

Spring Creek Watershed Association – Meeting Summary - January 18, 2011

NEXT MEETING: February 15 – 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM – STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION WITH CLEARWATER

ATTENDEES: Barbara Fisher, Jim May, Bob Donaldson, Bob Eberhart, Jennifer Shuey, Rob Cooper, Stan Lembeck, Steve Lupis, Todd Giddings, Kristen Saacke Blunk, Bob Carline, Dave Smith, Ann Donovan, Steve Tressler (Chambers Environmental)

SPEAKER: Mark Stephens, Watershed Management Program, DEP – Division of Water Use Planning

- DEP's Source Water Protection Initiative with Emphasis on Approved Programs Currently in Operation in the Spring Creek Watershed
- Source Water Protection
 - Voluntary local effort to protect drinking water sources from pollution
 - Because cleanup of a polluted water supply can cost as much as 200 times that of prevention
- Source Water Protection Plan
 - Source – surface water or ground water
 - Community Water Supplies
 - Time that it would take for a water system to be impacted by a pollution event
 - Time of transport
 - What can we do to protect our drinking water
 - Minimum elements
 - Funded completely by the EPA
- Centre County is in the PA Wilds region
- Marcellus zone – make sure that industry does not adversely impact drinking water
- Source Water Plan Development
 - Surface aquifers or bedrock aquifers
 - Agri-“culture” moved to Agri-“business” over time
 - Municipal drinking water supply – well
 - Zone 1 – immediate area
 - Zone 2 – 0 – 10 years time of travel – need to be concerned
 - Most water systems only own the zone 1 area
 - Need to rely on partnerships to protect zone 2 area – use the land in environmentally friendly ways; protective without being overly burdensome
 - Zone 3 – the watershed
 - Potential sources of pollution - On-lot septic systems, underground storage tanks, agriculture
 - Water systems are expected to last forever

- Plan is about minimizing risk
- Centre County
 - Howard Borough
 - College Township
 - Penn State
 - State College Borough Water Authority
 - All have Source Water Protection Plans
 - Lots of overlapping protection zone 2s
 - Need to understand how the water moves
 - Public education, ordinances
- Centre Region well fields
 - Bellefonte is now forming a steering committee to develop a Source Water Protection Plan
- What are the possible future water supply areas? Planning
- Extremely complicated geology in the Centre Region
 - Bathtub
- Faults, Fracture traces – preferential water flow
- Sinkholes
 - Raceways for both water and contaminants - shortcuts
- SCBWA well fields
- Snow Shoe example
 - Water supply wells impacted by gas drilling operations
 - Water supply wells had originally been placed to avoid AMD areas
- Issues facing PA
 - Migration from poorly constructed gas wells into water system intakes
- Risk Reduction strategies
 - Regulatory
 - Ordinances, zoning, enforcement, litigation
 - Non Regulatory
 - Public education program, partnerships, signs, encourage BMP implementation, acquiring sensitive properties, HHW collections, teaching at schools,
 - We are all involved in this – stakeholders
- Source Water Protection Education
- BMPs
 - Riparian buffers, forest restoration, pervious pavement
- Preventative, proactive strategies for source water protection
- Where else in Centre County still need Source Water Protection Plans?
 - Bellefonte – need a sense of community and partnerships, they have the technical components (paid by Coca-Cola)
 - Develop a collaboration of the all of the water systems – with plans and without plans

- County-wide basis, through County Planning Office
- Include more partners in each of the new Plans
 - Upstream watershed partners – impact
 - Also bring knowledge from past experience
- Mark working with Stan to develop a course for planning officials
- SCWCommission – call on Mark to help pull together the network in the Spring Creek Watershed
 - Rock Springs water system
 - Halfmoon
 - Pleasant Gap
 - Ridgemont
 - Benner Township
 - Rockview – artesian well
 - Mark will get us a list of all of them
 - Public health issue along with stream protection
 - Money is still available for this – Mark’s budget has doubled
 - First come-first served
- Next steps?
 - Date to launch the Bellefonte Source Water Protection Plan
 - Invite people to participate – network
 - What are the risks to the community?
 - Where are the risks, how to we reduce the risks?
 - Unique hydrogeologic setting for the Big Spring
 - Stickiness of who pays and who profits from water
- Committee identifying important recharge areas in Spring Creek Watershed
 - Hydrogeologists
 - How can we more concretely work with Mark?
 - We can help get people involved in the planning process
- Develop a strategy for how to move this forward – committee?
- Bring the Watershed Commission into this
- Figure out how to facilitate getting the water systems without plans to get into the process and work with the systems that do have plans
- Committee – Jim, Ann, Barb, Todd, Rob, Bob D., Jen

ClearWater Strategic Planning

Decision to have the February 15 SCWAssociation meeting from 7:30 – 9:30 am be one of the 6 focus group times for ClearWater’s Strategic Planning process

Sustainability workshop – Bob, Barb, Bill, Jen, Ann

Brochure draft – looking for input

Thanks to Bob Eberhart for his leadership as the immediate past chair of the Spring Creek Watershed Association!!

Model Ordinance for Borehole and Well Drilling

Commission took a poll of how many municipalities have adopted it
Ask at Commission tomorrow how many
In Centre Region – Code is developing an implementation guide

Spring Creek Canyon –

Conservation Easements underway with PSU and Benner Township
Technical Advisory Group has met once so far

USGS model project – extension to June 30, 2011

WRMP – 3 interviews today for the Water Resources Coordinator position
Webinar being developed by Kristen, Ann, Bob Carline for WRMP results

CCCD – more draft requirements coming for ag BMPs

SCTU – looking at Marcellus position by SCTU, meeting tonight again
Revision of bylaws

Watershed Commission – meets January 19, Kristen will go on behalf of SCWA
Can we take turns attending the SCWA to show a more diverse face to the SCWC? Invite us to sign up for different months and then report back to the SCWA. Non-commissioners.

Upper Middle Susquehanna Water Resources Regional Committee – not meeting due to lack of state budget funding, plan “put on shelf”
Decision was made to only designate “Critical Water Planning Areas” that already had existing funding in place; therefore we qualified but are on hold

DEP – new Secretary John Klancer
John Hines as Deputy Secretary
Transition time of ~ 6 months

Webinar – Ross Pifer, Marcellus
Julie Kollar recommends it

Meeting summary provided by J. Shuey