

**Pennsylvania's Conservation Heritage  
Oral History Project – Phase II  
Final Report**

**Submitted to the  
Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage  
Advisory Board**

**Submitted by  
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**and**

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## **Acknowledgements**

Phase II of this project was undertaken with the continued support of numerous individuals who serve on the Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Project Advisory Board, an outgrowth of the Maurice Goddard Legacy Project. These individuals include Brenda Barrett, Wayne Kober, Bill Forrey, Marci Mowery, Cara Williams Fry, Caren Glotfelty, Beth Hager, Michelle Kittell, Ken Wolensky, and Ed Charles.

Each of the interviewees, whose stories are summarized in this report, deserves special credit for taking the time to reflect on and share their experiences and knowledge of Pennsylvania's conservation heritage.

The Heinz Endowment as well as former Pennsylvania Governor George M. Leader (1918-2013) are noteworthy for providing funding for this project. And, Marci Mowery and the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation also deserve thanks for managing the project grant.

In sum, all of the individuals involved in this project, in big and small ways, have contributed greatly to an important chapter in Pennsylvania's history: the story of conservation.

## **Executive Summary**

As detailed in the Summary of Research – Major Themes and the Recommendations - section of this report there are several consistent and key messages resulting from Phase II of the Conservation Oral History Project.

Echoing many of the interviewees from Phase I, Pennsylvania's position as a leader on the national stage when it comes to conservation policy, programs, initiatives, individuals and organizations is of paramount importance among the interviewees. Moreover, each agreed that Pennsylvania's conservation history has evolved in reaction to environmental issues and problems such as extractive industry and deforestation. And, conservation and environmental policy have reflected a 'tug-of-war' between industry and the public good. To these familiar themes should be added the historical importance of educating the public (both in the traditional classroom and through outdoor recreation) in raising awareness of the environmental challenges that Pennsylvania has dealt with and continues to face.

Most interviewees again expressed concerns over Marcellus Shale 'Fracking' and climate change and about the challenges faced by environmental groups and pro-environment public policy makers in Pennsylvania to adequately address the environmental impacts of these issues. Interviewees pointed to additional concerns including water pollution, unregulated suburban growth that has now spread into once rural agricultural areas, degradation of natural habitats for fish, reptiles, and amphibians and various wildlife and chronic wasting disease in Pennsylvania's whitetail deer population.

As in Phase I, it is apparent that each of the interviewees – in his or her own way – have influenced and shaped conservation history and that the detail of their recall of people, places and events is quite remarkable. Indeed, these oral histories are very content-rich. It has proven vital to collect these oral histories.

Finally, a consistent message is that this is a history worthy of being further researched and shared as outlined in the Recommendations section of this report. The interviewees were surprised – yet, pleased – that Pennsylvania is the only state which has undertaken such a project.

### **Project Purpose and Methodology**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a remarkable history of conservation dating at least to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when industrialization rapidly took hold and when environmental resources were impacted and, in many cases, depleted by economic growth. Examples of conservation efforts are apparent in events such as the creation of a State Forestry Commission, Fish and Game Commissions and Departments of Health, Mines and Mineral Industries, and Forests and Waters in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Conservation efforts are apparent as well in the efforts of individuals to conserve and protect environmental resources such as Gifford Pinchot who served as head of the State Forestry Commission and twice served as governor where his agenda included conservation.

This history is also apparent in the creation of organizations such as Trout Unlimited whose work advocates conservation. Conservation heritage is also apparent in events - such as the Donora Smog and the Knox Mine Disaster - and public policy responses to them. And, conservation efforts are apparent in public policy when, for example, numerous conservation laws and regulations were enacted in the 1960s and 1970s.

Remarkably, however, this rich history has never been comprehensively documented. In the arena of public policy, especially, little has been documented and illustrated in any publicly friendly format. Thus, it is a story that largely remains untold but for a few individual histories of people, places, events and organizations. Moreover, until this project commenced no oral histories have been gathered from individuals significant to conservation history. The 12 oral histories of individuals who were or have been involved in conservation efforts and movements in Pennsylvania in the mid-to-late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries collected in Phase I of this project were an important first step in the documentation effort.

The purpose of Phase II was to collect additional oral history to augment Phase I. Thus, 18 interviews were conducted. The research methodology was guided by the guidelines and recommendations of the Oral History Association (an international organization of professional historians). The oral history interviews were digitally audio-taped and summarized in 2-3 page write-ups. Interviews and their write-ups were preserved on two remote storage devices (i.e. a ‘flash drive’). Thus, two copies have been saved. And, the digitized oral history interviews,

write-ups, release forms and a copy of this report will be submitted to the Pennsylvania State Archives for permanent storage.

Each interview consists of two parts. First, the interviewer gathered biographical information on the interviewee. Second, prompted by specific questions, the interviewee provided a narration of their activities and views relating to Pennsylvania's conservation heritage. The interviews ranged from 1 to 2 hours and 15 minutes in length. There was an obvious urgency to conduct these interviews as the majority of the interviewees are in their senior years and it is important to garner their histories and contributions to conservation before it is too late.

### **Project Oversight**

The Pennsylvania Conservation Heritage Advisory Board was formed as an outgrowth of the Maurice Goddard Legacy Project. The committee consists of volunteers active in or otherwise interested in conservation history. This is a voluntary committee that meets several times a year to explore and develop ideas, programs and research to document Pennsylvania's conservation heritage.

While this project is a product of the committee, it was especially overseen by committee members Wayne Kober and Brenda Barrett.

### **Project Timeframe**

The project commenced in January, 2014, and has been completed with the submission of this final report in April, 2015.

### **Project Interviewees (in alphabetical order)**

John Arway – Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Raymond Bednarchik – Captain and Southeast Regional Manager, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Linda McKenna Boxx, Secretary, Allegheny Trail Alliance.

Phillip Coleman, former Chair, Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter; former Executive Director, Center for Coalfield Justice.

Carol Collier, Senior Advisor for Watershed Management and Policy, Academy of Natural Sciences.

Cindy Adams Dunn – CEO of Penn Future (at the time of the interview) and current Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources in the Wolf Administration.

Caren Glotfelty, former Directory of Environmental Programs, Heinz Endowments.

Brian J. Hill, Senior Program Officer, R. K. Mellon Foundation; former President & CEO, Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

Matthew Hough – Executive Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Wayne Kober, President, Wayne W. Kober, Inc. and retired director of the Bureau of Environmental Quality, PENNDOT.

Franklin Kury – former Pennsylvania State Senator, lobbyist and author.

Susan P. LeGros, President & Executive Director, Center for Sustainable Shale Development.

Andrew McIlwaine, former President & CEO, Pennsylvania Environmental Council; original Director of Environmental Programs, Heinz Endowments.

Marci Mowery – Executive Director, Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation.

Richard H. "Dick" Pratt, founding member and former Chair, Allegheny Group, Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter.

John Quigley, former Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources in the Rendell administration and current acting Secretary of Environmental Protection in the Wolf Administration.

Davitt Woodwell, President & CEO, Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

Peter Wray, former Chair, Allegheny Group, Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter.

### **Project Budget**

The total projected budget was \$8,200. Each interview was conducted for a flat-rate of \$360 including a 2-3 page write-up. One thousand dollars was allocated for travel expenses. The project historians prepared the final report gratis.

A break-down of the final project expenditure budget is as follows:

-	Nine interviews and write-ups by Kenneth Wolensky	=	\$3,250
-	Nine interviews and write-ups by Vagel Keller	=	3,250
-	Travel & Miscellaneous Expenses	=	160 (mileage/Wolensky)
-	Travel & Miscellaneous Expenses	=	138 (mileage/Keller)
-	Final Project Costs	=	\$ 6,798
			=====

Thus, there remains a surplus of \$1,402

Project funding was provided by the Heinz Endowment and a contribution from former Pennsylvania Governor George M. Leader (1918-2013). The consultant contract for execution of the project was managed by the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation (PPFF).

**\$1,800 – each was paid to Drs. Wolensky and Keller at the outset of the project.**

**\$1,450 – each is owed to Drs. Wolensky and Keller when this final report is accepted.**

**\$160 – is owed to Dr. Wolensky for mileage reimbursement (280 miles @ 57.5)**

**\$138 – is owed to Dr. Keller for mileage reimbursement (240 miles @57.5)**

### **Summary of Research – Major Themes**

Many of the major themes in Pennsylvania's Conservation History Phase I Oral History Project were repeated in these interviews. One major difference with this phase is that two interviewees serve as both previous and current gubernatorial cabinet members and two interviewees serve as executive directors of independent agencies. In addition, a field staff person from the Fish and Boat Commission was interviewed. Among the findings are as follows:

- 1) Pennsylvania's conservation heritage has been, and continues to be, shaped by a tug-of-war between industrial and business interests on the one hand and public health and conservation interests on the other. Regardless of their perspectives on the outcomes of policy decisions, several interviewees shared the opinion that this would be a useful framework for organizing – or at least a theme that needs to be emphasized in – the narrative of the Commonwealth's conservation history.
- 2) The second theme dovetails with the first one. Several interviewees agreed that resource extraction is critical to the story of Pennsylvania's conservation heritage. The tug-of-war in the first theme can also be characterized as a cycle of action and reaction to the effects of the extractive industries that dominated Pennsylvania's economy from the very beginning of the steam-powered industrial age through the present. Again, individual perspectives differed based on personal political backgrounds, and the sense that public policy relating to recent events in energy resource extraction would benefit from more attention to lessons from the past emerges from the interviews.
- 3) According to many interviewees Pennsylvania has been a leader when it comes to conservation. This is particularly reflected in public policy (legislation, regulation, enforcement, etc). There are numerous public policy accomplishments that are evident. Examples include the creation of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission in 1866, the Pennsylvania Game Commission in 1895, a Forestry Commission in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Clean Streams Act of 1923 and the many policy achievements evident in the

1960s and 1970s such as the creation of DER. However, opinions differ, based on individual political and professional backgrounds, as to Pennsylvania's leadership position since the halcyon days of the environmental movement. That said, all interviewees recognize that striking the right balance between resource development and environmental protection has been and remains the central issue in on-going debates on Pennsylvania's environmental policy.

- 4) Interviewees suggested and agreed that Pennsylvania's conservation history is a story worth being documented and shared. When prompted by the question "if Pennsylvania's conservation history is to be written about what are the 2-3 most important items in its history that should be shared?" each interviewee shared their points of view. Moreover, several thought that a book needs to be written, students, policymakers and the public need to be educated as such, and that oral histories are vitally important to preserve this history.
- 5) The majority of interviewees expressed concern about Marcellus Shale 'Fracking' in the Commonwealth and its impact on natural resources.
- 6) Many of the interviewees viewed climate change as a result of global warming exacerbated by man-made causes as a reality that policymakers have failed to adequately address.
- 7) Other issues that were addressed included interviewees pointed to additional concerns including water pollution, unregulated suburban growth that has now spread into once rural agricultural areas, degradation of natural habitats for fish, reptiles, amphibians and various wildlife and chronic wasting disease in Pennsylvania's whitetail deer population.

### **Recommendations**

There are numerous recommendations resulting from this project:

- 1) Additional interviews should be conducted of individuals who have been or are involved in conservation initiatives.
- 2) All interviews or excerpts thereof can be downloaded to a conservation history website (or an existing related website).
- 3) The interviews, or portions thereof, can be used to inform a documentary on conservation history.
- 4) The interviews, or portions thereof, can be used to develop public presentations on conservation history.

- 5) The interviews can be utilized to develop a conservation heritage educational curriculum made available to teachers and to college professors and their students.
- 6) All interviews and their summaries should be catalogued in a finding aid and deposited in an appropriate archive.
- 7) The interviewees agreed that, with the expertise of qualified historians, a book should be written about Pennsylvania's conservation history. The publication should be written in a publicly-friendly format (i.e. non-academic) with illustrations. A qualified publisher can be identified to print the book and it can also be made available in a PDF (or other appropriate format) on a conservation heritage website.

### **Biographies of Project Historians**

Two professional historians were engaged for this project: Kenneth C. Wolensky and Vagel Keller. Each historian interviewed six individuals.

Dr. Wolensky served 25 years in State Government in various policy positions in the Governor's Policy Office and the Departments of Health and Insurance and as a historian with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission from 1997 to 2011. He has authored over 25 articles and five books on Pennsylvania history including *The Knox Mine Disaster* and *Voices of the Knox Mine Disaster* as well as a recent biography of former Pennsylvania Governor George M. Leader. Ken now consults on history projects, writes and teaches for Lebanon Valley College. He is immediate past-president of the Pennsylvania Historical Association. He resides in Grantville, Dauphin County.

Dr. Keller is an independent scholar whose research focuses on technology and the environment. Currently an adjunct professor at Carnegie Mellon University, he has lectured on the material causes of natural disasters in modern American and World History. He was project historian for the joint PAEP/PHMC Karl Mason project. In addition to the biographical essay on Mr. Mason in *Pennsylvania Heritage* magazine, Vagel's publications include an essay in the recent special edition of *Pennsylvania History*, devoted to the future of the Commonwealth's environmental history. He resides in Pittsburgh.

## Oral History Interview Summaries

Interviewee: John Arway, Executive Director, PA Fish and Boat Commission

Date: March 31, 2014

Location: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Harrisburg

Length of Interview: 1 hours 25 minutes.

Interviewer: Kenneth C. Wolensky

### Summary of Interview

John Arway was born in 1952 in McKeesport, Pennsylvania and was raised in nearby Irwin. He began fishing, hunting, and enjoying the outdoors at a young age and developed an early interest in biology. He attended the University of Pittsburgh, initially studying pre-medicine, and then graduated with a degree in biology. His first job was as a chemist with Westinghouse Corporation in the Pittsburgh area. He then took a job with the Loyalhanna Watershed Association studying acid mine drainage and its impact on the environment. Later he accepted a research assistantship at Tennessee Technical University where he studied and investigated water quality issues and, especially, water quality and its impact on fish species. In the early 1980s he returned to Pennsylvania and accepted a seasonal position with the Pennsylvania Fish Commission at its Wellsboro office. He then became a permanent staff member as a fish biologist and was promoted to chief of the Environmental Services Division in 1987. In 2010 he assumed the position of Executive Director.

John discusses several topics in the interview. One is the history of FBC as among the nation's first environmental agencies (150<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be in 2016) and that, among its first duties, was restoration of the American Shad which has largely been successfully. He further describes FBC's mandate as conservation and, environmental stewardship, and recreation. John has a clear sense of the history of extraction and environmental degradation that occurred in Pennsylvania and that it has taken decades to remediate the damage with much more to be done: "The results of what man has done to the environment are with us today."

Another issue is the recurring discussion of merging the Fish Commission with the Game Commission. He strongly opposed to such a merger fearing that the ability of the Commission to enforce fish laws would be abridged. FBC is an excellent steward of Pennsylvania's aquatic resources and has an independent funding stream that enables the agency to carry out its duties.

With John's leadership FBC is a strong advocate of water quality as clean water means better habitats for fish. This involved risk-taking. For example, in 2013 John staked-out a clear position that the Susquehanna is an endangered river due to poor water quality, run-off, and other impurities that are discharged into the river. Small mouth bass have lesions while other fish are sick in many ways. Selected species have nearly disappeared such as the Rock Bass near Holtwood Dam. John comments that he fishes – and eats fish – from the river he is greatly concerned about is future. However, he has been largely unable to convince other state officials regarding this matter. He sees it as a matter of political will: if the river is polluted why is there no will or activism to clean-it-up?

John recalls the pollution of other waterways. For example, not long ago fish in Lewis Run, located in Pennsylvania's oil fields, tasted like oil. And, the Allegheny River was similarly polluted. In the 1970s the Environmental Defense Fund sued oil companies resulting in a multi-million dollar settlement that was used for stream clean-up.

In the interview, John provides technical and scientific discussion of various impacts on aquatic resources. And, he mentions that organizations such as the Academy of Natural Sciences, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others are all involved in the sciences of aquatic resources.

He also mentions Marcellus Shale gas drilling and its impact on the environment. He is especially concerned about the industry's impact on water quality. The millions of gallons of water that are withdrawn from the Susquehanna, for example, impact various species and water quality. Organizations such as the Susquehanna and Delaware River Basin Commissions have charged impact fees for water extraction: funding that is used for mitigation. Why shouldn't the Commonwealth overall do the same? He refers to Marcellus as "highway robbery" and has written editorials on the subject.

John concludes with restating FBC's mission of species protection and as an example of responsible government – a mandate over its 150-year history.

Interviewee: Raymond Bednarchik, Jr. Captain and Southeast Regional Manager, PA Fish and Boat Commission

Date: February 25, 2015

Location: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Harrisburg

Length of Interview: 1 hours 18 minutes

Interviewer: Kenneth C. Wolensky

### Summary of Interview

Ray Bednarchik, Jr., was born in Harrisburg and grew-up in Chester County. He attended Glenwood schools then completed a Delaware County Community College curriculum for police officers. He held various positions with several police departments in southeastern Pennsylvania before being hired by the Fish and Boat Commission in 1988. Ray's father, Raymond, Sr. was a career fish warden with the Commission also serving the southeast region. Ray recalls that, when his father was a warden, their jobs were basically 24-hours a day, 7-days per week. Supervisors had to know where wardens were at all times in case of an incident or need. Ray even recalls his father reporting-in during vacation periods and days off so that his supervisor knew his locale. Ray always wanted to work for the Commission, following in his father's footsteps. At the time of the interview Ray supervised a staff of 12 Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs), 2 sergeants, and 22 deputy WCOs.

Ray views conservation and the job of WCO as one in the same. This job *is* about conservation and protection and propagation of fish (and reptiles and amphibians) as a resource available to all humans. Conservation is about:

- Education: WCOs continually educate the public and specific groups on fish species, habitats, water pollution, stream enhancement and environmental and conservation issues. Talks are given at schools and colleges, to community groups such as Boy and Girl Scout troops, sportsmen's associations, etc. A PowerPoint entitled "A Day in the Life of a WCO" is usually the feature presentation. WCOs also educate the public directly on-the-job such as ensuring that anglers and boaters have a license, proper gear and abide by rules and regulations.
  - Stream Studies: WCOs routinely work with college classes and biology laboratories to study stream habitat and water pollution. However, such work is not usually proactive; it is, rather, reactive after a problem has occurred such as discharge of a pollutant.
  - Species Propagation: WCOs routinely work with fisheries biologists and hatcheries on propagation and stocking programs.
  - Resource Protection: besides protecting fish from water pollution, overfishing, etc., WCOs are required by law to do the same for reptiles, turtles, frogs and amphibians. This involves investigating habitat destruction, enhancing habitat, regulating so called 'rattlesnake roundups,' educating the public, etc. The fact that FBC has regulatory authority over such species is not widely known.
- Law Enforcement: of course, a common task of WCOs is enforcement of laws and regulations. A growing problem is BWIs or Boating While Intoxicated violations. Another common issue is general violations of boating laws such as having adequate life saving equipment. He further discusses the job of WCOs by pointing-out that they have

the full authority of any law enforcement official, such as a State Police officer. For example: they are fully trained on and carry firearms; they have full arresting authority even for violations not related to the resource – for example, they can arrest and prosecute alleged DUI drivers; they wear a uniform similar to any other law enforcement officer (the uniform is widely recognized and has an authority about it, according to Ray); they testify at hearings and civil and criminal court proceedings, and; they drive vehicles equipped with the latest law enforcement equipment and technology.

An important issue that Ray discusses in the interview is the delicate balance between resource protection, human needs and economic development. For example, in the southeast region there are constant development pressures and, in many cases, wildlife habitat is impacted. He recalls one particularly incident when a new housing development caused soils and sediments to be discharged into a tributary. Biological studies were done to mitigate the impact of this particular development on fish species (the Game Commission was also involved in studying impact on White Tail Deer populations). In another instance, a farmer over-sprayed his land with a common pesticide. Run-off into a nearby stream cause a large trout-kill in a tributary leading into the Schuylkill River. The farmer was fined and the matter settled for \$1,500.

Ray has “little sympathy for the NIMBY people” who want it both ways. For example, “don’t put a landfill in my backyard, but I’ll keep throwing away large amounts of waste and not recycle or reduce my consumption.” Waste – such as trash resulting from human overconsumption – impacts the entire ecosystem and few people know or care little about it in our society, according to Ray.

Ray concludes the interview by reflecting on his long career with FBC as one in which he’d like to think that he contributed to resource protection and habitat enhancement. He doesn’t consider himself an overly strong environmentalist, but does express concern over the need for environmental and resource protection. WCOs do a good job, are very dedicated and, themselves, are anglers and hunters. In many cases their vocation is the same as their avocation. He thinks that the FBC does a good job in training WCOs for their job, educating the public and protecting and enhancing resources and habitat. More financial and staff resources are always good, but the agency must live within its means.

Interviewee: Linda McKenna Boxx, Secretary, Allegheny Trail Alliance

Date: August 29, 2014

Location: Phillip M. McKenna Foundation, 816 Ligonier St, Suite 500, Latrobe, PA 15650

Length of Interview: 1 hour, 40 minutes.

### Summary of Interview

Linda was born in Latrobe, grew up in Ligonier, and received a B.S. in Chemistry from Bucknell University in 1974. Linda's cousin, Phillip M. McKenna, co-founded Kennametal (originally McKenna Metals) with her father, Alex G. McKenna. Both Phillip and his wife, Katherine Mabis McKenna, established non-profit philanthropic foundations in 1967 and 1969, respectively. Linda is Chair of the Katherine McKenna Foundation. Rather than be a research chemist, Linda wanted to use her knowledge to "in the environmental world" and found a position in Pennsylvania state government in planning (Governor's Office of State Planning and Development) during the Shapp administration. The experience made her realize that one could have much more of an influence on environmental policy during the planning and development stage than after the fact. When a change of administrations put her out of work Linda moved with her boss to a planning position in Arkansas under then-Governor Clinton, a brief shift in the political winds sent her back to Pennsylvania in 1981, where Linda began her career in non-profit foundation management.

Linda's father, Alex, had a major influence on her approach to running non-profit organizations. "You don't do philanthropy sitting behind a desk," she recalled his advice, meaning get involved in the various groups in the community so as to understand their strengths, weaknesses, and needs. This kind of involvement not only made her an informed reader of grant proposals; it gave her an important insight into the ways that different groups had common requirements that could be coordinated for collaborative, more efficient use of resources.

This interview is rich in detail about the history of fund raising efforts for what became the Great Allegheny Passage from the early years through the present. Linda's involvement began with a trail project aimed at repairing the riparian corridor of Loyalhanna Creek in Latrobe, which led her to become involved with the Regional Trail Corporation (RTC, formed in 1991). She joined the Board ca. 1992 and got involved in fund raising for the Yough River Trail-North, the 43-mile section of the Great Allegheny Passage following the abandoned Pittsburgh & Lake Erie RR from Connellsville to McKeesport. Seed money from federal sources (U.S. Rep. Murtha was a key benefactor) allowed RTC to build small sections in Allegheny, Westmoreland, and Fayette counties to serve as positive examples for further fund raising from private sources. The idea for the Allegheny Trail Alliance (ATA) grew from a meeting with Michael Watson at the Richard King Mellon Foundation, who suggested that all of the various groups who were soliciting contributions form an umbrella group to coordinate their efforts. Linda represented RTC at a summit of rails-to-trails groups hosted by Somerset County in 1995, where she made the proposal. The original name was the Spine Line Trail Association but was soon changed to ATA. The original mission statement has remained the same: create a rail trail from Cumberland to Pittsburgh and market it.

Linda's primary interests in trail development were with river conservation; she was not an avid bicyclist at the time. The realization that rail trails also could have a positive impact on people came as she observed people coming from miles away to ride on the early short segments.

The basis of the ATA's efforts was a \$25 million fund raising campaign. Linda's insights on the inner workings of getting "really big pots of money" from state and federal government sources are of particular interest. The key was "we were organized," had a single point of contact and "we knew what we were doing; we were well coached" by Delta Development Group, of Mechanicsburg, PA, which ATA hired to develop its fund raising strategy.

#### Key People:

- Jim Lineberger, paired with Linda as fund raising team for Yough River Trail-North
- Mike Watson, Trustee and VP, Richard King Mellon Foundation Endowment Fund
- David Mankamy, Somerset County Commissioner, exhorted trail groups to work together at the founding meeting of the ATA
- U.S. Rep. John Murtha, "no strings attached" federal funding

#### "Secret Weapons"

- Eileen Melvin, from Somerset County, Vice Chair of State Republican Party, "a secret weapon" in support of funding for Big Savage Tunnel (access to Gov. Ridge)
- Betsy Lineberger, Jim Lineberger's daughter, worked in Gov. Ridge's office and got appointments with Ridge's Chief of Staff
- Pat Noonan, founder and Chairman of the Board, The Conservation Fund, got critical support from Maryland Gov. Glendening for the Maryland segment of the Great Allegheny Passage
- Mystery person who added the Great Allegheny Passage to the short list of "legacy projects" for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French & Indian War

#### Major challenges:

- Land acquisition for the final section from McKeesport to Point State Park, especially the section adjacent to Sand Castle waterpark; a lost battle – trail is contiguous, but "could've been way better if West Homestead had believed in the trail."
- Big Savage Tunnel
- Acquisition of former coal lands and right of way sharing with the Western Maryland Scenic RR in Maryland

#### People who had a major influence on Linda, personally:

- Alex G. McKenna, father, "told us we needed to be productive members of society"
- Caren Glotfelty, a role model in Linda's early career in Harrisburg; they served together on the board of the Lancaster Environmental Action Federation (LEAF)
- John Oliver
- LeRoy Kline, President & CEO of Delta Development



Interviewee: Phillip Coleman, former Chair, PA Chapter, Sierra Club and former Executive Director, Center for Coalfield Justice

Date: October 9, 2014

Location: via telephone, 12500 Capri Circle North, Apt. 202, Treasure Island, FL 33706

Length of Interview: 57 minutes

### Summary of Interview

Born in 1931 in Champaign, IL, Phillip spent his childhood in West Texas, moving back to Illinois as a teen, where he graduated from Carbondale High School and earned bachelor and graduate degrees at Southern Illinois University and University of Illinois (Ph.D. in Literature). He and his wife, Wyona (d. 2005), met at SIU, where she majored in Journalism. After they settled in California, PA, where Phillip spent his academic career on the faculty of California University, Wyona got a Masters in Library Science from University of Pittsburgh and worked at the Cal U's Manderino Library. Throughout their lives together, Phillip and Wyona shared an interest in conservation activism, and it was Wyona who was the more public face of the couple's activism and Phillip who, as he claims, played a support role in the early years.

Their interest in conservation issues dated to the first Earth Day stemming from the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*; Wyona organized an early Earth Day rally at Cal U. Prior to coming to Cal U the couple enjoyed doing things together in the outdoors and later enjoyed white water canoeing in western PA. So, they "were ripe for environmentalism." Getting organized and forming the Sierra Club was the focal point for what they did. Wyona and two friends started the Southwestern Pennsylvania Group in Washington and Green counties, which later joined the Allegheny Group. Wyona later served two terms as Chair of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club, where she established a permanent lobbying presence in Harrisburg.

### Major Initiatives that Phillip or Wyona were involved in:

- Advocating for the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) of 1977
- Wyona and some friends started the Tri-State Coalfield Citizens Mining Network in 1995 in response to environmental impacts of Longwall mining; the group's name changed to the Center for Coalfield Justice (CCJ) in 2006. Phillip spent a lot of time with CCJ after Wyona's death, retiring from the Board in 2013.

### Challenges:

- Coal companies spent a lot of money lobbying at the state and national levels; but the 1970s was a time when "suddenly, we had an opportunity to get legislation through." Generally, the general public in southwestern Pennsylvania was supportive of the legislation, unlike the kind of "on the ground opposition" that is seen today.
- One issue that still exists with SMCRA is adequate bonding requirements for mining companies to ensure funding for reclamation of abandoned strip mines. Even with

reclamation, "you can't put it back the way it was. A lot of that land is nominally reclaimed, but it's not what it was before."

- The environmental community has not been nearly as successful in dealing with longwall mining. Phillip is critical of the provisions in Act 54, calling them "notoriously weak. I can tell you when Longwall mining will end," he said, quoting an Op-Ed piece he wrote recently, "when there isn't anymore coal." Phillip is also very critical of the way the original impact study was conducted in 1994. The Sierra Club "looked at the way it was being set up and declined an invitation to participate. It would have been *extremely difficult* (his emphasis) to have a meaningful participation in that."
- It's always been difficult to get elected officials to stand up to the coal interests, with state Representative Bill DeWeese (D, Green County) being a notable exception.
- Difficulties in getting DCNR to release documents pertaining to the impacts of Longwall mining

Key People (activists) cited by Phillip:

- Peggy Clark, Citizens Against Water Loss due to Mining (CAWLM), an Indiana County group, who participated in the Act 54 impact study but withdrew in frustration
- Maurice Forrester, important in leadership of Keystone Trail Association and Appalachian Trail Committee, early member of Pennsylvania Chapter Executive Committee
- Sam and Barbara Hays; Barbara was also Chair of the Pennsylvania Chapter, Sierra Club
- Jan Jarret, retired Executive Director of PennFuture, now living near Harrisburg
- Vinnedge Lawrence, an early member of the Citizens Advisory Committee
- Edward Perry, US Fish & Wildlife Service at State College, an "ally" on environmental issues who now runs the National Wildlife Federation's climate change office in Pennsylvania
- Gail Rockwood, along with Wyona and Mary Rawlins started the Southwestern Pennsylvania Group
- Jeff Schmiidt, Sierra Club chief lobbyist for 30 years
- Wendy Taylor, Chair of the Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club, started out 15 years ago protesting Harrisburg's incinerator
- Kurt Weist, a lawyer at PennFuture, who worked on the SMCRA bonding issue; Phillip got him started on the bonding issue
- Robert Wendlegast, for years he led Pennsylvania Clean Water Action; now at national level

People who had a major influence on Phillip, personally: authors Henry David Thoreau, Aldo Leopold, Edward Abbey

Important Public Policies: "It's hard for me to think about a Pennsylvania state law that was good." At the federal level:

- Wilderness Act
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- SMCRA

### Points or Topics for the Conservation Heritage Project:

- "It's been very difficult to get good laws that have long-term effects. We keep developing." Even with a fairly stable population, even population loss, "encroachment always happens."
- Three Mile Island "was an event, which stopped cold the nuclear power industry," which is now slowly trying to recover.

### Most Important Contributions:

- Phillip is "not a cheerleader." He doesn't believe enough has been achieved in protecting the environment and doesn't see a "climate that's going to enable that."
- The two things he is proudest of are starting *Sylvania*, the Sierra Club newsletter, in 1983, of which he is now co-editor, and that he "managed to support Wyona in all the things she did."

Interviewee: Carol Collier, Senior Advisor for Watershed Management and Policy, Academy of Natural Sciences

Date: June 20, 2014

Location: Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia

Length of Interview: 1 hour 28 minutes

### Summary of Interview

Carol is a native of New Jersey, attended Smith College where she earned a degree in environmental biology and later earned a degree in environmental planning from the University of Pennsylvania. Among her mentors was Dr. Ruth Patrick who worked at the Academy for many decades up to her death at over 100 years old.

Carol worked for a private sector engineering firm in Plymouth Meeting for 19 years. She also directed the Delaware River Basin Commission for 15 years where she directed nearly 40 staff who dealt with watershed protection and enhancement issues. The DRBC is a cooperative arrangement of states that draw on the Delaware River for water usage. These states include PA, DE, NJ, NY. The Delaware River supplies water to 15 million people and is longest undammed river east of the Mississippi. Major oversight issues of DRBC are water pollution, PCBs, salinity levels, water withdrawal and overall water quality. In the interview Carol extensively discusses the DRBC.

In 1995 she was hired by then Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection Jim Seif as director of the agency's southeastern Pennsylvania Office. She also was the lead staff person for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Environmental Commission established by Seif and Gov. Tom Ridge. Co-chairs of the Commission were Karen Glotfelty and Seif. Eighty individuals served on the Commission that examined and planned for environmental and conservation matters looking 40-50 years into the future.

Among the major issues examined were: Land use, water resources, hazardous waste, brownfields, coal waste or "culm" banks, and traffic impact. Carol refers to the work of the Commission as "idea centered" and resulted in Acts 67 and 68 that mainly addressed local land use policy. Carol was somewhat involved in Ridge's Growing Greener initiative mainly offering staff assistance as needed and bridging the work of the Commission with Growing Greener. In the interview Carol provides extensive discussion of the work of the Commission.

Carol refers to several issues she dealt with as DEP's southeast office director. She managed 300 staff to which she refers as "very professional." She recalls that among the major issues that staff dealt with were waste management, water pollution issues and watershed protection. She discusses one particular matter when a truck carrying hazardous medical waste was involved in a serious accident on I-95 that posed a threat. DEP staff were involved in the clean-up.

In the interview Carol extensively discussed present and future environmental and conservation challenges. These include:

- Marcellus shale – its impacts and the need for regulation and taxation.
- Effective watershed management – effective monitoring to ensure water quality.
- Climate change – the science is undisputable and the impacts are already occurring with the melting of Arctic ice sheets and rising sea levels.
- Planning – there is a need for long-term planning to ensure protection of the environment and species including *human beings*. Not enough is being done at the federal, state and local levels. Such work requires serious committee from elected officials and policymakers as well as funding.

Interviewee: Cindy Adams Dunn, President and CEO, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (at time of interview), Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Date: March 28, 2014

Location: Penn Future Offices, 610 N. Third Street, Harrisburg

Length of Interview: 1 hours 36 minutes

Interviewer: Kenneth C. Wolensky

### Summary of Interview

Cindy Dunn is president and CEO of Penn Future, a non-profit citizen's advocacy group for environmental issues (at the time of the interview). Cindy has a long career in environmental stewardship. She served as Deputy Secretary of Conservation and Technical Services at DCNR, headed the agency's Bureau of Recreation and Conservation as well as its Office of Communications, Education and Partnerships. Cindy also served as executive director of Audubon Pennsylvania from 1997-2003 and as a program director of the Chesapeake Bay Restoration initiative. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in biology from Shippensburg University. And, she is an avid outdoor enthusiast.

Cindy was born in Fishing Creek Valley, near Harrisburg. She was directly influenced on nature and the environment by her father who was an outdoor enthusiast and engineer for DER and by her mother who dedicated much of her time to citizen engagement for such organizations as the PTO and the family's church groups. Her parents actively encouraged their children's interest in the environment. Among Cindy's early experiences was working with her parents and local residents to oppose DER's plans to site a landfill in Fishing Creek Valley. Strong citizen opposition to DER resulted in their withdrawing the plan.

Her early career took several routes. While in college she worked as a school bus driver and became very interested in being a truck driver to "see the country" as she puts it. At the same time she was interested in work relating to the environment and conservation. She was dissuaded from the truck driver idea and took a job as an environmental educator with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation where she developed related programming and organized educational canoe trips. For a short time in the early 1980s she worked for DER as a water quality specialist. She then took jobs with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Audubon PA, and DCNR as described above.

To Cindy, among her most important achievements was to organize 'Susquehanna Sojourns' or canoe trips on the river. She has paddled nearly every mile of the Susquehanna. Over the years she has taken several politicians on canoe trips along the Susquehanna including former State Senator Brightbill and Governors Ridge and Corbett. She also served as member of DER's Citizens Advisory Committee and as a citizen representative to DER's Environmental Quality Board.

Among the environmental challenges with which she has experience include:

- Threats to forests from deer overpopulation where she testified before the Game Commission to advocate sound deer management policies and closer regulation of Doe licensing.
- Opposing DER on plans for dams (Swatara Creek State Park) and ATV trails.
- Testifying before the General Assembly on various environmental issues.
- Working to advocate urban nature centers in locales such as Philadelphia (where she met Mike DiBeradinis, Rendell's secretary of DCNR).
- Developing and advocating for DCNR's conservation landscape initiative.
- Advocating for a moratorium on Marcellus natural gas drilling (a policy put in place by the Rendell Administration and temporarily extended by Gov. Corbett).
- Advocating for a severance or extraction tax on Marcellus shale companies.
- Advocating for the restoration of the Keystone Parks and Recreation fund - a program financed by Pennsylvania's Realty Transfer Tax for state parks and forestry conservation - when the revenue was diverted to the Commonwealth's General Fund by Rendell in 2008.

Cindy remains a strong conservation and environmental protection advocate and sees many contemporary challenges including:

- The need for Commonwealth policymakers to develop more sound policies to better manage environmental resources such as land conservation.
- Development pressures, such as farm land housing development v. environmental and soil conservation concerns. She sees a need for the revitalization of the environmental movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s to have a voice on such issues.
- Legislative reform to limit the amount of cash contributions and gifts that legislators can receive from special interests such as Marcellus shale companies. At the time of the interview legislation was pending in the General Assembly to address this very issue. Cindy has personally seen the level of influence that Marcellus companies have had on legislators as well as the executive branch. She commented that, on numerous occasions "I have seen Marcellus company lobbyists taking legislators to dinner at various Harrisburg dining locales" and thinks that such practices corrupt the democratic process. "The ordinary citizen doesn't have a voice when it comes to the power of such lobbying groups."
- Development of better policy and funding sources to preserve environmental assets such as parks and forests.
- The need to build better coalitions to advocate for environmental stewardship. She has seen some of this with the Conservation Trust Initiative, a multi-organization group who studies and develops policy recommendations on this issue and advocates for a conservation trust fund.
- Energy efficiency is an ongoing challenge This ranges from what might be seen as small initiatives, such as encouraging municipalities to use LED light bulbs in streetlights to large issues such as advocating for renewable energy resources such as wind and solar power. "The best kilowatt is the one that you don't use" Cindy says, meaning that energy conservation reduces demand.
- Climate change. Cindy is convinced of the science that demonstrates that this is a reality.

Near the conclusion of the interview Cindy shared a humorous story about the extent of her environmental advocacy. When plans were discussed to develop a dam along the Susquehanna in Harrisburg, Cindy and a few others placed “Defeat the Dam” bumper stickers on City owned police vehicles. This was usually done at night. On one occasion “I almost got caught when an officer in a cruiser approached me near the alley behind the police station and asked what I was doing and ‘is everything okay?’ I talked myself out of what could have been a difficult situation!” On a more serious note, Cindy mentions that, at times, she has felt personally threatened because of her strong advocacy. She recalls testifying before the General Assembly on several occasions when, after the testimony “I thought ‘is someone going to shoot me for my strong words.’” Nothing serious ever happened.

Interviewee: Caren Glotfelty, former Director of Environmental Programs, Heinz Endowments  
Date: February 5, 2013  
Location: Allegheny Harvard Yale Princeton Club, Pittsburgh, PA  
Length of Interview: 1 hour, 3 minutes.

### Summary of Interview

This was a follow-up interview to garner Caren's insights from her time as Director of Environmental Programs at the Heinz Endowments, including the controversy surrounding her role in funding the Center for Sustainable Shale Development, which led to her departure from the Heinz Endowments on August 8, 2013.

Born ca. 1947 in California, Caren's career has been spent almost entirely in Pennsylvania, where she came to earn a Masters Degree in Regional Planning from University of Pennsylvania. After twenty-five years working in state-level environmental protection agencies in Pennsylvania and Maryland on land use and water quality planning and policy issues, she left government to become the Maurice Goddard Chair in Forestry and Environmental Resources at Penn State. Caren joined the Heinz Endowments in 2000.

Caren removed any doubt about the nature of her departure; she was "let go," as was the case with Heinz Endowments Communications Director, Douglas Root. They were never given a reason for the Board's decision to fire them, so her remarks on how and why that decision was made are speculative. But it is clear that their removal was related to their support for the Center for Sustainable Shale Development, although since 2008 she had also directed "in excess of \$10 million" to research grants for academics, non-profits, and think tanks trying to determine the potential environmental impacts of shale development. Grants for advocacy against shale development were avoided because of the anti-regulatory political climate at the time, but they did give some funds to "citizen organizing" in hopes that things would change over time. Beginning in late-2010, Heinz provided about \$150,000 into early stages of developing what would become the Center based on a concept developed by former PA DEP Secretary John Hanger.

Asked if the Board's adverse reaction to the Center was a knee-jerk reaction or the result of a longer-term cultural shift at the Foundation, she said feedback she received from the Board leading up to the role-out of the Center had been positive and described, in detail, the decision making and internal communications processes at the Foundation. The Board was provided a lot of information, but there was never "a robust presentation and debate" in a formal setting, which made some Board members, "particularly members of the Heinz family," uncomfortable, because they didn't understand what the Center is all about. Caren mentioned reading in one of the Pittsburgh newspapers that Board members who live outside the region "were hearing from their friends in Washington and New York" who are part of "a segment of the Environmental community that felt like any conversation with industry is a betrayal, that there is no way you can trust industry." She believes the reversal of direction was probably the result of Andre's direct involvement, the only one of the three sons of John and Teresa Heinz sons on the board who is active. As to why he didn't voice opposition earlier, she observed, "There was plenty of information [about the Center] had you been paying attention as a board member." In that regard,

she wonders why Endowments President Robert Vagt, who supported funding for the Center and had ties to the oil and gas industry, was not also fired, although he did subsequently resign.

In response to claims by anti-fracking groups that environmental organizations working with the Center are pro-business, Caren referred to them all as pragmatic; only the Pennsylvania Environmental Council has financial ties to business interests, but it's not an advocate for the business community, per se. "I'm a person who wants to see change made, and I'm pragmatic about how to get it made." Given the way things are in Pennsylvania right now "it's not going to happen unless you take a pragmatic approach to how you do that." She added that during her tenure the Heinz Endowments also funded "watchdog groups" focused on fracking at local and regional levels in Pennsylvania. Caren doesn't see credibility issues for the Center going forward, but its viability could be an issue if more big corporations don't join the effort.

We then discussed Caren's career at the Foundation since she arrived at the Foundation in 2000. Her hiring resulted from working in the past as the Co-Chair, with then-Secretary of DEP James Seif, of Gov. Ridge's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Environment Commission, with Max King, then-Executive Editor of the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, who had just taken over as President of the Foundation, on environmental and land use issues relating urban sprawl.

Two accomplishment at Heinz Endowments of which Caren is proudest are:

- The attention paid to the financing and governance of the non-profits the Foundation funded; it's easy to start a non-profit, sustaining one is difficult
- Initiating a program focused on environmental health issues, of particular interest to Teresa Heinz Kerry, including the Breathe Project, in partnership with GASP, PennFuture, and other advocacy groups in an effort to build political will to improve air quality in the Pittsburgh region

Caren is concerned that the Heinz Endowments' shift to an adversarial position on environmental issues will adversely impact financial support for the Environmental Health program as well as other initiatives. She also expressed concern about the lack of effective regulation of environmental health issues by the state and county departments of Health. Caren remains on the Board of Women for a Healthy Environment, an outgrowth of the Environmental Health program.

The recent decision by the State Supreme Court overturning Act 13 of 2012, which restricted the authority of local zoning boards to control the development of natural gas wells, on grounds that it violated Art. 1, Sect. 27 of the State Constitution, "The Environmental Rights Amendment," led to a conversation recapitulating her early career in DER. She is "excited" and "thrilled" by the potential opportunities for environmental issues relating to resource extraction. "I feel like, OK! I can retire now," she joked. Of course, Caren hasn't retired; she had just agreed to Co-Chair a committee dealing with regionalization of municipal sewer systems under ALCOSAN and has since been hired as the Executive Director of the Allegheny Parks Foundation.

Interviewee: Brian J. Hill, Senior Program Officer at the R. K. Mellon Foundation; former President & CEO, Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC)

Date: March 4, 2015

Location: Mellon Foundation, 500 Grant St., Suite 4106, Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Length of Interview: 55 minutes

### Summary of Interview

Born ca. 1959 in Meadville, PA, Brian grew up in Hillcrest, the first public housing project in Pennsylvania. Hillcrest was built for new workers in the various industries that thrived in Meadville during the Great Depression. His interest in conservation stems from being able, from an early age, to wander at length with his friends in the rural countryside that surrounded Meadville. By his early teens adventures on adjacent farms included to backpacking with friends; they "began to go further afar." In high school (1974 – 77) Brian became active in his school's Environmental Club, which organized camping trips in nearby state parks. He received a B.S. in Environmental Resource Management from his hometown Allegheny College and later started the Center for Environmental and Economic Development at his Alma Mater in 1997.

Brian recalls environmental protection "in those days" as a bi-partisan effort due, in his view, to the Conservation approach that was taken. From his own experiences, he sees a definite link between outdoor recreation and environmental awareness, especially a conservation-minded awareness about environmental issues. He equates Conservation with a more up-to-date term: Sustainability. Environmental Science was his passion upon graduating from college, but his first job was as an assistant city manager in Meadville, where he worked with local farmers and businesses. He left Meadville to get a Masters Degree in Natural Resource Management at University of New Hampshire and pursue his ambition to work for a group or state agency focused on environmental protection. He immediately went to work for PEC, first in Philadelphia but soon moving back to western Pennsylvania to re-establish PEC's Pittsburgh office in 1989.

Brian served on the Citizens Advisory Committee for many years and as Chair under governors Casey and Ridge, ending his tenure in 2004.

### Important Initiatives that Brian has been responsible for were:

- French Creek Project, begun in 1995. The effort received the Governor's Award for Watershed Management. Goal was to "instill a sense of ownership in the people who live in the ... watershed." Brian discussed the project at length in the interview. The project continues today under the management of French Creek Conservancy in cooperation with the Western PA Conservancy.
- Best Management Practices for Pennsylvania Forests Taskforce. Effectiveness varies based on the administration and legislature. Brian's appraisal of broad critiques of the Taskforce by Sam Hays is sympathetic of Hays' argument while offering an alternative viewpoint that emphasizes the positive contributions of individuals working within the system.

- Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania. Brian discussed the effort and outcomes at length.
- Growing Greener III. Brian discusses the good and the bad about this effort. His concern is that the program was paid for by a bond issue forced by the General Assembly against the wishes of the Governor, which will "take decades to pay off," after which the money will no longer be available.

Important people who influenced environmental policies in western Pennsylvania:

- Gifford Pinchot
- Maurice Goddard
- Sam Hays

People who have influenced Brian personally:

- John Oliver, "a great mentor and advisor," with whom Brian started the French Creek Project
- Joanne Denworth, who hired Brian at PEC
- Gail Rockwood, who he recalled as a citizen activist who was always "extremely well organized"
- In general, the people who he interacts with on a daily basis and who are willing to take risks and say things that need to be said because if they're not said, people will "let it slide"

Brian worries about youth today not spending time in the outdoors and, therefore, not having environmental concerns inculcated in their worldview. Outreach and education, as well, are important elements of environmental protection, because they instill that value in young people at an early age and they help to make adults stakeholders in their local areas.

Interviewee: Matt Hough, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Game Commission

Date: December 3, 2014

Location: Pennsylvania Game Commission, Harrisburg

Length of Interview: 1 hour 4 minutes

### Summary of Interview

Matt Hough was appointed executive director of the Pennsylvania Game Commission (GC) in 2013. Prior to this appointment Matt held progressively responsible positions with the GC since 1978 including: game protector, game warden, education supervisor director of the southwest region, law enforcement director and deputy executive director. The executive director is appointed by GC Commissioners. There are eight Commissioners who are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. The terms are staggered and the Commissioners geographically represent the Commonwealth.

The GC has a \$105m budget, 725 staff, and manages 1.5m acres of game lands in the Commonwealth. The GC is an independent state agency with all of its revenue generated from license fees, fines, a federal excise tax on firearms purchases, timber sales and revenue from Marcellus Shale drilling on GC lands. The GC has 22 wildlife management areas, annually issues about 600,000 deer licenses, and licenses for other wildlife such as bear. Annual deer harvests approximate 350,000 and bear harvests yield 3,000 to 4,000

Matt's interview focuses mainly on changes that he has seen over his career, major issues facing the GC in 2014 and future issues.

For example, Matt discusses technological changes where the GC advanced from typewriters and manual filing systems to modern computer systems in 2014. He notes that, in the late 1970s, game wardens used electric typewriters to write-up reports. Today, game officers have laptop computers as well as computers in their state-issued vehicle. He also discusses the development of and professionalization of field staff with particular note of a mid-1970s professional trainee program that has advanced to its 35<sup>th</sup> class in 2014.

Major issues in the GC include deer management. Matt notes that this has been an issue since the GC was created in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century (and even before when there was no regulation of game hunting). Deer populations expands and contracts on regular cycles. The GC manages the number of licenses depending on projections of deer populations. The GC keeps no official count of deer population. Rather, it estimates the population based on a variety of factors.

With regard to deer, another major issue is chronic wasting disease. While the science is still not precise, the disease likely originated in the Central Appalachians then spread into Pennsylvania as deer migrated through the ridges and valleys. The GC does not have the scientific ability to eliminate the disease. However, the GC does have several disease management areas where sickened deer are monitored and followed.

A major issue facing wildlife is constant development pressures. Housing developments, shopping malls and highways greatly impact wildlife as do landfills, wind farms and Marcellus

drillers. The GC has legal authority to provide comment on DEP permitted projects as well as highway projects. However, seldom is substantive consideration given to wildlife issues.

Another topic that Matt discusses in the frequent studies and legislative inquiries to merge the GC with the PA Fish and Boat Commission. A recent study by the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee pointed to administrative efficiencies that would result from such a merger. However, Matt points out that certain issues are frequently overlooked such as the need to enhance administrative support in field regions to support both GC and FBC officers. Such studies are conducted every 10 years or so but “nothing usually comes out of it.”

Poaching remains a problem, although far less in 2014 than during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Strict enforcement of game laws, more field staff and better resources have helped to reduce poaching although it still occurs. Most cases of poaching are reported by citizens.

With regard to future issues, Matt points to the same issues described above however, he does expand on the positives and negatives of Marcellus development. Marcellus has brought a new energy source and a new source of revenue to the state. However, it needs to be more closely regulated particularly with regard to potential water pollution.

Matt concludes the interview with a brief tour of the GC’s training facility at its offices on Elmerton Ave., in Harrisburg.

Interviewee: Wayne Kober, President, Wayne W. Kober, Inc. and retired director of the Bureau of Environmental Quality, PENNDOT

Date: January 24, 2014

Location: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Harrisburg

Length of Interview: 2 hours 18 minutes

Interviewer: Kenneth C. Wolensky

### Summary of Interview

Wayne Kober was born in February 1951 in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. His family moved to Tampa, Florida for a brief period then returned to Pennsylvania where he graduated from Sewickley Area High School. Wayne enrolled in the Forestry program at PSU McKeesport. Earth Day events inspired him to switch majors to Environmental Resource Management. In his junior year he transferred to PSU University Park and graduated in 1973. He was one of the first graduates of this program.

Wayne married Debbie Paul and held a number of jobs in his early career including serving as a park ranger at Pymatuning State Park . He also wanted to be a helicopter pilot and joined the Air Force later deciding that this was not the best career path for himself. Following the successful completion of a state civil service test for environmental managers, Wayne was offered a job at PennDOT. The day he was to begin work he was told by a supervisor that his job had been given to a political appointee as a favor to a politician. Later he was hired as a planning analyst at PennDOT where he worked from 1974 to 2000 (he departed PennDOT for 2 years to work for an environmental consulting firm but then returned to state employment). In the interview Wayne shared another politically oriented story: in the mid 1970s he was told that he had to contribute \$500 to the Democratic Party to be promoted. Wayne held several progressively responsible positions dealing with environmental assessments relating to highway, bridge and road construction. Eventually he was promoted to director of the Bureau of Environmental Quality.

One of the most memorable times in Wayne's PennDOT career was during the administration of Governor Robert P. Casey (1987-1995). Casey announced state (and federal) financial support for 65 roadway projects during the late 1980s and 1990s. Casey was particularly interested in the Lackawanna Industrial Highway which was in his hometown of Scranton. Wayne's bureau had the responsibility to review all of these projects for environmental impact in a timely manner.

In the interview Wayne explains the impact of the National Environmental Policy Act and describes the major issues and challenges involved in environmental review at PennDOT. For example:

- 1) His work involved minimizing impact on land and other conservation features for highway and bridge construction projects. This wasn't always easy but staff worked closely with the Federal Highway Administration to advise them on environmental impacts. In some cases this was successful, in others not. His staff reviewed as many as one thousand highway and bridge projects per year.

- 2) Over the years PennDOT polluted hundreds of wetlands, wells and waterways as a result of stockpiling road salt and other chemicals as well as by using oil based paints for line painting on roadways. Remediation at these sites cost into the millions of state and federal dollars expended over many years and PennDOT developed new ways of stockpiling materials that are less damaging to the environment. With regard to line painting, PennDOT switched to water-based paints to reduce runoff damage.
- 3) Pennsylvania has over 25,000 bridges. It was common for these bridges to be painted with lead based paints that caused waterway pollution. In the 1980s PennDOT switched to non-lead based paints.
- 4) Project “scoping” involves securing input from state and federal agencies, local governments and citizens to ensure that their issues are addressed and that environmental impacts of new road construction are minimized. This involved sending hundreds of letters, holding hearings when necessary, and attempting to sort-out various opinions and points-of-view. Wayne’s bureau developed a computerized analytical tool to reduce workload and helped to establish an inter-agency team to evaluate and consider all related issues. Thus, efficiency was greatly improved.
- 5) Wayne’s bureau worked closely with PHMC’s Bureau for Historic Preservation to ensure that historic and cultural resource issues were addressed in highway construction pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act and the state history code. For example, in the construction of the Vine Street Expressway in Philadelphia a Black cemetery was discovered. Construction was stopped and the finding was evaluated. Internments were removed to other locations.

According to Wayne, today’s conservation and environmental challenges include:

- 1) Energy Development – the development of energy resources has to be balanced using new sources such as wind, solar and Marcellus Shale. However, Wayne urges real caution with the overdevelopment of and reliance on Marcellus. The impact on the environment and natural habitat has not fully been assessed. For example, the excess use of water and construction of new and/or temporary roadways to access Marcellus sites has many negative impacts including damage to the natural habitat. Poor planning and state oversight are to blame.
- 2) Climate Change – Science is accurate that global warming is a reality according to Wayne. This reality further emphasizes the need to move away from fossil fuels, such as coal, to new clean energy sources although it does mean that Marcellus is part of the equation. Citizens and government have to take more proactive stances to reduce man’s ‘carbon footprint’ and ensure clean air and clean water. Actions and public policy in the late 1960s and early 1970s demonstrate what can be done by citizens and government to take better care of the environment. Wayne asks, “why can’t we learn from the past, both from the mistakes and the remedies?”
- 3) Land Use – Pennsylvania (and many other states) lacks a comprehensive plan and view for land use and planning. And, there is no overall blueprint for long range zoning. Wayne serves on a planning commission for the Dillsburg area and sees the lack of foresight and planning and the negative results of overdevelopment and environmental degradation for the purposes of economics and job creation. A new paradigm is needed to balance economic development with environmental and conservation needs.

- 4) Securing citizen involvement in conservation – Wayne draws from his personal experience to explain this point. In his work and personal life (he is an avid fisherman, hiker and hunter) “I have tried to do good for the Earth.” He points out that the environment would benefit if more citizen had access to information about the science behind global warming, habitat impacts of energy development, land use planning, and forest and open space conservation. “We all impact the environment whether we realize it or not. People care about it only when it impacts them directly. Hopefully issues such as global warming and the impact of Marcellus development will enable more people to see the larger picture.” “There lacks a global view.”
- 5) Telling the story – to Wayne, it is vital to tell the story of Pennsylvania’s rich conservation heritage and to share it with all citizens. That is why he is an avid supporter of the Pennsylvania Conservation History Project and sees its long-term good.

Interviewee: Franklin Kury, retired Pennsylvania State Senator lobbyist and author

Date: July 31, 2014

Location: Hummelstown, PA

Length of Interview: 1 hour 17 minutes

### Summary of Interview

Franklin Kury was born 1936 in Sunbury and is a former member of the Pennsylvania State Senate serving from 1973 to 1980. He also served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. Kury is mainly recognized for his contributions to Pennsylvania environmental policy and legislation.

Kury has made a major contribution to literature on Pennsylvania's environmental and conservation history with his book *Clean Politics, Clean Streams: A Legislative Autobiography and Reflections* published by Lehigh University Press in 2011. According to Lehigh University Press, "In this legislative autobiography Franklin L. Kury tells the story about his election to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and later the Senate, against the senior Republican in the House and an entrenched patronage organization. The only Democrat elected from his district to serve in the House or Senate since the Roosevelt landslide in 1936, Kury was instrumental in enacting the environmental amendment to the state constitution, a comprehensive clean streams law, reform of the Senate's procedure for confirmation of gubernatorial appointments, a new public utility law, and flood plain and storm water management laws. The book is based on Kury's recollections of his experience and is well documented with notes and appendices of significant documents. Several chapters provide detailed "inside" descriptions of how campaigns succeeded and the enactment of legislation happened. The passage of the environmental amendment, clean streams law, public utility code, flood plain and storm water management laws are recounted in a manner that reveals what it takes to pass such proposals.

In the interview Kury expresses pride in publishing the book as well as his contributions to Pennsylvania environmental and conservation policy and legislation. His father was chair of the Democratic Party in Sunbury and, at an early age, Franklin was exposed to Democratic politics and, especially, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. And, at a young age Kury became interested in the environment especially as he was exposed to coal companies and their destruction of the environment as a result of mine cave-ins, "culm" or waste banks, and acid mine drainage.

Kury recalls that he worked as a page for then Governor George M. Leader at Democratic National Conventions. Leader remains one of Kury's idols especially as Leader was a "trailblazer and was very concerned about the environment, the mentally ill . . ." "In an upset 1966 election, Kury won a PA House of Representatives seat by 950 votes. He describes being a legislator at "the high tide of the environmental movement."

Saying that he wanted to "reform environmental legislation" especially as environmental issues were prominent during "the Earth Day movement," Kury was exposed to environmental leaders such as Maurice Goddard and Ralph Abele. He worked extensively with the Joint Legislative Environmental Committee and Pete Duncan and Larry Schweiger. Kury recalls (and tells several

stories about) working with other legislators to craft and enact key environmental legislation such as: mine reclamation, clean streams, clean air, storm water runoff, creation of DER, and Article 1, Section 27 of a newly enacted state constitution that guaranteed citizens the right to a clean environment.

With particular regard to DER, Kury recalls that there was no environmental enforcement. Coal companies especially were exempt from the “weak” environmental laws and policies that were in place before creation of DER. The laws “didn’t apply to the coal companies especially when it came to water pollution.” Kury refers to coal companies as taking all that they could get and taking their profits elsewhere leaving a polluted environment and unemployment behind. In the interview, Kury refers to several governors, Leader and Shapp, and legislators such as Herb Fineman, “Bud” Dwyer, and John Ladadio as being concerned about the environment and wanting the Commonwealth to have key environmental legislation, policy and enforcement in-place. He also tells several stories about his work and interaction with such individuals.

Kury concludes the interview by referring to three contemporary environmental issues: global warming, Marcellus shale drilling and runoff into important watersheds such as the Chesapeake Bay. Especially with regard to Marcellus, Kury is unhappy with an unregulated industry that is not taxed and harkens back to the coal industry. He sees the need for strict regulation and licensure. State government “must do more.”

Interviewee: Susan P. LeGros, President & Executive Director, Center for Sustainable Shale Development (CSSD)

Date: October 16, 2014

Location: 625 Liberty Avenue, Suite 395, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Length of Interview: 1 hour, 13 minutes

### Summary of Interview

Born into a Coast Guard family, Susan's childhood included numerous moves as her father's assignments dictated, including Boston, Long Island, the Great Lakes region, and the Gulf of Mexico. She majored in Social Sciences at Ohio State University, where her interest in government led to being involved in the student government, and went on to study law at Northwestern University. Susan's particular interest was real estate law, which she describes as "a combination of the pragmatic, economics, and land use planning."

Susan started her career at the Philadelphia office of the Environmental Protection Agency in 1973, which she was drawn to because it was then putting together a program on indirect [non-point] sources of air pollution. This was controversial at the time, because it represented federal encroachment into an area that had been the territory of municipalities through zoning. Susan's recollections of her time as an enforcement attorney during EPA's early years are interesting in the limitations in the scope of the agency's authority and what she calls the "cowboy law" period: there was no precedent, so coming up with enforcement policies was a cooperative effort by teams of scientists and engineers, with lawyers to "translate" their ideas into regulatory language.

In 1977, Susan moved to ESB/Rayovac to work in on compliance issues in environmental health and safety; "if it had an acronym it was on my desk." One of the reasons for leaving EPA was frustration with the multiple levels of bureaucracy, but she also cited being "a big believer in voluntary compliance" rather than compliance through coercion; ie, it's more effective to change corporate attitudes from within than changing corporate behavior by external force. Susan's discussion of the Environmental Management System she developed there is another valuable historical insight into the early years of environmental regulation.

Her husband's move to St. Louis took Susan to Monsanto Corp. in 1979, where her primary focus was putting systems into place to comply with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. At the time Love Canal led to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CRCLA) being debated, which was "vigorously opposed" by the chemical industry. The family (now with two young children) soon moved back to Philadelphia, where Susan joined the law firm Morgan Lewis and Bockius, which represented "a lot of [coal fired] utilities." This was the start of her involvement with energy-related environmental regulation and compliance, now under the new rubric of Super Fund, under which "How clean does it need to be?" became the big question – which led to the Brownfields concept. "A whole industry" came about due to Super Fund, which Susan described in great detail.

From that time through the mid-1990s, Susan's experience in environmental law and her focus on "resolution vs. litigation," earned her a reputation as a neutral rather than a "mad dog litigator." She was always aware of the contributions of members of the Non-governmental Organization

(NGO) community who tried to have "constructive conversation" with industry. She has always been a "big supporter of PEC" and served on the board for several years. Before making the transition from legal to the non-profit sector of the environmental profession, Susan became the Executive Director of the Solar Energy Industries Association's (SEIA) Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

Susan is "very committed" to the collaborative process at the heart of CSSD's purpose, which she explained is not to replace, but to do better than, existing regulations as part of the idea that industry needs to "earn a 'social license to operate.'" Her take on NGO's with "vested interests" in there being "no middle" in the environmental protection debate is instructive.

Important Initiatives that Susan has been responsible for were:

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System while at EPA, which included an attempt to get Philadelphia to upgrade the level of treatment at its sewage treatment plants.
- Development of an Environmental Management System for ESB/Rayovac to deal the question, "How do we monitor our environmental responsibility?"
- Net Metering and other rebate policies in Pennsylvania and New Jersey on behalf of Mid-Atlantic SEIA, as well as the Solar Loan Program to encourage expanded use of solar energy technologies

Important people who influenced environmental policies in Pennsylvania:

- Joanne Denworth, who was an early environmental attorney in Philadelphia and early president of PEC.

People who have influenced Susan personally:

- Senator John H. Heinz, who was "very collaborative" in his approach to crafting environmental legislation

Topics to address in the History of Pennsylvania's Conservation Heritage:

- the role of Scientists and Engineers; letting the facts lead you where you need to go
- the importance of Environmental Education in instilling public awareness and risk awareness

Interviewee: Andrew McIlwaine, President & CEO, American Farmland Trust; former Pres. & CEO, Pennsylvania Environmental Council and first Director of Environmental Programs at the Heinz Endowments

Date: October 15, 2014

Location: 1150 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20036

Length of Interview: 1 hour, 12 minutes

### Summary of Interview

Born ca. 1960 in NYC, Andrew was raised in Washington, DC. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Duke University and, while working, earned a Masters Degree at George Washington University. He received an MS in History and began a Ph.D. at Carnegie Mellon University while serving as the first Director of Environmental Programs at the Heinz Endowments, but had to give that up when he moved to Harrisburg to take over as President & CEO of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC).

In 1985 Andrew was hired by Sen. John H. Heinz and worked for him for five years as Environment and Energy Advisor, then served on the President George H. W. Bush Council on Environmental Quality. At the end of the Bush Administration in 1993, he joined the Heinz Endowments to set up its environmental programs. Andrew's insights on the direct involvement of the Heinz family in approving or disapproving the direction of environmental programs are interesting.

Andrew's interest in the environment stems from watching the rural landscape of Northern Virginia turned into suburban sprawl. Working for a U.S. Senator, his work fell within a broad scope, but he emphasized the responsibility to Pennsylvania, as well, for example working with Wyona Coleman, wife of interviewee Phillip Coleman, on coalfield issues. His insights on PennFuture and the Growing Greener I and II programs are important; he shares the disappointment expressed by Brian Hill about the funding system for Growing Greener II, which limits its effectiveness. Over the course of his career to date, Andrew has worked with almost every person who has been interviewed during this oral history project, and this interview connects a lot of dots.

### Important Initiatives that Andrew has been responsible for were:

- PbX, an early Heinz grant program to remediate lead-based paint in old Pittsburgh houses
- Expansion of the Allegheny National Forest during Sen. Heinz's tenure.
- Growing Greener (see above)
- Getting Pew Charitable Trust to join Heinz Endowments in starting Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture), a law-based environmental group to "go after" bad corporate actors, although later PennFuture was a thorn in his side while he when he went to PEC.
- Numerous environmental initiatives in Pittsburgh, such as the Green Building Alliance, while at Heinz; one important result is to push for the new Lawrence Convention Center to be LEAD certified.

Important people or organizations who influenced environmental policies in Pennsylvania:

- Vicky Greenlee, Exec. Dir., Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs in the mid-1980s, and Julie Lalo, her deputy, were very important in effective engagement on environmental issues. After they left, the organization became less oriented on conservation and more oriented on Second Amendment issues to the extent that Larry Schweiger, at the National Wildlife Foundation de-certified it as NWF's representative in Pennsylvania in favor of PennFuture.
- Sierra Club "was always playing the outside game; whatever it was, they would throw rocks at it ... didn't matter what it was."
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council, started in the 1970s, in contrast, plays the "inside game." Andrew donated PEC records to the Archives of Industrial Society at Pitt when he left to join the Farmland Trust.
- David Hess, former DEP Secretary

Topics to address in the History of Pennsylvania's Conservation Heritage:

- the "Devastation and Renewal" theme exemplified by the published essays (2003) stemming from the Environmental History conference held in Pittsburgh in 2002.
- the "neglected history" of the "huge investment" Pennsylvania has made in restoration efforts, as well as the communities that got left out.
- Environmental Justice issues, such as the river valley mill towns surrounding Pittsburgh, the African-American communities in Southeastern PA (Chester, PA being a prime example).

Interviewee: Marci Mowery, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation

Date: October 29, 2014

Location: PPF office, Camp Hill, PA

Length of Interview: 1 hour 16 minutes

### Summary of Interview

Marci is a native of Columbia, PA where, at an early age she grew to appreciate and experience the outdoors. She recalls outdoor adventures with her grandfather who frequently took her to hunting camps. She graduated from PSU with a degree in home economics education then completed a graduate degree environmental studies. Her main interest is the human impact(s) on the environment. Marci was a volunteer with the Nature Conservancy and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation then became statewide director of education for the National Audubon Society. And, she has travelled extensively especially to environmentally significant areas throughout the world such as Easter Island.

PPFF was founded in 1999 as a citizen advocacy and support organization for the outdoors – particularly parks and forests – in PA. Marci became ED in 2005. PPF has 38 volunteer friends groups and, in 2014 donated over \$1m in volunteer labor comprising 4,000+ hours.

Marci addresses several important environmental and conservation issues in the interview.

Overpopulation is a major threat to the environment. With an estimated 6b people to inhabit the earth in the next decade, Marci questions the sustainability of the environment particularly regarding clean air and water and food supplies. Society “needs to learn to consume less which is practically impossible when humans are encouraged to consume more.” Along with overpopulation is the impact of global warming and the human “carbon footprint” on the earth. The scientific evidence on global warming is undeniable. However, public policy has not caught-up with the need to address the issue.

Marci also addresses energy issues specifically discussing Marcellus and wind farms. While both provide viable and (presumably) clean sources of energy, there remain concerns about water pollution and impacts on wildlife. For example, she points to several instances in PA where water supplies have been diminished and/or become polluted as a result of Marcellus. And, evidence is that wind farms impact wildlife populations, particularly the migratory patterns of bats. Thus, there are positives and negatives to both.

Marci questions why there is not the outpouring of environmental and conservation public support as was evident in the late 1960s and 1970s. She notes that the issues in 2014 are equally as challenging as during the “Earth Day” era. Yet, public policy continues to lag behind. For example, PA does not have an effective system in place to regulate Marcellus.

She also points to the need to continually lobby and educate the public and policymakers on conservation and environmental issues. For example, environmental organizations came together in recent years to lobby for the retention of the Pennsylvania Conservation Corps. While their

efforts were unsuccessful, this experience shows that environmental interests can come together to advocate for a common cause.

In the interview Marci also discusses carbon sequestration, pesticides, nature deficit disorder, destruction of fish habitat (such as Susquehanna River controversy), and various other environmental and conservation issues. She notes that while some of the issues are new (Marcellus and global warming) many are the same (protecting wildlife habitat) and there is a constant need to educate the public and inform policymakers so that public policy can be proactive rather than reactive.

Interviewee: Richard H. "Dick" Pratt, Professor Emeritus in Physics, University of Pittsburgh, founding member and former Chair of the Allegheny Group, PA Chapter of the Sierra Club

Date: August 21, 2014

Location: 1131 Shady Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Length of Interview: 1 hour, 45 minutes.

### Summary of Interview

Born in 1934 in New York City, Richard was raised in Mt. Pleasant, MI, a small town on the Chippewa River in the middle of the state. Although he goes by "Dick" among his peers in academia and the Sierra Club, in family circles he has always been Richard, which is his preferred appellation. He traces his interest in environmental issues, especially forestry, to the many hikes as a child with his mother and father through what he characterized as fairly wild woodlands surrounding Mt. Pleasant. A child prodigy, Richard graduated high school at age 16 and entered The University of Chicago, where he met and married his wife Elizabeth Ann and completed a Ph.D. in Physics in 1959. After post-doctoral studies and a brief appointment at Stanford University, the Pratts the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh in 1964. Richard retired from Pitt ca. 2001, and his papers, some of which cover his activities in and on behalf of the Sierra Club, are currently held by the University of Pittsburgh Library Archives.

Richard's and Ann's interest in woodland hiking led them to join the Sierra Club almost immediately after they arrived in Pittsburgh. Richard's recollections, assisted by referring to annual letters that he has kept, trace the early development of the organization of the Sierra Club's Allegheny Group in western Pennsylvania. In the 1960s the region fell under the Atlantic Chapter, which then covered the entire Atlantic seaboard. In 1970, he recalled that "some lawyer" organized the Allegheny Group but quickly passed the leadership to future State Supreme Court Justice Rolf Larsen (d. 2014). The early Group collapsed very soon, but Richard said Sam Hays (interviewed in Phase I of this project), who was away from Pittsburgh at that time, re-vitalized it when he returned in 1972. At about that time the Allegheny Group came under the newly formed Pennsylvania Chapter. In the Fall of that year Richard began to lead Allegheny Group hikes. Earlier, he had begun to experiment with off-trail hiking, and, he said, he "became notorious" for suddenly taking his groups off a well-worn trail (and outside their comfort level). The hiking program in those days had two purposes: to locate and record suitable areas for wilderness designation and to expose the public to those areas in an attempt to build public opinion in favor of getting them so designated.

Overall, Richard led hikes to sixty different areas, and he still has the marked-up topographic maps he used to plan his routes and record potential wilderness areas. In 1972 - 73 he wrote the original proposals for the Allegheny Front and Tracy Ridge wilderness areas in Allegheny National Forest. They were supported in the 1974 Senate bill on Eastern Wilderness by both of Pennsylvania's U.S. Senators, but the local Congressman [John H. Ware III (R), 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District] opposed them in the house. Tracy Ridge later received National Recreation Area status [1984]. Helen J. McGinnis was also writing proposals at that time, and her proposal for Hickory Ridge was approved. Richard mentioned the efforts to achieve wilderness status for his proposed areas continue today by the Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness, and his original proposals are

posted on that organization's website. In 1979, the Allegheny Group's first trail guide, which Richard co-authored with Peter Wray and Helen McGinnis, was published.

Richard's years of leadership activities in the Sierra Club extended through 1983, when he shifted his focus to the Semester at Sea program, which he originated at Pitt that year. He chaired the Allegheny Group during 1974 – 76 and chaired the Pennsylvania Chapter during 1976 – 1980. In 1978 he served on the Governor's Science Advisory Committee, the Governor's Energy Policy Committee, and the DER's Forest Management Advisory Panel. But, he said, other than "provide a forum understanding" opposing viewpoints, in terms of substantive policy produced by those bodies, "nothing ever happened." Richard also served on the Board of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) held a similar view on it, calling it "an umbrella environmental organization to make sure nothing got done; they met but didn't really *do* [Richard's emphasis] anything." Interestingly, his 1979 letter doesn't mention the environmental crisis at Three Mile Island, and he observed, "there were divergent views within the Club." Although there were some with strong anti-nuclear views, he "took a more balanced view," which, he opined, is probably why the Pennsylvania Chapter did not take a strong position on nuclear energy. Looking back, he is uncertain whether he was right or wrong. [Richard followed the interview with an email adding to this and other comments, attached to this summary.] In 1981 he recalled that the Sierra Club was growing faster than at any time in its history – his annual letter recorded a 40% increase in membership – and implied it was a reaction to widespread criticism of the Reagan administration's environmental policies.

#### Other Important Initiatives that Richard was responsible for were:

- Ohiopyle Rafting Take-out at Bruner Run, a project that the Allegheny Group tried, unsuccessfully to stop
- Quebec Run Wild Area in Forbes State Forest, south of Uniontown, PA. Richard was unsure of its status, but a subsequent web search shows the Group's efforts were successful.
- Whitetail Trail, connected to Quebec Run. Richard was involved in the original scouting for the trail.

#### Important people who influenced environmental policies in western Pennsylvania:

- Sam Hays "was dominant"
- Phillip and Wyona Coleman, at California University of PA; Wyona (d.) handled coal mining issues
- Gail Rockwood, state-level forestry issues
- Hal Lockwood, state-level Sierra Club
- Roger Westman, Allegheny County Health Committee Staff and Sierra Club member
- Peter Wray, who Richard credits for seeing the Allegheny wilderness project through to "partial" success.

Richard was reluctant to opine on the present or make predictions about the future of Pennsylvania's Conservation history. He considers the 1970s, during which he was most active at

the state level, to be a particularly important decade from the perspective of the Sierra Club, as a new generation of leadership became involved.

Additional information was provided by Mr. Pratt to Dr. Keller in an follow-up e-mail:

From: Richard H Pratt <rpratt@pitt.edu>  
Subject: Re: Pennsylvania's Conservation Heritage Oral History Project  
Date: August 21, 2014 at 3:00:34 PM EDT  
To: vagel keller <vkeller@icloud.com>

Vagel,

In discussing Three Mile Island, I neglected to repeat to you a comment that I often made in the past, namely that many of the national anti-nuclear people at that time didn't understand that coal was also a problem, of which we in Pennsylvania were very aware.

Regarding Sam Hays, he of course never held any official positions, but he tried and (often) succeeded in organizing other people. He identified underlying issues. He had an interest in having political action achieved.

I didn't mention that his wife Bobbie Hays went with me as my assistant when I was Academic Dean on Semester at Sea in 1984. I tried to get Sam to go too (as faculty on the voyage), but I didn't succeed. Bobbie was troubled with seasickness problems throughout the voyage.

Regarding Peter Wray, I forget whether I mentioned before that I regard Peter as the one who stayed with the Allegheny National Forest wilderness areas issue until it finally achieved (partial) success some years later, before he then left the Pittsburgh area.

Regarding Bruce Sundquist, in addition to keeping a quite active and successful Outings Program going over 35 years, and publishing many editions of guides to the trails of the area, he studied and wrote extensively on forest management issues, on his website, I don't think ever published. He was not too much involved in political action.

Well, the more one thinks about it, the more one remembers.

Richard

Interviewee: John Quigley, former Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in the Rendell Administration and Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection in the Wolf Administration

Date: May 14, 2014

Location: Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Harrisburg

Length of Interview: 1 hours 40 minutes

Interviewer: Kenneth C. Wolensky

### Summary of Interview

John Quigley was born in Hazelton, Pennsylvania, in 1959. He describes Hazelton as a blighted area as a result of the anthracite mining industry. The area experience high rates of unemployment and underemployment following the decline of mining in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. At an early age, John was aware of the environmental damage caused by mining.

He earned a B.A in economics and political science from Bloomsburg and a master's degree in public administration from Lehigh University. In 1987, at 28 years old John was elected Democratic mayor of Hazelton as a reform candidate. He experienced the 'culture of corruption' common in the anthracite region and lost re-election in 1995. He later discovered that Judge Conahan (later convicted for the infamous 'Kids for Cash' scheme) led an illegal effort to 'steal votes' to ensure that John was defeated. He also shares several stories of his life being threatened and encounters with organized crime elements. During his term as mayor John made significant progress: Hazelton's bond rating moved from B to A; taxes were not increased and employees received several raises.

In the late 1990s, John accepted a position as a lobbyist with Penn Future in Harrisburg where he became an expert in Gov. Rendell's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards that required PA to secure 8% of its energy from renewable source. He was then approached by DCNR secretary Mike Berardinis to be a deputy secretary. John accepted the position. He later served for 2 years as the agency's secretary. He describes this experience as the most rewarding of his career.

Among his major interests and tasks at DCNR were:

- 1) Carbon capture and storage – a new technology to capture and liquefy atmospheric carbon and store it underground where it eventually mineralizes. DCNR received a Clinton Foundation grant to pursue this initiative resulting in a comprehensive plan. However, little was accomplished as the Rendell Administration left office in 2010 and there was little political will to move forward.
- 2) Growing Greener II – This \$600m bond issue led to infrastructure improvements in DCNR assets as well as the Conservation Landscape Initiative resulting in sustainable development. John recalls that the bond issue also led to the establishment of the 'Pennsylvania Wilds' in the north-central part of the state: a plan for sustainable development – jobs and the environment.
- 3) Reduction in Keystone Fund appropriation – the Keystone Fund, enacted in 1993 (generated revenue from 1% realty transfer tax to fund parks, recreation and heritage resources) was 'robbed' in 2008 by the Rendell Administration and the General

Assembly to help close a large budget deficit resulting from the ‘Great Recession’ of 2008. DCNR staff Cindy Dunn led a behind the scenes effort to save funding but with little success.

- 4) Digital Map – John led efforts with other state agencies to create the first digital map of the Commonwealth at a cost of \$20m. This was among the first such efforts in the country.
- 5) Marcellus Shale – John fought against leasing state forest lands to shale gas companies even though the Rendell Administration agreed to limited acquisition by Marcellus drillers. Over \$190m was generated. However, in 1998 a large part of this amount was diverted to the General Fund. Only \$20m was allocated to DCNR for its operating budget. DNCR and state forests became the Commonwealth’s ‘cash cow’ and John referred to Marcellus drilling as Pennsylvania’s ‘crack cocaine’ for generating revenue. John also comments that no one foresaw the damage that Marcellus would cause when the first well was drilled in 2004. He is acutely aware Pennsylvania’s experiences with extractive industries (coal, oil) and the damages they caused. However, few understood or understand this history. As in the past, the environment is put at peril for the sake of more jobs and more development. The Rendell Administration eventually put in place a temporary moratorium on drilling. The Corbett Administration removed it.

John has great passion for conservation and environmental protection. He describes environmental protection as being at great peril. Global warming provides such evidence. He states that governments and private industry are “not even close to getting it right” when it comes to environmental stewardship at great peril to future generations.

Interviewee: Davitt Woodwell, Pres. & CEO, Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Date: October 10, 2014

Location: 2124 Penn Ave., 2d Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Length of Interview: 1 hour, 10 minutes

### Summary of Interview

Born in Michigan, Davitt is a native Pittsburgher, having been raised in the environs of the city from infancy and settling there in 1989 "after bouncing around a bunch of times" for college, being Dean of Students at a boarding school, and working as a canoeing guide for camps in northern Ontario. He received his law degree in 1991 and has been with PEC since 1993.

Davitt's involvement in outdoor activities "probably" got him involved with PEC; he is "not necessarily an environmentalist" – his interest is in problem solving and the opportunity to get involved with policymaking. His discussion of the founding purpose and evolution of the direction taken by PEC since its founding in 1970 is an important element of this interview, as is his lengthy exposition on how environmental activism and problem solving has become increasingly complex. Policy issues of the early years, while still a part of what PEC deals with, have become a less visible function in favor of an orientation on projects ("putting policy into practice"), and Davitt comes back to this topic with examples throughout the interview.

### Important Initiatives that Davitt has been responsible for were:

- Mon-Fayette Expressway: involvement with the permitting process, bringing all the plaintiffs in federal law suits opposing it together
- Brownfields: Industrial Sites Recycling Act of 1995, enabling the clean up and reuse of abandoned industrial sites, such as Hazelwood, which was at the heart of opposition to the Mon-Fayette Expressway
- Trail work across the state; using trails to link users to the natural environment in all landscapes (urban, suburban, rural), now part of an on-going interstate network in development

### Challenges:

- "Environmental backlash" of the 1990s: the "wise use" movement challenged "heavy handed" government; landowners pitted against environmental regulators. It continues today.
- Getting people to care. "When you look out your window, the environment looks pretty good." The problem is to get people to see beyond the local, to "think globally."

Important people or organizations who influenced environmental policies in Pennsylvania:

- Brian Hill, who, as the then-Director of the Western PA office of PEC, hired Davitt
- Joanne Denworth, who was President & CEO of PEC when Davitt joined the organization
- John Oliver
- "Doc" Goddard; "just being in his presence"

Important Policies in Pennsylvania's Conservation History:

- splitting DER into DEP & DCNR
- creation of state forests and parks
- Growing Greener

Topics to address in the History of Pennsylvania's Conservation Heritage:

- the example of Joseph Trimble Rothrock, who asked the philosophical question, "What can we do now to start toward a result that we won't live to see?"
- the evolution of forestry from lumber production toward treating forests as a complex ecosystem
- the contrast of the "purity of purpose" among environmental pioneers with the "internecine fights" among environmental groups in more recent history, "because things are more complicated" (wind power vs. bats and raptors, micro-hydro power vs. "the fish folks")
- relative success, over time, in dealing with point-source pollution contrasts with the continuing challenge of non-point source pollution

Interviewee: Peter Wray, Former Chair of the Allegheny Group, PA Chapter of the Sierra Club  
Date: September 3, 2014  
Location: 110 Royal Oak Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
Length of Interview: 45 minutes

### Summary of Interview

Born in 1934 in Manchester, UK, Peter graduated from the University of Manchester in 1956 and received an appointment in the Materials Research Laboratory at Carnegie Tech. He worked in the materials research labs of USX in Pittsburgh from 1965 through 1985 and of Inland Steel in Chicago from 1985 until retiring and returning to Pittsburgh in 1995. Since then he has worked part time as an advisor in materials science at University of Pittsburgh.

Peter's involvement with the Sierra Club began in 1974 when his sons' were in Boy Scouting. Their search for good areas to go hiking and backpacking led Peter to contact the Allegheny Group, and outings on the Laurel Ridge and Allegheny National Forest and local hikes along the Allegheny River made him aware of the need to protect those areas. So, he got involved in the Allegheny Group's activism in support of Wilderness areas, becoming Co-Chair of the Pennsylvania Chapter's Conservation Committee and leading some of the group's hikes. While colleagues Richard Pratt (also interviewed) and Bruce Sundquist were involved in surveying and mapping areas for potential designation as Wilderness Areas, Peter's focus was on the legislative side of the effort. Richard Pratt credits Peter with seeing the process through to "partial success."

### Key People cited by Peter in legislative efforts to designate Pennsylvania wilderness areas:

- U.S. Representative Peter Kostmayer, Democrat, Bucks County, 1977 – 81 and 1983 – 93 and Administrator of EPA Region III (Philadelphia) 1993 – 95. He recalls that Kostmayer was on a House subcommittee on Parks, Chaired by John Seiberling, Democrat, Akron, OH (1971 – 87), and heir to Goodyear tire fortune. "Kostmayer was really the hero;" he introduced the Allegheny National Forest Wilderness bill in the House.
- U.S. Representative William Klinger, Republican, Warren, PA, 1979 – 97, who Peter described as a "now-long gone, fairly moderate, well-to-do, Eastern Republican," from a moneyed family, lumber company, "a good person to work with."
- U.S. senators Schweicker and Heinz were both proponents, although Schweicker "less so."
- John Oliver, while at Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, was influential in getting Sen. Heinz's support. He was "key."
- John Butts, Supervisor of the Allegheny National Forest, also "a good person to work with" ... "one of the few employees of the Forest Service who had a Ph.D."
- Gail Rockwood – on Citizens Advisory Board

Other local organizations of importance:

- Audubon Society
- Trout Unlimited
- Izaak Walton League
- Friends of Allegheny Wilderness, formed by Kirk Johnson
- Local garden clubs were "very influential" in the Alaska Lands Campaign
- Heinz Endowments – major funder of environmental activist organizations

Major Initiatives that Peter was involved in as a leader in the PA Chapter of the Sierra Club:

- Allegheny Wilderness Campaign
- Alaska Lands Campaign (Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980)

People who had a major influence on Peter, personally:

- Sam Hays
- Wyona Coleman; very influential in policies regarding surface mining. Her biggest influence on Peter was "persistence."

Peter is not hopeful that remaining Allegheny National Forest Wilderness Area proposals will be favorably acted on in the foreseeable future, because he feels there is too much resistance both locally and in Congress. For example, he discussed the lack of progress by Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness. In 1997, when he was Chair of the Allegheny Group, he received a letter and check for \$40,000 from The Huplit's Trust, which had been set up by a couple who were retired school teachers from Philadelphia. Since then, the Allegheny Group receives \$40,000 to \$60,000 each year from that trust, and funds from this bequest has been used, in part, to help set up and continue to fund the Friends of the Allegheny Wilderness. But, according to Peter, "slowly, we realized they weren't going anywhere." Another example he sites for his pessimism about the current political climate is "battling with Allegheny County Council about fracking under county parks.

When the history of Pennsylvania's conservation heritage is written, Peter thinks one of the major things is the establishment of the state parks and Maurice Goddard's leadership in that. He can't imagine anyone being able to do that today, which, he observes, "is a Hell of a condemnation." He was a big proponent of including lakes in state parks. Another theme, or at least an important point to add about the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Allegheny Group is that, because of its charter, it, alone among the other environmental advocacy groups was able to actually lobby for the wilderness agenda. Sam Hays pushed for the Allegheny Group to maintain a lobbyist in Harrisburg, which set it apart from other organizations, like Pennsylvania Environment Council and W. Pa. Conservancy.