

Spring Creek Watershed Association Meeting



November 17, 2015
7:30 A.M. to 9:30 a.m.
Patton Township Municipal Building
100 Patton Place, State College. PA 16803

Notes

Attendees: Bob Donaldson, Judi Sittler, Adrienne Gemberling, Barbara Fisher, Bill Sharp, Paul Bartley, Autumn Radle (with guest) , Ann Donovan, Barbara Newell, Bob Eberhart, Michelle Halsell, Bob Carline, Deb Nardone (with guest Jonah Little), Bob Vierck, Kevin Abbey, Jim Gaza, Denny Hameister and Danielle Roslevich.

Bob Donaldson, reporting for the Atlas Workgroup, said that three people with computer expertise, namely Todd Giddings, Bob Vierck and Paul Bartley, will be meeting regularly with the Steering Committee to provide technical assistance.

Deb Nardone, speaking on behalf of ClearWater, initiated a discussion of how ClearWater and the Association might interact. She seemed particularly interested in how ClearWater might support Association activities, perhaps by providing some staff time or workspace. In the course of the discussion it was pointed out that ClearWater had played a pivotal role in the formation of the Watershed Association (originally known as the Spring Creek Watershed Community) and has a long history of supporting the activities of the Association. Deb further suggested that perhaps the Association should consider taking on more of an advocacy role in environmental issues.

During the discussion it was noted that the Association is considering how to arrange for a paid note taker. Denny Hameister said that the Watershed Commission is considering hiring a paid note taker and wondered if the same individual might also become the note taker for the Association. Deb Nardone suggested that a note taker might use some of the facilities at

ClearWater. Barbara Fisher suggested that the Association might use the ClearWater website to publicize some of its activities.

Kevin Abbey and Adrienne Gemberling discussed their efforts to reach out to other groups who had produced water atlases. Initially they interviewed people involved in production of the Lake Champlain Basin atlas. This had its roots in a federal mandate to produce a plan for this Basin. It was a complex plan that involved two states and two counties. Some people involved in the project regard it primarily as an educational effort, and there was extensive outreach to elementary and high school students. There was also much emphasis on including the public in the development of the plan. Twenty-eight public meetings resulted in good relationships with the public. There was general consensus that if a Spring Creek Atlas is to be successful, public support will be necessary. It was suggested that the Watershed Commission could be very helpful in informing the public about this project. Kevin agreed to try to obtain additional relevant information about the Lake Champlain effort.

The discussion then turned to how information for inclusion in the Spring Creek Atlas should be obtained. Todd Giddings said that we should have one or a few articles on the Atlas website (which is now private). Critique of these articles should permit development of guidelines for authors. Todd has submitted an article on watershed boundaries, and Bob Vierck has submitted one that describes Habitat Improvement Projects that have been carried out on Spring Creek.

Michelle Halsell noted that she has received useful assistance in preparing data from IT people at Penn State.. She also said that Penn State students may be helpful in retrieving and organizing data.

Autumn Radle noted that the Centre Region Planning Agency is preparing a Water Resources Management Plan for the Centre Region.