



PennState



Watershed Forum - Community Engagement

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communities
collaborative**

In the spring of 2018, 'water' became a sudden and to most residents, unexpected hot button issue with the proposed establishment of a water bottling operation in the Spring Creek watershed. Ensuing public reaction exemplified how conflicts over different views of "the public good" are often difficult to resolve, especially in the environmental and natural resource arena. Creating common ground through mediation and alternative dispute resolution is the subject of an experiential course, EXPR 972, taught to Penn State law students by Lara Fowler, senior lecturer, Penn State Law, and assistant director of the Institutes of Energy and the Environment. Although plans for the bottling plant were withdrawn, increased public interest in the management of the watershed coalesced with a public forum, bringing together more than 100 community stakeholders and elected officials to discuss challenges, vision, and steps toward the future. EXPR 972 students helped facilitate the discussion to pro-actively plan for an integrated watershed management plan.

Semester/Year: Spring 2018

Community Partner: The Spring Creek Watershed Commission; Spring Creek Watershed Association

Class: EXPR 972

College: Penn State Law

Faculty: Lara Fowler

"The opportunity for the Spring Creek Watershed Commission to work with Lara Fowler and 18 law students was a wonderful learning experience for everyone. The Forum allowed us to receive impartial input and to gather concerns from residents. This was indeed a unique learning experience for the students, the Watershed, and our local residents. Everyone involved made the Forum a learning opportunity. Thank you for a great community Forum," said Dennis Hameister, Chair, Spring Creek Watershed Commission and Harris Township Supervisor.



6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

