



Spring Creek Watershed Association Meeting

March 21st, 2017

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

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

Minutes

Welcome and Introduction

Attendees: Bob E, Bob D, Bill S, Bob Carline, Rob Cooper, Judi Sittler, Barbara, Walt Ebaugh, Dave Smith, Denny Hameister, Jason Fellin, Cory Miller, Tim Gould, Bob Vierck, Ann Donovan

Monthly Educational Topic: Denny Hameister, Watershed Phase II Implementation

Denny initiated the discussion by giving some background information on the prospectus for Phase II implementation. Since Phase I was written, there has been nearly 13 years of no discussion on how to move forward with Phase II. So far, this has been a team effort with a small focus group of Denny, Mark Stevenson, Bill Sharp, Deb Nardone, David Whiteman and Lexie Orr. A number of scenarios have been discussed including a DCNR funded Rivers Conservation Plan. Since we are currently not ready to apply for DCNR funding, the group has decided to take a step back and review Phase I. By reviewing the *Potential Solutions* section of Phase I, we can identify which have been completed, which are obsolete, which need to be completed and what's missing. This way, we can clearly outline our issues and create a comprehensive scope of work to move forward.

Bob Eberhart expressed concerns about the rate at which State College is growing. There was consensus that this community growth would inevitably continue, which sparked a conversation on the possibility of healthy growth. Bill Sharp noted that there are a number of reports on the nature of growth and that rather than looking to mitigate growth another possibility is to have a clear vision for the future so that we can actively preserve our quality of life. There are currently standards in place to help reduce the impact of development. For example, there is an entire chapter on sustainability in the comprehensive plan as well protocols for where new buildings will be located. Walt Ebaugh felt that we simply do not know at what level of growth our water supply capacity will reach its limit. Cory Miller reiterated this point by stating that we need to evaluate and quantify the amount of water needed for both a healthy environment and community.

Bill Sharp noted that there is a strong sense that we need a plan. What Denny has put together is a proposal to do it. We need to identify major players and make this an organized effort. Bob Donaldson noted that the association is not a planning agency so including these types of agencies in the discussion is critical. He also initiated a discussion on how this project will get funding and who will be leading in the charge in implementing it. Bill Sharp noted that a large steering committee for this project could in fact impede its progress and that a group of no more than five would be ideal. Denny noted also that the SCWC could function as oversight on the project while the steering or operations committee does the legwork.



Jason Fellin commented that while a Rivers Conservation Plan is a means for creating a watershed management plan, this plan would only sit on the shelf if we do not have a clear focus for writing it. Because a main focus of this effort is to reduce fragmentation of our current watershed management strategy, this sparked a discussion on how to get support from major stakeholders, municipalities and the public to move forward. Cory noted that the Centre Region Comprehensive Plan outlines a great deal of action items for a water resources management plan but that this plan has not been wholly adopted by municipalities nor has it been brought to the attention of the water authorities and other major stakeholders. There was also discussion on the creation of a single entity that would comprehensively manage the watershed.

A few funding options were discussed. Cory suggested that we invite the major stakeholders with money to a watershed commission meeting and ask who would like to be integrated into this planning process. Hopefully, those who want to be involved in this process would also want to help fund it. Denny noted that Deb Nardone will reach out to both the Centre and Hamer Foundations as possible funding sources.

At the next SCWC meeting, Denny will seek approval for moving forward with implementation of Phase II.

Association Business

Atlas Progress Report

Bob Donaldson noted the progress on getting a number of different authors and gave an update on a couple of new articles in the works. He is currently working on an article on the old historic homesteads with Jackie Melander of the the Centre County Historic Society and Dave Whiteman as a photographer. This article will also be a separate publication by the Centre County Historic Society. Bob Eberhart is also working with Mark Jacobs on an article on population growth.

Lexie Orr noted that Steve Arnold is now making all of the maps for the Atlas articles. The group has also agreed to continue using Wix as a web platform. The workgroup will be seeking approval for a computer and GIS software from the commission at their next meeting.

Barbara Fisher noted that the workgroup will also be hosting an interdisciplinary seminar on the Atlas at PSU.

New Business – No New Business

Approval of Minutes

Bob Donaldson moved to approve the minutes from the January 17th and February 21st meetings. Judi Sittler seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.



Partner Updates

Lexie Orr, ClearWater Conservancy: Watershed Cleanup Day will be April 22nd from 8am-12pm. A picnic will follow the cleanup at Tussey Mountain Pond. The Centred Outdoors project will be joining forces with Trout Unlimited's Family Fishing Picnic to host their opening event on June 11 at Tussey Mountain Pond.

Jason Fellin, DEP- There is obviously concern over funding from the Chesapeake bay however inspections of farms have really amped up recently. The EPA provides DEP with 30% of its funding towards Chesapeake Bay projects. The Growing Greener II funding has now switched its focus to implementation more than planning efforts. The growing greener is a solid funding program and should not be affected by nation funding cuts. Growing Greener III is getting funds from bonds, which means that this will be a short-term input of money. There are questions as to whether this will be sustainable but the grant will definitely fund a lot of implementation at one period of time.

Bill Sharp– Earth Day Birthday will be at Millbrook Marsh on April 9th. PSU's Sustainability Institute is also holding an event for students to present on their community projects. Information on this event will be distributed.

Judi Sittler, Trout Unlimited- The annual TU banquet will be March 25th at the Ramada Conference Center at 5pm. This year's Bid for a Cause will go toward the Slab Cabin Run Initiative.

Cory Miller, UAJA – UAJA signed an agreement to install 2.6 megawatts of solar panels. The project will most likely be completed in July. The power generated from the solar panels will more than offset the energy requirements of the advanced water treatment system. These panels can cover 25% of UAJA's total energy requirements.

Ann Donovan, Centre County Conservation District – The conservation district has concerns about funding. Growing greener has typically funded the plan writers for manure management plans. The conservation district has also hired a new erosion and sediment control manager.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:45 AM

Next Meeting: April 18th, 2017