



Spring Creek Watershed Association Meeting

April 21, 2015

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

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

Notes

Attendees: Paul Bartley, Lori Davis, Bob Donaldson, Ann Donovan, Walt Ebaugh, Bob Eberhart, Jason Fellon, Barbara Fisher, Michele Halsell, Tom Holleran, Tatiana Malyn, Cory Miller, Autumn Radle, Kristen Saacke-Blunk, Mike Schmidt, Judi Sittler, Dave Smith, and Vern Squier.

1. 7:30 AM to 7:40 AM: Welcome & Introductions
2. 7:40 AM to 9:30 AM: Association Business
 - a. *Discussion with Vern Squier, with the Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County (CBICC), on CBICC's involvement and perspective related to volumetric billing for sanitary sewer service. This is in context of the EPA's Water Conservation Plan for the Spring Creek Watershed that was introduced at the January 20th, 2015 meeting.*

Below are some highlights from the discussion, but doesn't include all comments made.

Vern Squier started by sharing his background dealing with water issues in the Midwest, specifically Kansas. He described the importance of water conservation for all communities stating that it's not about doing without but it's about using the water resources we have more responsibly. Mr. Squier began to highlight the importance for individuals to understand their water use in order for water conservation efforts to occur. Mr. Squier explained that they had the greatest impact on water conservation when they could impart feeling and educate people on the importance of conserving water.

Mr. Donaldson posed the question about volumetric billing and how that plays into the conversation. Mr. Squier replied that the current system for water use (e.g., drinking water) is being billed in gallons whereas wastewater is billed in EDU (equivalent dwelling units).

Mr. Miller responded that the EDU system originally came from the state, and is based on about 175 gallons per day.



SPRING CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

A grassroots stakeholder initiative

Ms. Saacke-Blunk added that she found the points on human actions interesting, stating that we know through studies that human nature cares what the units are, and that people care more about the measure than about the practice so that they can figure out how much to reduce it.

Ms. Donovan agreed with Ms. Saacke-Blunk and Mr. Squier's comments stating that it's easier for her to understand and have incentive to reduce her water bill because she understands the units.

Mr. Miller added that the region should be planning long range on both sewer and drinking water side to ensure we have adequate water to handle the population.

Mr. Squier commented that it's up to the group to decide if and where they want to have a place in the planning.

Mr. Ebaugh added that in his time in the community he has seen the population double three times over the last 69 years. He agreed with the concerns that water resources are going to be a big issue if the population doubles again.

Mr. Smith stated that he was encouraged to hear that water conservation was a concern of the Chamber. He added that UAJA has been doing educational programs towards water conservation for many years. He then stated that it would be an incredible task to change the current system. He added that from being a certified wastewater operator for 35 years, he is more concerned with the concentrate of the sewage, which doesn't change, more so than with the volume of sewage coming through. A higher concentrate of sewage may make it more difficult to treat.

Mr. Squier added that it is an educational challenge and making people aware of what they can do to conserve water may be a good approach for this group to take.

b. Contact list for SCWA attendees

Judi Sittler – Asked the group whether thought it would be useful to anyone to share SCWA attendees' contact information among the group. She came across a situation recently where having other's contact information would have been useful.

Lori Davis – Suggested that a sheet be passed around next month, and those interested in sharing their contact information with the group could do so by providing their information on the sheet.

c. Upcoming outreach events

i. Big Springs Festival – May 17th, 2015

Lori Davis – With the Big Springs Festival coming up soon, Ms. Davis inquired to the group whether there was anyone interested in going with information



to share about the SCWA with festival attendees. Ms. Davis asked that anyone interested to please contact her.

3. Partner Updates

Ann Donovan – Centre County Conservation District is in the midst of their education days, and preparing for the summer construction season.

Cory Miller – University Area Joint Authority is dealing with odors and making adjustments. They had an odor sampling event last week and will hopefully have the results of that in September. Updates to the treatment facility have been made with the addition of ozone now. Treated wastewater is now being discharged to the Gordan D. E. Kissinger Meadow.

Kristen Saacke-Blunk- There is a May 14th deadline for the Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Grant Round.

Tatiana Malyn – Just recently helped organize a Homeowner's Guide to Stormwater Management workshop at the Easterly Parkway Elementary School.

Mike Schmidt – Attended workshop that Tatiana helped organize. Unfortunately there weren't many attendees, but workshop was great and there is an online tool available for homeowners to use.

Michele Halsell – Working on a sustainability collaborative with Matt Royer's classes, and they are looking for project ideas from the community related to education that student could get involved in. April 22 was Earth Day and there was a film screening entitled Plastic Paradise which explores the relationship between waste and water. The screening was held from 6 – 7pm at the HUB.

Autumn Radle – April 6th there was a joint transportation and land use committee meeting where they worked on setting a work plan for the next year. Several plans were presented including a stormwater and sustainability project. However, neither of these projects received supported.

Barbara Fisher – Reported that she attended the Spring Creek Watershed Commission in April where the MS4 Partners presented. At the meeting there was some discussion on the need for mapping and a need to update a spreadsheet detailing all the ordinances passed in each municipality within the watershed. Barbara encouraged everyone to check out the minutes to the meeting at www.scwatershed.com.

Bob Eberhart – Shared an editorial piece that was in the CDT on Sunday, April 19th it talked about the ignorance of people and how we ignore our resources.

Walt Ebaugh – Will be speaking next month.

Jason Fellon – PA DEP's Watershed protection grants opens May 2 and will run for 2 months. DEP's priorities are similar to the last 2 or 3 years and includes: implementation projects that directly address impairment in streams such as thermal, nutrient, etc.; stream bank stabilization that have habitat component such as buffer; stormwater retrofit and implementation projects; ag enforcement such as any projects that can help landowners get there plans in check. Watersheds in this area that DEP has identified for priority include Halfmoon and Penns Creek. Communicating upfront before project submission is always encouraged.



Judi Sittler – Trout Unlimited has used the Conservation District’s enviroscape at outreach events and it’s been a great tool. Maintenance was conducted at the McCoy Dam site, there was a planting at Fisherman’s Paradise, and Rock Road.

Lori Davis – Watershed Cleanup Day will take place this Saturday, April 25th. We are looking to have about 400 volunteers come out. Jen Shuey will be leaving ClearWater Conservancy on April 24th to pursue another opportunity. Steve Miller will be taking her place in the interim until the Board of Directors has identified another individual. Steve was unable to make it today, but has plans to attend in the future. Lori also shared on behalf of the MS4 Partners, a new work book created by the partners on Spring Creek. The workbook is for kids, and is available on the MS4 partner website (www.ms4partners.org) for anyone interested.

Bob Donaldson – The Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting in April was significant for the Commission. We have begun to challenge what our mission should be, and thinking about what we are doing now away from the original intent of the Commission. Encouraged anyone interested in being a part of the challenge of reinventing the Commission to attend the meetings or watch on C-Net.

4. May Meeting

Lori Davis – Reported that the Patton Township Meeting room will not be available to the group next month.

Cory Miller – Offered that the group could meet at UAJA’s conference room instead.

There were no objections to this suggestion.

Judi Sittler – Announced that she will be unable to attend the May meeting, and asked if anyone would be willing to lead the meeting in her absence.

Bob Eberhart – Offered that he could serve as guest chair for the May meeting.

The May meeting will be held at the **University Area Joint Authority Conference Room** at 7:30AM on May 19th. Walt Ebaugh will give a presentation entitled “We Aren’t Downstream From Anywhere, Water Resources of the Centre Region”.