



Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2018, 10:00am - noon

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

Attendees:

Shane Morgan	Don Peters	Ed O'Donnell	Rick Mickowski
Jamie Fosburgh	Bill Ward	Doug Janiec	Robert Calehuff
Erin McCormick	Martha Narvaez	April Schmitt	Rachael Griffith
Kristen Travers	John Goodall	Aileen Parrish	Mike Zuk

Ed O'Donnell chaired meeting

Approval of December Minutes

FY19 Budget Discussion and Planning

Shane went over the draft work plan and budget for fiscal year 2018 with the committee. The budget request is for \$120,000 (up from last year due to not having a permanent River Manager from NPS appointed to White Clay). We should expect this budget to decrease once a permanent position is filled.

There were a few changes to the Administration Budget Line. Shane asked for a 2% cost of living increase in salary and allowance for utilities for her new dedicated office space and noted that travel expenses were lower than prior budgets based on last year's expenses. All other budget lines remained the same.

Under planned project outputs under restoration Shane indicated that she budgeted for a continuation of existing projects, including bacteria and water quality monitoring, the catch the rain program, and seed funding for land stewardship projects. Potential project outputs were also listed but are largely based on pending grant funding. These projects included the following:

1. NPS/USGS Water Quality Partnership Grant Submission by Lisa Senior (PA USGS lead scientist). This project would include the addition of a stream gauge on the west branch of the White Clay Creek, and the addition of a sediment sampler on the existing Avondale gauge thereby allowing calculations of sediment concentrations and loads on 3 main areas in the upper portion of White Clay Creek. This project also includes sediment source tracking to determine if sediment loads are largely instream or over land, and their main sources. It is dependent on a \$150,000 two-year grant award.
2. NOAA preproposal submitted by Partnership for the Delaware Estuary which would involve seeding restored areas of Middle Run with freshwater mussels. This would be layered on top of the Paper Mill Road Culvert Work/DeIDOT stream restoration. Shane showed the project location and draft design plans for the floodplain

restoration piece (DeIDOT/RK&K). Several concerns were raised regarding the nature of the restoration work, the amount of woodland that would be disturbed (particularly on the upstream side of Paper Mill Road where the habitat is in better condition), whether there are other less engineered options to regulate flow and flood storage, and how the bike/hike culvert would be accessed given the tributary running perpendicular to the culvert. Jamie will ask Jim McCartney to take a look at the plans, and a meeting with DeIDOT and RK&K will be scheduled to review the project and provide feedback on the design based on this feedback.

3. NPS/Rivers50 Grant Submission for support and expansion of the Catch the Rain program focused on West Grove Borough (\$25,000), and support of a 900 linear foot stream restoration identified in West Grove's TMDL plan that includes water quality monitoring (\$75,000).

Planned project outputs under Education remained largely unchanged with funds going to support school programs and White Clay Creek Fest, and graphic design support for outreach projects. A new effort to pursue, largely as an out product of the Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership collaboration was seed funding to pursue a Watershed Implementation Plan for the White Clay Creek. This would include not just include the municipal sector, but also the agricultural sector. Having a plan with identified targets would facilitate grant applications, as well as open up new funding avenues (319 funding). This is still in the preliminary stages and would be dependent on planning grants.

The budget for Land Preservation and Land Transactions was left unchanged from last year's level.

Doug J. made a motion to approve the FY18 work plan and budget. The motion was seconded by Aileen P. All members present were in favor.

NPS River Manager Report

Jamie reviewed the spending deadlines for this contract agreement.

A brief overview of the proposed Charlie Emerson Pedestrian Bridge in Newark was presented. The City has been in contact with NPS and is in the preliminary design process. There were some questions and suggestions regarding the bridge location. It was also suggested that the project take into consideration future dam removal (or couple that with the bridge construction). Shane will ask Tom if someone from the City can come to our next meeting to present the project and get feedback from the Committee.

New Business

Shane indicated that the Committee may be eligible to receive funds from a National Park Foundation Grant for water quality monitoring efforts in Wild and Scenic Rivers. This is still in the preliminary phases, but the application would be submitted directly by NPS and funds would be delegated to Wild and Scenic rivers interested in expanding their volunteer water quality monitoring. Funds could be used towards equipment purchases, lab analyses, and technical assistance/training support.

Shane mentioned that the application to the Chester County Community Foundation for the WCWA Capacity Building Grant Application submitted in September was not funded. She suggested they apply to a new funding opportunity. River Network is providing 2-3 small grants (\$3,000 - \$5,000) to support events or initiatives that engage communities around the 50th anniversary of Wild and Scenic Rivers and that build local groups' long-term capacity for river stewardship, storytelling, and advocacy on Wild and Scenic River issues and campaigns. It is a short application but could be used to host an annual meeting, mailing, and membership drive, along with some capacity building initiatives. Shane will submit an application before the March 30 deadline.

Old Business (5-10 minutes)

The New Garden Cell Tower Zoning Hearings are still occurring. The next meeting is on March 26, 6:30pm, at the Township Building. Shane will be out of town, but Don has agreed to go on behalf of the Committee.

Shane asked the Committee how they felt about suggesting the preserve monopole as an alternative location (as opposed to erecting a new tower). It was agreed that this was a better alternative if viable.

Shane mentioned that Artesian submitted a new application to the Pennsylvania Utility Commission to get approval to transport water from Pennsylvania to Delaware. She mentioned that they placed a line underground without getting prior approval from the Township, violating a township ordinance. There are several petitions submitted to the PUC against Artesian. She refreshed everyone's memory on the monitoring plan that was put in place by the DRBC. To date, Shane is not aware of any monitoring reports that have been submitted by Artesian to DRBC or the other parties.

March 2018 Statement of Financials The current budget status was reviewed illustrating the reserved funds (not yet spent) and remaining funds needed to be spent down prior to September 30.

Subcommittee Reports

Land Preservation

Erin M. reviewed the status of the Natural Lands Projects. The Christie property is on schedule for settlement in early 2018. The Reynolds Easement closed in late December, but they are still working out some baseline details. The St. Anthony's project is also moving forward. New Garden Township is planning to purchase the property from the church and use it as a park. There were a few questions from DCNR about whether federal funds could be used to support this purchase due in accordance with another statute, the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition for Federal and Federally-Assisted Programs. Jamie will look into this.

John Goodall gave a quick update on the 180-acre Hutchinson Farm Project in London Grove and Penn Townships. He noted that London Grove Township will be completing a

botanical survey on the woodland with Janet Ebert. The weather has held up some of the agricultural BMPs but they are slated to be completed this spring. John will be laying the erosion control matting and seeding the area with volunteers to save money.

John Goodall gave a presentation on a new project encompassing 45 acres across three White Clay municipalities, Penn, New London, and London Grove. In totality it would preserve 45 acres, and possible two landowners. One landowner is open to monitoring the streams running through his property, largely due to concerns about upstream composting activities. Mike Zuk mentioned that as of September 2018 an upstream composting operation will cease for a minimum of two years due to DEP violations. If the farmer comes into compliance, adding new BMPs (approved by DEP and CCCD), then they can commence composting activities after the two-year hiatus. John indicated that to preserve the land and redraw the property lines to 'de-develop' the additional land purchased by the landowner that was original slated for 7 house lots would have an additional cost. The total cost to rework the parcels for two land owners, and place easements on the one property will be @\$25,000 to complete. The committee agreed to designate the remaining \$4500 in open space funds to support this project. John believes it will close before the September spending deadline.

Shane mentioned that she met with Greg Gagliano and Mike Zuk on site at Barclay Hoopes Farm to discuss management strategies for the new buffer. Greg also visited the New Garden Park buffer with Shane to look at needed buffer management now that the grant has closed. Greg will be submitting a proposal directly to the New Garden Township Manager, Tony Schievert, to supply the service.

Research and Restoration

Shane gave a brief update on the current water quality monitoring in White Clay and gave a quick demonstration of the software program that Rob Tuttle (volunteer) has developed to analyze the data. She also mentioned that she is working with Kristen Travers and Kim Hachadoorian to put together quarterly outreach pieces using the collected data. The first article was on salt management.

Shane is going to send out a doodle poll to schedule a Restoration Committee meeting in mid-late April. The focus will be on water quality monitoring and catch the rain.

Education/Outreach

Shane showed the new White Clay Preservation Fund postcards to the Committee. 1600 post cards were mailed out to Delaware residents educating them about the fund and the projects that support clean drinking water using the Preservation Fund.

Shane presented the Creek Fest schedule and new post card. 750 post cards are scheduled to be mailed out the first week in April. She also noted that SUEZ has increased their donation amount to \$4000 in support of this event.

Announcements

Ed O'Donnell noted that for the first time in decades the Red Clay was stocked with trout.

April Schmitt noted that there will be an invasive clean-up event in London Britain Township on April 21. She is looking for someone to treat the cut woody invasive species. Shane will provide some contacts to her.

Meeting adjourned at noon.