



Spring Creek Watershed Association Meeting

January 20th, 2015

7:30 AM to 9:30 AM

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

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Paul Bartley, Bob Carline, Rob Cooper, Lori Davis, Bob Donaldson, Ann Donovan, Bob Eberhart, Dave Gilbert, Larry Fennessey, Barbara Fisher, Tom Hollerman, Cory Miller, Barbara Newell, Autumn Radle, Mike Schmidt, Bill Sharp, Jen Shuey, Judi Sittler, Dave Smith, Dave Swisher, Bob Vierck.

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. 7:35 AM to 8:30 AM: *Water Conservation: EPA's Water Conservation Plan Guidelines*
Cory Miller – Executive Director, University Area Joint Authority

His full presentation can be viewed here: http://youtu.be/y_k3Lc4HwBI

The discussion that followed his presentation can be viewed here: <http://youtu.be/UTh-LESIpM4>

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

a. Proposed 2015 Speaker Invites

Judi Sittler – Distributed the proposed speaker list for 2015 that was developed by Bill Sharp, Barbara Fisher, and Lori Davis. Judi then asked if anyone had any additional ideas.

Bob Donaldson – Suggested that we invite individuals from the Public Service and Environment Committee, the Chamber of Business and Industry (CBICC) and the Centre Region Planning Agency (CRPA) to a meeting in the near future to learn more about the interest of these groups to develop a water conservation plan and implement it.

Paul Bartley – Suggested that given today's presentation and the proposed plan for the future that it may be beneficial to select from the list speakers that relate specifically to water resources such as Rob Cooper or someone at Penn State.

Bob Donaldson – Added to Paul's suggestion that he was also be interested in hearing from Rob Cooper or someone at Penn State about the mapping of impervious surfaces that is going on. Also added that he would be interested in



hearing from Katie Ombalski at ClearWater Conservancy about the Riparian Conservation Program.

Barbara Newell – Commented that she is interested in hearing from the Chesapeake Bay Program but would be interested in hearing them talk on their take of Source Water Protection Plans.

Bill Sharp – Added that he would like to hear from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission.

Judi Sittler – Commented that a presentation by Jim Coslo with the Centre County Conservation District may also be useful. Jim met with a small group of the SCWAsso. to discuss Erosion and Sediment Control permitting and the information that he provided was very informative.

Mike Schmidt – Suggested that inviting someone in to discuss communication styles and how to communicate science into society would be useful.

- b. Monica Billig's involvement with the SCWComm – update and discussion on the SCWAssociation's involvement

Judi Sittler – Passed around a summary that was provided by Monica Billig regarding the discussion that took place on November 19th Spring Creek Watershed Commission meeting. The plan is that Monica will be coming back in to speak to the Commission again in February.

Bob Donaldson – Stated that he had made a suggestion of mapping the natural areas at the meeting with Monica. Also stated that the relevance or need for stormwater management was questioned at the same meeting, and thought that it was something that the Commission would have to address.

Barbara Fisher – Added that she feels that Monica is the help that we need from the outside in order to get focused.

Larry Fennessey – Stated in response to Bob Donaldson's comments that the recharge areas for Penn State are mapped but that it took a lot science, and a common challenge with volunteer groups when taking on this type of project is that there are sometimes personality conflicts and that needs to be identified. He indicated that a consultant could be hired to do the work but that they are expensive.

Rob Cooper – Followed up Larry Fennessey's comments by stating that Penn State even has difficulty convincing Penn State individuals of the importance to not developing certain areas and that's with lots of data and information that Penn State has gathered to support this. Therefore it might be even more difficult to convince the community at large.



Larry Fennessey – Indicated that personality difference may have stopped the effort to map these lands in the past, but that regardless these kind of maps may serve better as an educational tool because it may prove difficult to get the community and individuals to stop doing things on their land just because certain areas have been identified as critical.

4. Partner Updates

Bob Donaldson – Benner Township has agreed to conduct a Phase 1 archaeological evaluation of the parking lot and trail which will run from Rock Road to Shiloh Road. The cost will be provided by ClearWater Conservancy through funds given by Don Hamer.

Judi Sittler – The Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited has two successful programs going on: one is a coldwater tank at the State College YMCA that is attracting people of all ages, the second is their Veterans program which takes place at Fishermans' Paradise.

Bill Sharp – Garden Starters is already thinking about its new season, and this year will be the 5th year at Millbrook Marsh. Garden Starters is trying to establish a better relationship with the Houserville community. Bill reported that he will be representing College Township again this year on the Spring Creek Watershed Commission. Bill reminded everyone that last year Transitions Centre put out a sustainability plan draft last year.

Barbara Fisher – Wanted to draw a correlation between the Spring Creek Watershed Association and an aquarium in that we are the environment to help people create.

Jennifer Shuey – ClearWater Conservancy's Riparian Conservation Program is planning for this year's growing season. Chris Hennessey is leading a hike this Saturday at Musser Gap, the hike will extend onto the newly acquired Hale Property which is now a part of Rothrock State Forest. ClearWater Conservancy has help secure the Decker estate property in Centre Hall and the Bureau of Forestry is now going to purchase the property which will then become part of Bald Eagle State Forest. This year's For the Love of Art of Chocolate will be held on February 6th and you can still register for the event by calling ClearWater Conservancy. However, if you are unable to attend but would like to support ClearWater you can purchase a raffle ticket for a Jennifer Kane painting which she did of Chicory Lane Farm. This painting is valued at \$2,500 and raffle tickets are \$10.

Lori Davis – Initial planning for Watershed Cleanup Day has begun. This year's event will mark the 19th year and will be held on April 25th, 2015.

Autumn Radle – Reported that she is serving as a CRPA representative to Ferguson Township. She is currently look for input and information on well head protection, and asked that people contact her for input. She is also starting an educational program and asked if anyone has any input for topics that should be discussed.

Mike Schmidt – Reported that he is trying to recruit new members from businesses. In his initial interactions with them they had not heard about the watershed association. They



seemed interested in the association so hopefully they will be available to attend an upcoming meeting.

Ann Donovan – Centre County Conservation District received \$500,00 for an agricultural BMP Implementation Project, Penns Valley Conservation Association received \$42,000 for an educational and community outreach program in upper Penns Creek, and 1 million dollars was received to work on an AMD project on Contrary Run from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

5. The next meeting will be on February 17th 2015 at 7:30 AM at the Patton Township Municipal Building.