



Spring Creek Watershed Association Meeting

April 15, 2014

7:30 AM to 9:00 AM

Patton Township Municipal Building

100 Patton Plaza, State College PA 16803

Meeting Summary

Attendees: Kevin Abbey, Lori Davis, Ann Donovan, Bob Eberhart, Barbara Fisher, Sydney Laudenslager, Jim May, Cory Miller, Kristen Saacke Blunk, Nari Soundarrajan, Mike Schmidt, Bill Sharp, Jennifer Shuey, Judi Sittler and Bob Vierck.

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. 7:35 AM to 8:30 AM: Educational Topic

Kristen Saacke Blunk, principal, Headwaters LLC, and field liaison to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Chesapeake Bay Stewardship and Delaware River Restoration funds gave a presentation to the Association entitled "Spring Creek Watershed-based Initiatives Funded through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund: Looking at past projects and towards future opportunities".

Kristen noted that request for proposals (RFPs) are out for both Small Watershed Grants and Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grants. The deadline for these RFPs is May 15, 2014. Kristen also noted that between 2000 and 2013 the NFWF has invested \$2,177,180 in projects benefiting the Spring Creek Watershed through its grant programs with partners (grantees) who've carried out these restoration and conservation projects leveraging another \$3,962,537. This makes the grand total for restoration and conservation projects that have happened with NFWF and partners' dollars and resources more than \$6 million.

Kristen's presentation is available at <http://youtu.be/35rX5lyETQw> and comments to her presentation can be viewed at http://youtu.be/lt1DxPFj_XM. Provided with these notes are documents Kristen discussed during her presentation.

3. 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM: Association Business
 - a. CCCD Stormwater workshop final updates –

Ann provided an overview of the workshop that was held on March 19th at the Centre County/PSU Visitors and Convention Center. There were 81 total attendees and overall there was good representation from municipalities. The major sponsors



of the event included Penn State University Office of Physical Plant which donated the venue, University Area Joint Authority which donated lunch, and the PA Association of Conservation Districts which provided funds for the workshop. Other sponsors included the Spring Creek Watershed Association, the Spring Creek Watershed Commission, ClearWater Conservancy, Spring Creek Chapter Trout Unlimited and Centre County Conservation District.

Ann also reminded everyone about the 50% cost share that is being offered to homeowner's to implement a stormwater management project on their property. Funds are limited to \$1400 and there is \$250 cap per homeowner. Interested homeowner's will need to fill out a questionnaire and submit it to Ann Donovan at the Centre County Conservation District. A copy of the questionnaire can be found at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/nhr01y6tebhzzab/Stormwater%20questionnaire.pdf> the money needs to be spent by May 17th, 2014. Currently, three inquiries have been made for the cost share.

b. Bald Eagle Watershed Request for Letter of Support –

The Bald Eagle Watershed Association is working on a project to install a canoe access point in Spring Creek near the confluence of Bald Eagle Creek, and they are seeking a grant from the Canoe Access Development Fund which is administered through the Western PA Conservancy. Lori announced that the BEWA has requested a letter of support be sent to accompany their grant application. There were no objections from the group to send the letter of support. Lori will prepare the letter and send it to the BEWA.

c. Partner Updates –

Cory Miller - Progress of Kessinger Meadows wetland project along Slab Cabin Run will be dependent on DEP.

Judi Sittler– Return to Roots program through Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited will likely take place the first week in May at a property along Slab Cabin near E. College Ave. There will be a tree planting along Slab Cabin Run as part of this project.

Lori Davis – ClearWater Conservancy's Watershed Cleanup Day will be taking place on Saturday, April 26th from 8 AM to noon PM.

Sydney Laudenslager – Currently working on trying to continue conversation that took place at a Community Water Forum that was held to discuss waste water management and ways the community could overlap in its uses and management.

Jen Shuey – Riparian program at ClearWater has expanded with the addition of Katie Mann now as a full-time staff member. With this expansion, a foundation for a site stewardship program has been initiated. Site stewards of this program will help



SPRING CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

A grassroots stakeholder initiative

maintain and care for riparian areas planted through ClearWater which are now up to almost 70,000 feet or 13 miles! ClearWater is also seeking a part-time executive assistant. Applications for this position were due on April 15th, 2014.

Jim May – CRPA has just hired a half-time planner to work on regional planning. The CRPA is working with municipalities on zoning outside the regional growth boundary. For instance, they are working with Halfmoon Township on reducing density on west side of township. The airport is currently working on updating their master plan. In the plan there is an 800 ft extension to the runway being proposed on either the Rock Road or Big Hollow side. The PA APA has a process to nominate great places in the community.

Bill Sharp – Garden Starter started up at Earth Day Birthday at Millbrook Marsh this weekend with building a compost bin. There are also plans to build a children's area and pollinator garden at Millbrook Marsh. Transitions Towns had its 4th birthday this weekend. When established, the object of Transitions Towns was to create a network for organizations interested in sustainability.

Ann Donovan – Centre County Conservation District will hold its summer field days at Black Moshannon State Park next week. There are 587 kids registered. The district has four riparian plantings planned for this summer. Woodduck Chapter of Trout Unlimited would like to make improvements to acid mine drainage system in Cold Stream.

Barb Fisher – Department of Sustainability grant awarded to Jackie Fernolod.

Kevin Abbey – Spring Creek lands conveyed to Penn State should be in easement shortly and Benner Township lands should hopefully be in easement shortly after that.

Nari Soundarrajan – Proposed that referring to “stormwater management” as “ecosystem management” would be more helpful. Asked if we have a regional map of the watershed with stakeholders. Bill Sharp and Nari agreed to begin developing and working on this map.

Kristen Saacke Blunk – Announced that the *Order of the Sulfur* was awarded to Judi Sittler from Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited.

4. The next meeting will be May 21, 2014 at 7:30 AM at the New Leaf Initiative. This will be a general business meeting, no educational speaker is scheduled. Please send agenda items for discussion at this meeting to Lori.