

Little Conestoga Creek

Blue/Green Corridor Project

Project Genesis and Evolution

- Steinman Foundation has vision for project and places easements on Conestoga House properties
- Hires LandStudies Inc and ELA Group to investigate feasibility.
- Forty landowners, four municipalities contacted over two years.
- Watershed permit with PA DEP provided impetus for inter-municipal coordination.
- Memorandum of Understanding between municipalities developed

MOU - participants, purpose

- James Hale Steinman Foundation (Conestoga House) re-formed as Little Conestoga Creek Foundation to manage and care for project long term.
- Municipalities agree to provide project with some funds for engineering, support grant applications as needed, and subsequently develop inter-municipal agreement on how to apply pollution reductions and how to manage long term maintenance for both restoration and trail

Stream Restoration and Greenways: Opportunities and Obstacles

- Large projects are an obstacle in terms of funding.
 - Feasibility and preliminary design work is seen as risky, funding is limited
 - Most grant programs have funding caps, match requirements, and different application timeframes
- Opportunity exists when a third party has a need, or sees a need.
 - Developers often perform work that helps with MS4 permit requirements
 - Steinman saw this as an opportunity to advance watershed, legacy sediment and greenway approaches that would otherwise languish and help with Bay

Status

- Watershed permit expected within the next month
- Easements negotiated with landowners are wrapping up this year
- Funding is approaching 25% certain, with another 40% applied for and likely
- Inter-municipal agreement being developed. Issues include what goes first, how any pollution reduction credits are dispersed, and long term O&M
- Construction on stream expected to start in 2022, with project complete 2026