

5/31/2018

Kurt Schroeder
The Kirk Farm
3929 Upper Mountain Road
Furlong PA 18925

The Honorable Daryl Metcalfe
Chairman – State Government Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives
144 Main Capitol Building
PO Box 202012
Harrisburg PA 17120

Reference: Support of the Delaware River Basin Commission
Kirk Farm Pond – Groundwater Interference

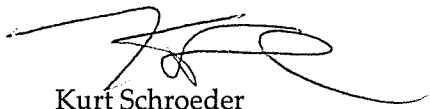
Rep. Daryl Metcalfe:

I would like to take this opportunity to share our experience with the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). Ten years ago, a new development was constructed adjacent to our 71-acre historic farm in Bucks County, which required wells for a new public water system. The water system was designed directly by the Township.

Once constructed, and literally within days of bringing the new well online, our 100-year old pond went dry, leaving the entire spring fed stream channel empty, and killing 1,000's of fish. After receiving no positive response from the Township, we were introduced to the DRBC. Fortunately, this Commission exists and has the regulatory authority to ensure impacts to watercourses are *'repaired, restored, or otherwise mitigated'*. After the staff and geologists from DRBC responded, and a brief period in federal court, only then was our situation resolved. I distinctly remember my father and I testifying at a hearing before the DRBC and facing multiple Township lawyers, geologists, hydrogeologists, engineers, and staff. Certainly a show of force that no local landowner/farmer should have to defend themselves against. DRBC staff presented factual evidence and compelled the DRBC to rule in our favor to mitigate this detrimental condition.

The DRBC staff were some of the most professional individuals and legal Counsel that I have ever interacted with, particularly affiliated with a governmental entity. Subsequent to our issue, many neighbors had their wells go dry, and they too were protected by the DRBC to ensure their private property and water rights were protected.

Sincerely,



Kurt Schroeder