

7.0 Action Plan & Management Options

Potential actions and management options were identified throughout the course of the study and the public involvement efforts. This chapter starts with a vision statement for the Cherry Creek watershed that was developed and refined over the course of the study. It then identifies the broad goals for the watershed that were crafted from identified issues, concerns, constraints and opportunities that were originally listed under topical headings. These broad goals then serve to provide the overall “drivers” and underlying framework for a collection of potential management options and action items aimed at achieving the vision.

7.1 Vision Statement

The vision statement represents how citizens in the watershed will view the landscape in the watershed within the next 10 years. It reflects input from the public derived in preparation of the plan and what could happen if the watershed conservation plan is effectively implemented:

Ten years from now, in the year 2014, the watershed of Cherry Valley is a landscape rich in nature, scenery and history, and indicative of a community that cares about its pastoral qualities. The resources that make the watershed unique are unspoiled and provide visible evidence of the commitment of numerous conservation initiatives over generations by residents and concerned citizens who have treasured, nurtured, and respected the valley’s assets. The bucolic landscapes, forests, and wetlands in the watershed are managed to facilitate long-term health and diversity of flora and fauna. The clean water of the Cherry Creek Watershed supports healthy fisheries and wildlife. The watershed also provides safe and sufficient groundwater and drinking water. A system of greenways, safe roads for bicyclists and pedestrians, and ridgeline trails provides continuous wildlife corridors and opportunities to enjoy the watershed’s resources while participating in safe, enjoyable and healthful activities such as walking, hiking and bicycling. Traditional ways of life such as farming, hunting, fishing and trapping are maintained. The high quality agricultural lands have been preserved for future generations. Overall the scenic beauty, rural character and natural environment of the valley are unsurpassed in a region so close to major population centers. Many public and private partnerships have worked in positive ways to respond to the development pressures facing the valley and have created an oasis of nature in balance with its cultural community.

7.2 Goals

These goal statements describe the broad, general goals the plan is striving for:

Goal # 1 – *Preserve, protect and manage the watershed's unique resources.*

Goal # 2 – *Maintain and/or improve water quantity / quality throughout the watershed.*

Goal # 3 – *Create a network of greenways/conservation corridors and greenways with trails that provide linkages for wildlife and recreational opportunities to enjoy nature and scenery.*

Goal # 4 – *Promote and support stewardship efforts.*

7.3 Management Options

Objectives that are more easily measured for a specific management activity and that would advance each driving goal were identified. Specific actions are then listed under each objective. The action items address the problems and/or enhance the opportunities associated with that objective. Potential lead agencies and a recommended timeframe are identified for each action item. The timeframe is the suggested implementation time necessary for completion of that action. Timeframes are based on the following:

- Short = One to three years;
- Medium = Three to five years; and
- Long = Five to ten years.

This plan recognizes that there will be limited financial and human resources available to execute the many recommended action items. Therefore some change in the timeframe for action implementation is expected, as well as the group(s) responsible for carrying out the recommended actions.

Early action items were identified by steering committee members, municipal officials and other stakeholders and are summarized in the Executive Summary for this report.

The objectives for each driving goal are summarized below. Tables that detail the associated action items, responsible parties, priority and timeframe follow this summary.

Goal #1 – *Preserve, protect and manage the watershed's unique resources.*

Objective #1: Conserve at least 50 % of priority resource lands (agricultural, forest, wetland, riparian lands, ridges, scenic areas, unique geologic features) in the watershed by 2007.

Objective #2: Make significant advances in protecting and interpreting cultural heritage and resources in the watershed.

Objective #3: Preserve and Enhance Green Infrastructure in the Watershed.

Goal #2 – Maintain and/or improve water quantity / quality throughout the watershed.

Objective #1: Maintain current baseflow and groundwater recharge in the watershed.

Objective #2: Improve quantitative measures of benthic invertebrate and fishery quality.

Objective #3: Improve, maintain, and enhance water quality by keeping the creek and its tributaries clean.

In addressing this goal it should be recognized that in general, projects in headwaters areas should be given priority whenever possible due to their sensitivity to development. In addition, repairing a problem low in a watershed without addressing problems upstream will often lead to revisiting the repaired site sometime in the future.

Goal #3 – Create a network of greenways and greenways with trails that provide linkages for wildlife and recreational opportunities to enjoy nature and scenery.

Objective #1: Examine greenway and trail opportunities for the watershed.

Objective #2: Develop a strategy for implementing a trail system.

Objective #3: Improve roadways for bicycle and pedestrian access and safety.

Objective #4: Expand recreational opportunities in the watershed.

Objective #5: Maintain and enhance roadways to preserve scenic quality and landscape character.

Greenways in general are aimed at preserving and conserving a connected green infrastructure throughout the valley that also connects to the larger region. In Cherry Valley this translates primarily into conserving and protecting the Cherry Creek and its tributary stream corridors with riparian buffers and conserving and preserving the ridgelines flanking the valley. Protecting the stream corridors is

particularly critical to water quality issues while ridgeline protection is particularly critical to maintaining scenic quality. In addition, the country roadways through the valley provide corridors rooted in history and a linear platform for visual appreciation of the valley. Some of these corridors may also provide opportunities for safe alternative forms of transportation and recreation via bikeways and trails that can serve multiple user groups. Feasibility studies to assess appropriate locations for trails and bikeways through these corridors should in general be conducted while working with landowners (including camps and resorts), municipalities, specific user groups, and state and local agencies. Potential opportunities and impacts need to be analyzed. Considerations should include at a minimum:

- Regional trail connections to other existing and proposed trail systems;
- The provision of adequate access to trails through conveniently located trailheads that include appropriate facilities;
- Consideration of various user groups, e.g. hikers, birders, mountain bikers, equestrians;
- Linkages to key areas in or near the watershed, e.g. Quiet Valley Historic Farm, Godfrey Ridge, and the Appalachian Trail (an existing Millennium Greenway).

Goal #4 – Promote and support stewardship efforts.

Objective #1: Develop educational and outreach efforts to inform and involve the citizens of the watershed.

Objective #2: Foster and develop partnerships to help monitor and implement plan recommendations.

In general, outreach campaigns need to be conducted to increase visibility of conservation programs, benefits and stewardship opportunities. Elements of these campaigns could include:

- Development of an education and outreach program about resource protection focusing on open space preservation.
- Creation of a speaker's bureau to inform local organizations about watershed issues.
- Education of landowners and citizens on fiscally efficient land use and management practices
- Inviting local land trusts and conservation organizations into each municipality to provide educational programs and to introduce a local contact outside of municipal government.
- Establishing a Cherry Valley newsletter to inform residents about valley history, community events, and ongoing efforts to maintain the culture and heritage of the valley.

- Offering regional special events (concerts, walking tours, bike tours, cleanups, etc.)
- Develop a “cleanup” litter control and beautification program that cleans up and helps eliminate roadside litter.

7.4 Management Options Tables

The management options tables include action items identified and developed during the public involvement process. The recommended action items listed in the tables are intended to help achieve the driving goals and are listed under measurable objectives for those goals. Potential responsible parties, a time frame for completion, and a priority are identified for each action item. While many action items could be listed under more than one goal, each is listed only once under the goal with which it is most closely associated.

Abbreviations used in the tables include the following:

ACOE – Army Corps of Engineers
AG-BD. – Monroe County Agricultural Land Preservation Board
ATC – Appalachian Trail Council
AUDUBON – Pennsylvania Audubon Society
BWA – Brodhead Watershed Association (Cherry Creek Watershed Sub-Association)
DCNR – Pennsylvania Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
DEP – PA Department of Environmental Protection
FBC – PA Fish and Boat Commission
FCV – Friends of Cherry Valley
FWS – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
MCCD - Monroe County Conservation District
MCCE - Monroe County Cooperative Extension
MCHA – Monroe County Historical Association
MCLCB – Monroe County Litter Control & Beautification
MCPC – Monroe County Planning Commission
NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service
OSAB – Monroe County Open Space Advisory Board
PEC – Pennsylvania Environmental Council
PennDOT – PA Department of Transportation
PHLT – Pocono Heritage Land Trust
PHMC – Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission
PMC – Pocono Medical Center
PMVB – Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau
PGC – PA Game Commission
TNC – The Nature Conservancy
TU – Trout Unlimited

Some of the action items contain footnotes referencing similar or same actions that were identified in other related plans or to a specific public meeting where the action was identified. These footnote references are as follows:

- ¹Actions Identified at the Second Public Meeting for the Cherry Creek Watershed Conservation Plan
- ²Stroud Area Regional Open Space & Recreational Plan, 2002
- ³Eastern Monroe Regional Open Space & Recreation Plan, Revised Draft June 2002
- ⁴Brodhead Watershed Conservation Plan, January 2002
- ⁵Hamilton, Jackson, & Pocono Open Space and Recreation Plan, October, 2003.

GOAL#1: Preserve, protect and manage the watershed's unique resources.				
1.1 Objective #1: Conserve at least 50 % of priority resource lands (agricultural, forest, wetland, riparian lands, ridges, scenic areas, geologic areas) in the watershed by 2007.				
Action Item		Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
1.1.a	Protect 25 % of agricultural lands in the watershed by 2008 through conservation easements and fee title acquisition from willing landowners.	Municipalities, OSAB, TNC,PHLT, AG-BD, DCNR	1-3 years	Ongoing
1.1.b	Protect 50 % of important forest areas in the watershed by 2008 through conservation easements and fee title acquisition from willing landowners.	Municipalities, OSAB, TNC,PHLT, DCNR, ATC	3-5 years	Ongoing
1.1.c	Identify and preserve other priority resource lands (wetlands, riparian lands, ridges, scenic areas, geologic features) through conservation easements and fee title acquisition from willing landowners.	Municipalities, MCPC, OSAB, FCV, DCNR, PHLT, TNC	1-3 years	Ongoing
1.1.d	Create and secure funding for a National Wildlife Refuge.	FCV, Municipalities, Land Trusts	1-5 years	Early Action – initial efforts begun
Work with Landowners				
1.1.e	Key Conservation Tracts/Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect Kittatinny and Godfrey Ridges and links to Quiet Valley Living History Farm - Pursue conservation options with PA Water Company property 	Municipalities, MCPC, OSAB, CVF AUDUBON, DCNR, PHLT, TNC, ATC	1-5 years	Early Action See Greenway Actions

1.2	Objective #2: Make significant advances in protecting and interpreting cultural heritage and resources in the watershed.			
Action Item		Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
	Protect Important prehistoric, historic and cultural sites.			
1.2.a	Identify and protect most significant threatened prehistoric, historic and cultural sites (may be combined with Action Item 1.2.d).	MCHA, Municipalities, local historical societies	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action
1.2.b	Enhance municipal zoning, land use and subdivision ordinances and comprehensive plans to define and protect historic and cultural resources: - encourage creative reuse of historic structures consistent with maintaining the historic character of the building. - Incorporate clear, reasonable design review standards for renovations to historic structures into municipal codes - Require enhanced review procedures and permits for demolition of historic structures.	Municipalities, MCPC, PHMC	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action
1.2.c	Form a historic society for the watershed to advocate for protection and promote interpretation.	Municipalities, FCV, BWA	5-10 years	
	Interpret Historic Resources			
1.2.d	Develop and implement a plan for interpreting historic and cultural resources in the watershed (may be combined with Action Item 1.2.a).	Local Historical Societies, FCV, MCCD, MCHA, PMVB, MCPC	5-10 years	
	Implement Other Important Projects			
1.2.e	Restore the Creek-side Park at the Delaware Water Gap Train Station for historical interpretation and tourism (Delaware Water Gap Station Restoration Project).	Lackawanna Chapter of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society, Inc., Municipalities, County, PennDOT, PMVB	1-10 years	\$40,000 Community Development Block Grant received for eng. repair plan; Ongoing: website for the project under construction

1.2.f	Collaborate on projects such as trail development along historic routes as a way to advance historic and cultural resource protection and outreach in the community.	MCHA, Municipalities, local historical societies	5-10 years	
1.3	Objective #3: Preserve and Enhance Green Infrastructure in the Watershed.			
	Action Item	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
	Identify Important Resource Lands			
1.3.a	Develop and adopt a <i>Green Infrastructure Map</i> for the watershed that will guide future development Encourage municipalities to: - Map existing resources prior to site development - Adopt a <i>Map of Potential Conservation Lands</i> that identifies resource priorities	Municipalities, MCPC, Regional Open Space Committees	1-3 years	Follow-up Action to municipal <i>Growing Greener</i> audits done for all municipalities
1.3.b	Develop a forum for the integration of multi-municipal comprehensive plans that include the Cherry Creek watershed and insure their consistency.	Municipalities, MCPC	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action (Stroud & Hamilton Twps are currently completing a joint comprehensive plan)
	Implement Municipal Ordinances			
1.3.c	Make greater use of zoning and subdivision regulations to enhance environmental protection and land preservation. Options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the recommendations of the “<i>Growing Greener</i>” audit done for each municipality by effecting changes to plans and ordinances to enact “Conservation Subdivision Design”. • Strengthen floodplain, steep slope, and stream bank buffer ordinances.⁵ • Require mandatory dedication of open space and fee-in-lieu-of provisions.⁵ • Adding an open space district to existing codes.² • Incorporate Village and Hamlet Design standards.⁵ 	Municipalities, MCPC	1-3 years	Ongoing: watershed municipalities have begun to examine and modify their ordinances to incorporate some of these changes

	Promote Conservation Subdivision Design			
1.3.d	Encourage developers to use voluntary design guidelines following Conservation Subdivision Design concepts.	Municipalities, MCPC, MCCD, Developers	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action
	Evaluate Establishing a Transfer of Development Right program			
1.3.e	Evaluate the feasibility and consider the use of Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) to conserve priority open space lands and foster the development of more compact Villages and Hamlets while also fostering traditional village design.	Municipalities, MCPC	5-10 years	

GOAL#2: Maintain and/or improve water quantity / quality throughout the watershed.				
2.1 Objective #1: Maintain current baseflow and groundwater recharge in the watershed and improve quantitative measures of benthic invertebrate and fishery quality.				
Action Item		Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
Protect Ground Water Resources				
2.1.a	Establish a Water budget, Assess base flow and establish a Water Budget for the watershed to guide future land use decisions.	BWA, MCCD, TNC	3-5 years	
2.1.b	Locate, delineate, and map significant recharge zones throughout the watershed.	BWA, MCCD, TNC	3-5 years	
2.1.c	Strengthen land use ordinances to better protect water resources, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groundwater recharge areas. - Headwaters areas. - Limit total impervious surfaces to no more than 10 % of the watershed 	Municipalities, MCPC, MCCD, Scientific Community	1-3 years	Ongoing: do in conjunction with revisions and modifications for 1.3.c above
Improve quantitative measures of benthic invertebrate and fishery quality				
2.1.d	Restore in-stream habitat in areas degraded by flooding, chanalization, loss of riparian buffer, and increased runoff.	TU, BWA, FCV, Fishing clubs Municipalities, PennDOT, ACOE, FWS, landowners	1-5 years	Recommended Early Action (Blakeslee Farm e.g. stream stabilization)

2.2 Objective #2: Improve, Maintain, and Enhance Water Quality by keeping the Creek and its tributaries Clean.				
Action Item		Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
Improve management of on-lot septic systems				
2.2.a	Update municipal 537 plans to ensure consistency.	Municipalities, with DEP, MCPC	1-5 years	Recommended Early Action
2.2.b	Develop sewage management programs to better manage on-lot septic systems.	Municipalities, with DEP, MCPC	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action
2.2.c	Create on-lot sewer management district. ¹ (ties to 2.2b)	Municipalities, with DEP, MCPC	3-5 years	
Improve management of sewage treatment plants				
2.2.d	Encourage DEP to take prompt action on known sewage treatment plant violations. ⁴	Municipalities, FCV, BWA, TU, MCCD	Ongoing	Ongoing
2.2.e	Encourage alternatives (such as land application) to stream discharges from sewage treatment plants where feasible. ⁴	Municipalities, DEP, MCCD, MCPC	1-5 years	Recommended Early Action
2.2.f	Identify environmentally sound lands to be used for land disposal of treated wastewater and acquire where economically feasible. ⁴	Sewage treatment plant permittees, MCPC, MCCD, Municipalities	5-10 years	
Encourage use of best management practices for non point sources of water pollution				
2.2.g	Encourage responsible use of fertilizers and pesticides.	Municipalities, FCV, MCCD, MCPC, NRCS	Ongoing	Recommended Early Action
	Conduct a water quality assessment study.	FCV, BWA, TU, FBC, DEP	1-5 years	Recommended Early Action

	Clean up Lake Lenape	FCV, BWA, TU, FBC, DEP	5-10 years	
2.2.i	Mitigate and encourage alternatives to the use of road salt effects on stormwater runoff and street damage. ¹	Municipalities, MCCD, MCPC PennDOT	5-10 years	
	Coordinate and continue existing water quality monitoring programs			
2.2.j	Continue and expand existing water quality monitoring programs	MCCD, DEP, BWA, (Stream-watchers), FCV	5-10 years	Ongoing
2.2.k	Partner with other watershed groups to hire paid countywide water quality monitor	MCCD	5-10 years	
	Improve protection of drinking water sources			
2.2.l	Develop programs to protect existing and potential future sources of drinking water.	Water suppliers, Municipalities	5-10 years	
2.2.m	Strengthen ordinances to protect ground water quality and supply.	Water suppliers, Municipalities, MCPC, MCCD	1-3 years	Ongoing: do in conjunction with revisions and modifications for 1.3.c above

GOAL#3: Create a network of greenways and greenways with trails that provide linkages for wildlife and recreational opportunities to enjoy nature and scenery.

3.1 Objective #1: Examine Greenway and Trail Opportunities for the watershed.

Action Item	Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
<p>3.1.a</p> <p>Complete a comprehensive greenway and trail plan that examines the feasibility of developing a watershed wide system of greenways to maintain and enhance green infrastructure and scenic quality, and to examine trail opportunities and linkages including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kittatinny Ridge project - Godfrey Ridge trail - Brodhead, McMichael, and Pocono Creeks Greenways Plan - Quiet Valley Historical Farm - Appalachian Trail - PennDOT Visitors Center 	<p>Municipalities, MCPC, MCCD, PennDOT, FCV, Non-profit organizations, landowners, Regional Open Space Committees</p>	<p>1-10 years</p>	<p>Recommended Early Action for key greenway corridors in the watershed</p>
<p>3.1.b</p> <p>Create link to the Appalachian Trail from Cherry Valley Vineyard and Lower Cherry Valley Road in the upper watershed.</p>	<p>Municipalities, MCPC, MCCD, PennDOT, FCV, Non-profit organizations, landowners, Regional Open Space Committees</p>	<p>1-10 years</p>	<p>Recommended Early Action</p>

3.2 Objective #2: Develop a strategy for implementing a trail system.				
Action Item		Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
3.2.a	<p>Preserve trail linkage opportunities where feasible through identified greenway corridors via an appropriate variety of land acquisition techniques:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - easements - dedication - fee simple acquisition 	Municipalities, MCPC, Non-profit organizations, DCNR	Ongoing	Ongoing
3.2.b	Promote the health and wellness benefits of trail recreation through partnerships with health professionals through new alliances now through PANA.	Municipalities, MCPC, Non-profit organizations, PMC	5-10 years	
3.2.c	Manage trails with regard to multiple user groups and potential user conflicts.	Municipalities, MCPC, Non-profit organizations, DCNR	3-5 years	
3.2.d	Develop and manage an “Adopt-a-Trail” program to organize maintenance of local trail segments by organizations.	Municipalities, MCPC, Non-profit organizations, DCNR	5-10 years	
3.3 Objective #3: Improve Roadways for Bicycle and Pedestrian Access and Safety.				
Action Item		Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
	Develop a bicycle and pedestrian plan			
3.3.a	Conduct a bicycle and pedestrian compatibility study for all roadways in the watershed.	Municipalities, MCPC, PennDOT	3-5 years	

3.3.b	Promote bicycle and pedestrian compatibility on all state and local roads, including the implementation of traffic-calming techniques.	Municipalities, MCPC, Non-profit organizations, PennDOT	Ongoing	Recommended Early Action
3.3.c	Develop and promote walking and biking tours throughout the region.	Municipalities, MCPC, Non-profit organizations, YMCA, local outfitters, PennDOT	5-10 years	
3.4	Objective #4: Expand Recreational Opportunities in the Watershed.			
Action Item		Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
3.4.a	Provide outdoor recreation facilities to access and enjoy nature and to demonstrate success: birding, picnicking, hiking	Municipalities, MCPC, Non-profit organizations, DCNR	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action (best done in conjunction with trail development in greenways)
3.4.b	Encourage landowners to allow access to lands for hunting and fishing	Municipalities, MCPC, Non-profit organizations, TU, FWS	Ongoing	Recommended Early Action
3.5	Objective #5: Maintain and Enhance Roadways to Preserve Scenic Quality and Landscape Character.			
Action Item		Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
3.5.a	<p>Develop a scenic byway plan for Cherry Valley.⁵</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify scenic highways in Cherry Valley - Designate scenic highways - Promote use of conservation easements and innovative zoning techniques to preserve the views along designated scenic roads 	Municipalities, MCHA, PennDOT, PHLT, TNC	5-10 years	

3.5.b	Encourage ordinances that preserve and maintain historic character Prohibit/restrict billboards and apply appropriate restrictions to other signs in keeping with the scenic/historic character and reduce visual clutter through better signage ordinances.	Municipalities, MCPC	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action
3.5.c	Encourage improved signage, landscaping, buffer areas, driveways, and lighting of commercial facilities accessible from arterial roadways.	Municipalities, MCPC	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action
3.5.d	Avoid road widening or realignments that detracts from the rural character or serves to promote increased speeds.	Municipalities, PennDOT, MCPC, FCV	Ongoing	Recommended Early Action
3.5.e	Encourage the use of edge striping to narrow travel lanes and increase shoulder widths.	Municipalities, PennDOT, MCPC, FCV	Ongoing	Recommended Early Action
3.5.f	Develop/ enhance litter control program.	Municipalities, FCV, PennDOT, MCLCB	Ongoing	Recommended Early Action
3.5.g	Develop new scenic pull-offs and viewpoints.	Municipalities, PennDOT	3-5 years	
3.5.h	Work with the state on a Cycle PA bike route (buy key parcels, trail compatibility, and litter free).	Municipalities, PennDOT	Ongoing	

GOAL#4: Promote and support stewardship efforts.				
4.1 Objective #1: Develop Educational and Outreach Efforts to inform and involve the Citizens of the Watershed.				
Action Item		Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
4.1.a	Conduct an outreach campaign to increase visibility of conservation programs, benefits and stewardship opportunities.	Municipalities, MCPC, BWA, FCV, PHLT, TNC, MCCD	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action
4.1.b	Establish an ongoing countywide forum for watershed stakeholders to share information about watershed issues and actions, and to ensure the continuation of a successful public input process in future open space planning efforts.	Municipalities, MCPC, MCCD, BWA, FCV	Ongoing	
4.1.c	Utilize a variety of news media to communicate and interpret watershed values and issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a Media campaign- TV/radio/Internet. - Distribute periodic press releases on open space and recreation efforts. - Publish information about watershed issues on a regular basis in the media (including newspapers, radio, television.) - Consider creating an educational video via local media channels and the "GreenWorks.tv" network. - Develop directional and informational signs for open space and recreation lands. - Develop a brochure for bicycle routes that describes the routes, difficulty ratings, and trail qualities. - Promote the theme of "Forever Green", identified in the Monroe County Open Space Plan. 	Municipalities, MCPC, MCCD, BWA, FCV, TNC, PHLT, BWA	Ongoing	Recommended Early Action

4.1.d	Organize watershed awareness raising activities, especially activities that involve children. - Work with and/or support existing school programs addressing stewardship issues.	BWA, TU, MCCD, PMVB, School districts, water suppliers, Municipalities, MCPC, Non-profit organizations	Ongoing	Continue & Expand
4.1.e	Create a formal volunteer system to identify volunteer projects and resources. - Create a master list of existing volunteer groups and potential services provided.	Municipalities, MCPC, BWA, FCV	Ongoing	FCV will call for volunteers in their upcoming newsletters
4.2	Objective #2: Foster and Develop Partnerships to help monitor and implement Plan Recommendations.			
Action Item		Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
4.2.a	Support and evolve the “Friends of Cherry Valley” as a sustainable partnership to catalyze and oversee plan implementation.	Municipalities, MCPC, FCV, Non-profit organizations, MCCD	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action
4.2.b	Develop network of watershed residents to share information, work together.	Municipalities, MCPC, Non-profit organizations, FCV, MCCD	Ongoing	Done in conjunction with 4.1.e
4.2.c	Identify opportunities to work with other groups to explore possibilities for agricultural land preservation, natural resource conservation, and the development or trail/greenway connections.	Municipalities, MCPC, Non-profit organizations, FCV, DCNR	3-5 years	
4.2.d	Identify, develop, and foster cooperative relationships with surrounding municipalities to work toward the creation of a regional greenway and trail system.	Municipalities, MCPC, Non-profit organizations, FCV, DCNR	1-5 years	Recommended Early Action
4.2.e	Establish Environmental Advisory Councils in all watershed municipalities and explore creation of a watershed-wide EAC.	Municipalities PEC, MCPC	1-5 years	Recommended Early Action Stroud Twp. Has established an EAC

4.2.f	Create a "community conservation corps" to encourage riparian neighbors to work together.	Concerned Citizens MCCD, Audubon Society Garden clubs, FCV	5-10 years	
4.2.g	Raise funds for and hire staff person to oversee and/or help implement the recommendations of this plan.	BWA, FCV, DCNR	3-5 years	
4.3	Objective #3: Secure Funding for Plan Programs and Actions.			
Action Item		Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
4.3.a	Explore additional funding opportunities through state, federal, and private organizations.	Municipalities, MCPC, PHLT, FCV, TNC	1-5 years	Recommended Early Action
4.3.b	Develop a policy for creating an endowment for the purchase of open space.	Municipalities, MCPC, PHLT	3-5 years	
4.3.c	Explore the possibilities presented by Act 153 of 1996 authorizing the levying of taxes for financing the purchase of open space.	Municipalities	1-5 years	Recommended Early Action (Stroud Twp has authorized this tax successfully)
4.3.d	Create fundraisers and special events to support greenway development.	Concerned citizens, Non-profit organizations, FCV	1-5 years	Recommended Early Action
4.4	Objective #4: Encourage voluntary commitment to protection of important watershed resources.			
Action Item		Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
4.4.a	Develop landowner outreach and education program to promote conservation activities. - Encourage landowners and citizens to plant native species, plant or maintain riparian buffers and improve stream habitat. Continue to make landowners aware of endangered species on their property.	Municipalities, MCPC, MCCD, Non-profit organizations, TNC	Ongoing	Recommended Early Action

4.4.b	Organize a sustainable agriculture workshop for interested landowners with information on sustainable / best management practices for forestry and agriculture.	NRCS, MCCE, MCPC, Municipalities, MCCD	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action
4.4.c	Coordinate with other agencies to identify property owners of key agricultural lands and approach them regarding their participation in preservation programs.	Municipalities, MCPC, AG-BD, TNC, PHLT, MCCD	1-5 years	Recommended Early Action
4.4.d	Develop education programs to encourage landowners and citizens to plant native species, plant or maintain riparian buffers and improve stream habitat.	Municipalities, MCPC, MCCD, MCCE, TNC, FCV	Ongoing	Ongoing: Expand current efforts conducted by TNC
4.4.e	Encourage landowners to conserve privately owned woodlots. - Use sustainable forestry practices -	DCNR, BWA, FCV, MCCD, MCCE, Concerned Citizens	Ongoing	Recommended Early Action
4.4.f	Educate interested landowners about placing conservation easements on open land through donation or purchase.	BWA, CVF, Pocono Heritage Land Trust, TNC, & other land trusts, MCCD	1-5 years	Recommended Early Action
4.4.g	Develop welcoming committee to promote Cherry Valley's unique assets to new landowners.	FCV	Ongoing	FCV have address this through their mission
4.4.h	Organize a sustainable agriculture workshop for interested landowners with information on sustainable / best management practices for forestry and agriculture. ²	NRCS, MCCE, MCPC, Pocono Heritage Land Trust, Municipalities	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action
4.4.i	Work with quarry to limit impacts of operations to adjacent residents (dust,etc.) ¹	Municipalities, MCPC	1-5 years	

4.5 Objective #5: Land Management				
Action Item		Responsible Parties	Timeframe	Record of Action
	Preserve Key Fish and Wildlife Habitat Areas			
4.5.a	Use incentive-based approaches to protect, restore, and conserve important fish and wildlife habitat and direct development away from important habitat areas.	Municipalities, MCPC, MCCD, USFWS, TNC, PHLT, Fishing and Hunting Clubs	3-10 years	
	Enhance Ongoing Fish and Wildlife Management Programs			
4.5.b	Conduct fisheries inventories in high priority stream areas and review fish stocking programs. ⁴	PA Fish Commission	3-10 years	
4.5.c	<p>Conduct inventories of terrestrial wildlife and their habitats, including birds, reptiles and amphibians.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct standard bird census work during breeding and non-breeding seasons. ▪ Hold a “bioblitz” throughout the watershed. ▪ Determine if areas in the watershed qualify as Important Bird Areas. ▪ Continue with research on saw-whet owls and breeding birds.⁴ 	Scientific community, TNC	Ongoing	Recommended Early Action
4.5.d	Conduct mussel inventory of Cherry Creek	TNC	1-3 years	In planning stages

4.5.e	Work with appropriate agencies and landowners to promote wildlife management.	PGC, USFWS, FCV, PA American Water Company	3-10 years	
4.5.f	Develop more effective deer, geese, and other nuisance wildlife management programs.	DCNR (game commission), Ducks Unlimited Fishing and hunting clubs	Ongoing	Recommended Early Action (deer excluders, etc)
4.5.g	Implement programs to control/manage invasive and exotic species.	MCCE; TNC; Delaware River Invasive Plant Partnership (DRIPP) Volunteers	Ongoing	Recommended Early Action
4.5.h	Create riparian parks, using Army Corps of Engineers habitat restoration program.	ACOE, PennDOT, Municipalities, MCCD	3-10 years	
4.5.i	Develop a Natural Open Space Management Plan for all undeveloped municipal land in the watershed and actively undertake a program for the enhancement of wildlife habitat within municipally owned open space (consult a naturalist during development and implementation). This could include nesting boxes for birds and small animals. ²	Regional Open Space Committee; Brodhead, McMichael, Pocono Creeks Greenway Committee, MCCD Municipalities, local volunteer organizations,	Ongoing	Recommended to be done in conjunction with municipal land purchases & retroactively on existing acquisitions
4.6	Objective #6: Local Codes to promote stewardship			
	Action Item	Responsible Parties	Priority	Timeframe/ Record of Action
4.6.a	Develop sign ordinance. ¹	Municipalities	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action
4.6.b	Minimize visual impacts from cellphone-towers through local ordinances , (e.g. keep towers below 200 feet; no lights on towers, etc.. ¹)	Municipalities, MCPC	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action
4.6.c	Review and assess effectiveness of existing local tree protection ordinances Develop tree protection programs through local subdivision and zoning ordinances to protect and conserve forest cover. ^{4,5}	Municipalities, MCPC MCCD, DCNR, FCV	1-3 years	Recommended Early Action

7.5 Incorporating Related Planning Efforts

Abstracts and information of related plans and studies relevant to this plan are included in this plan by reference. A review of these studies was conducted to help identify issues, concerns and constraints and potential management options for the Cherry Creek Watershed Conservation Plan. These findings have been incorporated throughout. Some of the key related planning efforts include the following:

The ***Monroe County Comprehensive Plan (Monroe 2020)*** provides a countywide policy document to help steer growth and development in a positive economic fashion while maintaining, preserving, and enhancing a high environmental quality. The Comprehensive Plan, part of the three-year Monroe 2020 planning effort, was adopted in July of 1999 by the county commissioners. The ***Monroe County Comprehensive Plan*** is incorporated by reference in this watershed conservation plan and should be considered an integral part of the plan.

The ***Monroe County Water Supply and Model Wellhead Protection Study*** is incorporated by reference in the Comprehensive Plan and should also be considered an integral part of this plan. This plan recognizes that a primary recommendation of the ***Monroe County Water Supply and Model Wellhead Protection Study*** is to provide sewer systems as a primary means for handling wastewater. However, this plan strongly encourages alternatives to stream discharge whenever environmentally and economically feasible.

This plan also supports the goals and recommendations as put forth in the ***Monroe County Open Space Plan***, a separately completed element of the County Comprehensive Plan. This Open Space Plan was adopted in June of 1999 by the county commissioners and set off the development of joint municipal open space plans that were subsequently completed including the following plans that contain area within the Cherry Creek Watershed:

- Stroud Area Regional Open Space & Recreational Plan, 2002
- Eastern Monroe Regional Open Space & Recreation Plan, Revised Draft June 2002
- Hamilton, Jackson, & Pocono Multi. Municipal Plan, 2003

The ***Brodhead Watershed Conservation Plan*** was completed in January 2002. The Brodhead Creek was added to the Pennsylvania Rivers Registry that same year and plan implementation was begun. Several grants supporting the plan were secured and have been initiated or completed.

TNC Conservation Plan (Reptile Species Inventory and Habitat Monitoring, Management, and Restoration) identified a 6.5-mile stretch of Cherry Creek along which numerous fens have confirmed and/or suspected populations of several rare and threatened species. This study builds on previous reptile inventory, nesting, and habitat evaluation studies conducted by The Nature Conservancy. Because of the number and

size of the populations located throughout the valley, several years of presence/absence surveys are needed to thoroughly document the location, sizes, and age structures of the various populations as well as the location of nests. This information will greatly aid current and future protection efforts in the Valley.

7.5 Potential Funding Sources

A list of watershed funding sources that can assist implementation efforts identified by the potential management options and action items outlined in this report have been included in *Appendix L - Watershed Funding Sources*.

Appendices

