



Spring Creek Watershed Association Meeting

March 17, 2015

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

Patton Township Municipal Building
100 Patton Plaza, State College PA 16803

Notes

Attendees: Paul Bartley, Bob Carline, Rob Cooper, Lori Davis, Bob Donaldson, Ann Donovan, Walt Ebaugh, Bob Eberhart, Larry Fennessey, Barbara Fisher, Jim Gazza, Todd Giddings, Tom Holleran, Cory Miller, Barbara Newell, Mike Schmidt, Bill Sharp, Jennifer Shuey, Judi Sittler, Dave Smith, and Bob Vierck.

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. 7:35 AM to 8:30 AM: *Penn State's Water Resources Planning Efforts*

Andrew Gutberlet – Manager of Engineering Services, Penn State

Andrew gave an overview of the three components of Penn State's Water Resources which include stormwater, drinking water management, and wastewater management. As part of the stormwater management program, Andrew highlighted the difference in geology between the Big Hollow and Thompson Run drainage and how that influences PSU's stormwater management of these two systems. He described the challenges seen due to the limestone geology.

Andrew then describe PSU's drinking water management program. He presented statistics that indicate that water usage/consumption has been decreasing while student population has steadily increased. Andrew then talked about PSU's plans for their new water treatment facility. Lastly, he described their wastewater management program. All of PSU's wastewater is applied to the land through their spray irrigation system.

A copy of Andrew's presentation can be found here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/jy16bpw2a4vxjp7/Water%20Resouces%20to%20SCWA%20031615.pdf?dl=0>

3. 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM: Association Business

- a. April's SCWA meeting: CBICC – Formulated some talking points for our discussion with Vern Squier at the CBICC regarding the Water Conservation Plan/Volumetric Billing discussions. It may be worthwhile to review the



presentation given by Cory Miller in January. The presentation can be found here: http://youtu.be/y_k3Lc4HwBl.

Lori Davis – Asked if anyone had any suggestions for questions or talking points to help lead the discussion that will take place next week.

Bob Donaldson – Asked what is volumetric billing? How does it play into the current system since drinking water is billed volumetric but wastewater is based on edu's (equivalent dwelling units).

Cory Miller – Stated that he feels that a water conservation plan is a good idea for the watershed, and needs be done if the Chamber wants to address the idea of volumetric billing for wastewater.

Bill Sharp – Asked how big of an effort a water conservation plan is?

Cory Miller – Responded to Bill's questions stating that it probably wouldn't be all that big because of all the data that we already have for the watershed.

Jen Shuey – Followed up the comments that were made, stating that she feels that Vern Squier's attendance would be a good opportunity to explore other options with the chambers. She also indicated that Vern's background dealing with water resource issues in Kansas may lend to the conversation and group.

b. Judi's Role as Chair

Judi Sittler – Talked about her role as chair over the last year. She became chair in March of 2014. Asked if there were any others interested in the serving in the role now that it has been a year.

Barbara Fisher - Commented that she feels that Judi has done a wonderful job as a chair, and thinks she create a friendly environment as chair.

After some discussion, Judi said she would be happy to continue as chair for the next year.

c. Monica Billig's involvement with the SCWComm – continue discussion as appropriate.

Judi Sittler – Provided a brief update on her involvement with Monica. Indicated that there have been some training opportunities that Monica has shared recently, and that the Spring Creek Watershed Commission will be deciding on whether to proceed with these opportunities.

Lori Davis – Noted that it appears from their conversations with Monica that they typically work with municipalities that may not be as far along in regards to their MS4 programs as those in the Centre Region. It appears that they have a prescribe form that they usually abide by that may not apply here.

Bob Donaldson – Commented that the SCWCommission is struggling to figure out what they are all about.



Bill Sharp – Noted that the Commission could either struggle with what they are doing or they could figure out what there are all about.

4. Partner Updates

Mike Schmidt – The latest issue of National Geographic featured science. They discuss how people who are not scientist decide what to believe in. He also referenced the September presentation by climate change and how it was discuss that there are certain things you can't talk about to certain people. The issue describe that the best way to deal with this issue is to identify a person you disagree with and can trust to then debate the issues.

Lori Davis – Watershed Cleanup Day 2015 will be held on April 25th from 8 am to noon. Those interested in participating can contact Lori at lori@clearwaterconservancy.org.

Jen Shuey – ClearWater's Legends Flyfishing Clinic netted \$20,000 for their Riparian Conservation Program. The funds will go towards restoration efforts in the Upper Spruce Creek Watershed which they have about 12 projects lined up already. ClearWater with the MS4 Partners will be holding a rain barrel workshop on Saturday, March 21st.

Bob Vierck - The recipient of this year's Order of the Sulfur Award goes to Bob Donaldson. The award is given to a member or nonmember who has made a major contribution to the Spring Creek Watershed or Trout Unlimited. Trout Unlimited held its annual fundraiser on March 14th which raised \$20,000 making it the most successful so far. Trout Unlimited's Bid for a Cause this year was their Vertern's Service Program which raised \$4,100. It's been extremely busy for TU with several projects including plantings at Fisherman's Paradise, Rock Road, and Milesburg, instream work in Oak Hall and the distillery, and Watershed Cleanup Day on the 25th.

Judi Sitter – Encouraged everyone to take a look at the two videos PSU's Ag and Environment Center put together for TU.

Bill Sharp – Garden Starters will be starting is 5th season this year. Transition Towns committee got together and decided to continue its support. There are plans being made to provide educational information about gardens near the beds. Garden Starters is a project of ClearWater Conservancy that is supported by Transition Towns. Earth Day Birthday is April 12th.

Paul Bartley – Reminded everyone to let him know if there is anything you would like on the website because he could put it up there for anyone.

Todd Giddings – The PA Rural Water Association will be holding their annual meeting this week at the Penn Stater. There will be a bus tour around campus which will allow attendees to see the different initiatives going on here and give them ideas to take back to their jobs. The bus tour will be Thursday afternoon at 1pm – there may be seats available so let Todd know if you are interested.

Barbara Fisher – Given the discussions that are ongoing she still believes that the thing that would pull them all together is a watershed management plan for the Spring Creek Watershed.

Barbara Newell – World Water Day is Sunday, March 22.



SPRING CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

A grassroots stakeholder initiative

Cory Miller – UAJA's compost is low, so if you are in need it would be best to get it on the first of the month. UAJA is about two months away from implementing ozone into the beneficial reuse project.

Ann Donovan – CCCD is gearing up for Education Days there were a total of 20,000 students that participated last year. She is working on permits for three stream restoration projects this year. There is a Manure Management Workshop on Saturday, March 22nd. There will also be a riparian planting being done soon.

Larry Fennessey – MS4 Partners are developing a website with ClearWater Conservancy. The website is nearly complete and will be accessible soon.

5. The next meeting will be April 21, 2015 at 7:30 AM at the Patton Township Municipal Building. There will be no speaker. Vern Squier from the CBICC will be attending the meeting to discuss the Water Conservation Plan/Volumetric Billing initiative.