

Spring Creek Watershed Association Meeting Notes

January 15, 2013

Attendees: Lauri Schoonhoven, Dan DeLotto, Mick McKay, Joyce McKay, Bob Carline, Mike Schmidt, Genie Robine, Leah Weaver, Bill Sharp, Barbara Fisher, Rob Cooper, Paul Bartley, Bob Eberhart, Jennifer Shuey, Kristen Saacke Blunk, Kent Addis, Bob Donaldson, Jason Fellon, and Jim Gazza.

1. 7:35 AM to 8:30 AM: *Water Quality Monitoring by the Centre County Senior Environmental Corps*: Joyce McKay, Genie Robine and Dan DeLotto.

Members of the Centre County Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps (CCPaSEC) discussed their monitoring activities in the Marcellus Shale areas of Centre County and their work on developing an extensive web presence to disseminate their data.

Their website is at <http://ccpasec.centreconnect.org/>

2. 8:30 AM to 9:00 AM: Association Business

- a) Kristen reported that the new chair search is ongoing. Current focus is on recruiting a chair (or co-chair) representing a downstream community.
- b) Bob Donaldson noted that the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited is in discussions with PA Council of TU about the Council's interest in conducting a training program for volunteer water quality monitoring of high quality cold water fisheries in Marcellus Shale areas. Bob noted that the SCTU is willing to host training and asked if Association would like to co-host. Hosting would only entail providing space for training, PA Council of TU would provide training. Mick McKay, for CCPaSEC, said he will explore CCPaSEC member's interest in helping with training at February meeting of that group. Association members present agreed to co-host training site with SCTU.
- c) Kristen solicited speaker suggestions:
 - i. Spring Creek TU riparian restoration program
 - ii. WRMP-IBI results
 - iii. ClearWater riparian restoration program
 - iv. Little Juniata River Association restoration activities
 - v. Update on Spring Creek Canyon management
 - vi. Re-focus on Source Water Protection
- d) Kristen reported on Urban Nutrient Management Workgroup and urban goals for Chesapeake Watershed. List of top-ten household actions attached. Kristen noted that this would be a worthy topic for the Association to promote.

e) Other: Jason Fellon reported that Growing Greener I will open June 30. Focus is on implementation projects in impaired waters.



SPRING CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

A grassroots stakeholder initiative

An **Urban Nutrient Management** (UNM) workgroup is developing guidance for the Bay Program with specific recommendations for improving urban nutrient management (lawns and turf areas). An expert panel and the workgroup (led by Tom Schueler, Urban Stormwater Workgroup Coordinator and Executive Director of the Center for Watershed Protection) have identified “**Core Urban Nutrient Management Practices**” – including both fertilization and management of “lawn biomass”.

State	Urban Pervious Area ¹	Urban Nutrient Management ²
	Acres	
Delaware	36,481	34,584
District of Columbia	17,206	42,240
Maryland	990,291	555,575
New York	170,716	170,654
Pennsylvania	1,052,558	311,154
Virginia	1,195,567	517,058
West Virginia	88,218	347
TOTAL	3,551,037	1,631,612

¹ Acres of Urban Pervious Area in Version 5.3.2 of Chesapeake Bay Watershed Model
² Acres under urban nutrient management in each state by 2025 as reported in the Phase 2 Watershed Implementation Plan submissions to EPA in 2012, as summarized in spreadsheet by Jeff Sweeney, EPA CBPO
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Core Urban Nutrient Management (UNM) Practices

1. Get technical assistance to develop an effective UNM plan for the property
2. Maintain a dense vegetative cover of turf grass or conservation landscaping
3. Choose not to fertilize, OR adopt a reduce rate/monitor approach OR use the small fertilizer dose approach
4. Retain clippings and mulched leaves on the yard and keep them out of streets and storm drains.
5. Do not apply fertilizer before spring green up or after Halloween.
6. Maximize use of slow release N fertilizer during the active growing season
7. Set mower height at 3 inches or taller
8. Immediately sweep off any fertilizer that lands on a paved surface
9. Do not apply fertilizer within 20 feet of a water feature and manage this zone as a perennial planting, a tall grass buffer or a forested buffer.
10. Employ lawn practices to increase soil porosity and infiltration capacity and use the lawn to treat stormwater runoff.

Effect of Outreach on Fertilizer Behaviors

- Recent sociological research indicates fertilization and lawn care behaviors are deeply rooted and hard to change
- Strong neighborhood pressures and norms often outweigh environmental or water quality considerations

NOTE: In the Chesapeake Bay watershed there are 84,000 farms versus 4,000,000 lawns.