



AGENDA

Sept 24, 2019, 10:00am - noon

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

Attendees:

Shane Morgan	Doug Janiec	Ed O'Donnell
Bill Miller	Rick Mickowski	Kristen Travers
Kelley Dinsmore	Martha Narvaez	Kate Raman
Cori Trice	Don Peters	Rachel Griffith
Tom Coleman	Brian Sachs	Aileen Parrish

Ed O'Donnell chaired this meeting.

Approval of June Minutes.

Presentation: Update on WCCSP Final Master Plan, Bill Miller, DNREC

Bill responded to our comments regarding the final draft of the master plan. Most of the questions were directed to proposed camping area near the Krantz farm and whether the original conservation easement on the farm would be considered as well as alternative camping sites, and concerns surrounding the future of the "big pond" area.

New Business

Tom Coleman appointed Kelley Dinsmore as the new representative on the Steering Committee for City of Newark.

5 new Next Generation Water Observing Systems (NGWOS) will be installed this year on the White Clay Creek as part of the Delaware River Basin Pilot conducted by USGS. Four new gages will be located on the three main branches in PA and one in Delaware (on Pike Creek). All the new gages will have stage-discharge with water temperature and specific conductance. The goal is to be able to predict future water conditions (rather than just provide historical and current data).

Martha informed the Committee that there is a new project being led by a post doc at university of Delaware, Jason Fischel, to improve Shad passage in the White Clay Creek, DE. He received a NFWF DRBC grant in the amount of \$72,848 to remove one impediment to fish passage on the White Clay Creek and build a rock ramp around another impediment to open primary streambed for shad and anadromous fish. The project will improve water quality and recreational opportunities in the White Clay Creek. The historic Red Mill Dam (the one to be breached for fish passage) will need to go through the State Historic Preservation Office for permitting. Doug J. noted that they will likely need to ensure any work on this dam maintains water levels for the Red Mill to operate. The third dam also has some issues that will need to be worked out for fish passage, including a City of Newark sewer line that runs through the dam.

Avondale Borough was awarded \$176,682 from the Marcellus Legacy Fund, established under Act 13 of 2013, to install gabion baskets along Indian Run Road where the creek is coming into Road. This is a stream stabilization project, not a stream restoration project. Shane saw this in State Representative Christina Sappey's newsletter and will alert NPS to this.

Old Business

Aileen Parish gave an update on the Evans House. She noted that the Evans house would not be demolished by DCNR and that the newly formed historic group can look into viable options of preservation, but with no promised financial support from the state, but they are willing to help with locating grant funding for the project. Karen Marshall from Chester County Historical Commission is also will to help find funding and develop a path forward for the historic home, including getting it on the national register of historic places.

Tom Coleman provided an update on the pedestrian bridge in Newark. The costs have gone up for the bridge and they sought additional grant funding because of this, but much of the funding is in place and the plans are' moving forward.

Shane indicated that the new application submitted for the New Garden Cell Tower was dropped.

NPS River Manager Report

The Philadelphia position for our river was posted and should be filled by our next meeting.

The Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers Biennial Meeting was held in Somers Point, New Jersey at the Great Egg Harbor Wild and Scenic River last week.

The SUASCO rivers presented a river report card that they developed with some additional grant funding working with University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Shane is going to discuss this more with the Education Subcommittee and see if we can do something similar.

NPS staff also indicated that there may be some funding to develop Wild and Scenic River brochures for rivers that don't have the standard NPS brochure. These would be in the same format as all National Park brochures. Shane is going to look into this and see if we can get one for the White Clay.

September 2019 Statement of Financials

All NPS budget lines are being spent down in a timely manner with the exception of some of the Restoration and Open Space funding. However, this is typical of these budget lines, especially in the first year of the five-year contract with NPS.

Several projects have been completed or started using the White Clay Restoration/Preservation Funding including the UDME senior design project, the Middle Run land stewardship (DNS), and the purchase of the City of Newark Preston's Park fountain and fountain signage. Additionally, a new school program in Delaware at Shue Middle School was proposed by Delaware Nature Society. This would be a ten-week elective program for about 15-30 students wanting to learn about water resources in White Clay Creek.

Non-National Park Service budget lines include outside grants and funding support from Dockstader (\$7500) for the West Grove Green Stormwater Infrastructure Pilot with Rutgers Extension, the University of Delaware funding to be used on Catch the Rain projects as part of an economics department research study on Green Stormwater infrastructure (up to \$20,000 on a reimbursement basis), and the budget allocated from DeIDOT for continued stormwater pollution monitoring at Middle Run (@\$2650).

Wild & Scenic River Program Updates

Restoration

The Catch the Rain Program had 28 applicants this year to date which is more than the annual total from last year. Shane reviewed a 'showcase' project that came out in City of Newark where a homeowner retrofitted her asphalt driveway and concrete walkway with permeable pavers as well as installing a front yard rain garden directly connected to her roof via an underground downspout. She also mentioned that another buffer planting at another applicant's property is on track to take place this Spring.

The 2019 recreational bacteria sampling at 30 sites across Delaware and Pennsylvania is complete. The data collected by DNS is in and the data collected by Stroud should be in before the next meeting. Shane will give an overview then. A new sensor station was installed just outside of West Grove Borough. Shane will contact the WCCSP to see about getting another sensor station installed upstream of SL157 above Papermill Road. Kelly Jacobs, University of Delaware intern is managing the mayfly sensor stations placed throughout the watershed taking monthly grab samples at each of them.

Red Tail Restoration is conducting land stewardship at Franklin Preserve. Red Tail has also been out to Hoopes farm to spray around the tree tubes. Cori T. indicated that the Conservation District obtained more trees that will be planted at Hoopes where some of the trees did not get established. Shane also noted that she is meeting with New Garden Township to discuss management options at the New Garden park buffer planted in 2015.

Education

Avon Grove Intermediate School and Newark High School both signed up again for Environmental Educational Awards for field trips to Stroud during the 2019-20 school year.

Shane informed the committee that she is interested in trying a new email marketing campaign utilizing our web host, Squarespace. The first three campaigns are free, then there is an annual charge. She indicated that since she aborted MailChimp she has mainly been putting articles together for outside sources like township newsletters, and other partner newsletter, but that she isn't getting the information out to our mailing list directly and would like to start doing that again if the Squarespace platform is efficient and easy to use like the web platform. She will try out the free service this quarter and get feedback at the next meeting.

PADEP has not issued any stormwater permits to the watershed municipalities to date, but she is still meeting with municipal staff/engineers quarterly to identify ways that we can assist them with moving forward with stormwater projects, funding, and operations and maintenance. We are discussing putting together a workshop series based on municipal input. The biggest interest was homeowner association education on stormwater water quality issues and stormwater management, best practices for operations and maintenance of stormwater projects, stormwater facilities reporting, and locating willing partners for basin retrofits. We are also looking into how we could aggregate projects within the watershed across municipalities to seek funding together.

Land Preservation & Trails

Kate Raman is helping with the 2008 New Garden Township Greenways Update. They've held a stakeholder meeting and a public meeting to narrow down interests and needs. Several members of the public did not know about all the township trails, some who did felt the trails were too short. There was some interest in connecting the NE section of the township to Kennett, and the White Clay Loop Trail was also discussed as well as trails that would connect the township schools with Saint Anthony's.

Rachel Griffith added that Chester County is also looking into a circuit trail for the Route 1 corridor (generally a paved trail for multiuse that connects larger geographical regions). They will be doing some stakeholder research to explore all options of how this could work, including the possibility of the trail dipping down and connecting to the Preserve or lower trails as opposed to just following Route 1.

White Clay Related Partner Updates/ Announcements

Tom Coleman brought up the zero Papermill Road annexation and development project. The planning commission approved the project by a vote of 5 to 1. The council will make their decision after a public meeting on October 28th at 7pm at City Hall. He also noted that the Fairfield Crest connector trail is open. This is a paved trail that connects thousands of city residents to the existing trails in White Clay Creek State Park along the former utility access road.