



March 10, 2015, 9:30am - noon  
 New Garden Township Building, 299 Starr Road, Landenberg, PA 19350

Attendees:

Erin McCormick	April Schmitt	Ed O'Donnell	Doug Janiec
David Hawk	Tom Coleman	Al Wright	Kristen Travers
Beth Burnam	Julie Bell	John Goodall	Rick Mickowski
Don Peters	Martha Narvaez	Jenny Egan	Phil Goegeghan
Kyle Sonnenberg	Shane Morgan	Erin McCormick	

Approval of December Minutes

Announcements

March 14, - Annual Meeting Coalition for Natural Stream Valleys, 11am at Deerfield.  
 March 27 - 2015 SER Mid-Atlantic Conference, Clayton Hall, UD/Nonprofit Restoration Leader  
 April 18 - White Clay Cleanup, location TBD and Earth Day Planting at Goddard Park  
 May 2 - White Clay Creek Fest, noon-4pm with pre-fest stream study with Stroud  
 June 6 - Tristate Marker Trail Celebration, 9am-1pm

Financial Report(s)

First Quarter 2015 Statement of Financials Reviewed

Dave Hawk presented a handout and a summary of the new government financial assistance rules (COFAR). There are still several unanswered questions. All sub-recipients (BC, NLT, CCCD, NCCCD, Stroud, municipalities, schools) need to be asked if they already comply with the new regulations. Specifically, we need to know:

1. Are they currently receiving federal funds and if so are they in compliance with the new rules set forth in 2CFR.200. If they are in compliance then we could possibly copy their certification.
2. If not, we need to develop a boilerplate contract that covers the "terms and conditions" set forth in 2CFR.200. This contract will need to be signed off on before any federal funds can be distributed to a sub-recipient.

These rules have been in effect for over a year, but NPS is just getting up to speed. They will take effect immediately and we will need to comply. Julie is attending a webinar on the new rules and will update us on the latest feedback from NPS before the next meeting.

### 2015 Budget Planning - Deadline April 1

Expected Budget is \$95,000. WCWA will receive all NPS funds. NLT will not be receiving funds this round as they still have \$109,000 to spend down. This means we have \$40,000 more dollars than expected.

### Administration Budget Proposal

Shane reviewed amounts needed to cover basic needs and continuous programming. These numbers were based on former spending reports, such as basic admin expenses, WCWA insurance, and WRA contracts. She then suggested several options for the additional funds as listed on the proposed budget that was handed out.

She suggested adding a graphic design/marketing support line under Administrative Support. Doug suggested lumping all the projects requiring graphic design and marketing support under Community Outreach (Education) under one general heading (Graphic Design/Marketing Support) and then prioritizing projects by cost and funding available. Costs that would fall under this category include website assistance, signage and guides, presentation, publications, outreach materials and any other cost associated with design or marketing. It was suggested that we start with upgrading the website as this could be a substantial amount of the budget. A more user friendly and attractive web presence is needed, one that combines WCWA with WCWSP. Shane likes the WordPress platform since she can easily update the site and it has a user-friendly blog component. She wants to upgrade it so that it looks more professional and user friendly since many people go there first for information. It was suggested that we investigate the cost of a trails app on the site since that can easily be updated as new trails arise and people could access the trails with their mobile device. Other potential graphic design projects include a printed (and updated) comprehensive trail map for the entire watershed. These are the first things to go at outreach events and Shane only has a limited supply of the maps printed in 2009. The map could also highlight existing projects and open space acquisitions as well showing how all the pieces fit together in addition to the existing trails. Finally, signage would also be lumped under this category.

The Management Plan Coordinator fee for service was also discussed. Shane also asked for an hourly increase of 3% (the annual average standard of living increase for Jan. 2014-Jan. 2015) which would bring her hourly rate up to \$32.19. Then the Committee reviewed two options. The first, Shane bill 20hr/wk and also charge 100 additional hours under creek fest event planning. The second, suggested by Kyle, her salary gets based upon the average hours she works per year (1272 hours) and that she bill WCWA for her actual monthly hours which will fluctuate throughout the year based on available time and her landscaping business. Doug agreed that we should keep it simple and bill for her hours without additional contracts and stated that In the final budget she submits she include a list of what her time involves under the description of expenses. The Committee agreed this was how to proceed.

### Education Subcommittee Proposal

The Education Subcommittee met and decided to do more outreach to the schools in the watershed. In September Shane will send out letters to each school making them aware of our school scholarships. Scholarships will be offered to schools on a first come first serve basis. The goal for 2015-16 is to award funding for 4 schools for field trips and transportation to Stroud.

They also will continue their summer intern program with the help of DNS. Jenny suggest we set the intern performance award at \$10 per hour.

Funding for Creek Fest was also included in their budget proposal.

### Restoration Subcommittee Proposal

The Restoration Committee will focus its budget on water quality monitoring. This will include continued bacteria monitoring, potential qPCR testing, other chemical and biological data collection. Doug suggested we do entire stream monitoring protocol including habitat assessment. A monitoring plan needs to be fully developed and include sampling for acute events as well as continual site monitoring.

Some funding will be put aside for water quality projects, such as the two manure management projects undertaken towards the end of last year.

### Old Business

Updates since the special session about the Organizational Structure of WCWS in February include: Jenny elected to WCWA board. Jenny put together a template ask letter for potential funders, and Doug developed a multiple task agreement for any work Shane does for WCWA outside of the Wild and Scenic Program. A WCWA meeting still needs to be held.

The Artesian Well New Garden Township Docket No. D-2002-34 CP-2 is scheduled for approval at the March 10-11 DRBC Hearing. Commission staff reviewed comments submitted by the Chester County Water Resources Authority (CCWRA), the National Park Service (NPS), the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River Program (WCCWSRP), J. Denis Newbold, Ph.D, and Save Our Water, including a response report from their consultant, Brickhouse Environmental. AWC and their consultant, Ground Water Associates, LLC also provided a response to concerns expressed in the Brickhouse Environmental report which staff also reviewed. Commission staff determined that while the Broad Run PA well pumping test did not indicate that adverse impacts to the local hydrologic system would occur as a result of pumping and that the test

satisfied all DRBC requirements, a groundwater/surface water monitoring program will be implemented to confirm there will not be any adverse impacts to the Broad Run hydrologic system. A groundwater/surface water monitoring program must be submitted to the Commission within 90 days from the approval date of this docket (June 9, 2015), for approval by the DRBC Executive Director. The Broad Run PA well shall not be operated until the DRBC Executive Director grants written approval and the groundwater/surface water monitoring program has been implemented. It was not clear what action would be taken should the monitoring program determine an impact from the well pumping. Shane submitted comment to the DRBC requesting that the Committee be allowed to review and comment on the monitoring plan submitted by Artesian.

It was also suggested that Shane ask Artesian to commit to attending our meetings, attend creek fest to education the public about ground water, and potential donate to our program and projects since they have a renewed interest in the White Clay.

#### New Business

Eastern Shore Pipeline - White Oak Mainline Expansion in Franklin Township FERC Docket No. *CP15-18-000* - The National Park Service (NPS) has responded to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Assessment for this project. The proposed project proposes 3.9 miles of new pipeline partially within the White Clay Creek watershed, and proposes to cross two streams that are tributaries to the West Branch of White Clay Creek. NPS requested that the Environmental Assessment fully explore the potential for using the existing ROW (Alternative 2), so as to avoid impacts to the White Clay Creek. Note it is unclear whether this will trigger a Section 7 review since it is not looking to be a water resources project (the pipeline will be laid under the creek by directional boring). It is possible that the access needed to put in this line could trigger a section 7 review.

#### Subcommittee Reports

Education/Outreach - Kristen updated the Committee on the Delaware Nature Society's "Clean Water" campaign. If they reach their end goal, a tax for clean water, the funds will be spent county by county. They have until June 30th to get the legislators on board.

#### Open Space (Land Preservation and Recreation)

Erin presented two projects to the Committee for which NLT would like to use Wild and Scenic funding.

1. A 178-acre farm; purchased conservation easement on entire parcel; New Garden Township to cover acquisition costs and project costs; requesting \$20,000 from White Clay funds to assist with covering the project costs--\$5,000 for NLT staff costs and \$15,000 for direct costs.

2. A 15.2 acre property in London Grove Township; donated conservation easement on entire parcel; London Grove Township to cover the costs; requesting \$8,000 from White Clay funds to assist with covering the project costs--\$5,000 for NLT staff costs and \$3,000 for direct costs.

Erin will send out a document including the details for these projects and maps for their review and final committee approval.

Shane asked if anyone had any questions regarding the management plan coordinator and river manager reports (see attached reports below). No questions were asked.

Meeting adjourned.

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### Management Plan Coordinator Report

- Last meeting we released \$1150 in Admin/BOE to pay for design of new template for our annual update and tutorial on InDesign. Design completed, 250 copies to be printed on recycled paper.
- Last meeting we released \$1495 left in 2014 signage and guides budget to begin Phase 2 of graphic ID. Update on signage needs, icons, web banners, watershed signage. This is in progress.
- White Clay Creek Expansion Bill - Total stream miles now 199. New map on website.
- New Garden Park Riparian Buffer Project Update - kick off meeting held in February, concept to be revealed end of March, potential plantings this spring and fall.
- Goddard Park Rain Garden(s) LGT - April 18, earth day 2015 volunteer planting. UWDE to pay for supplemental plants (and potentially a better sign).
- Hunt Basin Update - City will continue maintenance agreement with outside contractor, working on interpretive signage with City of Newark for Basin 2. Shane will give a presentation on this project at the upcoming SER conference with Claudia West.
- March 2015 New Garden Township e-news focus on water quality because of Wild & Scenic expansion in New Garden: article on that modified from the American Rivers Piece, Article on upcoming park restoration, and resident spotlight on Barclay Hoopes (resident and conservation farmer) (membership 423 and growing)
- Facebook Reach: last quarter 8.5K reach, up to 173 likes
- Wild and Scenic Report Card/15 year report - goal is to have complete report, printed and ready to present, at the WCWA annual meeting in October 2015 (our 15 year anniversary and the 50th anniversary of the WCWA).
- Water words that work training - Shane is taking a 6-week webinar offered by the National Parks Service to all Partnership Rivers.

- **Help needed** - creek fest table May 2 noon-4, SER conference table March 27 8:30-5, tristate bird rescue table (if someone available to man table) May 3, tri-state marker trail dedication - anyone available to help educate hikers about watershed on June 6 9-1 - please let Shane know.

## NPS River Manager Report to White Clay Creek Watershed Management Committee

### *2015 Budget*

Total budget for White Clay Creek in FY14 was **\$95,000**, and it is likely to remain stable in 2015 at that amount. A new twist in 2015 is the availability of the entire White Clay funding for WCWA. NLT will not be using a portion of the 2015 funding because the organization has more than \$100,000 remaining in its current Cooperative Agreement for 2012, 2013 and 2014 and the existing Agreement required a no-cost time extension to use these funds. NPS Contracting just approved the extension for an additional year until June of 2016.

Development of the 2015 budget details and scope of work should be under way now – due to the new Financial Assistance rules, it will take longer to process Modifications through NPS Contracting.

### *New Financial Assistance Rules*

The Financial Assistance (FA) Team of NPS Northeast Region will be hosting a FA Webinar on March 12<sup>th</sup> for Administrative Officers, ATRs, and others involved in cooperative agreements. The hour-long webinar will include the following topics:

- 1) Introduction to the FA team and its points of contact.
- 2) Changes resulting from the new regulations set forth in 2 CFR Part 200, and what those changes mean for NPS and its partners.
- 3) Items ATRs need to consider & to submit for FA.
- 4) Changes made to the various FA templates.
- 5) Q&A

I have been compiling a list of questions from our Wild & Scenic River partners for this webinar. If unable to get answers during the webinar, I plan to follow up with NPS Contracting separately.

### *Section 7 Reviews:*

- 1) Metro Business Park property – (The property is located near the intersection of Route 7 and Old Churchman's Road, Newark, near the Red Roof Inn and south of the SPCA property. The proposal was to develop about 300,000 sq. ft. of commercial and industrial facilities, impacting wetlands and a tributary to the White Clay Creek.) Although the application was withdrawn for this project, it has re-surfaced and a new

permit application will be submitted to US Army Corps of Engineers. Per NPS request, the consultant conducted a spotted turtle habitat survey, and DNREC has requested a bog turtle survey to be conducted in the spring. NPS will also request a survey of rare plants, in support of DNREC Natural Heritage request.

2) Eastern Short Natural Gas pipeline project – See NPS letter to FERC, in reply to request for comments on the Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Assessment. We pointed out the potential impacts to ORVs from the preferred alternative and also potential impacts to additional natural, cultural and recreational resources valued by our partners.

3) Jenny's Run stormwater outfall – Stormwater basin upstream of Pinebrook Apartments (Newark, DE) will be retrofitted, and rock added to a connecting drainage ditch below the outfall that enters Jenny's Run. Modifications are needed to reduce rate and volume of runoff and sedimentation in Jenny's Run due to severe erosion of the drainage ditch. The US Army Corps does not consider the drainage ditch to be jurisdictional until it approaches the confluence with Jenny's Run. NPS submitted recommendations for improving the project design so as to provide for more extended infiltration of stormwater and reduce the potential for sediment entering Jenny's Run.

4) Inniscrone culverts – US Army Corps inspected the site and confirmed the permittee will need to submit a request for a modification to the permit to redesign a portion of the project. Problem with the design of the retaining wall east of Inniscrone Drive, which was not intended to be a sheer vertical concrete wall, but rather re-graded and sloped back to more natural bank conditions. The design that NPS thought we agreed to was a terraced/benched retaining wall (preferably stone or other natural materials) into which one could install plantings. In addition, on the plan sheets the area now invaded by the new retaining wall was originally floodplain. The original floodplain was to be left intact.

5) BR 1-254 culvert over Cool Run (Old Newark Rd, Newark, DE) – This road corridor is part of the Brookside community and there are road drainage issues (ponding and icing in the winter). Existing 3-pipe culvert system to be replaced with precast concrete culvert in a complex location with gas, water and sewer infrastructure limiting what can be done to improve infiltration of stormwater before entering creek. DeIDOT agreed to plant understory trees and shrubs along stretch of Cool Run streambank that is currently unvegetated – not quite a 1:1 replacement, since 27 trees will need to be removed along the road to accommodate an ADA compliant multi-use path (8 ft. wide) and line of sight. Will also relocate, pull back stormwater outlets and line with rock to reduce erosion to creek.

6) BR 1-227 at Paper Mill Road over Middle Run tributary (Newark, DE) – Replacement of an old and large metal pipe culvert with concrete box culvert. The primary issue is the “perching” of the culvert above the surface of the streambed, due to the existence of a natural gas pipeline only 2 ft. below the bottom of the culvert. An open bottom culvert is not possible due to the need to excavate for footers and possibly striking the gas line. The proposed box culvert bottom will not be recessed sufficiently to accommodate

much stream bed material, and rock pool will need to be added at the outfall to transition the existing streambed from the culvert. Transition from streambed to inlet is also problematic. The other issue is the proposal to place a 1 ft. tall concrete sidewalk through the culvert to accommodate mountain bikes. NPS believes there could be significant impacts to the stream (which supports aquatic species) from such recreational activity, because bikers would be encouraged to ride down the steep banks to get onto the sidewalk (which will occasionally flood) and then will need to have a similar connection to a trail when they get out at the opposite end. The disturbance to the stream banks and bed would be significant. A safe road crossing should be installed so bikes can go from Middle Run Natural Area to the state park, and trail design should keep recreationists from accessing this stream section.