

Spring Creek Watershed Association- Meeting Summary- March 15, 2011

Next Meeting: April 19, 2011- 7:30 to 9:30 am- Patton Township Municipal Building

Attendees: Bob Carline, Ann Donovan, Bob Eberhart, Barbara Fisher, Todd Giddings, Kristen Saacke-Blunk, Bill Sharp, Jennifer Shuey, Rob Cooper, Kent Addis, and Paul Bartley

Staff present: Nick Schipanski (ClearWater Conservancy)

Chair Kristen Saacke Blank called the meeting to order at 7:35 am.

- 1) Agenda Review and Approval of Minutes. There were no changes to the agenda. There were no minutes from the February meeting requiring approval.
- 2) Discussion of SCWA strategic goals.
 - a) Jen Shuey discussed ClearWater Conservancy's (CW) focus group process and focus group comments. Focus group comments reconfirmed CW's primary goals/activities for land and water resource conservation.
 - i) Marcellus issues are a new factor and CW is working to develop its position.
 - ii) Nick Schipanski will lead development of a Water Resources Protection Plan for CW. As a first step, actions, resources, needs, and partners will be identified. Input from the SCWA will be needed.
 - b) Discussion turned to strategic focus for SCWA.
 - i) Association is clearinghouse: helps communities understand who does what.
 - ii) Source water protection: protect public and private water supplies; assist with Source Water Protection Plans.
 - iii) Spring Creek Watershed Commission often needs inclusion for action: Association/CW must reach out to Commission when it's the best entity to lead.
 - iv) Kristen suggested pulling together a summit of county-wide watershed associations. Goals: publicity and partnership building. Also, way for organizations to learn/built on each other's strengths and weaknesses.
 - v) Kristen suggested a standing agenda item for this topic to gather ideas from members over the next several months.
 - c) Marcellus: Is there a need to SCWA to focus on this?
 - i) There are direct effects in watershed: water withdrawals, traffic increases and changes in traffic infrastructure priorities, effects on surrounding communities, and air pollution were mentioned. Potential for future development of Utica formation.
 - ii) Barbara Fisher suggested source water protection efforts are a way to positively protect water resources from drilling impacts.
 - iii) Ann Donovan noted County Planning has a Marcellus Task Force but no one from Association or CW participates.
 - iv) Bob Eberhart noted that Trout Unlimited has adopted a white paper on Marcellus drilling. He noted that the Spring Creek chapter of TU was organizing a meeting for watershed

groups; its goal is to look for common perspectives and positions. Likely date: week of March 21.

- v) Due to time constraints, further discussion of Marcellus was tabled.
- 3) Barbara reported on Spring Creek Watershed Commission's February meeting. She was approached by a commissioner who noted an interest in strategic planning for the Commission. Perhaps an opportunity to share expert facilitator between groups?
- 4) Todd Giddings reported on Milesburg stream gauge funding. USGS will discontinue real-time data availability due to loss of \$3,350 provided by Susquehanna Flood Forecast program. Stage data will still be collected and made available with approximate 6-week lag time.
 - a) Is securing funding for real-time data a priority for the Association?
 - i) Important for fishermen, boaters, emergency management (less so locally)
 - ii) Jen reported that UAJA will support Houserville gauge for this year, then support it at the expense of its WRMP funding thereafter.
 - iii) Nick will put issue on agenda for next WRMP committee meeting on March 30th. Committee will be asked to prioritize Axemann, Houserville, Milesburg gauges, need for real-time data and explore fundraising options.
- 5) Ann Donovan discussed Dominion grant deliverables.
 - a) Two versions of new SCWA brochure. Costs: \$150 to design, \$150 to print.
 - b) Three posters. Designed by Susan Buda, printing gratis (Penn State Library). One poster is for CW office, one for Millbrook Marsh, and one for the Association to take to events.
 - c) Radio spots in development by Jerry Sawyer.
- 6) Source Water Protection committee.
 - a) Kristen recapped Mark Stephens (Watershed Management Program, Department of Environmental Protection) talk before the committee and distributed maps of source water protection areas and zones.
 - b) A proactive way to act on water resource protection from a variety of threats.
 - c) Need to cultivate a Commission-Association liaison to advance issue.
 - d) Kristen will seek to have Mark Stephens invited the Commission's April meeting.
- 7) Bob Carline discussed the WRMP webinar.
 - a) Date: Wednesday, April 6th, 12 pm to 1 pm.
 - b) Educational focus: what WRMP does, what learned in last 10 yrs, why continue, future challenges.
 - c) Audience: primarily municipal funders
- 8) Bob Eberhart proposed SCWA sponsorship of a candidate's forum for County commissioner primary.
 - a) Jen suggested joint sponsorship with Farmland Trust and/or other watershed associations.
 - b) Potential topics were suggested: stormwater management, TMDL allocations, Marcellus, farmland preservation.
 - c) Potential planning committee: Kristen and Bob E. Others suggested: Susan Buda, Susan La Jeunesse.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 am.