



Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2018, 10:00am - noon

New Garden Township Building, 299 Starr Road, Landenberg, PA 19350

Attendees:

Shane Morgan	Don Peters	Ed O'Donnell	Rick Mickowski
Tom Coleman	Bill Miller	Doug Janiec	Jamie Fosburgh
Erin McCormick	Ellie Mortazavi	Michael Harris	Stacy McNatt
Kristen Travers	Amy Reed	Andrew Hayes	Mike Zuk
Don Roy	Rachael Griffith	Andrea Withers	

Ed O'Donnell chaired meeting.

Rick Mickowski made a motion to approve the June Minutes. Doug Janiec seconded the motion.

Presentations

White Clay Creek State Park Master Planning Process and Q&A Session (Bill Miller, Planner, DNREC-Div. of Parks & Recreation)

Bill Miller gave an overview of the planning process including the next steps, an open house and draft plan in late fall and a public open house and final draft by late winter. He said it would be very helpful to get as much feedback early on in the process. An area of interest from Doug J. and Ed. O. was improvements to the road edges along Creek, Hopkins, and Chambers Rock Roads near the main stem in the park all of which are heavily traveled areas during fishing season in particular. This is also a concern of DNREC, but they are not sure what the solution should be. Suggestions were to add gravel pull offs, increase use of existing parking lots and fields (like Chambers Rock hay field) for overflow parking. Re-opening Creek Road was also discussed in more detail. Some suggestions were to make it accessible for one lane vehicular traffic as opposed to 2 lanes. This would leave more area for restoration work to help stabilize the banks. Ed O. also suggested the park have a management plan and staff in place for dealing with any potential issues with having vehicular and pedestrian/bike traffic on the same trail. Tom Coleman expressed that the City would like to see the area of Creek Road exiting the City of Newark to remain paved as many of their residents make use of this trail. It was noted that the area in need of most work is south of Wedgewood Road. It was also noted that this road is owned by DeIDOT.

Jamie asked about the Big Pond area and whether there were alternatives to pond restoration, such as stream restoration or wetland restoration which could be supported with wild and scenic funding. Shane asked the committee about whether it makes sense to dig out a naturalized wetland to put in a pond when there seem to be enough ponds in the park for recreation including one that will be ADA accessible nearby. Doug J. mentioned that this may come down to an Army Corps permit if they determine that wetlands have

formed then it may not be considered maintaining a pond or dam, and may in fact now be regulated as wetlands.

Chestnut Valley Stream Restoration on Pike Creek (Stacy McNatt, New Castle County Special Services & Andrew Hayes, Foresite Associates)

Stacy and Andrew presented the problem areas along Chestnut Valley Stream (a stream with outdated stormwater infrastructure by today's standards). The stream takes and influx of stormwater from the storm sewer system and steeply sloped yards, so much so that 216 tons of sediment are removed each time the stormwater pond is cleaned out. The county obtained a planning grant from the state and had plans designed for some stream restoration work along Chestnut Valley including step pools, and armoring work to both control scour and slow flow. They are not focusing on reduction of peak flow because that would involve re-engineering the entire storm sewer system in that neighborhood. They believe that head cut migration from bottom to upstream is the largest problem (mainly due to two storm drain pipes that lead directly to the creek. By addressing these areas and providing some grade control they think they can greatly decrease the amount of sediment and shorten the time frame between clean outs of the pond. The County noted that they need to source funding for the implementation of the project. They also mentioned that they have been meeting with the community and will be promoting Catch the Rain when they have their next community meeting this Saturday.

Doug J. asked about whether they looked at any opportunities in the open space areas of the community to capture stormwater. The County indicated that there was mature forest in those areas that they didn't want to disturb and also that most of the development upstream of the problem areas is newer development with better stormwater infiltration facilities and that the biggest problem they are seeing is the point discharges from the pipes running from the community downstream.

It was also noted that Independence school (across the street and downstream) recently put in mayfly sensors to monitor the creek. This may provide us with additional data in terms of what is going on upstream in Chestnut Valley Stream.

New Business

Discussion about PennFuture contact regarding facility in non-compliance with NPDES permit. It was agreed that as a wild and scenic partnership we should not get involved with litigation, but we can certainly express our concerns to DEP about the impact on water quality. Shane suggested that we discuss this with WCWA and other local interest groups. Mike indicated that the conservation district board would likely be interested in getting involved.

Old Business

Shane updated the Committee on the status of Middle Run/DeIDOT project. USACE and NPS did a walk through with DeIDOT in June. USACE did not feel that the restoration work fit within the current permit and asked that they apply for an individual permit, but due to the tight timeframe, DeIDOT decided to put the restoration piece on hold. The pedestrian crossing will go in, and the culvert will be fixed this year. The White Clay Wild and Scenic

program will continue take water quality measurements at the site throughout the year. Jamie mentioned that he needs to contact DelDOT in regards to the planned culvert work and some of the trail rerouting in that area and new plantings proposed for the work area.

Shane updated the Committee on the New Garden Cell Tower Hearings. The next two hearings will be October 2, and October 16 at 6:30 pm. The discussion continues to see if EcoSite looked at all options for colocation including the existing police monopole in the Preserve. Shane indicated that State Representative Eric Roe's office inquired about whether there was a stipulation in our wild and scenic legislation that specifically prohibits commercial activity in the Preserve based on correspondence with DCNR. While there is no stipulation that specifically prevents commercial activity within the Preserve it would still be a visual impact in either location and the existing location comes with some constraints such as lack of an access road and parking, pole reinforcement and potential additional visual impacts. Doug J. suggested they look at the initial papers donating the land to the state (DCNR). They may actually be stricter language in that documentation than in the wild and scenic legislation and it's possible that in those documents there is some sort of language that prohibits commercial use. This documentation would be filed with DCNR since they were the beneficiaries of the land and it would predate wild and scenic designation. Shane expressed her concern that both locations (proposed and existing) would have a negative visual impact on the only scenic designated area of the white clay and would not throw support behind either option without learning more and taking a serious look at the pros and cons of each location and comment accordingly.

NPS River Manager Report

Jamie noted that our new contract agreement has been approved. It was a more tedious process than in previous years, but it is approved for the full five years and so we will not need to go through this process again until the end of the new contract. He also noted that Shane will need to put together a 5-year accomplishment report with in 90 days of the contract ending. This can be a cover letter with all quarterly reports, or it could be something that is more beneficial to the Committee possible stating accomplishments and future goals.

NPS has recently been approved to hire a second NPS staff person to be located in Philadelphia to help with White Clay and Lower Delaware. It will likely be a few more months before the job is posted.

Jamie will be presenting at the upcoming Delaware River Watershed Forum in Cape May on Partnership Rivers. He mentioned a tool kit being put together (led by Shana Deeds) for other organizations interested in becoming Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Jamie also mentioned there will be another NPS/Partnership River get together in September 2019 at Great Egg Harbor hosted by Fred Akers.

June 2018 Statement of Financials and WCRF Update

Shane reviewed the current budget status and how she intended to spend down the remaining funds. She asked the Committee if they had any questions or issues with how she intended on spending down the remaining funds by September 30. There were no

concerns. Ed O'Donnell asked for approval for one co-chair (Don Peters) to sign any remaining bills invoiced during time period when Ed leaves town (sept 23 – oct 4). Andrea Withers made a motion to approve it. Kristen Travers seconded it. Motion was approved.

Subcommittee Reports

Land Preservation

Erin indicated that Christie would not close in time for the September 30th spending deadline. Instead, the \$3000 reserved for this transaction will be transferred to the title company to be held in escrow for closing. She expects the project to close by year end. In regards to the St. Anthony project, the township is still looking to purchase it outright with their own funds and some grant funding Erin was able to locate. The funds reserved for St. Anthony this will be used to cover the FY17 WRC contract with UD for technical and intern assistance so that we are up to date with the fiscal year in which those funds are spent, not the following year.

John Goodall was not present, but Shane spoke to him earlier. The Shaw project is at a standstill. He needs \$8000 more to close the deal. Hutchinson is moving along and they expect to close in October/November. The funds reserved for the Shaw project will be spent on buffer maintenance at Hutchinson farm.

Mike Zuk gave updates on some of the Conservation District's projects in White Clay. Including two mushroom facilities. One on Penn Green Road that had a new concrete pad and cover installed for composting activities (as well as stormwater management facilities to meet Act 167 requirements). The other farm in the headwaters of Egypt Run (above the park) has multiple upgrades to keep pollutants from the farm out of the creek.

Land Stewardship

Shane gave an update and asked for feedback on other land stewardship projects led by Red Tail Restoration.

- They removing unwanted vegetation within the tree tubes and removed Japanese Hops along the streambed at Hoopes farm. They also counted surviving trees in 100 tubes and estimated a 94% success rate. However, recently a deer ravaged a bunch of trees by knocking over the tubes and this will need to be addressed. They are planning another foliar spray with Barclay soon (per NRCS guidelines)
- At Franklin Preserve they have been focusing on Japanese Stilt Grass and Mile-a-Minute Weed removal, primarily in the woods strip between the two planted areas.
- Shane inquired about how the Friends of New Garden Trails felt about the work being done at the township trails. Don felt there was a lack of communication making it difficult to know what to ask volunteers to do or how to coordinate management efforts. Shane was hoping there would be more attention paid to the park planting and has put in an inquiry with Greg. Shane made note that New Garden Township funded the land stewardship work on the trails and township park.
- Shane will reach out to Greg about increasing communication among the groups.

Research and Restoration

Water Quality Monitoring

Shane provided an update on Water Quality Monitoring. We were awarded funding from National Park Foundation for just under \$12000 to aid in implementing a water quality monitoring program utilizing volunteers. She also indicated that they are making progress on the data management and R Software program with the volunteer efforts of Rob Tuttle. Her goal is to have WQ report out by January. The online map and water quality monitoring plan are moving along and she would like to have another restoration subcommittee meeting in October to review progress and help with planning for the volunteer program. Shane indicated the need for several roles for volunteers including sensor station management, storm sampling, and baseline analyses. She also noted that some of the sensors have experienced issues and have needed parts replaced or relocation.

Shane reviewed the bacteria data collected for the Delaware portion of the watershed, including the four new sites in Newark. The counts are high, as well as conductivity as some of the Newark Streams. More information will be gained for the Microbial Source Tracking work to be done this fall.

Catch the Rain

Shane noted that we had 16 applicants in 2018 (despite a glitch in system that was not notifying her of new applicants). This is up from 13 in 2016 and 13 in 2017. She is hosting a workshop on September 20th at London Grove Township Building with Sylvia Pope (from Brandywine Conservancy). She also indicated that as part of their William Penn funding Brandywine Conservancy and Natural Lands will be working on outreach and promotion of Catch the Rain (but not implementation). Shane is working with them to host an 'ask the expert' workshop in late March/early April at the Brandywine River Museum.

Shane also updated the committee on the London Croft HOA land buffer planting. It was a go, but need to deal with phragmites first. This was a non-issue during initial planning, but after a second visit it was determined that it needs to be treated before planting. We are hopeful that we can plant in the spring.

Education/Outreach

Shane gave a brief update on the Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership (CWMP)/Municipal Outreach. In terms of MS4 work, the municipalities are in the process of receiving and responding to their deficiency letters from DEP. We organized a meeting for engineers in the watershed to meet with PA DEP about outstanding questions coming up on October 3. We will continue to work with municipalities throughout the process and support them with implementation of BMP projects that are beneficial to the watershed. CWMP is funding from William Penn to support our work going forward and to help establish CWMP as a formal group with more structure. Additionally, the monies received from White Clay municipalities to support CWMP will go towards directly supporting work in White Clay work through BRC as opposed to all of the funds collected just going to a general Chester County fund. This will help sustain our work with White Clay municipalities in to the future.

In terms of school programs, Avon Grove Intermediate School will be sending students to Stroud over the course of four days this fall (Nov 13-16). This has been an ongoing relationship with one of the largest public schools in the watershed and the assistant principal is very supportive of watershed education. He promoted the Catch the Rain program throughout the school and I am now in touch with a teacher potentially interested in doing CTR on site at AGIS. She will be attending the workshop on September 20th.

Announcements

Next quarterly meeting will be in December.