



Spring Creek Watershed Association Meeting

October 21st, 2014

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

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

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Lori Davis, Ann Donovan, Bob Donaldson, Bob Eberhart, Barbara Fisher, Dennis Hameister, Jim May, Barbara Newell, Mike Schmidt, Dave Smith, Bill Sharp, Jen Shuey, Judi Sittler, and Bob Vierck.

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. 7:35 AM to 9:30 AM: Association Business
3.
 - a.) Spokane Valley-Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Atlas
<http://www.spokaneaquifer.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/AquiferAtlas.pdf>

Barbara F. – Opened the discussion on the atlas by asking the group if they feel we could do something with this atlas. Is there anything in it that is key? What would we want to highlight from it? Who would be the intended audience?

Judi S. – How much of this information do we already have in another form? Then Judi passed around a document that summarized a list of several documents that she had related to Spring Creek.

Bob D. – There are documents that exist already at the county level that include a lot of the information covered in this atlas. However, the key would be to get this information in a form like the atlas so that it is more easily used. Suggested that it may be good to develop a table of contents with the information we already have as a starting point.

Jim M. – Agreed with Bob. D. that compiling it may be good and useful.

Bill S. – Stated that a document like this could serve as a learning or educational tool to inform people about the watershed and its history. Pointed out the graphics are good, but that there are definitely cost associated with doing some of these graphics. Also, pointed out the mix of graphics some of which were geared towards younger individuals.

Denny H. – Stated that this document is very similar to a document compiled by the State for the Northeast region of PA in reaction to Act 22 for water.

Bob D. – Stated that there has been some discussion that the Association and the SCW Commission needs to get more involved in its mission especially as it relates to education and outreach. This document could help to map natural areas or resources such as sinkholes and ridge-side recharge areas. Bob discussed a



conversation he had with Mark Ralston, a hydrologist, about what has been mapped and what could be done in the future. Bob stated that he thinks it would be best to display it at the 5th to 6th grade level and could have it relate to the watershed and natural areas perhaps even stormwater. Mentioned that since Monica Billig from the Environmental Finance Center is coming up to speak at the November SCWCommission meeting that this could be a potential project to discuss in relation to identifying funding sources.

Denny H. – In reference to Bob D.’s comments about Monica Billig, Denny announced that Monica will be attending the next SCWCommission meeting on November 19th at 7PM, and all members of the Association are welcome to attend. The meeting will be one of three trips she will be making to this area.

Judi S. – Posed the previous question raised, still what do we do with the document?

Bob D. – Stated that we should think once again about the mission of the Association and the education and outreach component. This document could potentially help inform people about the group.

Denny H. – Stated that the use may differ with audience for instance municipal officials and residents.

Bob D. – Explained that he initially thought the audience would be elected official, but now thinks that it should have an unbiased direction which would still help to inform elected officials and maybe prompt them to ask more questions in the future.

Judi S. – Stated that she does feel that there is an interest in education the public but also elected officials.

Bob D. – Stated that is why he sees the Commission as a potential sponsors, since it deals with elected officials, which the project could help get their attention and inform them.

Denny H. – Economic component is something that would certainly help catch the officials eyes and attention.

Bill S. – Pointed out that there is a lot of information currently out there, and as issues come up and interests are peaked that’s when we can provide information. There is a need to present information in a fun way, not simply an educational way.

Bob D. – Explained that as issues come up these type of documents can be used as a tool to inform legislators.

Jim M. – Pointed out that he feel that the Centre Region does have a lot of this information in their office and that it is being used. Stated that he thought that it would be more useful as an educational tool perhaps for younger individuals, and not for planners. Could use the document as and educational tool as part of their curriculum.

Judi S. – Highlighted that marketing is key. Explained that she attended a WREN program where a presenter named Eric Eckl talked on water words that work. Judi stated that she had an idea to apply for a WREN grant that would work towards marketing.

Jen S. – Stated that there is a need to find ways to increase awareness in the present day. Taking from what we know and expanding it to outreach to the community in today’s means.



Bill S. – Referenced his presentation in July (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkbCBIs6ieY&feature=youtu.be>) and that this data is already compiled. The Association seems to keep reinventing the wheel expecting a different result.

Barb F. – Asked if we wanted to meet as a small group to begin developing this idea.

Bob D. – Made a recommendation that the SCW Commission support this effort and that it be a learning document that identifies natural resources and relates them to water and water quality.

Jen S. – In response to Jim M. comments, Jen stated that there is currently a void in the curriculum at the high school level for the ClearWater's Connections program that brings students to Millbrook Marsh. Therefore, there is an opportunity to fill this gap and not duplicate efforts.

Mike S. – Stated that he feels there is a need to improve the marketing aspect as well as a need to help individuals find ways to communicate the importance of water to municipal officials. Indicated that he feels there is a difference between certain municipalities in what's driving their decisions.

Bob V. – Indicated that there is an importance to communicating back to the planning commission, and that the documents should be able to communicate to a bunch of constituents as well as the public at large. There is a need to get people to understand what we are talking about first in order to get them interested enough to care.

Judi S. – Mentioned that bringing in the economics aspect relating it to the value of our watershed is way to get people's interest. Suggested that a small group convene to discuss the issue further, but after the November 19th Commission meeting once the two groups hear from Monica Billig.

Lori D. – Asked if Barbara could inquire as to who is using this Spokane Atlas, and who their target audience is. From this a small list of questions for Barbara to inquire about regarding the document was generated.

Denny H. – What is the cost of producing such a document?

Bob V. – What was the process and procedures used to develop this atlas?

Bob E. – How is this document currently being used?

b.) Discussion of a "Communication Coordinator" position

Denny H. - The Commission has been discussing hiring an individual to take on the secretarial duties currently done by Amy Kerner. Along with that discussion it was suggested to possibly integrate the job description to include aspects of the Association since there is a lot of duplication in duties between the two.

Jen S. – Indicated that she envisioned this position as a way to strengthen the SCW Commission with SCW Association potentially serving in a planning commission role. This position could help start the process of having a staff position that could better take ideas and projects from both groups and work on them. It also helps ClearWater Conservancy better distinguish their role as a stakeholder in the conversation as opposed to the current role that is not always as clear.

Bob D. – Discussed his thoughts on the future role of ClearWater Conservancy in the community, and how ClearWater Conservancy could have an equal staff position on



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water similar to that on the land trust side. The SCWCommission and SCWAssociation holds this role somewhat but the tie back to ClearWater Conservancy is not as evident. This position has the potential to allow for greater coordination between the groups, and there may be a need to expand the position even further to include coordinating events and special programs.

Lori D. – Was asked how many hours she devotes a month to the Association. She stated that she estimates it between 8 – 10 hours, but it may depend on other events and additional group meetings.

Bob E. – Inquired about the cost of this position and who would finance it.

Denny H. – Stated that the Commission agreed to pay for Commission's note taker aspects currently done by Amy Kerner, but not to this Communications Coordinator position as it is currently presented which includes aspects of the Association.

Bob D. – Stated that he approves and supports the idea of Communications Coordinator but that further discussion on the position is needed.

Bob E. – Inquired as to where the current support for the Association is coming from.

Jen S. – Indicated that in its current state it is being supported through the Water Resources Monitoring Project. Stated that this position has the opportunity to help on the capacity level by being more cost efficient as well as effective in our efforts.

Jen S. – Stated that as this position develops there may be a need to get by in from elected officials, and other groups such as ClearWater Conservancy, but that the SCWCommission will also need to evaluate whether they see a benefit to increasing the position's capacity by coordinating efforts between the two groups.

Bill S. – Stated that he supports the Commission financially supporting the Commission aspect of the role, but doesn't know if the Commission would approve additional support of the Association.

Bob V. – Indicated that this is something that Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited would potential support, and that the position could also grow further by including duties and coordinating efforts with the Spring Creek TU chapter.

Dave S. – Remarked that what the group is discussing sounds more closely related to a watershed wide water resources entity with professional staff.

Bob D. – Made a motion to table the discussion and continue discussions on the Coordinator position at a later date.

c.) State and Federal Permitting and the SCWA's Role?

Mike S. – Stated that given the discussions at last month's meeting, he thought it would be beneficial to continue discussion on the permits and codes related to development work, with exploration into what and how much of a role the SCWA can have.

Bob D. – Indicated that at last month's meeting he explained that current Erosion and Sediment Control regulations for development are issued by the state through PA DEP. However, once a property is developed that is when municipal regulations come into play through municipal stormwater regulations.

Unfortunately, due to time constraints discussion on this topic was limited.



d.) College Township, Hilltop Working Group meeting

Jim M. – Reported that a small group met on 30 September where it was decided that Jim M. and Bill S. would approach Adam Brumbaugh with College Township to discuss the SCWA's role in the development of the former Hilltop trailer park. Jim M. reported that the meeting is set for this Thursday (10/23). Mentioned that there was some discussion with Adam about what the township can do and the county levels role in the matter.

4. Partner Updates

Bob V. – Benner Township has proposed changes to its current zoning ordinance. A lot of the changes negatively affect riparian buffers. Spring Creek Chapter of TU is writing a letter to Benner Township asking them to reconsider some of the proposed changes. There will be a discussion on this at the next Benner Township meeting this Thursday (10/23) at 7PM at the Benner Township Municipal Building.

Spring Creek Chapter of TU will be hosting Shannon White on November 6th at their general meeting held at the Comfort Suites Inn at 7:30 PM. Shannon will give a presentation entitled "*Trout are smarter than we think*".

Judi S. – Announced that she has been attending the Parks and Recreation Committee meetings. She recently spoke at the meeting about the importance of no-mow and more vegetation along streams. She sees this as a good opportunity to educate individuals that may be serving in a decision making capacity for townships.

Lori D. – Announced that the Spring Creek Watershed Association's 2013 State of the Water Resources report for the Water Resources Monitoring Project is complete and printed. This year's report focuses on the importance of monitoring nitrate with details on the regulations, sources, and cycle of nitrate in our environment. An electronic copy of the report can be found at <http://springcreekmonitoring.org/documents.html>. Hard copies are available upon request.

5. The remaining meeting for the year will be **18 November**. John Lichman, Executive Director of the State College Borough Water Authority has been invited to speak.

There will be **no meeting** in December due to the holidays.

6. Upcoming Events in the Watershed to look for:

- a.) **FREE Community Workshop for Homeowners on Stormwater Management**
Saturday, October 25th from 9 AM to NOON
Centre Foundation, 1377 Ridgemaster Drive, State College, PA 16803
Register at: <http://bit.ly/StormwaterWorkshop>.
- b.) **Centre County Watershed Summit**
Monday, November 3rd 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM
Nittany Lion Inn, 200 West Park Ave, State College PA, 16803
Register at: <http://aqsci.psu.edu/aec/events/centre-county-watershed-summit>
- c.) **Spring Creek Trout Unlimited Meeting**



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Trout are Smarter than We Think presented by Shannon White

Thursday, November 6th at 7:30 PM

Comfort Suites Inn, 132 Village Drive, State College, PA

d.) **Doug Tallamy – “It’s for the Birds” – Presented by ClearWater Conservancy**

Thursday, November 20th 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Centre County Convention and Visitor Bureau, 800 E. Park Ave, State College PA

More information about this event and registration can be found at

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e9mux5a4287e3328&lr=67nx5fdab>.

e.) **ClearWater Conservancy’s Annual Meeting**

Thursday, November 20th 5:45 PM to 8:45 PM

Ramada State College Hotel and Conference Center, 1450 S. Atherton St. State College, PA 16803

More information on this event and registration can be found at

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07e9usl0eg7162bedc&lr=67nx5fdab>.