



MEETING MINTUES

September 14, 2022, 10:00am – 12:00pm

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

Attendees:

Shane Morgan	Doug Janiec	Ed O'Donnell	Don Peters
Tom Zawislak	Adam Mowery	Melinda Daniels	Mike Harris
Sarah Bursky	Kelley Dinsmore	Martin Wells	Rick Mickowski
Martha Narvaez	Sierra Taylor	Michael Bard	Chris Swailes
Rachael Griffith	Chris Robinson		

Don Peters chaired the meeting.

Approval of June minutes.

Presentations/New Business

Adam Mowery presented a biofilter proposal for funding consideration of the Committee. He is installing biofilters at three farms in Chester County, an Amish farm in Honeybrook, an equine farm in Unionville, and a crop farm in West Grove. This is a proposal for a fourth installation on a mushroom farm. The proposed called for construction of a 1000 cubic foot biofilter at the outlet of a grassed waterway downslope of the raw material storage areas, settling basin and wastewater tank, on a mushroom farm in New Garden Township. The biofilter will use a carbon source (i.e., biochar) to reduce contaminants (nitrogen, phosphorus, heavy metals if present) and improve the quality of runoff water prior to reaching the stream. The expected performance is 90% N and P reduction. Installation and engineering costs are estimated at \$32,500 and \$7,500 respectively. The Brandywine Conservancy has secured funding to support some of these other installations and to pay for monitoring support from Stroud at two sites. Monitoring will involve obtaining samples from pretreatment water in the forebays and post treatment water from the outfall pipes during storm events. The life expectancy of these systems is 15 years, but little is really known about them as these are newer BMPs. The only way to really know if they have reached their lifespan is through continued monitoring. Replacement costs would be in the range of \$20,000 (mainly biochar replacement). The committee approved \$40,000 in Wild and Scenic FY22 funds to be used to support this project. Construction should happen in the spring (2023). Additional monitoring support can be provided with our streamwatch budget.

New Business/Discussion

Michael Bard, Communications and Community Relations Manager at Veolia (formerly SUEZ) informed the committee of Veolia's Charitable Giving Program and shared the

Project Interest Forms requested from organizations looking for project funding. Projects that align with the goals of the Veolia Watershed Control Plan would be considered for funding. Shane mentioned that she has been discussing GSI and Stewardship projects that could use O&M in the watershed, such as Harmony Park. Some of these projects would also have a volunteerism component in which Veolia employees could participate in, such as planting or weeding events.

Shane provided an update on the Part-time Staff Position. After sharing the selected candidate's credentials, the committee supported the decision to offer the position to Lucy Dinsmore. The position would be 10 hours/week on average and the main responsibility would be supporting the Catch the Rain Program, assessing existing GSI and O&M needs, and leading some volunteer training days on invasive species removal.

Shane brought up some potential new projects the committee could pursue involving the PA Preserve. She reviewed the draft Foundation Document put together by NPS (RTCA program) and noted there were several areas where we could support the Preserve. One would be conservation planning for the agricultural lands. In a preliminary meeting with Matt Erhardt (Stroud) this sounded feasible. Shane will pursue this further and reach out to Lexi Rose. Other potential opportunities that seemed important in the draft Foundation Document included revisiting older plant and animal surveys and collecting updated data that can then be compared with the older data. Data on sensitive species could help guide future work in the preserve to protect sensitive areas from future development (trail work, etc.).

Old Business

The Pennsylvania Conservation District (PACD) Multifunctional Buffer Grant for work in Saint Anthony's was awarded (\$33,007.25). This is to extend a riparian buffer to 100 feet on each side of a small stream in the park and the addition of a live stake nursery (fully fenced from deer) that can be used for future restoration work. Shane is providing technical and grant writing assistance to a team of Master Watershed Stewards and the funding will go through the Chester County Conservation District. The planting is slated for early November 2022.

We received the \$20,000 from Franklin Township to support O&M at the Keen Farm buffer installation (spring 2022). The first post planting mowing occurred in late June and the site is ready for another mowing now. We still have WS funds to spend down on this and once they are used up the Franklin Township funds will kick in until they are spent down.

The Avondale Projects are all moving forward. The results from the Community-led Research have been posted to our website (under meeting materials) for anyone who is interested in learning more. Shane is currently working to identify partners who can carry

out the action items learned from the community survey. Besides informing the GSI plan, pedestrian safety and affordable housing, were two additional needs where information should be shared out to community partners who can help with next steps. Shane met with Rachael G. to see where some of these needs overlap with the Chester County Planning Commission and learned that they are currently drafting an affordable housing memo for the County Commissions that includes some ideas for affordable housing. The County could also assist with planning for pedestrian safety. Shane has also been in contact with PennDOT as they are currently redesigning the Route 1 corridor above Avondale as well as the Rt. 41 bridge, two areas that contribute to flooding in Avondale, both projects as they move forward would be subject to section 7 reviews by NPS. Shane is meeting with Meliora again to review the final data and make sure it gets incorporated into the overall GSI Plan for the borough. Shane also mentioned that she will be presenting the lessons learned from this project at the 10th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum on November 3rd Philadelphia in partnership with NPS and River Network.

NPS River Manager Report

Sarah thanked the committee for approving the funding for the alosine study. Melinda D. gave a brief overview of what the research team will do this fall and then next spring and is willing to present the results of the fall work at the December meeting. There was additional discussion from committee members on the need for this type of research so that we can base our design decisions on specific goals (i.e., fish passage or other ecological benefits). Doug J. mentioned the Red Clay Study in which they really relied on temperature as the trigger to when the fish would be running. Shane shared that paper with Melinda and Sarah. Ed brought up the need to consider year-round fisheries when designing dam removals as they are equally important to anglers. Sarah assured Ed that going forward there would be outreach to anglers regarding the Dam 7 removal process. Sarah noted that dams 2 & 4 are held up in the permitting process right now.

Sarah mentioned indigenous outreach is a priority of the current NPS administration. She has attended several workshops and made some connections with both the DE and PA Lenape tribes and the Lower Delaware now has a Leni Lenape member on their committee. She proposed reaching out to any indigenous people that have a connection to the land in our area to see if they have an interest in coming to a meeting or learning more about the Wild and Scenic Program to see if we have overlapping interests and can support one another. Sarah asked if anyone had any local connections. Melinda mentioned that Tara Muenz has some indigenous contacts, and she would put her in contact with Tara.

Sarah encouraged council members to join Shane at the PWSR Winter Gathering in Florida this December 7-9. The Wekiva Wild and Scenic River will be the host. She mentioned that

our NPS funds can be spent on this and that anyone who is interested should let Shane know by early October. Shane will send out more information after the meeting.

Some discussion was had on the upcoming Brandywine Red Clay Wild and Scenic River Scoping meetings. There are two upcoming public meetings Sept 15 (DEEC) and Oct 3 (Ashland) both at 6:30pm. This is very early on in the process, but the intent is to get the support to have a river study done during this Congressional Session.

Wild & Scenic River Program Updates

- Open Space Updates
 - The Homsey property (15 acres, Franklin Township closed this summer)
 - Aileen P. was not present, but she notified Shane that DNCR awarded funding to the Land Conservancy (now the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance) to support the acquisition of a conservation easement on 30 acres in London Britain Township for woodland protection and connectivity to the White Clay Creek Preserve.
- The Recreational Water Quality Monitoring (Bacteria sampling) was completed at 30+ sites this summer. Shane and Kelley D. will be meeting with Jinjun and the team at Stroud to go over the results and determine the next steps for Bogy/Blue Hen Run in the City of Newark which has had elevated counts over the past few years and could locate (and monitor) needed sewer system repairs.
- Martha will have a draft copy of the State of the Watershed Report ready to go out for review soon for anyone interested in seeing it. The water quality section is the only missing piece as they are waiting on John Jackson and Charlie Dow to assimilate all the data from various groups. The last two reports were done in 2008 and 2016, this one is a bit more comprehensive than the older ones and we are hoping to have it completed by the end of 2022.
- Shane mentioned the following workshops/meetings coming up, hosted by the Christina Watershed Municipal Partnership:
 - Stormwater Infrastructure and MS4 Funding Options Meeting -September 23
 - Lawn to Meadow Conversion Workshop - October 25th, 9-noon, Shadyside Park, West Bradford Township
- We still have some School Program funding to be spent down, mainly left over from the impact COVID had on schools. Shane would like to pursue some new ideas for that funding- such as working with Mighty Writers and The Garage Avondale, two groups who provide after school programming to adolescents in our area) to provide some additional programming.
- Catch the Rain has had 19 applicants so far in 2022 (our second highest count) and there are a few projects currently under construction.

Statement of Financials

The FY22 Workplan and Budget was approved. This is the final year of our 5-year contract agreement with NPS and all funds need to be spent down by September 30, 2023.

WCWA Presidents Report

Tom brought the committee up to date on progress being made to get the WCWA compliant. We had a few meetings with accounting firms and Dave H. found one he is currently working with to do the fiscal review (which is required based on the additional funding brought in this past year). We will need to set up the booking service as well but, it is not required until the next contract agreement. Shane expressed she would like to have the QuickBooks set up before the transition, so we are up and running before David retires. Tom mentioned he is also working on scheduling an annual WCWA meeting to solicit new members.

White Clay Related Updates/Announcements

Christina Basin Bus Tour, Friday, September 16, 9 am to 3 pm (preregister \$20)

Tree Plantings (sept 24 - MD Greenway and Oct 1&2 Crossan Park all 9am start)

WCC Preserve Master Planning Open House - Fall 2022

10th Annual Delaware River Watershed Forum, Nov 3-4, Philadelphia

Next White Clay Quarterly Meeting, December 14, 10-noon

Meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.