrative description of salt pile and area around pile (risks, details on improper pile coverage, nearby streams storm drains, stormwater catchments, etc.)
Additional Notes						

Respectfully Submitted, Donna Delany