



September 23, 2014, 10am - noon
 New Garden Township Building, 299 Starr Road, Landenberg, PA 19350

Attendees:

Shane Morgan	Kyle Sonnenberg	Jane Waggoner	Marion Waggoner
Rick Mickowski	David Hawk	Seung Ah Byun	Beth Burnam
Kristen Travers	Erin McCormick	Jake Michael	John Goodall
Martha Narvaez	Doug Janiec	Ed O'Donnell	Don Peters
April Schmitt	Tom Hubbard	Julie Bell	Aileen Parrish
Phil Geoghegan	Randy Waltermeyer	Jenny Egan	Al Wright
Adam Mowery	Mike Zuk	Linda Stapleford	

Approval of June Minutes

Announcements

Tricentennial Celebration, New Garden Park, September 27, noon-4pm
 *Curtis Mill Park, Newark, DE Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Oct 17, 11am
 Delaware River Watershed Forum, October 21 & 22, Bethlehem, PA
 White Clay Watershed Association Annual Meeting, October 22, New Garden Township Building, 7-9 pm
 Local plants - fall program, hosted by April Schmitt (Friends of the WCC Preserve PA) Saturday October 25, 1-3pm, meet at PA Preserve Office (rain date Oct 26)
 Additional announcements: AWRA-WRA joint estuary program on November 12th, WRA scavenger hunt, and SER mid-Atlantic chapter to host March 2015 conference at University of Delaware.

*Shane will contact Doug J., Linda S., and Jenny E. about representing the Wild & Scenic Program at the October 17 ribbon cutting in Newark as she gets more information from the City about the event.

Financial Report(s)

No questions received about the third Quarter 2014 statement of financials.
 Shane noted that the 2014 Budget was approved but was reduced by \$4000 for a total final 2014 budget of \$95,000. To compensate for this Shane worked with David Steckel to release the open space funds from the 'old' WCWA agreement so that NLT would not have to re-budget thereby keeping all open space funds in the separate NLT Cooperative Agreement which would simplifying budget tracking.

Shane also noted that with the close out of the old contract agreement NPS is requiring a close out report be submitted within 90 days. This will include a comprehensive list of accomplishments with Wild and Scenic funding for the past 6 years (2008-July 2014). It was requested that we start planning now for the 2015 Budget so we can be more proactive with our money and spend it down during the specified contract agreement terms.

New Business

John Goodall of the Brandywine Conservancy presented a proposal for a (900 cow) heifer farm located in London Grove Township just below Chatham Acres along the west fork of the East Branch. The farmer is looking for funding to upgrade his facilities. Calves are raised to maturity before reaching the milking stage when they are shipped to a different location. The farmer would like to upgrade the manure lagoon to today's standards. The new lagoon would have the capacity to hold 6 months containment during the winter months as opposed to three months. The new lagoon would have a concrete liner as opposed to clay, and a new safety fence with leak detection line would be installed. The farmer applied for ~\$300,000 in EQUIP funding for multiple farming operations and received funding for all projects with the exception of the lagoon in the amount of \$62,000. The new lagoon would help mitigate nitrates and cryptosporidium from reaching the creek especially during flood events and strong storms. Stroud is considering setting up a monitoring station to see how well the BMP is working. Furthermore, this is a prominent farmer in the area and his willingness to do conservation projects has prompted other farmers in the area to take more of an interest. Kyle S. made a motion to reserve up to \$9,000 of restoration funding for this project. This was seconded by Jenny E. Tom H. mentioned that he was not aware of this project until this meeting and that United Water would likely support it.

**note Brandywine Conservancy was notified after the meeting that United Water has agreed to fund the additional amount of \$10,000 needed to complete this project.*

Mike Zuk and Adam Mowery of the Chester County Conservation District (CCCD) presented a proposal to upgrade a seven acre heifer farm in Franklin Township along an unnamed tributary to the Middle Branch. The location houses 40 young heifers, brought to this farm after birth, and raised until about 6 months of age when they are transferred to his other farm until about 13 months old, and then sent to Glenville Farm. Currently the farm lacks a riparian buffer and the calves access the stream directly for drinking. The farm is on a 20-30% slope. The farmer is working with the CCCD to fence out access to the majority of the stream and limit the calves to just one stream access for drinking in emergency situations. Furthermore, all rainwater from the facilities on site will be captured and piped away from the manure paddock. The pipe outlet will be 50' away from the stream. The site receives storm water from a development up slope which will be redirected by regrading the existing site with a level spreader and sending the water to pasture in a less concentrated volume. Fencing will also be put in place for rotating grazing with conditions and a stabilized walkway will be put in place. The set back for the riparian buffer is 35'. A permit from DEP is needed for the stream access. If a joint permit is triggered then NPS will have to review. The opening will only be about 10'

wide to get on bank of stream and the calves will not be able to go up or down the stream. Aileen asked why no dry wells were being used. Adam said they were balancing the needs of the farmer and that this would have added costs. Doug mentioned that there may be bog turtle habitat in some of the wetter, muckier areas by the stream. Adam mentioned a PNDI search would likely be required to determine whether there are any threatened or endangered species located at or around the construction site, like the bog turtle. It was also noted that we already have a good relationship with this farmer and this can affect water quality down stream by putting future pressure on other farmers. United Water and City of Newark are supportive of the project and will be contributing a combined amount of \$6000. Adam requested that the WCWSSC put the \$3,082 we had formerly pledged for a CCCD project that did not receive additional grant funding towards this project that is shovel ready. Kyle S. made a motion to use the \$3082 released from the original CCCD project that did not get the additional grant funding, and make it available for this new project. Linda S. seconded it.

Jake M. from Chester County Planning Commission (CCPC) proposed that the Committee consider promoting a Model Natural Resources Ordinance for Pennsylvania municipalities in the White Clay watershed. The Planning Commission has completed a natural resource ordinance review and will compose a letter specific to each municipality making them aware of gaps in their current ordinances. This letter can be put on Wild and Scenic letterhead and distributed to the municipalities. Attached endorsements could be sought from organizations such as Stroud, Brandywine Conservancy, and Natural Lands Trust to draw more municipal interest. The letter could also include an invitation to a workshop hosted by Wild and Scenic and led by CCPC. Municipalities could take advantage of CCPC funds available from its Vision Partnership Program to improve these ordinances. Further discussion is needed to coordinate these efforts. Jake will send a copy of the model ordinance to Shane to send out to the Committee for review and comment before sending it out to the municipalities. Based on responses to the ordinance, Shane will set up a meeting with the interested parties to decide how to proceed with this initiative.

Jake M. also presented a Riparian Buffer Gap Analysis Proposal to the Committee. Jake noted that the CCPC has GIS layers for all of Chester County. He proposed that we use this technology to locate gaps in interior forest (~200' in size) and put together a list of priority sites in the White Clay municipalities, and put together a letter/map with these priorities listed, along with a Treevitalize grant application. The idea is that we would be simplifying the process of locating sites and sourcing funding for tree planting projects by giving the municipalities the means to act right away. Jake noted that if we could do this for the White Clay, it could be done for the entire county, thereby getting more projects in the ground. John G. mentioned that voluntary efforts by landowners can activate other more reluctant landowners to act. Shane mentioned that it may be easiest to start with publicly owned land versus private landowners. Shane reminded the Committee that we do have the White Clay Reforestation Plan, which is full of maps and a detailed analysis that could be used to help with the prioritization. Randy (CCPC) noted that the Reforestation Plan is accessible online, but the maps are not. Shane will work on getting these maps online. The Committee decided that in order to not

duplicate existing efforts, the open space committee should meet with CCPC, and invite Stroud and other interested parties to attend and discuss how we can all work together to make this happen. Shane will set this up prior to the December Steering Committee meeting.

Administrative Business

Shane noted that only four Committee members responded to the 'wish list' she sent out twice before the meeting. The list was meant to help her draw conclusions on where the Committee would like to go in the next 5 years, and what initiatives to focus on. The only conclusion she can draw from the (lack of) responses is that maybe we don't want to do anymore than we are currently doing? She noted that we need to be more proactive with planning in order to satisfy the new NPS budget guidelines. In contrast to that survey, 26 people took the time to fill out the staff evaluation survey that went out. The feedback from that survey will be used to make managerial improvements in the coming year. She is meeting with the co-chairs in the coming weeks to go over the feedback and will report back at the next meeting. Shane also mentioned she will be sending out some more surveys to gather additional information about new and existing committee members to address what each member can do to serve the committee more effectively (i.e. how much time you can give, what specific expertise do you bring, how would you like to be used to help implement the management plan, what is your background, you interest in the White Clay, what municipality do you reside in.)

Shane mentioned that she is working with the WRA on the 15 year update which is also coinciding with the 5 year close out report required by NPS. It may make sense to review the Watershed Management Plan and determine if it should be updated. The update could be as simple as updated maps, municipal codes, listing of accomplishments over past 15 years, and updated photos. Shane mentioned it would be nice to have a digital form of all of this housed online. It could also be used to remind the municipalities of what we've been doing the past 15 years and reignite their involvement. Julie noted that any changes made to the scope of work set forth in the original management plan would need the approval and signatures of all original signatories.

Subcommittee Reports

Education/Outreach

Kristen updated the group on the progress of the Christina Basin Education Group. This past summer we worked with a group of high school students to produce a video to be distributed through out the Christina Basin, much like the videos being produced by the Chesapeake Bay Network. The video was played for the Committee. It was also sent out in the latest edition of the New Garden e-newsletter. We will be working with the same students to produce a series of related videos throughout the year.

The City of Newark was certified as the 78th city in the US to become a Community Wildlife Habitat. This was a project that the Wild and Scenic Committee supported over

the past 4 years and the main goal is to increase awareness about the benefits of native plants for wildlife and water quality.

Research and Restoration

Jenny E. presented some of the raw data from the water quality monitoring we helped with over the past three summers. It is clear that there are high levels of bacteria present at most of the sites that were sampled. What's still unclear is the cause. The next step is to do some PCR analysis of samples to try to determine the source. This was supposed to start this past summer with DEP, but their new lab was not accepting samples yet. Jenny would like to analyze the data and present it to municipalities. The data will need to be explained and not just sent out to them to decipher. It was suggested that we invite landowners who live near bacteria spikes to come and learn more about the health issues associated with bacteria spikes and educate them on practices that could help improve water quality.

Shane noted that the WRA interns are working on mapping where our existing watershed signage is and taking a photo inventory to prioritize signs that will need replacing.

Shane mentioned that the Restoration Committee is working to find projects in Delaware that could be funded by the Watershed Restoration Fund. Doug J. is speaking with DNREC to determine potential projects. To date we have accumulated \$16,000 over just 3 years, \$6000 of which was spent on the mussel surveys and trans-location.

There was no new information to report on the Source Water Alert System proposed by Jerry, or the Dam Removal. The Dam is still expected to be removed this fall as, all the needed signatures have been acquired.

Open Space (Land Preservation and Recreation)

Jake M. noted that the Chester County Natural Heritage Inventory/Mapping GIS layers should be in by October. Jake will be working on how to share them as they will be huge files. Jake also noted that the Natural Resources Ordinance Review conducted by the Planning Commission is complete and in draft form. He is waiting for the final approval before sending them out to us.

Erin M. stated that Natural Lands Trust is actively working on a property in Franklin Township. There is an appraisal in process on the 82 acre property next to the Franklin Preserve. Phil G. noted that Franklin Township consists of 25% preserved open space.

There were no new reforestation updates to report on.

Management Plan Coordinator Report (Shane Morgan)

- E. coli and Fecal coliform samples were collected at 10 sites through out the summer by our intern. Shane is still awaiting field sheets for 3 days and the graphs before releasing a monetary performance based award approved by the

Education Subcommittee for Katie's contribution to the White Clay. Katie is using what she learned this summer to lead a stream study with WCU students on Oct. 11.

- Shane worked with UD professor Luc Claessens to add a field component to his Geography 235 Conservation of Natural Resources undergraduate class for both majors and non-majors. The goal was for students to gain local field experience related to Conservation of Natural Resources. Each student participated in a hands-on conservation activity with the White Clay Wild and Scenic Program. 45 students were involved in four different projects during the month of September, including and enhancement projects at Swift Park vegetated swales, Goddard Park rain gardens, the storm water basins at the Hunt, and the habitat restoration in Landenberg (summarized below).
- On September 4, 8 UD students *prepped and planted 8 flats (400 plants) at Swift Park vegetated swales. The plants were paid for by New Castle County (\$400).*
- On September 6, the rain basins at Goddard Park in London Grove Township were weeded by 10 supervised UD students.
- On September 13th, 47 volunteers came out to help plant 1,500 plugs, and 20 trees and shrubs at the former Hendrickson Property now known as the Landenberg Junction Trail-head. The area was seeded with a native wildflower mix as well, and volunteers helped to weed out existing invasive species. This project did not use any Wild and Scenic funds, instead New Garden Township had a \$10,000 grant from PECO to help pay for the site clean up, prep, and materials. Don Peters was in charge of the planning.
- On September 17, 45 volunteers, mainly from Bank of America, UD students, a few master gardeners plus the Mayor of Newark, planted 28 flats of perennials paid for by United Water (~\$1000). (Note 9 of the 28 flats were donated by North Creek Nurseries). Six pounds of native seed mix (paid for with W&S funds) were spread in specific areas of the basins, and all three basins were weeded. Volunteers learned about best management strategies when dealing with invasive species as well as the benefits of using native plants. It was suggested that we get the basins certified as monarch way stations.
- Shane provided handouts and presented on two restoration sites in the White Clay to 42 attendees on the Annual Christina Basin Bus Tour on September 5; the storm water basin retrofits in Newark, and the vegetated swales in Hockessin.
- New Garden Park Growing Greener Grant - Shane just received the RFP feedback from New Garden Township solicitor. She will be revising the wording to meet the township's conditions regarding the hold harmless and insurance provisions and will send out the revised RFP by Oct. 1
- In July, Claudia and Shane presented a similar workshop to London Grove Township, that they presented to New Castle County employees last year entitled 'vegetated solutions to stormwater management'. 15 people attended including local developers, engineers, HOA's and the landscape contractor for the Township's golf course. Feedback was good, with two HOA's contacting Shane for assistance. It was suggested that we add an engineering component

to the talk. Interpretive signage for the Rain Gardens was delivered and provided by (DNREC) but has not been installed as of yet.

- Shane noted that the 2nd quarterly issue of the New Garden Township E-newsletter is going out today. To date there are 375 subscribers. Each issue will include a section on water, as noted earlier this issue includes the video made by the Education Subcommittee.
- Shane noted that no permit application has been submitted to date regarding the proposed Artesian Well on Broad Run. Jane Waggoner added that they are currently speaking with Mushroom Farmers to get them to write to DEP. She also noted that Senator Andy Dinniman will be coming to New Garden Township on October 13 to host a town hall meeting (on several topics including the Artesian Well).
- It was brought to Shane's attention that there are some Hockessin Wells under investigation for probably PCE contamination. The official contact at DNREC is Bob Arseen. Shane spoke to him and learned that the extent of the impact to the groundwater is not know as it is still under study. However, the soil studies have been completed and a draft proposal for soil remediation was submitted. It doesn't appear to be a release from current owner, but rather an historic release as there has been a dry cleaner at that site since the mid 80's. Prior to the 90's dry cleaner sites did not need permits and had no reporting requirements now they have to report to DNREC. The contamination was discovered due to reporting requirements (put in place in 2013) that require private consultants who find concentrations higher than reporting concentrations to send these findings to and consult with DNREC. The property was being appraised for a refinance loan and the bank required a phase 2 environmental assessment due to the historical presence of a dry cleaner on site. The owner of the Shoppes at Hockessin hired Duffield to conduct the environmental studies and entered into a voluntary clean up program with DNREC to try to do some interim remediation in an attempt to reduce concentrations in the soil and groundwater. I indicated our concern with the pollutant reaching the Cockeysville and contaminating drinking water. Mr. Arseen noted that they are aware of this concern, as well as Artesian, and that Artesian is required to provide drinking water at drinking water standards, and is taking precautions. Some of the wells are already undergoing treatment. He noted that the larger problem is with private well owners since they are not regulated. DNREC is working with Artesian to determine where these wells may be located. The good news is that there doesn't seem to be many of them. Shane asked Mr. Arseen to keep her posted on the situation and will check back with him at a later date.
- The Wild and Scenic Program had a table at Newark Community Day and had a great turnout with some very interested citizens. Shane thanked Tom Z. and Jenny for helping out that day.
- Shane reminded everyone that the annual Creek Fest is scheduled for May 2, 2015. She asked if anyone knew of a company or organization that may be interested in sponsoring or donating to Creek Fest to please let her know.

- Julie noted that the metrobusiness park is off the table and that the Fusco property just north of it conserved some land for spotted turtle habitat.
- Julie noted that there will be an overnight Northeast Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers meeting on the 11th and 12th of November that Shane will be attending [Meeting dates have since change to Sunday, November 9, and Monday, November 10]. The topic is strategies for budgeting and funding and the NE Regional Director, Mike Caldwell, as well as Bob Ratcliffe, Chief of Recreation and Conservation in Washington, DC will be present. Director's Order 46 will also be discussed, as the wording has been updated. The meeting will be held in New Jersey at the Musconetcong LEED certified facility.
- Julie noted there are some projects that NPS has been involved in as outgrowths from Section 7 and Section 10 reviews. These include a possible stream restoration project along Jenny's Run in Newark (Pine Brook Apartment Complex), the Creek Road embankment in Franklin Township. There are a few ongoing Section 7 reviews such as culvert replacements in Delaware, mainly Old Lancaster Pike and Mill Creek.
- Julie also noted that the installation of new gas pipeline and excavation of old pipeline could pose future problems in the White Clay. According to law the condition of natural gas transmission pipelines needs to be re-assessed every seven to ten years for safety. Excavation for visual inspections may be required on some sections of pipe. This could involve stream crossings and the law does not address environmentally sensitive areas.