



**WHITE CLAY CREEK**  
**National Wild & Scenic River**  
*Ours to Enjoy. Ours to Protect.*

## Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2019, 10:00am - noon

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

### Attendees:

Shane Morgan	Doug Janiec	Ed O'Donnell	Sara Sharp
Karen Clancy	Rick Mickowski	Kristen Travers	Dave Hawk
Jenny Egan	Martha Narvaez	Kate Raman	John Theilacker
Cori Trice	Don Peters	Mike Harris	Aileen Parrish
Tom Coleman	Ken Battin	April Schmitt	

Don Peters chaired this meeting.

Approval of March Minutes.

### Presentation

John Theilacker, Sara Sharp, and Karen Clancy, "Incorporation of Green Stormwater Infrastructure into Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances" followed by Q&A.

Through an initiative funded by the William Penn Foundation, the Brandywine Conservancy and Natural Lands are able to offer technical assistance towards the implementation of GSI strategies in municipal zoning and SALDO ordinance. They have already conducted a pre-assessment for most municipalities and are willing to work with any municipality in the White Clay (including Delaware) to offer free technical assistance.

### New Business

Motion to approve Don Peters for his third term as the Pennsylvania Co-chair.

Motion to approve Ed O'Donnell for his second term as the Delaware Co-chair.

David Hawk gave an overview of the historic Evans House located in the Preserve. Motion to approve a letter to support the efforts of the London Tract Historical Committee to coordinate and conduct a cultural impact review of the Evans House, and request that DCNR consider potential preservation alternatives prior to moving forward with demolition plans.

### Old Business

The first zoning hearing regarding the New Garden Cell Tower at Yeatmans Mill concluded with a decision by the board not to approve the application. A second application was received for a cell tower located adjacent to the first location on neighboring land recently acquired by the original applicant. The tower still violates township ordinances, but will no longer have a conditional use violation. The New Garden Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to not support this second application. It will now go to the zoning board.

## NPS River Manager Report

The House approved a substantial increase for Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers (\$1,093,000) which would fund the three new additions to the system and provide an increase for all rivers. We are waiting to see what happens in the Senate.

Some of the NPS staff hiring actions in the Region have begun to move, and we are hoping the Philadelphia Rivers position which includes White Clay will be advertised soon.

Jamie heard from DeIDOT that the middle run culvert and underpass is set to move forward sometime soon. He also heard from City of Newark about the pedestrian bridge over WCC. They are in the process of submitting their NEPA documents, but are not at the permitting stage yet. Once the permit package is submitted to the Army Corps, NPS can provide more substantive comment.

## June 2019 Statement of Financials

There were no questions about the NPS budget.

Shane reviewed current and new spending proposals for the White Clay Restoration Funds.

A proposal from Jim White (Delaware Nature Society) to do invasive species management in the Middle Run Natural Area on the downside of the new culvert was reviewed and approved for \$3200.

A proposal was submitted by Rob Tuttle (Stream Steward and White Clay volunteer) to support a University of Delaware Senior Project in Engineering to design a cost efficient tool to collect automated stream samples during storm events. Shane proposed covering both the class fee and supplies need to fabricated the tool up to \$2500. This can be leveraged with funds from Delaware Nature Society and The Nature Conservancy to cover the full costs of the project.

Shane noted she met with Mike Harris (New Castle County) on site at Papermill Park. She is waiting on the County to do a percolation test for the proposed rain garden and that a gutter will need to be installed on the building as well as some concrete removal prior to the planting. Shane reserved plants from North Creek (@\$1000) for a potential September installation.

Shane also noted that the bacteria sampling supplies were purchased for summer recreational sampling and DNA work. The Delaware sampling supplies are purchased with the Fund.

## Review of current grant applications and other funding opportunities.

A \$7500 Dockstader grant was awarded to the watershed association to conduct a Green Stormwater Infrastructure survey in West Grove with the help of Rutgers Extension Office.

This will include implementation of at least one project prior to the conclusion of the grant period (June 30, 2019-June 30, 2020). West Grove Borough pledged \$3500 towards implementation of one project. The other match is coming from our streamwatch/National Park Foundation budget. We will install a new continuous monitoring station at a tributary to the East Branch that leaves the borough area of interest in early August and provide water quality monitoring for a stream that runs through the project area of interest in a largely urban environment (no agricultural lands).

We applied to NFWF for Delaware River Conservation Funds to help cover continued municipal outreach on nonpoint source pollution, and to aid in selecting, coordinating and sourcing funding for water quality improvement projects that overlap with the goals of the watershed implementation plan and stormwater permit requirements. [Note: Total ask was for just under \$71,000 largely to pay for 18 months of project support from UMD EFC (Ellen Kohler), as well as some funding for Catch the Rain program implementation and outreach. Total match was \$129,000 (largely in-kind from Christina Watershed Municipal Partnership members).] We will be notified if we are awarded the funding in late August.

DelDOT is interested in continuing our monitoring efforts on Middle Run. I proposed @\$4000 for continued monitoring at the current Middle Run site as well as funding for an additional monitoring site upstream of Papermill Road. The new site will go in as soon as the pedestrian tunnel gets installed. Wild and Scenic Program would purchase the sensor and DelDOT will pay for the year-round analysis of grab samples. As a vendor for the state DelDOT can claim our invoices directly if under \$5000 and reimburse us via direct deposit.

### Wild & Scenic River Program Updates

#### Catch the Rain Program

We had 14 new applicants in 2019 + 2 repeats (4 outside white clay). Overall there have been 62 applicants (18 outside white clay). Shane showed some slides of implemented projects and potential projects. Despite the lack of rebates being applied for, there have been several positive projects to come out of the program, and perhaps it is the technical and educational assistance that homeowners are after. Some examples included the recent riparian buffer planting on Londoncroft HOA lands in London Grove Township (320 trees planted on June 1), a permeable paver retrofit in City of Newark, and a large invasive species removal project that will be replaced with native landscaping (also in London Grove). It was also determined after discussion that invasive species management and removal can be part of the rebate program as long as areas that are cleared are replanted with native plants. It was also noted that two professors from University of Delaware met with Shane to discuss the potential of working together on a research collaboration investigating homeowners' willingness to invest in residential BMPs, e.g., permeable pavement, rain gardens, and conservation landscaping, among others. They are interested in working with a local organization to study BMP adoption and help get more practices on the ground and have funding to offer cost-shares.

Shane mentioned she is worried about potential new tree plantings that may come out of the Catch the Rain Program (like the Pierson property) since Brandywine Conservancy is

moving away from doing buffer installations on land not eased by them. She is thinking of applying for a DCNR buffer grants for aggregated projects and seeking help that way and will speak more to Cori Trice about this.

### Water Quality Monitoring Program

Two new sensors should be going in this year, one just outside of West Grove Borough, and one just upstream from the existing sensor on Middle Run. Our new University of Delaware intern, Kelly Jacobs, will be responsible for biweekly sensor station management and taking monthly grab samples year-round. We have two summer interns working at Stroud ready to do our summer recreational bacteria sampling in Pennsylvania, and one intern (or staff) person from DNS to take the Delaware samples. All sensor stations should be switched to 4G by the end of the year per Stroud, meaning my current offline sensors could be online after the switch. New site to see view data from all deployed sensors on the Monitor my Watershed site where anyone can download data and visual data from selected sites.

### Education and Outreach

Shane gave a brief update on Creek Fest. We had just under 1100 attendees, sold 8 rain barrels, and obtained matching funds just under \$5000 to help run the event. She also noted that a class of Newark High School students attended a field trip at Stroud this past spring utilizing our school programming funds.

As the lead of the Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership, Brandywine Red Clay Alliance applied for a \$15,000 PADEP growing greener environmental education grant to help support our continued coordination work with watershed municipalities. Awards have not been released.

### Land Stewardship Updates

Shane requested support for year two buffer management at Hoopes Farm in New Garden Township. Last year we reserved \$2000 and spent \$1500 on management. This year I would like to do the same. We have some funding in our unrestricted funds from SUEZ to support the work.

Shane noted that Red Tail is still working on buffer management at Franklin Preserve and that John Goodall will be scheduled maintenance for the buffer on Hutchinson farm in Penn Township.

### White Clay Related Updates from Committee Members

Kate Raman noted that New Garden Township is working on an official map of the township and released funding to Natural Lands to do trails alignment study, which includes an investigation of the Mason Dixon Trail that runs from the Preserve into New Garden Township. DCNR is currently focusing on regional trail gaps as a priority and the Mason Dixon Trail fits the profile so we are trying to coordinate with them and Chester County. One option is to use the existing pipeline. Colonial pipeline is fine with us using existing

easements, but we would need to get agreement from each homeowner. A meeting of interested parties was held to discuss trail alignment options and needs. Another meeting will take place this summer. Aileen Parrish requested notice of this meeting as London Britain Township would like to be involved since some of the land being discussed is in their township.

Kate also noted that two potential new trail easements are on tap that involve identified landowners on the preliminary township map.

Shane noted (per John Goodall) that the Hutchinson Property closed this past spring. 180 acres in total with just under 40 acres of woodland in London Grove Township preserved with open space funding from the township, and the remaining farmland in Penn Township preserved with county agricultural funds.

Cori Trice noted that the Conservation District hired Tom Oranzi to work with the mushroom operators. Tom is in training with Mike Zuk (NRCS). Cori also volunteered to lead communications with Barclay Hoopes on facilitating buffer management needs.

Jenny Egan noted that the Water Fund is working with Adam Mowery to help fund water quality improvement projects on a mushroom farm in Red Clay. This work will hopefully lead to similar projects in both White and Red Clay.

Martha Narvaez noted that the Clean Water Rally will be taking place in Dover on June 5. She stated that HB 200 (formally HB 270) calls for \$25 million in dedicated funding for clean water. This bill is different from the former bill in that it calls for moving existing funds around as opposed to adding new taxes.

Mike Harris noted that New Castle County and Delaware Nature Society are working together on a Clean Stream Champions Campaign. There is a photo contest currently underway for county residents to participate in showcasing their environmental stewardship. Shane will share this with her mailing list.

Kristen T. mentioned that there is a Bill supporting a plastics ban in Delaware in the works.

Meeting adjourned.