



WHITE CLAY CREEK

National Wild & Scenic River

Ours to Enjoy. Ours to Protect.

Meeting Minutes

August 30, 2017, 10:00am - noon

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

Attendees:

Shane Morgan	Don Peters	Ed O'Donnell	Doug Janiec
Robert Calehuff	Rachael Griffith	Rick Mickowski	Tom Hubbard
Tom Coleman	Erin McCormick	Aileen Parrish	Martin Wells
Martha Narvaez	Jennifer Egan	Mike Zuk	Kristen Travers
Andrea Withers			

Approval of May Minutes

New Business

Steering Committee Vacancy – Ed O'Donnell will reach out to New Castle County to fill the vacancy left by Beth Burnam.

Shane will pursue a Capacity Building Grant from Chester County Community Foundation to help the watershed association do an organizational assessment, review of its bylaws, and increase board development. She will send out an email to the current WCWA board to make them aware of the application and see if there are any objections. Four current board members were present at the meeting and in favor of pursuing this.

Subcommittee Reports

Land Preservation

The Committee voted in favor of three land preservation projects located in New Garden Township presented by Erin McCormick (Natural Lands Trust)

1. Reserving \$5000 of FY16 funds towards the conservation and trail easement on the 137 acre St. Anthony's property in New Garden Township. The total cost of this project is 1.3 million.
2. Reserving \$7000 of FY17 funds towards the conservation easement on the 178 acre Reynolds property. The total cost of this project is 2.3 million.
3. Reserving \$3000 of FY16 funds towards a 4.2 area conservation and trail easement on the Christie property. The total cost of this project is \$67,000.

Shane updated the committee on the Hutchinson Property (Penn Township) in John Goodall's absence. She noted that the Water Fund group has adopted this as a pilot project to test out the applicability of doing work in Pennsylvania (upstream) and how that could potentially in the future be applicable to MS4 permittees in Delaware. The City of Newark has pledged \$20,000 of source water protection funding towards the project. Additionally, \$2500 of White Clay Wild and Scenic funds have already been pledged towards implementation of a grassed waterway on the farm. To test out the idea of a Delaware municipality doing work in a Pennsylvania municipality, the conservation plan has been

improved to go above and beyond what is required to meet regulatory obligations by including a riparian buffer area and management of said buffer. Shane was not looking for a formal vote, but wanted to make the Committee aware that John may be asking for additional funds to help with the buffer and the management of the installed planting. We have the potential to commit up to \$7000 of FY17 funds. Doug mentioned that if DNREC was comfortable with acknowledging work in Pennsylvania provided benefit to Delaware, then the White Clay Restoration Funds could eventually be used to help fund implementation and long-term management of these projects.

Research and Restoration

Shane provided an update on the Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership pilot project and requested \$10,000 of FY15 Education funds be put towards continued municipal outreach as Pennsylvania municipalities work through their TMDL plan implementation. This funding was originally earmarked for web site redesign and marketing materials for the Catch the Rain Program, both of which have been completed using other funds. Additionally, Brandywine Red Clay Alliance pledged an additional \$5000 for 2017-18 (\$20,000 total match over two years) matching our funds is 50/50.

Shane provided the status of the stream monitoring program. Six new bacteria sampling sites, and the three new stream sensors collecting continuous data were reviewed. She noted the counts were high again for both *E. coli* and *Enterococcus* and that two sites in PA, and the Mill creek site in DE were particularly high. The DNA analysis will occur in late fall. The two PA sensors are being managed by members of Save Our Water. They will be taking grab samples to be analyzed during different flow regimes, and have been taking flow measurements as well so that we can create rating curves for different parameters. Due to the large amount of data coming in, Kristen Travers enlisted the help of a retired software engineer who has volunteered his time to develop a software program that meets our needs using an open source platform called R. Kristen and I are working together with Kim Hachadoorian (The Nature Conservancy) to develop consistent parameters that may be used basin wide. Shane is working on a Stream Monitoring Plan for the watershed so that we have a plan on how we would like to use this data, where future sensors should go, etc. and will be looking for committee support with this.

Mike Zuk gave a briefing on new work proposed for the Hoopes farm in New Garden Township. They are looking to improve the existing grass waterway and expand the riparian buffer by taking one pasture out of production. Mike is using CREP funds for the buffer and met with Greg Gagliano to discuss installation of the trees (CREP requires professional installation). Greg will be sending Mike a proposal for the installation and management program for the buffer post installation. Mike is looking for funding to help with the maintenance portion of the work. Tom Hubbard noted that SUEZ is in the management phase of their watershed control plan and that putting money into implemented projects is of interest to SUEZ to ensure BMPs function the way they were intended.

Shane mentioned that the Brandywine Conservancy including the Catch the Rain program in their phase 2 funding request to the William Penn Foundation so there should be more

time to get this program off the ground. There is potential to partner with West Grove on their TMDL implementation plan using this program in addition to a proposed stream restoration in the southeast corner of the borough. She is also meeting with a journalist to put together a newspaper article to promote and raise awareness of the program. Shane also let the Committee know that \$2000 from the Dockstader Grant used to pilot the program was awarded to WCWA to cover some of her hours on the project.

Education/Outreach

Shane mentioned that this year's Creek Fest falls on May 5th and is also the 50th anniversary year of Wild and Scenic Rivers. There may be some interest from White Clay State Park in pursuing a Wild and Scenic Rivers movie night at the park. Stroud currently hosts one in West Chester, PA, but there currently isn't one in the state of Delaware. Tom Hubbard mentioned that he is working on increasing funding from SUEZ up to \$4000 to support Creek Fest and/or other projects that have funding gaps.

Shane provided an update on the White Clay Restoration Fund (DE Tax Check Off). A meeting with the Delaware members was held in late June and the table handed out showed the distribution of funds. Two major projects were selected for funding support. Continuation of the Delaware bacteria study and a 'mussel bank'. The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary received a large amount of Penn Vest funds to start a mussel hatchery. It will take several years to build up the population of mussels that can be transplanted into waterways, but White Clay will be in a position to purchase mussels and place them in White Clay when the time arises. Mussels are another tool used to help filter out sedimentation and potentially other pollutants from the creek. We will be putting together an outreach piece to show how these funds are being used which will be mailed out early next year before tax season. A third project was proposed for Preston's Park in Newark. The City of Newark requested funds for a water fountain at the all-inclusive playground. The Committee debated how this request fits meets the fund requirements and determined that as long as there was signage present this would be an appropriate use of funds. The main supporting arguments were lack of awareness (of where drinking water comes from) and unwillingness to act due to lack of awareness. This is a prime location in a very visible park (next to the reservoir which is drinking water sourced from the White Clay). There is a lot of traffic at this location and a drinking fountain with appropriate messaging is key to connecting people to the water they drink and understanding that what we do on land impacts that water. This project was approved with the caveat that there is educational signage on and/or next to the fountain. Stickers and/or vinyl wraps were suggested for placement on the fountain. Shane will request help from the Education Subcommittee with messaging.

Shane indicated that the design for the Newark Reservoir interpretive signage is complete and should be going into the kiosk in the next few months.

School letters will go out next month notifying watershed schools of funding options for watershed science programming at Stroud. Shane mentioned that Avon Grove Intermediate School has already signed up for next year and that she would like to get the Kennett Consolidated School District out there as well since we can match our funds with Stroud's

EITC funds to get more kids out there. Don Peters knows the superintendent of KCSD and will reach out to him about this programming.

Shane mentioned a potential opportunity to help coordinate volunteers for the Christina Basin. The idea being to generate a volunteer calendar, training opportunities for current master water stewards and stream stewards, and locating projects to help establish a more robust volunteer corps (potential leaders of 'one time' or 'event' volunteers). Funding for this would come to the Watershed Association via Stroud through William Penn.

Financials

The August 2017 Statement of Financials was reviewed and we are spending down our funds in a timely manner. She also reviewed the non-NPS funds that we received this year for specific projects.

Old Business (15-20 minutes)

EcoSite Cell Tower Hearing, New Garden Township – Shane reviewed the location of the proposed cell tower and it's proximately to White Clay tributaries. The project is on hold indefinitely as of now. A law suit was filed against EcoSite and the Township by the neighbors living near the cell tower which stated that New Garden must follow the new cell tower ordinance (which would prohibit this type of tower) since it was adopted prior to the EcoSite application.

Shane noted that the Growing Greener Grant final report was submitted for the New Garden Park riparian buffer project and approved by DEP, but we are still waiting for the final reimbursement check.

Shane provided an update on the recent outing of Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers in Westfield, Massachusetts. She noted that National Parks Service is working on some initiatives to make it easier to get information on permitting and section 7 and 10 reviews on their website. She also mentioned that we may have the opportunity to receive a Fellow for 2018-19. The Fellows are post graduates looking to gain practical experience. The positions are full time and would be split with another river like Lower Delaware and or potentially another organization that would be willing to share. Shane is going to work with Jamie on finalizing this in October.

Shane also mentioned that we may be appointed a new River Manger from NPS. He is more local to the area and currently works with other nearby partnership rivers. This will be decided once NPS finalizes its restructuring.

No questions were received on the Management Plan Coordinator Quarterly Report.

Robert Calehuff introduced himself and requested to get on the agenda for the next quarterly meeting. He is a member of the Somerset Lake Committee and would like to present what the community is doing in terms of lake management and their concerns with some of the Broad Run tributaries.

Announcements

Annual Christina Basin Bus Tour on Friday, September 8 - will include train ride along Red Clay

White Clay Creek Fest, Saturday May 5th

Memorial Service for Patricia Walters, Sept. 16th, 2pm, @Kendal 1109 East Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania 19348 - any contributions or do so individually to Heifer International (see email)

UPSTREAM, DOWNSTREAM AND THE TURNING TIDE: Applying Science to Policy in the Delaware River Basin, Monday, October 16th, 2017 at the Skytop Lodge, Skytop, PA.

Delaware Watershed Research Conference, to be held Nov. 8 at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University