



December 9, 2014, 1pm - 3:30pm
 New Garden Township Building, 299 Starr Road, Landenberg, PA 19350

Attendees:

Erin McCormick	April Schmitt	Ed O'Donnell	Doug Janiec	David Hawk
Tom Coleman	Tom Hubbard	Chotty Sprengle	Kristen Travers	Martin Wells
John Goodall	Rick Mickowski	Don Peters	Martha Narvaez	Seung Ah Byun
Phil Goegeghan	Kyle Sonnenberg	Shane Morgan	Jerry Kaufman	Jeff Buler

Approval of September Minutes

Announcements

2015 Delaware Estuary Science & Environmental Summit, Cape May, NJ January 25-28
 2015 SER Mid-Atlantic Conference, Clayton Hall, UD, March 26-28.

Financial Report(s)

Fourth Quarter 2014 Statement of Financials

Shane noted that Ray Bivens (Director of Delaware State Parks), Sue Staats (Superintendent WCCSP) and Rob Line (DNREC) were contacted about the available White Clay Restoration Funds (\$10,868.11). Doug J. also spoke with Rob Line who indicated that they would be submitting proposals for potential projects in the near future.

2015 Budget Planning/Proposals

Shane mentioned some potential projects to consider for the budget discussion which included future watershed signage and updated trail maps. She noted the WRA interns were in the process of contacting DelDOT and PennDOT for current signage standards and have located 17 of the existing 20 signs. Shane will resend the list of locations to the committee to see if they can help locate the missing signs. Existing signs have been ranked for replacement needs and based on our old records the cost for each replacement sign would be around \$100/each (less if we buy in bulk). Now that we have our updated logo we can move forward with updating the signs.

Shane also mentioned that we are almost out of the popular White Clay Creek Trail Guide produced in 2009. She indicated that in 2009 the costs to design this trail guide were around \$14,000. This is the most popular item at our outreach events largely because of the trails what is nice about it is that it also includes information on the Wild and Scenic Program and people tend to hand on to trail maps. She will speak with Jake Michael about potentially creating a newer updated trail map including not only the bi-state preserve and state park

trails but also existing township trails. Shane also mentioned that Jake took a different position at the Planning Commission which would impact his ability to serve on the Steering Committee. He will be doing more with trails so this could be one way he could remain involved with the White Clay.

The Management Plan is also in need of an update. This is something that could be coupled with the work that WRA is doing on the 15 year report card. It could be as simple as updating the maps and the current township ordinances or we could couple it with a more comprehensive review of the existing plan and a comprehensive list of accomplishments to date. This would take the time and commitment of the entire Steering Committee. It still needs to be determined whether this is a worthwhile pursuit given the existing financial and time constraints. The Farmington Wild and Scenic River spent ~\$10,000 for the design and printing of 200 color copies of their management plan update.

Shane asked the Committee to start developing their preliminary budget proposals to discuss in more detail at next quarterly meeting which will be devoted to the budget. Each subcommittee should come with an idea of what they want to achieve and how much they need to do it. We currently do not have our fiscal 2015 budget from NPS so proposals should be based on current funding levels and may need to be scaled back if we receive less funding. The budgets for each committee could be set for goals we want to achieve over a 3 year period and then costs associated for each item. Then we can adjust our key strategies based on the allotted NPS budget once known.

Administrative Business/Discussion

Shane went over some of the feedback from her staff evaluation sent out in September. She received 26 responses. The results can be viewed on survey monkey at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-MC2JTPVL/> She met separately with the three cochairs to discuss the feedback and to also give her feedback on the Program from her perspective. It was evident from the survey that public outreach and communication was viewed as a primary strength of Shane's and something that the Committee values. One comment she received included creating a clearer outline of the work --goals, strategies, tasks with more specific roles for the executive committee members explicitly identified. Shane agreed with the overall assessment as she enjoys the outreach and also feels the need to set clearer goals and use the Committee to accomplish more. Shane will create a survey to send out to the Committee members to determine how she can use them more to implement the Wild and Scenic mission and to learn more about how they see their role on the Committee and what capacity they would like to be used.

Shane also was interested in some of the comments regarding the steering committee meetings. She received one comment in particular about making the meetings more for decision making. Shane indicated that she felt that decision making was largely done on the Subcommittee level and that her view of the Steering Committee Meetings were mainly for information sharing and discussion of larger watershed issues (such as Artesian) Moving forward she is going to try to make it clear prior to the meeting whether a discussion or vote is needed on any agenda item. She also indicated it is difficult to accomplish much during a quarterly meeting and that we could meet more often, but that would be difficult for all the

working professionals on the committee. It was decided that allowing more time for the quarterly meetings may be the best solution. Shane indicated that she would like to keep the meetings to two hours whenever possible but that she will allow for 2.5 hours moving forward.

Shane then shared her perspective on the Wild and Scenic program with the Committee. She noted that there is a lot of work to do for one part time staff. She also revealed that she puts in on average 24 hours/week. This adds up to 230 hours of additional service per year that she is not compensated for.

Kyle added that any extra time spend on the W&S program also takes away from her landscaping business which pays better than her staff position. These and other concerns were discussed with the cochairs when they met in October and it was decided that Shane should discuss this with the Committee. Some other suggestions that came out of this meeting to reduce her burden were to look for more ways to get the Committee to help more or to try to hire more outside consultants to help with some of the reporting, budgeting, admin tasks that largely go unnoticed but need to get done. Shane indicated that this is difficult to do given that she is the sole person who knows what is going on day to day, and it inevitably takes more time just to train someone or provide them with the information they need to complete the service they were hired for, but she indicated that she would look for ways to do this. Another suggestion was to bounce projects off the cochairs before saying yes, or cut back on some of the project implementation and outreach activities which take up a large chunk of time but are outside of the realm of the administrative tasks for which she was hired. Shane also expressed that there isn't much money in the budget to cover additional staff hours and that any money put towards this would take money away from other projects.

Doug J. commented that the Committee should be willing to pay for my additional hours given that Shane is the central person pushing projects forward and doing the outreach. That funding for projects could come from other sources such as grants. Several members concurred. It was suggested that I discuss this further with NPS and see if there is any limitation on how much funding can go towards staff and if so if there was a way to lift these limitations. Other options were presented such as writing Shane into grants as admin to pay for some of her hours. Tom Coleman mentioned there may be a way to raise revenue by creating a buy in letter requesting a financial donation from watershed municipalities.

Shane indicated that a primary weakness of the program (as indicated in the strategic planning document from 2012) was our sole reliance on one stream of funding. Shane discussed some of what she learned at the November PWSR meeting. Specifically the budget discussion. NPS is aiming for \$175,000 for each existing PWSR. Half of this goes to NPS northeastern regional offices and the Washington office, leaving us with ~\$85,000 annual budget. If we keep with our usually 40% to the NLT agreement we are left with ~\$51,000 for admin expenses including insurance, wra contracts, my salary, restoration and education. This is less than our current years funding. Shane believes in order to sustain this program we need to generate more funding avenues and she suggested some ideas such as reinvigorating the watershed association or housing the program in a more established non-profit. She feels that we need to create more membership opportunities within our

watershed to increase outreach and participation and knowledge of our program as well as raise more funding for admin and projects.

Some options that need to be vetted by the Committee include:

- Do nothing - less projects, less outreach, more commitment from members

- Put more money into Admin to pay for all of Shane's hours and try to get outside funding for projects.

- Try to invigorate and rebuild WCWA -time and energy- established for 50 years with very little growth, original mission to oppose the Wedgewood Dam no clear mission now, demographics largely homogeneous and skewed towards older generation, largely inactive with the exception of all the (highly valued and at no cost) work David Hawk puts in.

- House W&S program in a different established nonprofit that has in house staff and expertise in membership drives and fundraising: BVA/RCVA, PDE, BC others?

Don Peters suggested we hold a separate meeting to vet some of these issues.

John Goodall requested that Shane put together a list of options to consider and mail it out to the Committee prior to the meeting. Multiple scenarios should be listed with associated costs including what sacrifices would need to be made. The Committee will need to come prepared to discuss them in detail and determine the future direction of the program.

Shane will circulate a list of potential options and set up this meeting for early next year.

Kyle made a motion to conclude this conversation and revisit it at a separate meeting dedicated to this topic alone. This motion was seconded by Don Peters.

Action Items:

It was determined that based on the uncertainty of how we want to see this program move forward it would not be a good use of Shane's time to take the Nonprofit Management Certificate Course at the present time. This course is offered every Spring.

Shane proposed hiring a Quickbooks consultant to streamline budget reporting and tracking using existing 13-14 admin operating expenses. She still needs to get some proposals for this work but asked that she be allowed to use any existing 13-14 admin operating expense funds to move forward. When she has a cost estimate she will circulate to the committee for final approval. **The request was supported by the Committee.**

Shane proposed we move the Wild and Scenic budget line for signage and guides from Restoration to Education. She indicated that no funds would be reallocated to a different cost category so this was a simple matter of putting it under the most appropriate budget line. **The request was approved by the Committee.**

Shane briefly reviewed the need to create our own BMP signage. She mentioned how the Goddard Rain Garden sign provided by DNREC and Rain Gardens for the Bay does not suit the site. It is basically telling the public how we 'didn't' do things. And the diagram also does

not match the site. Both the London Grove Public Works Director and Township Manager brought this to her attention as well. Now that the new graphic ID for the Wild and Scenic Program is complete we can begin to produce our own print projects and new signage. Shane received two proposals to complete this design work and requested that the \$1495 left in the 2014 signage and guides budget line be released to begin the design of the sign templates for BMP markers, other watershed signage, and accompanying graphic needs (web and print) for consistency. **The request was approved by the Committee.** Additionally, Tom Hubbard asked Shane to consult with him on the signage before moving forward as United Water may be interested in providing some funding.

Shane also received a proposal for a design template for the annual report. She currently pays the printing companies for their in house designers and has had less than satisfactory end products (font too small, pictures wrong resolution). She suggested we hire a professional designer to build the template and design for this years report. The proposal includes a tutorial on how to use the InDesign program that we can use for future publications. Shane requested that \$1150 in current admin funds be released to cover the 2014 annual report design, template, and tutorial. **The request was approved by the Committee.**

Artesian Well Update and Discussion

Shane went over the timeline of events for the past quarter regarding Artesian. On the October 14 DRBC Notice of Application Received she noticed a new Docket # (D-2002-034 CP-3) listed with the Broad Run well. The well was tacked onto their system wild renewal application. Shane contacted Artesian for a meeting to go over the hydrogeologist report and DRBC application. On November 7 Shane met with John and Kathleen Thaefer, Pete Dimecco their consultant, their project engineer, and Jan Bowers (CCWRA) to review the materials. At this meeting we learned that Artesian also filed an application with the Pennsylvania (DOCKET # A-2014-2451241) We learned that the application is for 200 gpm or 288,000 gpd of water to be used as a back up water source. According the the geologist and the studies he conducted, they do not believe this would have any impact on nearby wells or the Broad Run Stream. On December 1 New Garden Township held a town hall meeting with Artesian. Residents were able to ask questions following Artesian's presentation. On December 17 Shane is meeting with Jan Bowers, Denis Newbold, Marion Waggoner and Dave Yake (Save Our Water), and Brickhouse Consulting to go over their independent review of the hydrologist's report. Public comment to the PUC was extended and all comments must be received by December 22. Shane suggested that we comment as a Committee in support of the Township.

Martin Wells indicated that they only looked at 7 wells of which only 3 were in the Cockeyville.

Don Peters noted that there was some wording in the letters Artesian sent out that released Artesian from having any responsibility if they caused any damage to the private wells during testing.

Martin Wells asked that we take a position on this matter against Artesian's plans.

Don Peters agreed.

Doug Janiec reminded the Committee that our job is to uphold the Management Plan and if what Artesian wants to do is clearly in conflict with the Plan then we can comment specifically on this, but if the conflict is not so clear then we need to be careful how we word things.

Jerry Kaufman reminded the Committee that the DRBC is one of the most stringent River Basin Commissions. That they will not allow anyone to remove any water from any system unless there is a proven need. If they determine there is a valid need then the water that is allowed to be removed must match the demand. He also noted that it is preferable to avoid inter-basin transfer which is what was allowed in the past with Chester Water Authority.

Shane mentioned that if you look at the application to PUC which is public online there doesn't appear to be a real need for water other than redundancy in the system. If you look at the 14 parcels of land belonging to those who petitioned Artesian for water, most are farmland with no buildings present and no plans for development filed with the Township. Furthermore, it appears that most if not all of the parcels are associated with one landowner, Wilkinson. 200gpm is a lot of water when the demand is coming from such a small customer base. It seems that they should be told to wait until there is a real need. Artesian may just need the PUC franchise to get out of Township ordinances and hook up to their existing main to serve the current broad run ridge community currently served by Delaware water. Again the need is still small as there are only 18 or so homes currently being served.

Shane suggested that as a Committee we provide a letter to all permitting agencies reminding them that the White Clay is part of the National Wild and Scenic River system and that this deserves special attention when reviewing the applications. We can also site specific management goals related to the proposed pumping of the well and ask the permitting agencies to look very closely at all the facts presented to them to determine if this would have an adverse effect on the White Clay Creek both in terms of groundwater needs and surface water/base flow for aquatic species. We can request that they require additional testing if they feel that there is not enough information to make a clear determination. Finally, we can suggest that Artesian take additional protection measures to ensure that this exceptional resource remains productive into the future via conservation easements.

Shane reminded everyone that they could submit individual comment as a concerned citizen.

Jerry K. concurred with this approach and also noted that if we were to take a side, it would need to be a unanimous decision on behalf of all the signatories to the MOU (townships, counties, states). He also added that anyone could also petition the Governors involved with the DRBC (PA, DE, NY and NJ) to oppose the application since they would all need to sign on to it.

Subcommittee Reports

Education/Outreach

Kristen informed the group on a grant DNS received through William Penn to conduct outreach. They already polled 400 Delaware residents using a professional polling

consultant to learn public perceptions and understanding of water quality issues as well as whether they would support funding for clean water initiatives. The next step is to form a few focus groups to learn more followed by a public campaign for sustained water funding. This would involve marketing materials which would likely be available to all interested parties. Kristen mentioned that it is indirectly connected to Governor Markell's Clean Water Initiative since they are unsure how and if he will proceed with it.

Martha also mentioned as part of the WRA's water fund research, phase two will involve some public outreach in the entire Christina Basin. Martha pointed out that both of these two smaller efforts could help to carry the momentum of the Christina Education Group forward.

Shane added that the video series they started to work on last summer is halted for the winter due to the weather and less people being outdoors. We are thinking of kicking off the Spring season with a video from the White Clay Creek Fest. As this would be a prime location to survey residents in the White Clay.

Martha also mentioned that she and Andrew Homsey will be soliciting information from the partners soon as they put together the White Clay Wild and Scenic (15 year) Report Card. The hardest part is gathering all the information available and putting it in the correct format, especially when updating the maps. Shane mentioned that she sent a letter to Jake (CCPC) requesting the municipal ordinance reviews be released to us for this report.

Research and Restoration

Shane noted that the Byrnes Dam (Dam #1) is officially down. A 40' section was removed last Thursday. Pictures have been uploaded to the White Clay Flickr Account (accessed via our website) Jerry added that the old timbers are currently still at the race track and that they will be moved to the star campus building by the Bloom factory for storage. The artifacts will be kept underwater to preserve them. Jerry also mentioned there will be a public ground breaking event during the spring fish migration.

Shane noted that the Franklin Township Hoopes Heifer Farm is mostly completed. So far 470 linear feet of stream bank fencing has been installed and (.6 acre) 55 trees planted in riparian buffer using W&S funds. 1000 linear feet of paddock fencing, and the storm water collection box and underground outlet have also all been installed. They are just waiting for the ACOE permit for stream crossing, which has already been approved by DEP and NPS. Project partners include: United Water Delaware (\$4800), Wild and Scenic Program (\$3,082.40), City of Newark (\$1200), and in kind contributions from the landowner (\$2400) and the Chester County Conservation District (\$2850).

John Goodall updated us on the WaltMoore Heifer Farm in London Grove. John noted that the project is in motion, but the weather has not been cooperative creating poor

the conditions for pouring concrete. They hope to have it completed as soon as the weather is more favorable. Project partners include: Brandywine Conservancy (\$30,000), Wild and Scenic Program (\$9000), United Water Delaware (\$8000), City of Newark (\$2000), and in kind contributions from the landowner (\$12,725).

Water Quality

Shane noted that at the last Chester County Watersheds Roundtable she was provided with the 2014 Draft map of impaired streams. ~67 miles of new bacteria impairments are in the White Clay, only 5 of these miles were previously listed as unimpaired (in Franklin) and now have only a bacteria impairment. The draft map can viewed on chesco.org website at <http://chesco.org/DocumentCenter/View/18491>

Shane also noted that just because these impairments weren't listed previously doesn't mean they didn't exist. It is more likely that they were unassessed. She also noted the only area of the watershed without a bacteria impairment was the upper east branch above Avondale.

Open Space (Land Preservation and Recreation)

Sueng-Ah updated us on the efforts of the Brandywine Conservancy. Ten assessments of municipal riparian buffer ordinances should be completed by the end of the year. Two of the townships assessed were in the White Clay, New Garden Township and London Grove Township. The Riparian Buffer Gap Analysis originally presented by Jake M. at the last committee meeting was further vetted and it was decided the best way to approach it was to piggyback of the work being conducted during the riparian buffer assessments which involves updating existing woodland and stream maps to ID gaps in buffers and forests. The Brandywine Conservancy will include this in their 2015 budget proposal.

Erin McCormick updated the Committee on Open Space projects. She noted that they are still actively talking with Franklin Township about a fee acquisition. There are two active trail easements being discussed in New Garden Township as well as one conservation easement, all located near the former Hendrickson property in Landenberg. A potential new project was recently brought to her attending in London Grove Township.

Management Plan Coordinator Report

The New Garden Park Riparian Buffer 'advisory team' received 3 proposals for the project which is largely being funded by a Growing Greener Grant. The team met and reviewed the proposals and made a unanimous decision to hire LandStudies to conduct the work. Shane received a contract from LandStudies this week and the team will review it and get back to them by the end of the month.

Shane noted that the 5 year performance report to NPS (2008-2014) is complete. This was needed to close out the old contract agreement. Shane will publish it to our website.

The Goddard Park Rain Garden(s) are looking good and filling in. She and Claudia met on site with Steve Brown and Shane Kinsey in November to go over management strategies. It

was decided that we will have another 'enhancement planting' event to commemorate Earth Day and get residents out to the basins. London Grove Township will fund the additional plants. They also noted that they have used the basins to show their Township contractors good examples of best management practices.

Tom Coleman mentioned that plans are underway to get the Hunt Retention Basins certified as wildlife habitat. Kelley Dinsmore met on site and was told that the basins would qualify as is. Kelly also submitted the Basins to be part of the upcoming SER conference.

Shane reminded everyone that they are still posting to the W&S Blog, the quarterly New Garden Township e-newsletter (410 members and growing), and that she is also looking into the potential for contributing to a London Grove e-newsletter. April S. asked Shane to provide London Britain township with a link to our blog that they can put on their website.

A public meeting regarding the Hockessin Wells under investigation for PCE contamination was held in October. PCE is a historic problem in the area. It likely occurred in the late 80s when regulations were weaker via leaky equipment and illegal storage. The current situation was under covered when the owner filed to refinance and an environmental assessment was conducted. They entered into a voluntary cleanup agreement with Duffield and will have to report to DNREC. A pilot test was conducted in November using air sparging (injection and extraction wells put in place to force air into the soil and suck up VOCs) The results and plan forward will be presented at a public meeting in January or February of 2015.

Shane reported that DNREC is currently updating their Delaware Wildlife Action Plan. She could not attend the meeting, but Jenny E. is following up on it.

Shane reminded everyone that Creek Fest will be held Saturday, May 2. To date we have received commitments to help run the event from United Water (\$2000), Mushroom Farmers of Pennsylvania (\$1000), and Friends of White Clay Creek State Park (~\$400) and that we could always use more if anyone knows of a potential source to tap.

Shane notified the Committee that the White Clay Creek Expansion Bill passed the House last week. It was packaged in the Defense Authorization Spending Bill with a bunch of Public Lands bills. This Bill will be voted on by the Senate this week. She is hopeful it will pass this time adding nine more miles to our already designated stream miles. Shane will contact Dorothy Miller about the news.

River Manager Report

Julie was ill today so there was nothing to report. Shane let the Committee know that in the future Julie will type up the river manager report and it will be sent out with the agenda. Only items with questions from committee will be discussed or items in need of discussion per Julie. This was an effort to streamline the quarterly meeting.

Meeting Adjourned 3:00pm.