



MEETING MINTUES

December 14, 2022, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Hybrid Zoom/In-person New Garden Township Building, 299 Starr Road,
 Landenberg, PA

Attendees:

Shane Morgan*	Doug Janiec*	Ed O'Donnell*	Don Peters*
Tom Zawislak*	Lucy Dinsmore*	Melinda Daniels*	Mike Harris
Sarah Bursky	Kelley Dinsmore	Andrea Withers	Laura Lee*
Rob Tuttle	Sierra Taylor*	David Hawk	Chris Swailes*
Rachael Griffith			

*Denotes in person

Ed O'Donnell chaired the meeting.

Approval of September minutes.

Presentations

Melinda gave an overview of the initial finds from the fish passage study. A team from Stroud floated the creek in early November and measured stream depth and temperature along the length of creek from the inflatable dam to the red mill dam. This was a preliminary effort to mark areas that may be barriers to anadromous fish passage. The stream was very shallow throughout 50% of the length (note this is low flow period). The only potential physical barriers (besides low depth) were the weir above the former Hale Byrnes Dam and any potential clogs that could occur from debris accumulation at bridge crossings. Laura L. offered to reach out to DelDOT if there are specific crossings of concern that need to be cleared as they just completed clearing debris at Hopkins bridge in the State Park. Some of the shallower locations throughout the entire reach will be sampled again during spring when they are higher flows during the time of fish migration. This will be guided by water temperatures that trigger migration, assistance from fisherman (in the form of photographs of their catches with date and location noted), and other studies. Temperature did not appear to be an issue at this time, but they will continue to monitor it. In general, the creek warmed from 9C at the top to 14C at the mouth, and some of the contributing tributaries also ran warmer than the main creek which could be an indication of thermal pollution (WWTP, development).

Shane reviewed some of the graphs she put together using the water quality data collected by UD interns and Stroud. She was seeking feedback on how to share out this information to interested parties (municipalities, residents, etc.) as well as the best way to visually display the information. The take aways were that water temperature should be linked to something else like a species of concern and reported out as number of days exceeding (stressors) or compared to broader regional trends. Melinda suggested using a map that shows site locations with specific data for example nitrogen levels at each site (potentially the bar graphs for that site - something that is easy for the public to understand and digest). Doug suggested following up with the states (DE, PA) to see how they are using the data we submit to them, and Melinda suggested reaching out to EPA (specifically about the high Nitrogen levels).

Shane also shared this year's recreational season bacteria data collected and analyzed by Stroud. Most sites remain impaired via current standards however the counts were generally lower across the board in 2022. She focused in on one site in Newark where initial MST data showed human fecal indicator bacteria. The city has been making repairs to their sewer system along this tributary and we may be seeing some improvements as the geometric mean has been decreasing each year. However, there are still some remaining repairs that are projected to be completed by the end 2023. This fall stream sites were selected using the sewer mapping and water samples were collected during peak and nonpeak flow (5 grabs during a 30-day period for each site and flow regime). The samples will be analyzed for bacterial counts as well additional microbial source tracking to determine if human fecal bacteria are still present.

Old Business

The Saint Anthony's buffer and live stake shrub planting took place in November with one issue, we were missing 100 trees from Keystone K10 Trees. Note this is a free source of trees and notification of losses didn't occur until the day of pick up. Hence there will be a second (spring 2023) planting and the costs will be covered by the remaining funds in the Pennsylvania Conservation District (PACD) Multifunctional Buffer Grant which will be ordered from Octoraro Nursery. Overall, it was a very successful and well-organized planting led by a team of volunteers from the PA Master Watershed Stewards.

There will be more to report on the Avondale Projects funded by NPF and NFWF grants this spring. Meliora Design is providing a draft of the GSI plan to Shane in the coming week and Clauser, LLC should have their plan for the drainage basin ready

this spring. In addition to this work, Ellen Kohler (Penn Water Center) is working with the borough to find the resources to put together an integrative water plan. The borough needs it's infrastructure mapped and digitized and assessed so they can plan for future repairs and also so they can apply for infrastructure funding. This would be a combined (integrative) plan for their wastewater, drinking water and stormwater systems. Rachael G. will investigate how the county could potentially assist with this effort either through water resources planning (for mapping depending on extent of project) or through the county VPP grant.

Shane informed the committee that she offered Wild and Scenic assistance to DCNR for conservation planning on their agricultural lands after the last meeting. The Preserve superintendent was going to pass this up to their natural resource planner and get back to Shane if this was of interest. Assistance was also offered to the State Park (at today's meeting) and Shane and Laura will discuss further.

NPS River Manager Report

Sarah noted that dams 2, 4 & 7 are still held up in the permitting and or planning process right now.

NPS staff are working on initiatives that may be of interest to committee members, including technical assistance (in the form of a guidance document) with stream stabilization practices and indigenous outreach. Additionally, NPS will be hosting a Hispanic Access Fellow at the Philadelphia office starting sometime next year. The deadline for applications has been extended and if you know of anyone who would be interested, please encourage them to apply <https://jobapply.page.link/C7x3G>. Specifically, they are seeking assistance for program development, community engagement, natural resource protection and climate resilience, and other special projects that better promote and build awareness and support for the Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Program (PWSR).

Sarah and Shane both shared their perspectives from the PWSR gathering in Florida as well as some pictures from the trip. Overall, it was a great opportunity to meet with other river managers and NPS staff and learn from each other.

Sarah also mentioned that NPS and local representatives are working with the CDRW (Coalition of the Delaware River Watershed) to include the Red Clay Brandywine Wild and Scenic Study Bill on a larger bill expected to move through Congress. If approved, then the river study could begin as soon as next year with funding from NPS.

Wild & Scenic River Program Updates

Lucy Dinsmore was introduced to the Committee as our new staff helping with the Catch the Rain Program. She gave a brief overview of some of the projects she is working on currently including the Boy Scout Camp in Avondale, Sanford School, Avondale Brough Municipal rain garden. She is working with Shane to come up to speed on the Program and figure out new ways to promote and grow it including upcoming workshops and exploring additional funding avenues and partnerships. She is also assisting with GSI assessment in the White Clay as part of a NFWF grant via Brandywine Conservancy focusing on GSI for non-residential land. Lucy will also be working on signage for both the Harmony Park Rain Garden and the Papermill Park Rain Garden.

Shane mentioned that she is in communication with Tara M. at Stroud to line up the field trips for 2023. She also supported a Growing Greener Environmental Education Grant submitted by The Garage to incorporate STEM activities into their after-school programming. If awarded, Shane will provide some of that programming as it relates to the Avondale GSI study, stormwater, and watershed science. Planning for Creek Fest will commence in January.

Shane noted that Martha has completed a draft copy of the State of the Watershed Report (with exception of the water quality section which we are still waiting for from Stroud).

Open Space Updates (no new updates)

Statement of Financials

Shane asked the committee how they would like financials reported. She provided the standard excel sheets as well as two reports that were generated by QuickBooks (which is what we will use for book-keeping and taxes after our current NPS contract ends in September 2023). The general consensus was that reporting on the excel sheet was more informative as it allows the committee to see where funds are spent and how many funds are remaining in each budget. Shane will continue to use the excel sheets until she can figure out if there is a better way to do this in QuickBooks.

WCWA Presidents Report

Dave H. gave an update on the CPA review. He has been working with a CPA for the past couple months to get our books for the transition to a professional bookkeeper and per our tax requirements for this fiscal year. The review should be completed by

February when our tax forms are due. Some of the issues he is working through are how to classify our funds and is currently working on the following definitions: board restricted, donor restricted, and unrestricted for several of our budgets.

White Clay Related Updates/Announcements

Rachael G. mentioned that the Chester County Planning Commission is working on a new project that will attempt to do outreach to HOAs in the county. Shane thought CWMP would be a good connection for the County and will connect with Rachael after the meeting.

Shane suggested our next White Clay Quarterly Meetings for 2023 line up with the fiscal reporting times which would be January, April, July, and October. We would omit January in 2023. This would simplify her reporting requirements. She will send out a doodle poll in the new year but asked members to let her know as soon as possible if they have any standing meetings in place that she should try to avoid. Sarah requested no Wednesday morning meetings as it conflicts with her NPS schedule.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.