

Detention Basin Troubles: A Message from your Board of Directors
By letter dated May 27, 2010, Newtown Township advised the NCCA board that the rainwater detention basin was not draining properly and required immediate maintenance. The detention basin, located on common ground near South Lancaster Lane behind the Liberty Square parking lot, ultimately drains into the Neshaminy Creek. The letter recommended several areas of remediation considered necessary to return the basin to proper working order.

The NCCA board met in special session on June 22, 2010 and August 24, 2010 to discuss this problem and identify a course of action. The board has retained Stantec Engineering Corp. of Doylestown, a qualified environmental engineering firm, to develop an effective remediation plan and represent the NCCA in discussions with Newtown Township and the Bucks County Conservation Corps. to gain the plan's approval.

To meet an October deadline imposed by Newtown Township to begin work on the basin, the board authorized Moran Landscaping to remove logs and debris to improve the flow of water out of the basin. Additionally, the board authorized Jim's Tree Service to remove trees growing on the berm of the basin, which could cause berm erosion. As a result of this effort, it can now be seen that one part of the berm has already eroded and will need to be rebuilt. Also, some of the piping leading into and out of the basin, as well as in the basin itself, will need work as well.

It is important to note that an initial estimate from Stantec Corps. indicates that complete remediation work stipulated by the Newtown Township may approach six figures. While the NCCA board does have funds in reserve for detention basin work, there are not sufficient funds in the account to pay for remedial work on this scale. The next step is to develop a detailed design and estimate that we can use for budgeting and review with Newtown Township and the Bucks County Conservation District. Once approved, we will look at the best options for financing the work with minimal impact on the community.

Given the estimated cost of this effort, it is likely an adjustment to the monthly NCCA assessment will be necessary to pay for this work. Any change in the assessment will be discussed at future board meetings. We will keep you informed through the meeting minutes, updates on the website and the NCCA newsletter.