

State Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf

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For More Information Contact
Aaron Zappia (215) 657-7700

Upper Dublin Expected to Receive \$11.83 Million H2O Grant

Tomorrow, January 25th, The Commonwealth Financing Authority is expected to announce the approval of an \$11.83 million H2O Grant for flood control in Upper Dublin Township. For over a year, Senator Greenleaf has worked with Upper Dublin to secure the funding. It was only one of five projects to be approved in this round of H2O grants.

The primary area of concern is the 500 acre area surrounding the Fort Washington Office Park. The property was developed in the early 1950s when public policy regulating flood plain management was first being developed. The sixty five building office park has regularly flooded for over half a century.

Between 1978 and 2007, the Federal Emergency Management Agency paid flood insurance claims totaling \$11.2 million as a result of the flooded office park. In the 1990s, property owners appealed their real estate tax assessments, leading to a \$250,000 annual decrease in revenues to local government. A 1989 flood proved tragic to a 43 year old worker, and in 2009 a young boy and his uncle were dramatically rescued from flood waters.

Upper Dublin Township has already invested \$1.2 million in engineering and planning that is required just to apply for an H2O grant.

The flood control plan calls for the construction of two flood retention structures, one within Rapp Run and the other in Pine Run.

“This flooding has resulted in millions of dollars in property damage and the loss of life over the years,” said Senator Greenleaf. “The Fort Washington Office Park is an important source of employment and tax revenue for Upper Dublin Township and its schools. We worked long and hard with the Commonwealth Finance Agency and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to move this project forward. We are all confident in the effectiveness of this project and look forward to its completion.”

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