



## SPRING CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

*A grassroots stakeholder initiative*

### **Spring Creek Watershed Association Meeting**

June 16, 2015

7:30 A.M. to 9:30 a.m.

Patton Township Municipal Building

100 Patton Place, State College. PA 16803

#### Notes

Attendees: Bob Donaldson, Judi Sittler, Barbara Fisher, Bob Vierck, Bill Sharp, Paul Bartley, Andrea Ferich, Autumn Radle, Ann Donovan, Mike Schmidt, Barbara Newell, Cory Miller and Bob Eberhart

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

#### 2. "The Penns Valley Conservation Association, by Andrea Ferich. Executive Director

The Mission of the Penns Creek Conservation Association (PCVA), is to serve as a steward for the natural and cultural communities of the Upper Penns Creek watershed. The population of the area is made up of about 1/3 Amish families, about 1/3 non-Amish families that have been in the area for 100 years or more and 1/3 of families that have moved into the area since 1970. PVCA has about 250 member families.

The PVCA has 5 Strategic Goals: a) to create an educated and inspired community that supports PVCA's mission and vision; b) to have local, county and state elected and appointed officials supporting PVCA's mission and goals; c) to maintain drinkable, fishable, and swimmable quality water in surface and groundwater sources; d) to encourage support for local businesses and small farms that result in job creation with environmentally sound practices; and e) to foster stronger organizational development.

Current projects include efforts to prevent erosion of stream banks, planting trees and shrubs along streams, improving fish habitat, encouraging use of agricultural Best Management Practices, and providing educational programs for young people. To date, the PVCA has raised about \$1.4 million dollars in support of its programs.

PVCA has an Upper Penns Creek Watershed Monitoring program that regularly assesses water quality.

PCVA frequently partners with the Shavers Creek Environmental Center.

Several members of the audience commented that the PVCA is a very active and effective organization. Ms. Ferich agreed with that and said that some of its committees are well organized and have well qualified members. She also noted that there is a strong sense of community and a high level of commitment among the general membership.

### 3. Association Business

#### a. EPA's Water Conservation Plan for the Spring Creek Watershed.

Cory Miller explained how a discussion among some members of the business community and UAJA about whether sewage bills should be based on 1) the actual volume of sewage generated by a residence or facility (volumetric billing) or 2) be a flat rate, had led to the suggestion that someone should develop a Water Conservation Plan for the Spring Creek Watershed as recommended by EPA.

The discussion centered on whether the SCWA should consider undertaking the development of such a plan. The general feeling was that the Association does not have the resources to undertake such a plan and that there might be great difficulty in getting all of the municipalities that are part of the Watershed to participate. There was some feeling that the Spring Creek Watershed Commission would be better positioned to undertake such a project.

#### b. Mapping of the Spring Creek Watershed

Barbara Fisher reported on a meeting of the Mapping Group held on June 1 to define the basic concept of the Mapping Project. The intent is to prepare a series of maps showing the natural features of the watershed that affect its water resources.

After this introduction, Bob Donaldson agreed to lead the project. He said that the goal is to produce a series of maps, or an Atlas, showing important natural areas. The maps are to be educational and useful to elected officials, planners, students and the general public. An Atlas from the Spokane, Washington area may be a useful model. Examples of areas that might be mapped and included in the Spring Creek Atlas are the Scotia Barrens and the Millbrook Marsh.

SCWA Chair Judi Sittler emphasized that a more detailed and better thought out proposal will be needed before the Association can formally adopt it or before it can

be formally recommended to the Spring Creek Watershed Commission if that seems desirable.

It was agreed that an additional meeting of the Mapping Group should be held and a more detailed proposal presented to the July meeting of the SCWA. Individuals who indicated interest in meeting with the Mapping Group are Bob Donaldson, Autumn Radle, Bill Sharp, Barbara Fisher, Todd Giddings, Bob Vierck, Barbara Newell and Bob Eberhart.

The next meeting of the Association will be held on July 21 at 7:30 a.m. in the Patton Township Municipal Building. This will be a business meeting focusing on Association affairs. No educational speaker is scheduled.