



Statement of Senator Andrew E. Dinniman
East Goshen Township Supervisors Meeting
August 18, 2009

Over the past several months, I have actively pursued a wide variety of options to preserve and protect the Hershey's Mill Dam in East Goshen.

Following extensive communication with a number of departments in Harrisburg, including the Department of Community and Economic Development and the Commonwealth Finance Authority, I personally contacted Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary John Hanger, and requested that his office re-evaluate the initial review and provide alternatives to the departments breach or re-build position.

In turn, Secretary Hanger instructed Ms. Patricia McSparran, Director of the DEP Bureau of Waterways Engineering, as well as Mr. Richard Reisinger, Delaware Watershed Section Chief, Division of Dam Safety, Bureau of Waterways Engineering to conduct a follow-up site visit to Hershey's Mill Dam to review DEP-approved alternatives to save this important Chester County landmark.

On August 6, I personally met with Ms. McSparran and Mr. Reisinger and East Goshen Township Officials at the Hershey's Mill Dam and strongly encouraged the department to provide realistic options to the initial breach recommendation.

They quickly responded with two feasible options to preserve the Dam. The first would require a new dam to be constructed upstream using reinforced concrete and in direct contact with the existing Hershey's Mill Dam. This would allow the earthen structure to remain as is and keep this historical landmark in its present state. However, this method is extremely expensive, and the required work is estimated to cost nearly \$1.5 million.

The other option is to lower the height of the dam. Due to the subsequent reduction in the total volume of water held by the dam, a reduction in height would allow the DEP to reclassify the Hershey's Mill Dam from C-2 to C-3. While aspects of this important landmark would remain intact, they would be significantly reduced. The waterfall would be lowered, and the pond would not be as expansive as it is today.

Tonight the East Goshen Township Supervisors face a difficult question regarding this piece of local history. I understand and appreciate all of the various factors that go into such a lasting decision. In this economy, the East Goshen Township Supervisors realize there are no easy answers.

I also want to thank all of you who took the time to attend this evening's meeting. I have met with some of you here tonight to talk about the future of the Hershey's Mill Dam. Your commitment to protecting our region's history and natural beauty is what makes it such a great place to live. Without your involvement and dedication, Chester County would not be as it is today and I sincerely thank you.

With that in mind, I pledge, regardless of the outcome of this meeting, to seek any and all funding that could be used to save or improve this dam. I thank you for your time, your commitment and your dedication to East Goshen Township and Chester County.