Environmental Commission ERI Comments/Concerns

Below is a summary Q&A concerning the Environmental Resource Inventory drafted for Washington Township. The questions were identified through preliminary background research of ERI maps and formulated by Environmental Commission members during the October meeting. They were presented before the Land-Use Board on Nov. 14th. . The LUB agrees with the Environmental Commissions' critical assessment on the current ERI draft. These questions were forwarded along to our municipal Highlands representative Keri Benscoter whom provided all answers. The Environmental Commission is now tasked with creating an appendix to the adopted ERI to specifically address these concerns.

Question: Why is Washington Borough represented as having High Integrity Forests and High Integrity watershed area when it is clearly a fully developed area?
Answer: *The Borough has not opted in to conforming with the Highlands RMP, so any issues with the Borough will need to be addressed if and when they opt in. The mapping for high integrity forests and riparian areas on some parcels in the Borough was based on 2007 aerial data. If this is in error, the Borough would have to have us correct it, based on current land use.*

Question: In the Carbonate Rock Section is it possible to include the location of sinkholes?
Answer: There is insufficient funding in the Amended Grant Agreement (AGA) to justify mapping each sinkhole location. If the EC would like, they may prepare an Appendix for the Environmental Resources Inventory listing sinkhole locations. Please note that updates to the Carbonate Rock Area section of the Land Use Ordinance are imminent and mapping sinkholes (karst features) is not necessary for the Environmental Resources Inventory.

Question: In the Contaminated Site section there is at least one known contaminated site (Pohatcong Valley superfund site) that is not identified on the map. Is it possible to include this?
Answer: *I will discuss this with our GIS folks; I am aware of the Pohatcong Valley site and will confirm with GIS that it should be updated on our mapping.*

Question: In the Sewerage Facilities section, why aren't the Hawk Pointe and A&P systems shown on the map?
Answer: *The mapping (as above) is informational. Hawk Pointe and A&P are shown in the Existing Areas Served (EAS) on the Land Use Ordinance mapping. The draft Wastewater Management Plan also has both in the EAS.*

Question: In the Historic Landmarks section there are important historic resources not identified on the map. Can we include these?
Answer: *The EC in coordination with the local Historic group can prepare an appendix for each of the sites they would like to include in the Environmental Resources Inventory.*

Washington Township views public input as a fundamental aspect of the Plan Conformance process and vital in the creation of a long-term shared vision. As so, if you happen to independently identify any discrepancies we have failed to address thus far, please feel free to contact us!