

LETTERS

Updated water study would have been prudent

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Hermitage

During the August Hermitage Commissioners meeting the proposed Pollutant Reduction Plan for Bobby Run Watershed was presented and the meeting was opened to the public for comments.

I agree that something needs to be done since this creek failed the PaDEP water test; however this plan is based on test results from 1997 – 20 years ago. The commissioners decided to use an old test rather than having a new one done. During this open session we were advised that it was "better" to use the old test results since a new one could find more issues that the city may be required to correct. The prior test only identified phosphorus as an issue. New tests on this stream could certainly find additional issues.

Despite the meeting being open for public comments and questions, Gary Hinkson along with the commissioners quickly asked me to submit my questions in writing. It was obvious they did not want the fact that the test was from 20 years ago to be discussed any further.

It's disappointing our officials have decided to take the path of simply checking off a box on the Municipal Storm Sewer permit (MS4) rather than taking the path of protecting our water for the future. The approximately \$200,000 for this plan is literally throwing money down a sewer. You cannot fix something if you do not know what the issue is.

The perfect storm – lack of transparency by elected officials and unquestioning residents.

Let us not forget what happened in Flint, Mich. I am sure those residents now wished they had asked more questions of their elected officials.

Cutting back overgrowth would have solved visibility woes