



Spring Creek Watershed Association Meeting

November 18th, 2014

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

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

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Lori Davis, Bob Donaldson, Mark Garlicki, Jim Gazza, Todd Giddings, Dave Gilbert, Barbara Fisher, Barbara Newell, Mike Schmidt, Bill Sharp, Jen Shuey, Dave Smith, Dave Swisher, Bob Vierck.

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. 7:35 AM to 8:30 AM: Sustainable Infrastructure, Systems & Community. Your Water... Your Future

John Lichman – Executive Director, State College Borough Water Authority

John described the growth of the SCBWA both past and future. He stated that both metered and residential water consumption has declined since 2003 while population has increased. The SCBWA's average daily withdrawals are 5.0 MGD which makes up approximately 3% of Spring Creek's average daily flow in Milesburg.

The SCBWA has been making improvements to infrastructure to help maintain sustainable growth. It strategically plans and prioritizes areas for infrastructure repairs. The SCBWA has implemented a smart meter system to better manage resources by improving leak management and water quality monitoring. John also discussed the SCBWA efforts to keep the community informed and involved.

His full presentation can be downloaded here:

https://www.dropbox.com/s/p5tyywn536o63w0/SCBWA_John%20Lichman.pdf?dl=0.

3. 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM: Association Business

a. Hilltop rezoning (College Township): continue discussion as appropriate

Judi Sittler – Stated that the group met on November 17th to continue discussions on how the SCWA may play a role in the development of the Hilltop property. Jim May and Bill Sharp who met with Adam Brumbaugh of College Township provided a summary of their meeting to the group.



Dave Smith – Asked why Hilltop was chosen as a focus when there are other areas in the region also under development.

Judi Sittler – Replied that part of it was because of her personal interest, but the other reason was due to the community involvement surrounding the rezoning of the property. The goal was not to specifically target Hilltop but rather use it as an example for future collaboration between the developer, township and SCWA.

Todd Giddings – Reminded everyone of the SCWA’s mission statement and that it states that we are to promote actions that enhance the economy while maintaining and improving the high quality of Spring Creek. Todd stated the importance of Source Water Protection and the overlay zoning.

Bob Donaldson – Stated that the group has not recently found a project to resolve. The group has been interested primarily in stormwater recently. Bob discussed the need to map the natural areas of the watershed which includes recharge areas. These areas should help to reduce the significance of stormwater. This conversation led into the next item on the agenda.

- b. Interests list: generate some thoughts, interests, or topics we may want bring to the table at the upcoming Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting with Monica Billig of the Environmental Finance Center.

Barbara Fisher – Agreed that the mapping and protection of the overlay are both important.

Jim Gazza – Stated that Coca-Cola’s interest has been focused on the Big Spring and therefore State Game Lands 176. The water source of Coca-Cola is Big Spring but they are currently not bottling spring water.

Bill Sharp – Explained the importance of fighting to preserve what we have because once we lose it it’s typically lost forever.

Jim Gazza – Discussed recent Coca-Cola conference he attended where they talked about water scarcity issues rather than water pollution issues which have been the area of focus in the past. As technology advances so should treatment of water.

Bob Donaldson – Discussed the importance of having an inventory of the important resources. Stated that it’s one thing to map the resources but it’s another to go out to the municipalities with this information.

Jen Shuey - Mentioned that a few folks and her submitted a 150 word proposal to the Knight Foundation. Their proposal focused on telling watershed stories as a way to increase community engagement in watershed issues. The proposal was just submitted but it will be some time until they know whether it made it onto the next round. Jen stated that if the proposal is accepted there may be opportunity to form a



working group that could identify watershed stories. She gave the Scotia Barrens as an example.

Bill Sharp – Stated that the vision or the story of the quality of life is not something that is always understood. The State College area needs a definition and it needs to be put together in terms of the watershed. There needs to be a public response in order to become politically significant.

4. Partner Updates

Judi Sittler – Spring Creek TU (SCTU) has just put in a coldwater tank at the State College YMCA, and will be using it as an outreach tool.

Bob Vierck – PA Fish and Boat Commission is going to be holding some fly casting classes. The Benner Township Board of Supervisors has requested that the riparian buffer zoning be reduced in size as to the minimum possible. SCTU provided comments to the proposed buffer changes suggesting that they remain the same. However, it appears that the Supervisors are going to approve the reductions.

Bill Sharp – Garden Starters have installed a triple rain barrel. The cost of the barrel was covered by Transition Towns. Garden season has officially come to an end.

Barbara Newell - Barbara stated that she attended the recent Watershed Summit held at the Nittany Lion Inn. There was talk of planning advanced meetings. Also discussed at the meeting was a process to have a central bank of volunteers.

Jim Gazza – Coca-Cola use to let Bellefonte and Milesburg Borough use their leak detection equipment but they have now purchased equipment for both Boroughs so that they may permanently have their own.

5. **There are no remaining meeting dates for 2014.** The next meeting will be on January 20th 2015. Cory Miller with University Area Joint Authority will be speaking to the group about a US EPA Water Conservation Plan for the Spring Creek Watershed Association. More details about this presentation to follow.