**2013 Waterford Township Environmental Commission**

**Annual Report**

***Honorable Mayor and Township Committee Members***

**In accordance with ordinance # 19-12 /chapter 19, which requires the Waterford Township Environmental Commission ( W.T.E.C. ) to submit to the Governing Body the 2013 annual report of its' operations and transactions from the previous 12 months, I have included in this report:**

**A) The 2013 totals from Goodwill Industries, which reflects that our residents recycled a total of 23,450 pounds ( 11.72 tons ) of electronic waste along with 713 pounds ( .35 ton ) of clothing. E-waste items were collected during collection times arranged and attended by members of the WTEC ( spring/fall clean-up events and a January collection specifically held for electronics ). By keeping the 12.07 tons of waste out of the landfill, Waterford Township saved $ 639.71 in tipping fees.**

**B ) We have submitted our 2013 statistical annual report to the New Jersey Clean Community Council which tracks the expenditures of grant funds and follows the progress of our local programs. After confirming the 2013 grant fund starting amount with Susan Danson's office, the report reflected all clean-up costs and education costs, along with accounting of volunteer groups and the number of clean-up events in the calendar year. I have enclosed a copy for your review.**

**C ) After the closing of the Owens Corning plant in Berlin, N.J. in October 1993, the N.J.D.E.P. detected soil and groundwater impacts to the areas heading east from the plant in Berlin towards Evesham and Waterford. The historic use of a chemical named Dowtherm-A ( a heat transfer fluid ) seeped into the grounds at the plant. The WTEC can report to this date that Owens Corning has stepped up to the obligation to these Townships to rectify the contamination flow.**

**Owens Corning has installed groundwater flushing pumps and a treatment system at the plant site. This pump system will improve overall groundwater quality both on and off site.**

**As of 12/15/13 - 31 wells have been tested and 28 came back with readings showing non detent. 1 well in Evesham showed test results which are above standard readings. Even though this well is deserted, they are still testing it as the fresh water system continues to work. 2 well results are not available at the time of this report. The tests of the chemical on the Mullica River behind Archway schools continue to show no contamination. A certified letter will be sent to all well owners in the zone mapped by Owens advising them of future testing and results into 2014. There have been two (2) educational seminars given by Owens for our residents to help explain the process of this ongoing investigation, which members of the WTEC attended.**

**D ) On the Saturday of Fathers' Day weekend, the WTEC hosted its' first Fathers' Day Fishing Derby. We had 14 registered participants who fished for prizes ranging from largest fish, first caught, and most unusual. A special thanks to our local vendors in Town who supplied the trophies to the winners in each class. All winners were invited to a televised Town Hall meeting where presentations were handed out.**

**E ) On a crisp Fall day full of sunshine, the WTEC set up a spot on Auburn Ave. with the trailer and handed out educational materials enlightening both children and adults of environmental facts in our everyday life. Waterford Day was well attended by both our residents, and members of the Commission.**

**F ) Starting on 7/19/13, the WTEC, with Committee consent, established a program to address issues with our storm drains throughout the Township. Utilizing a township employee and a summer temp. helper ( paid thru C.C. funding ), we were able to start cleaning and mapping the locations of the drains. With a worksheet completed by the employee, we cleaned 127 drains and removed 1,311 estimated pounds of dirt, leaves, and trash in the summer of 2013. We plan to continue this program in 2014.**

**G. ) With the continuing use of summer helpers, the WTEC oversaw the clean-up of Township-owned lots/basins. The completed worksheets enabled us to tally the following numbers:**

**38 pounds of vegetation were collected and removed**

**340 pounds of trash were collected and removed**

**90 pounds of recycling materials were collected and removed.**

**H ) The WTEC members were given a task in 2013 that was not a planned event. Due to the removal of a large tree at the Pestleton Rd. repaving project, the ARH Engineering Firm arranged to have 15 sizable trees delivered for re-planting. It had been previously established that the trees would be planted at Batsto. These trees were delivered to the site, and (4) members of the Commission, along with the Batsto staff, successfully planted them in the historic village.**

**I ) Our Spring and Fall Township Clean-ups @ the Clementon Gun Club brought out a total of 119 volunteer residents to clean the roadways and wooded trails. During an amassed number of 357 man hours, we collected:**

**7.13 tons of trash**

**.91 tons of tires**

**30 gallons of motor oil**

**.19 tons of scrap metal**

**.33 tons of bottles/cans/plastics**

**All documented totals were sent out in the 2013 Clean Communities Annual Report for future funding in the year 2014.**

**J ) Finally, we closed out the year in December, on a very cold Winter's night, and set up our table and trailer to hand out crayons, coloring books full of environmental facts, anti-littering and storm water pamphlets, and recycling tote bags to our residents during Winter on the Avenue. We feel confident to say that the Waterford Township Environmental Commission had a very successful year.**

 **Respectfully submitted,**

 **Dave Chiddenton**

 **WTEC Chairperson**