

SCWA Minutes , April 18th

Thanks to Barbara Fisher

Attendees: Bill Sharp, Bob Donaldson, Walt Ebaugh, Judi Sittler, Bob Carline, Ann Donovan, Bob Vierck, Michele Halsell, Cory Miller, Jim Gazza, Mike Schmidt, Peter Ryan, Barbara Fisher, Tim Gould

Monthly Educational Topic: Tim Gould, Water Resources Specialist for ClearWater Conservancy

Bill Sharp introduced Tim and gave a short background. Tim gave an update of WRMP, the watershed monitoring program for Spring Creek.

He is currently working with the Source Water Protection project for Centre Region. They intend to have a website with educational information.

He is seeking other new initiatives in how to best secure data and how to find new volunteers.

He asked for suggestions. Bob Donaldson encouraged including Big Springs in addition to focusing on the headwaters. Concern over the impact on Slab Cabin was expressed with well withdrawal.

Peter highlighted several key geospatial programs as ARC's ESRI, Oracle, SQL1.te.

Tim explained that some of the well site information would be restricted whereas that which has been shared publicly would be available.

A question was asked how many years of data do we have?

Bob Carline answered that originally DEP had a site in Axeman.

WRMP started monitoring in 1988.

Atlas Work Group Committee Report by Bob Donaldson:

The committee meets the Thursday before the Commission meets.

The most recent meeting occurred on April 20. Bob Carline presented an organization/structural plan where entire committee will be devoted to developing the topics. Each topic will have a vice-chair.

Topics will include: Nature of the Watershed, Recreation, Economy, Issues and solutions, Education and Government and Education.

Betsy Blumberg has been appointed editor.

Some new articles are being developed including population data with the intent to learn if a projection could also be developed. Identification of historic homes Spring Creek is also underway.

Bob Carline has presented a series of protocols to serve as guidelines for authors which the work group is reviewing.

A seminar with faculty from Penn State is being planned tentatively to occur in May facilitated by Michele Halsell and Eric Donnell.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 11 from 1-3 PM at the Patton Township building.

Watershed Plan

The Watershed Commission is pursuing funding for staff to support developing Phase II of the Spring Creek Watershed Management Plan. Meetings are occurring regularly and being sought with Centre Foundation and the Hamer Foundation.

Denny Hameister is taking the lead in pulling this together, meeting occurring frequently include key stakeholders.

It was pointed out that the federal revenues are anticipated to be significantly reduced. They are a major source of state revenues.

Local efforts will now need to shoulder their own initiatives.

Barbara suggested using the term Spring Creek Watershed *Action* Plan which is currently being adopted by other local watersheds such as Williamsport. The intent is not to exclude the major parts of a management plan but to encourage more flexible participation.

Ann spoke of Brian Auman as a consultant who could help explain this in more detail at one of our meetings. He would need advance notice.

Walt submitted there are only 2 ways to manage pure water supply: implement reuse in the upper part of the watershed or pipe it up to the headwaters from just below Big Springs. In response to this limiting growth was also underscored.

Cory Miller of UAJA spoke of meeting with a number of the water providers focusing on source water and and learning of their concerns. He emphasized how fragmented the situation is with the State College Borough Water Authority, College Township and Penn State planning to invest millions of dollars individually in treatment plants with no comprehensive watershed plan in combination.

He also spoke of the need to comply with Chesapeake Bay nutrient regulations. UAJA had an increase of 600 dwelling units since January of this year.

When added to recent previous figures it equals 29,000 lbs. of nitrogen in the last year and a half and the annual limit for UAJA is 164,000 tons.

Cory stressed how important it is to build consensus for a watershed management plan now that integrates all the parties involved. It will take time to implement this. Only 5% of the funding is for sustainability of the environment, 95% is water infrastructure

He foresaw with better planning funding could be better allocated towards rain gardens, stream buffers, invasive species but these categories only makes up five per cent of the major changes that are needed.

Bob Verick spoke of how low the water is on Slab Cabin recently.

Partner Updates:

Bill Sharp: Garden Starters is supporting a new community garden site at the Methodist Church in Houserville.

Judi Sittler: TU recently hosted a major dinner March 20th. Fund raising provided some \$5,000 for the Slab Cabin Initiative.

-Penn State Sustainability April 29th at Innovation Park 8-2 or 3 PM

-Get Outdoors Family Fishing Picnic June 11 at Tussey Mountain Pond 12-4 PM rods and help provided; free food

Tim Gould at ClearWater-Spring Creek Watershed clean Up Day Saturday, April 22 where over some 300 volunteers have signed up.

Michele Halsell- Penn State Sustainability. This Monday, April 24th 5-7 PM at the State College Borough Building. Penn State students will be presenting some 37 displays and 50 posters.

The next Association meeting will occur on May 15th at UAJA.