

**Wallace Township Environmental Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, November 15, 2005**

**7: 00 PM to 9:00 PM  
Old Schoolhouse at Fairview Road**

Charter Members In Attendance: Mary Ann Zeiders, Anna Marie Guglielmo, Greg Hufnagel, Mark Eschbacher and Tish Malloy

Associate Member In Attendance: Jeff Colley

Community Attendance: 12 persons

I. Call to Order: Call to order by Mary Ann Zeiders @ 7:12 PM followed by a reading of the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) Statement of Purpose.

II. Approval of Minutes: Approval of the prior meeting's minutes was tabled until the next EAC meeting to allow sufficient time for the guest speaker.

III. Old Business: Discussion of Old Business was tabled until the next EAC meeting to allow sufficient time for the guest speaker.

IV. New Business:

A. Guest Presentation by Henry W. Fischer, PhD; Director of the Center for Disaster Research & Education (CDRE), Millersville University.

Topic: "Preparing for Disaster: What We Don't Know or Do Will Hurt Us".

Presenter's Talking Points

1. Introduction to the scope and mission of the CDRE.
2. Emergences are not disasters. Preparedness for an emergency is different than preparedness for a disaster.
3. Neither citizens nor local officials can assume that someone else will provide rescue in the event of a disaster. It is noteworthy that FEMA requires 72 hours to orchestrate a response to a natural disaster. Community organizations should organize themselves to respond.
4. What we commonly expect from the post-disaster phase is usually wrong. The evidence shows that organizations won't be well organized, that individuals won't be quite so deviant, and that the mass media will require constant, proactive management.
5. Citizens are advised by the speaker to possess an emergency kit sufficient to address basic needs for no less than 72 hours. Individuals should anticipate that they may be on their own for at least 3 days.

6. Local authorities should encourage individual and community evacuation planning. Regularly update the evacuation plan.
7. Don't expect that the military will step in to provide aid. Generally, turning over civilian control to the military is being questioned by disaster planning experts.
8. Selected disaster preparedness recommendations from the speaker:
  - a. build serious & practiced disaster plans
  - b. strengthen lines of communications between first response agencies
  - c. pre-position food & materiel
  - d. prepare to support non self-sufficient volunteers
  - e. prepare to support on-site media
  - f. differentiate looting from acquiring needed resources to sustain life
  - g. use shift rotations to minimize exhaustion of response staff
  - h. prepare to support pets
  - i. take all hazards seriously
  - j. police should protect rather than exercise extreme control
  - k. strengthen the interface of local, state and federal agencies
  - l. anticipate that some insurance companies may be unresponsive and/or opportunistic

Selected comments from the open discussion that followed the speaker's remarks:

A member of the audience noted that the Wallace Township Volunteer Fire Department has a disaster plan in place.

The speaker suggested that the first step in preparing a response plan is to conduct a hazards assessment followed by specific response planning for the most likely disasters. In Pennsylvania, the speaker noted that flooding is the most likely natural disaster to occur.

EAC-sponsored disaster planning workshops are scheduled for February 2006 and March 2006. Specific dates are expected shortly. Participation is open to the community.

V. The meeting adjourned at the conclusion of presentation, at 8:36 PM.

Prepared and respectfully submitted by,

Jeff Colley

November 15, 2005