

IRG Meeting

6/20/15

Larry Smith, Dave Rose, Davies Nagel, Lee Gratwick, Norm Gardner, Marta Nagel Burroughs, Dave Deuel, Anne Roth-Blizzard.

#1. Minutes of IRG meetings and subcommittees were reviewed and approved.

# 2. Jim Campbell's suggestion discussed: begin with reports to Board: intent to show progress. Do subcommittee recommendations suffice or do we as a board want to reach consensus on our report? Majority opinion and dissenting opinion? Charged with getting the Board the best information possible and coming up with non-binding recommendations. We do have ongoing minutes and subcommittee reports.

Important to do presentation with a heads up for extra time planning for Board.

Discussed the nature of what our recommendation would be: ban, zoning recommendations, etc.

#3. Preliminary Reports:

- a. Larry: Economics: discussed NYS Rep Collins and Nojay's assertion about jobs. Stats about local dairy economy and its positive impact. Referred to Sparta Ag Protection plan. 53 million dollars in dairy coming in each month vs. 500K for fracking. 10,000 cows in York. Severance. Compulsory integration.

David Rose added that he is going to try to get 2 speakers to talk with us about the economics of the Natural Gas industry... both sides.

- b. Dave N.: Land, Natural Resources and Waste Management: see attachment.

- c. David D. researched geology: Highly unlikely that hydrofracking/drilling for shale gas development will be occurring here based on stratigraphy. This conclusion is based on total organic content, thermal maturity. Waste water disposal storage requires porosity and permeability. Not likely to be approved in ag district.

- d. Anne and Lee, Quality of Life/Water: Approx. 500 private wells in town of York, most in north and west portions. Water quality and quantity is, for the most part, poor. Mapping done for Steering committee was based on old USGS sources (1988), pre mine collapse. Also, when Principal Aquifer Overlay was prepared, it did not appear to adequately protect residents dependent on well water. We hope to meet with a local geologist to secure updated information, to expand our topic to cover water as it relates to agricultural use and quality in general. Hope to have an informational table at the York Valley Fest for IRG.

#4. Tentative schedule was presented. Next regular IRG meeting Saturday 7/11. Continue with subcommittee preliminary reports.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Roth-Blizzard

# 2015 Town of York Impact Research Group

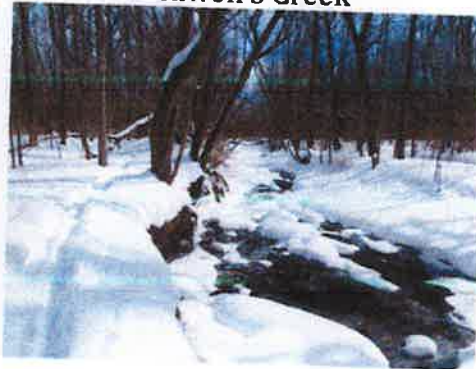
6/20/15 Preliminary Report: Land, Natural Resources, and Waste Management – D. Nagel

## 1. Snapshots:

A. York's Farmland <sup>1</sup>



B. Bidwell's Creek



C. Intersection Routes 63 & 36

## 2. Impacts:

### A. Land

(1.) Pennsylvania Dairy Farms and Marcellus Shale, 2007–2010; Penn State Cooperative Extension (2012)<sup>2</sup>

**Table 2. Change in Number of Cows by Marcellus Drilling Activity, 2007–2010.**

<i>Drilling activity within the county</i>	<i>Percent change (number of counties)</i>
No Marcellus wells	-1.2% (28)
1–9 Marcellus wells	-8.9% (11)
10–149 Marcellus wells	-11.3% (12)
150 or more Marcellus wells	-18.7% (5)
State average change at county level	-6.4% (56*)

\*Does not add to 67 counties due to missing data for some counties.

**Table 5. Change in Milk Production by Marcellus Drilling Activity, 2007–2010.**

<i>Drilling activity within the county</i>	<i>Percent change (number of counties)</i>
No Marcellus wells	0.9% (33)
1–9 Marcellus wells	-4.4% (14)
10–149 Marcellus wells	-10.0% (13)
150 or more Marcellus wells	-18.5% (5)
State average change at county level	-4.2% (56*)

\*Does not add to 67 counties due to missing data for some counties.

### B. Water

(1) EPA Hydrologic Fracturing Study (2015)<sup>3,4</sup>

Although this study summarizes that there were no "widespread, systemic impacts on drinking water resources" it does confirm that there were "specific instances" when fracking "led to impacts on drinking water resources, including contamination of drinking water wells." This finding contradicts the longstanding contention of the current administration, as well as the HVHF industry, that hydraulic fracturing has never tainted drinking water. A key component missing from the study was baseline data of water before, during and after fracking to gauge whether fracking affects water quality over time.

(2) NASA data and the world's supply of water (2015)<sup>5</sup>

"The world's largest underground aquifers are being depleted at alarming rates according to new NASA satellite data. We need to get our heads together on how we manage groundwater because we're running out of it." Just because our town's current supply of clean water seems to be meeting our demands, the worldwide situation is not the same.

### C. Road Traffic

(1) Driving Harm: Health and Community Impacts of Living near Truck Corridors (2012)<sup>6</sup>  
Waste disposal as well as other HVHF activities have a great impact on the areas surrounding traffic corridors. The exhaust from diesel trucks contains particulate matter that the EPA says is likely to cause cancer. Adding to this is dust from pulverized tire rubber and brake pads that contain asbestos, lead, and other heavy metals. Numerous health impacts are associated with these pollutants and stop and go traffic increases these negative effects. Adverse economic effects on communities near these roads include public health care costs and transportation infrastructure costs.

### 3. Recommendations:

The town's Comprehensive Plan states that the Town of York will remain a predominantly agricultural and rural residential community with a small town character. If the HVHF industry came to the town it would definitely not follow this stated plan. If the town decided to allow HVHF it would be advisable to first change the Comprehensive Plan to allow this to happen.

There would be no guarantees that our water, probably our most precious natural resource, would remain as it is today. The streams, aquifers, and Genesee River in the Town of York, which are so important to our quality of life here, need the greatest protection available. We cannot afford to risk contamination of this natural resource. A base line study of the streams in our town would be an advisable step in making sure the water remained as unpolluted as possible.

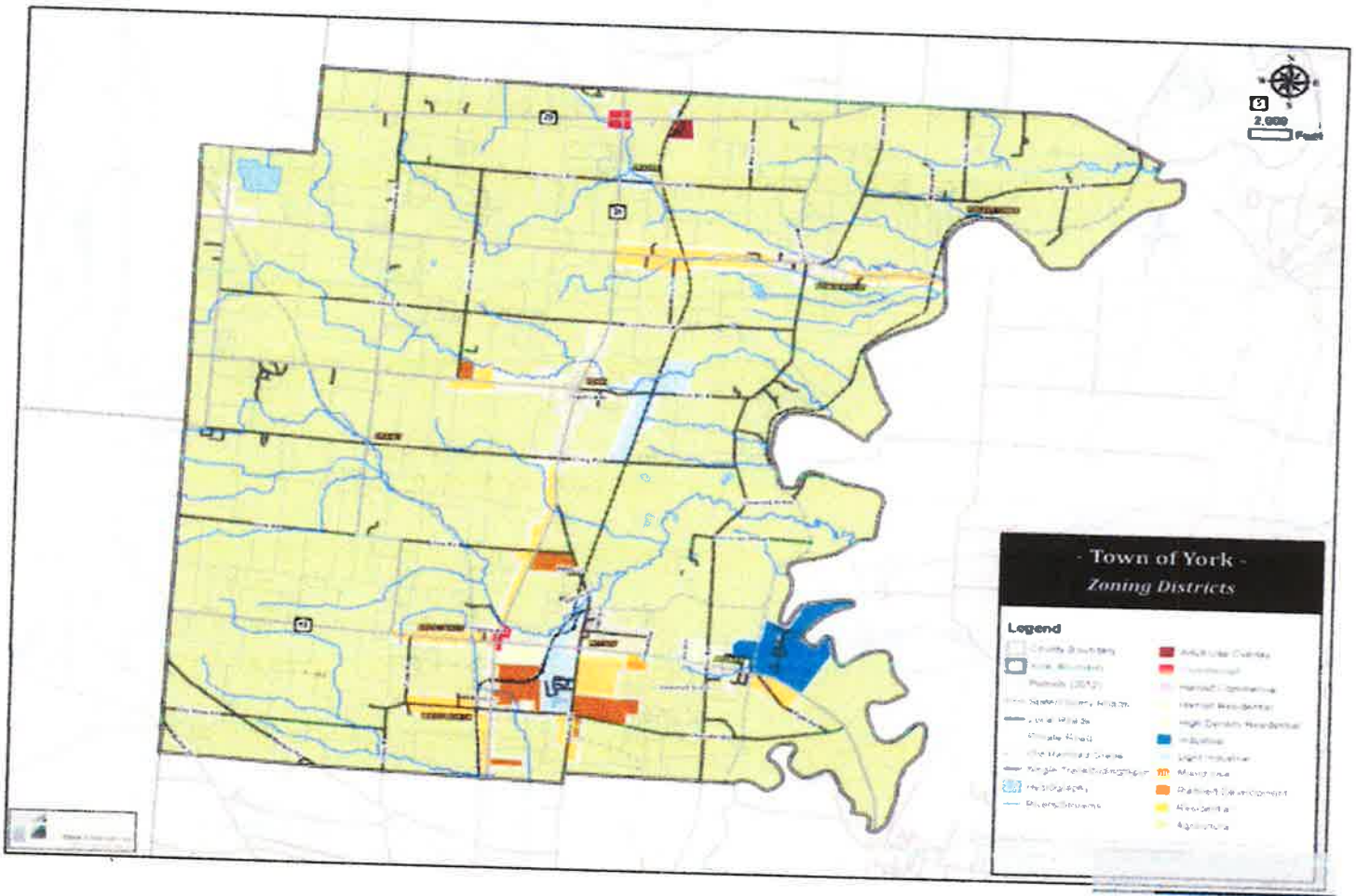
Heavy traffic is associated with the HVHF industry. Any increase in traffic, especially along the Route 63 corridor, would have the potential to adversely affect the safety as well as the health of those who lived, went to school, or traveled along that route.

Therefore my preliminary recommendation, based on the research so far, would be to continue the current moratorium, or better yet, permanently ban the HVHF industry from the Town of York.

### REFERENCES

1. 82.8% (2006 Town of York Comprehensive Plan)
2. <http://news.psu.edu/story/151183/2012/03/05/marcellus-shale-activity-affecting-county-level-dairy-production>
3. <http://www2.epa.gov/hfstudy/hydraulic-fracturing-study-draft-assessment-2015>
4. <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/05062015/fracking-has-contaminated-drinking-water-epa-now-concludes>
5. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2015/06/16/new-nasa-studies-show-how-the-world-is-running-out-of-water/>
6. <http://hydra.usc.edu/scehsc/pdfs/Trucks%20issue%20brief.%20January%202012.pdf>

Appendix A: Map of the Town of York including zoning districts.



ADD

agui few, outline RT 63

Littl Italy trail? Park?