

LANCASTER County Matters

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOURGLASS FOUNDATION

HOURGLASS



FOUNDATION

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Water — Our Precious Resource

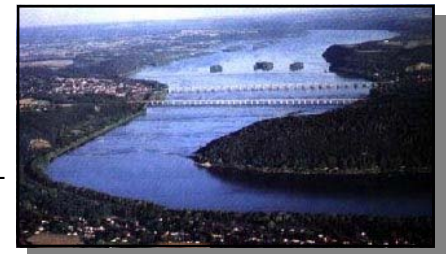


By John A. Jarvis

None of us talk very much about water. In fact we don't really think much about it as long as water comes out of the faucet. We assume that like death and taxes it will keep coming.

But will it? Lancaster County and the State of Pennsylvania can no longer take it's water supply for granted In order to check your water I.Q., can you answer these questions? *(The answers can be found on page 7.)*

1. How much water do you need per day to survive?
2. What was the average per capita daily water use in the year 1900 in Pennsylvania when there were 6 million citizens?
3. What is the average per capita daily water use today when we have 12 million citizens?
4. With a population of 470,658, how many gallons do Lancastrians use per day?
5. Then we must ask how much water is there in our ground water on which all Lancastrians with wells, many farms and businesses depend?
6. How much water in Pennsylvania is taken from the Susquehanna River per day? It was 275 million gallons per day in 1970.
7. How much water is expected to be extracted per day by the year 2020?
8. How much water can be safely extracted from the Susquehanna River without destroying the Chesapeake Bay?



Some of these questions were presented to students and teachers of Lancaster County schools at a recent seminar underwritten by the Hourglass Foundation. The course was taught by Professors Merritts and DeWet of Franklin and Marshall College.

The Hourglass Foundation is proud to present on May 16th a forum for all interested citizens of Lancaster. We are happy to have the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, David E. Hess, speak at the Woods Memorial Room of Franklin and Marshall College at 6:00 p.m. His topic will be "The Future of Water Resources Begins Today". (See Page 3 for more details.)

We are also proud to have three panelists who will engage in a discussion with Secretary Hess after his presentation. The Panelists are: Thomas T. Baldrige, President, The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Jeanne Sonntag, Chairperson, Lancaster County Water Resources Task Force and Daniel Zimmerman, Chairperson, Lancaster County Planning Commission and Warwick Township Manager.

The Forum initiated by the Hourglass Foundation is part of the Envision Series of the Lancaster County Planning Commission. Don't miss it! Your future may well depend on how water is understood in Lancaster County.

Final Note: Since this is such an important subject, The Hourglass Foundation will be holding a series of forums on water over the next two years. Keep your eyes and ears open and to be sure, why not become a Friend of the Hourglass Foundation by filling out the membership form found on Page 7.



The Future of Water Resources Begins Today

Stop Your Future From Draining Away !

Did you know?

- Pennsylvania has experienced drought emergency conditions in four of the last six years.
- Fewer than five percent of our communities have a “water budget” — know how much water they have and how it is being used.
- We have little information on withdrawals from streams and groundwater in more than one-third of Pennsylvania.
- More than 15,000 water wells are drilled every year, but we don’t have any standards guiding construction or abandonment to protect groundwater.
- Some water systems lose up to 40 percent of their water from the treatment plant to the tap. We have no water conservation or water use efficiency programs.
- We need to revamp our stormwater management program to encourage the recharge of groundwater supplies, preventing quick runoff.

These were the critical Pennsylvania water issues raised most often by the more than 1,700 people attending Water Forums in Spring 2001 sponsored by DEP.

To respond to these concerns, new legislation is being proposed to:

- Update the State Water Plan;
- Identify Critical Water Planning Areas;
- Create a Water Conservation Program; and
- Set Water Well Construction Standards.

Update Pennsylvania’s State Water Plan

To lay a foundation for making decisions about our water resources we first need basic information about how much water we have and how it’s being used. We need to update the State Water Plan.

Legislation will require water users to register the amount of water they use and report on a regular basis to DEP. DEP will work with river basin commissions and other agencies to build a picture of Pennsylvania’s water use and available supplies of surface and groundwater. The plan will look at the amount of water needed to meet the demands for drinking, business and to protect aquatic life.

A new Water Resources Advisory Committee will be created to help with this effort.

Identify Critical Water Planning Areas

The State Water Plan will identify Critical Water Planning Areas – watersheds covering several municipalities that are now, or will, experience water shortages and where demands outstrip available supplies.

Legislation will set up an open, public process for DEP to designate an organization/government representative of the Critical Water Planning Area to do a detailed Integrated Water Resources Plan. The organization must include local stakeholders in the process and be capable of carrying out the planning process. DEP will provide financial and technical support.

The local planning organization will develop a detailed Water Budget for the area, identify specific problems and solutions, identify opportunities for water conservation and put together an action plan. Local, state, river basin and federal partners will help to implement the plan.

Voluntary Water Conservation

DEP will establish a program to support a water conservation effort in Pennsylvania and provide funding priority, through PENNVEST, for water conservation and water loss prevention projects. Grants also will be provided for water resources education, technical assistance and water conservation.

Water Well Standards

DEP proposes to establish private water well standards statewide for siting, construction, alteration and abandonment of wells. Well standards will include well driller testing and a continuing education program for well drillers.

Stormwater Management

DEP will propose changes to the Stormwater Management Program to encourage groundwater recharge and to coordinate with other watershed protection efforts.

Next Steps

First, learn more about these proposals.

Then express your support for water resources legislation.

Visit DEP’s website at www.dep.state.pa.us (directLINK “Water Resources”), write: Water Resources, c/o Department of Environmental Protection, P.O. Box 2063, Harrisburg, PA 17108, call toll-free 877-PA GREEN, or send e-mail to: myfuture@state.pa.us.



The Hourglass Foundation invites you to attend an important discussion

The Future of Water Resources Begins Today
May 16, 2002, 6:00 p.m.
Woods Memorial Meeting Room
Franklin and Marshall College Alumni Sports and Fitness Center
929 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster



Speaker: David E. Hess, Secretary
 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

He will discuss the current drought, his concerns facing the state's water resources and he will discuss the proposed new legislation to address Pennsylvania's water issues. There will be a panel discussion following the Secretary's remarks. Our discussion panelists are:



Thomas T. Baldrige
 President
 Lancaster Chamber
 of Commerce & Industry



Jeanne Sonntag
 Chairperson
 Lancaster County Water
 Resources Task Force



Daniel L. Zimmerman
 Chairperson
 Lancaster County Planning
 Commission and Warwick
 Township Manager

DEP Secretary David E. Hess urges residents to remember water-use restrictions -

“When Gov. Schweiker declared a drought emergency in mid-February, our focus was naturally on indoor water use and conservation methods,” Secretary Hess said. “Now that people are starting to plan their gardens and backyard pool schedule, it’s important they remember the many outdoor water-use restrictions we all must follow until groundwater and reservoir levels recover.”

Although regulations allow for some exceptions, outdoor gardens and landscaped areas can be watered only between the hours of 5 p.m. and 9 a.m. by using a hand-held container, a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle, or an irrigation system designed and operated to restrict the timing or total volume of water and to restrict the application to specific plantings in a manner that ensures effective water conservation. “*Effective water conservation*” means that water is applied in the minimum quantities necessary and in a manner that prevents runoff of water to sidewalks, driveways and established grass areas.

“The current drought situation emphasizes the need for state water-resources legislation,” Secretary Hess said. “The Schweiker Administration supports bills now pending in the state House and Senate that would provide officials with valuable water information.

Department of Environmental Protection Press Release April 5, 2002

Public Education in Pennsylvania: Issues and Options Forum held on March 5, 2002

On Tuesday, March 5, 2002 at Liberty Place, the Hourglass Foundation hosted a forum on public education funding entitled, **“Public Education in Pennsylvania: Issues and Options”**. A diverse audience of 250 listened as the speakers outlined what they saw as the issues in the funding of public education and the options that might be considered. The speakers for the evening were: The Honorable James J. Rhoades, Senator of Pennsylvania, Chairman of the Senate Education Committee; Benno C. Schmidt, Chairman, Edison Schools, Inc. and Judge Ray Corns, Kentucky Jurist and Education Reformer. The evening discussion was moderated by Sharron Nelson, Ph.D., Superintendent of the Manheim Township School District.

If you were unable to attend this forum, please contact our office to obtain a transcript or arrange for a copy of the video by calling (717) 295-0755 or via E-mail: hourglass.foundation@verizon.net.

Questions from the Public Education Forum Attendees

For Senator Rhoades:

- Are Cyber Schools motives “pure” or is it all about the money?
- What does the public need to do to keep school funding reform a top issue in the governor’s election?
- How will your bill or proposal provide adequate and equitable funding for Pennsylvania public education?
- What measures will be used to assure accountability in Pennsylvania’s Public Schools and how will the issue of adequate funding be addressed?
- When will the legislature adopt regulations to govern the free wheeling cyber schools? (The problem has been apparent for about nine months.)
- When the City of Lancaster considered revitalization projects we looked to successful projects of other comparable cities. Are there other states that could serve as a model for Pennsylvania in public education?
- I appreciate your resolution to “shift taxes”, but, how can the Assembly use these resources for school reform? If some schools will get relief, as they should, how can we be sure they will be using it to improve class size, teacher quality, pre-school education, better testing in Science and Social Studies as well as Reading and Math?
- How do we get a larger financial pie in Pennsylvania for public education?
- Changing from property to income tax assessments, what would the expenditure per student be in the two school districts you mentioned, one at \$14,000 per student and the other at \$6,000 per student?
- Please comment on the notion of the separation of public funding of secondary education from the provision of educational services.
- When an Empowerment List school uses its empowerment funding to improve and get off the List, why does the State then remove the empowerment funding and put the school back into the same position that helped cause the problem? If the funding worked, why take it away?
- Are you suggesting a dollar for dollar swap from categorical support to basic subsidy support—as opposed to a general increase in support for general education?
- When do you expect: 1) Capability in Pennsylvania for real reform in public education financing? 2) Equalizing of per student funding in education?
- Part of what may hinder any broad-based support for moving away from property-based funding is the fear of loss of local control of the educational program. Can you comment on how local control of programs will be maintained? Put another way—who will determine (control) the level of program funding if the majority of dollars comes from a state-wide tax?
- Does year round school offer savings and/or better quality education for our children?
- Related to your comment of “\$8 million spent annually to determine teacher’s abilities”, my question is this, what percentage of the teachers that are currently in the system are “un-qualified”? What is planned to rectify this issue?



On Wednesday, March 27, 2002 Senator Rhoades unveiled, “The Fairness in Education Funding Act”, bill at a press conference. Under his proposal, the state’s subsidies to its public schools would significantly rise while school districts would be required to reduce property taxes. If passed, the measure would increase the state’s subsidy from 38.3 percent to 73.7 percent and require school districts to reduce their property taxes by an average of 68 percent, varying from district to districts. “Taxpayer equity is fundamental to true reform,” he said. “By shifting away from the property tax and to the state personal tax, we will base tax assessments on an individual’s ability to pay.” The state subsidy, determined by formulas outlined in the bill, will vary among school districts. The formulas take into account the number of students and actual local resources and personal income. “Districts that are growing would receive increased state funds to compensate for their growth,” Rhoades explained. “School districts that are becoming poorer would see corrections for this as well.”

Pottsville Republican, March 27, 2002

Continued on Page 5

Questions from the Public Education Forum Attendees (cont'd.)

For Benno Schmidt:

- How can we implement school choice (vouchers) without depriving urban public schools of much needed sources?
- If there is a commitment to equal opportunity in the private parochial choice and competition movement, should private parochial schools that accept public dollars be required to admit any and all students that public schools accept? If no, where is the commitment to equal opportunity?
- What makes an Edison School different from the normal public school?
- How can the Edison School program be initiated into our school program?
- If Edison is the “free market” competitive alternative, why does it require \$75 million in taxpayer subsidy to succeed?
- Is there, or should there be, a federal constitutional right to equality of education?
- How can Edison Schools promote choice and freedom when the average admissions waiting list averages 140? Public schools, unfortunately, don’t have a waiting list. We need to service all.
- What percentage of fault for our poor education system do you give to: 1) Our education complex? 2) Children’s parents and communities? 3) Dollars spent per student?



re-

For Judge Corns:

- What restrictions were placed on new monies gained from Kentucky’s education reform?
- An 18-year old senior has spent 9% of her life in school and 91% of her life in other places (home and neighborhood). Is there a way to assess and hold the 91% accountable? Rather than identifying failing schools—what about failing environments? Unsafe schools make news. Daily, unsafe homes should make news. Can we (as a caring community) hold parents accountable?
- You mentioned that there are three D’s in education reform leadership. Can you elaborate on the leadership challenge?
- Unfortunately, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has ruled that inequitable school funding does not violate the State Constitution. Have you considered running for election to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court?



School District Real Estate Tax Levies and Enrollment—2001

Ranked by Tax Levy Totals by District

<u>School District</u>	<u>2001 Tax Levy</u>	<u>Enrollment 2001</u>	<u>Taxes / Student</u>
Lancaster	\$ 39,249,991	10,987	\$ 3,572
Hempfield	34,892,425	7,200	4,846
Manheim Township	28,310,149	5,103	5,548
Penn Manor	24,206,002	5,319	4,551
Conestoga Valley	21,922,577	3,737	5,866
Ephrata Area	18,389,897	4,324	4,253
Warwick	17,670,534	4,580	3,858
Eastern Lancaster County	16,572,587	3,575	4,636
Cocalico	15,277,252	3,402	4,491
Lampeter-Strasburg	14,829,144	3,052	4,859
Elizabethtown Area	14,808,293	3,934	3,764
Manheim Central	14,761,224	3,116	4,737
Solanco	12,774,057	4,162	3,069
Pequea Valley	10,892,535	1,900	5,733
Donegal	10,365,933	2,585	4,010
Columbia Borough	4,985,633	1,485	3,357
Total	\$299,908,233	68,461	\$4,381 Avg./Student

Source: Pennsylvania Economy League—Central Division—Research Summary, September, 2001

How We Got to This Point: The Erosion of School Funding in Pennsylvania

- 1968 The Pennsylvania Constitution adopted Article III, Section 14. "The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a **"thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the need of the Commonwealth."**
- 1971 The legislature enacted a new statewide personal income tax.
- 1974-75** The peak of the state basic instruction subsidy system. The Commonwealth provided basic subsidy of \$1.2 billion to reimburse expenditures of \$2.2 billion, reimbursing 55% of 1973-74 expenditures.
- 1975** Act 59 changed the calculation of the aid ratio so that 60% of state aid was based on a district market value and 40% was based on the personal income of the district's residents. This was enacted because the state could not provide increases sufficient to return to the 50% funding and the state was using the information gathered from the 1971 personal income tax law to overcome the deficit.
- 1982 The legislature stopped making yearly changes to the reimbursable amount and instead implemented a \$72 million dollar supplement called the "Equalized Supplement for Student Learning" (ESSL) that calculated funding disparities by reflecting local wealth and student population changes.
- 1983 Act 31 replaced the Basic Instruction subsidy with the equalized Subsidy for Basic Education (ESBE) and repealed the 50% subsidy requirement. The Factor for Educational Expense replaced the Actual Instruction Expense factor in the formula and was set each year by the legislature. The result of this legislation was that by the end of the 1980s, our funding system was inequitable for all public school children.
- 1991 The Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS) with 127 school districts filed a case in both the Commonwealth Court and in Federal District Court. The complaint described the disparities between districts with very few resources and those with great resources and charged that the current Pennsylvania system of funding public education is unconstitutional. Other districts followed, filing their own suits against the Commonwealth, eventually bringing the total number of districts suing the state to 221.
- 1998** The Pennsylvania Supreme Court halts the case in Commonwealth court by saying the issue is for the legislature to decide, not the courts.

Mark Your Calendars

"Is Lancaster County Running out of Water?"

The Future of Water Resources Begins Today —the first of a series of forums on this crucial issue

Thursday, May 16, 2002, 6:00 p.m.

Woods Memorial Room, Franklin and Marshall College Sports & Alumni Center

Speaker: David E. Hess, Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Discussion panelists: Thomas T. Baldrige, President, Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry;

Jeanne Sonntag, Chairperson, Lancaster County Water Resources Task Force and Daniel L.

Zimmerman, Chairperson, Lancaster County Planning Commission and Warwick Township Manager

Sponsored by the Hourglass Foundation

Contact: Jennifer Mundy, (717) 295-0755 or hourglass.foundation@verizon.net.

2002 Gourmet Gala of the Historic Preservation Trust

Sunday, May 19, 2002, 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

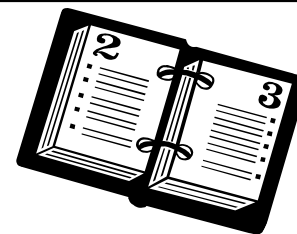
Landis Valley Museum

Sample fare from many of Lancaster County's best restaurants, caterers, wineries and microbreweries in a unique historical setting.

Enjoy music, carriage rides, and period craft demonstrations by museum staff.

Proceeds benefit the Trust's educational programs, research and advocacy efforts throughout the year.

For more information and tickets, call (717) 291-5861



Mailing List Being Updated Please Respond

The Hourglass Foundation asks your cooperation in helping to update the *CountyMatters* mailing list. We want to be sure that those who wish to receive the newsletter each month are receiving it, and that we remove those that no longer wish to be on the mailing list or have moved on.

Please contact Jennifer in the foundation office prior to June 1, 2002, to advise her of your continued interest in receiving *CountyMatters* and to confirm or update your address, or to request removal from the mailing list.

You may contact Jennifer as follows:

- E-mail at jennifer.mundy@verizon.net; By fax at 717-295-0757; or by Telephone 717-295-0755.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Water Quiz Answers from Page 1

- 1) 1 gallon 2) 5 gallons 3) 62 gallons 4) 460,658 multiplied by 62 gallons/day = 28,560,796 gallons/day 5) No one knows
6) 450 million 7) 700 million 8) No one knows but it is in great danger today.

REMINDER TO OUR READERS

A complete list of non-essential water uses and additional drought information is available through the PA PowerPort at www.state.pa.us. PA Keyword: "Drought". Information also is available on the toll-free hotline at 1-888-457-6653.

Tips on saving water are available through the PA PowerPort, PA Keyword: "Water Saving Tips."



Be a Lancaster County Champion

We need your financial assistance. The Hourglass Foundation is a non-profit organization formed to provide information, facilitate discussion and champion the intelligent management of Lancaster County resources. It is our hope to make local citizens, organizations and governments more aware and better informed. And, to help them find solutions to the immediate and long-term, growth-related problems impacting our quality of life.

- _____ \$2,000 and up Business Sponsor
- _____ \$1,000 Visionary
- _____ \$ 500 Steward
- _____ \$ 100 Associate
- _____ \$ 20 Friend

*Yes, I/we want to be a **Lancaster County Champion**, and will be pleased to support the Hourglass Foundation in the amount of \$_____.*

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____ **Phone:** _____ **Fax:** _____

e-mail: _____

Please make check payable to the Hourglass Foundation. Your contribution is tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. If you have any questions, call the Hourglass Foundation at (717) 295-0755 or via e-mail: hourglass.foundation@verizon.net

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Our Mission

Articulate and champion a shared vision for the smart growth and sustainable development of Lancaster County into the 21st Century.

Provide ideas that will enable Lancaster County's decision makers to choose wisely and do the right thing on issues—whether they are economic, environmental, societal, or cultural—that affect us all.

Bring together local citizens, organizations, communities, and governments to discuss common issues and to solve growth-related problems.

Protect the distinct character of Lancaster County and ensure its proud legacy for future generations.

The Hourglass Foundation is a non-profit organization. There is much work to be done. Please help us continue our efforts to make a difference in impacting the quality of life for future generations in Lancaster County by becoming a “Lancaster County Champion”.

Lancaster County Matters is published bi-monthly by the Hourglass Foundation. We welcome comments and ideas for future issues. Please notify our office of a change of address. Please contact Jennifer Mundy at (717)295-0755 or send an e-mail to office@hourglassfoundation.org.