



Methods for gaining wider public input on watershed plans:

**It is important to note that a combination of methods may be needed to reach your intended goals and representative stakeholders.

Small listening sessions with key, existing interest groups and committees:

Have several small gatherings with key interest groups. Ask for input and share draft plan content.

Possible interest groups include:

- Long-time and short-time residents
- Farmers and rural residential
- Developers / Builders / Realtors
- Environmental / Sports Groups
- Planning Commissions
- Park and Recreation Commissions
- Youth
- City council members
- Town council members
- County, city, and township staff

“Drop-in” open house:

Invite the public to drop by at their convenience to a Draft Plan Review Open House. Offer coffee and rolls, have displays, explain plan, and take comments. This may need to be done in conjunction with newspaper and/or mailed out information so folks know when the open house is, and why it is important to attend.

Newspaper feature:

A feature on the draft Plan, showing maps, charts, photos, key projects, budgets, and link to website. Provide a way for public to give feedback. This would need to be paid space if the newspaper does not take it on as a news item.

Targeted, direct mail piece to all households:

Similar to the newspaper feature (above) but done as a newsletter and mailed to each household. Can be expensive, but could be considered the District’s annual newsletter. Consider alternative mailings such as utility bill inserts.

Cable TV feature:

Prepare a public information piece for public access TV. A high school class could be asked to produce the show.

Telephone “Hot Lines” or email:

In newspaper features or direct mail pieces, advertise availability of email address, website, or phone number where comments can be sent.

Town-hall meeting (required “Public Hearing”):

A public hearing is required as part of the plan review process. Make event as informative and as easy to attend as possible. Consider alternatives to PowerPoint presentations such as storyboards and maps.