



WHITE CLAY CREEK
National Wild & Scenic River
Ours to Enjoy. Ours to Protect.

Third Quarter Meeting Minutes and Reports to Committee

October 14, 2015, 1 – 3pm

New Garden Township Building, 299 Starr Road, Landenberg, PA 19350

Attendees:

Julie Bell	Ed O'Donnell	Mike Zuk	Doug Janiec
Tom Hubbard	Jenny Egan	Kyle Sonnenberg	Don Peters
Rick Mickowski	Kristen Travers	Tom Coleman	David Hawk
Beth Burnam	Dana Cooley	Andrew Homsey	Erin McCormick
Shane Morgan	John Goodall	Aileen Parrish	Jerry Kaufmann
Al Wright	Martin Wells		

Approval of June Minutes

Announcements

White Clay Watershed Association Annual Meeting – Scheduled for 7:00pm Monday, November 16 at Deerfield. Claudia West will be the main speaker. She recently published a book with Thomas Rainer entitled, 'Planting in a Post-Wild World: Designing Plant Communities for Resilient Landscapes' There will be a book signing as well.

Southeast Pennsylvania Watershed Organizations, Oct. 26, 10-noon, DEP Southeast Regional Office

Financial Report(s)

Third Quarter 2015 Statement of Financials reviewed.

Old Business

White Clay Wild & Scenic River has been trying to work with the new Financial Assistance Rules published by the Federal Government. It is the first partnership Wild and Scenic River to create contracts for subrecipients, such as the University of Delaware Water Resources Agency, under the new rules. We built a template from scratch that can potentially be used as a basis for contracts with other subrecipients such as Stroud and Brandywine Conservancy.

Shane mentioned that she would like to see the Watershed Association take a more active role in the watershed and that it is time for a face to face meeting so that we can set the direction for the future of the organization and ensure it's sustainability. She

suggested that a meeting should happen soon after the annual meeting and prior to the next quarterly meeting of WCWSP in January.

Shane thanked Aileen for representing the White Clay Steering Committee at the last public hearing in September. She noted that DRBC postponed approval of Artesian's Docket for further review; the new docket will be posted on or around October 30th (10 days prior to the public hearing. Additionally, DRBC is changing their public input process to allow time for more consideration of information received at the public hearings rather than continuing to hold the public hearing and meeting on consecutive days. Shane mentioned that she would be hosting a meeting with Dennis Newbold (Stroud), Jerry Kauffman (UDWRA) and Jan Bowers (CCWRA) on Friday, October 16th to determine science based, practical recommendations to submit to DRBC regarding the Broad Run Well. Shane will circulate the recommendations to the Committee for review before submitting to DRBC.

New Business

Welcomed New Steering Committee Members, Mike Zuk from Chester County Conservation District and Tom Coleman from the City of Newark. Shane passed around the list of current Committee members and asked everyone to review and update needed information. Once updated Shane will circulate to the Committee. The Committee took a formal vote on Co-chair Assignments/term renewals. Don Peter's term as the PA co-chair was renewed for another 3 years and Kyle Sonnenberg's term as the Delaware Co-chair was also renewed for another 3 years. The move to renew both terms was made by Ed O'Donnell and seconded by Aileen Parrish.

Shane introduced the Committee to a new program being run out of the Penn State Extension Office, the Chester County Watershed Stewards Program. She passed around a sheet of topics for people to sign up for if they were interested in speaking. The program will commence in March 2016 for 12 evening sessions with trainees. Trainees will receive 40 hours of training and need to fulfill 50 hours of volunteer service in the first year. After the first year they will need to fulfill 20 volunteer hours and 10 hours of continuing education annually to maintain their Master Watershed Steward status. They can help with outreach, workshops, stream clean ups and other projects throughout the entire watershed (not just Pennsylvania).

Subcommittee Reports

Education/Outreach

Shane updated the Committee on the Signage/Graphics progress. The Hunt Stormwater Basin Retrofits and Goddard Park Rain Garden Interpretive signs were completed and installed. United Water Delaware partnered with us on the Goddard Park Signage by contributing \$1000 towards the sign's fabrication. She mentioned they would be partnering with us on the New Garden Park Interpretive Signage as well.

Shane reviewed the status of the Wild and Scenic Watershed signage and asked the Committee for permission to order replacement signage without further action from PennDOT and DeIDOT. A motion was made to order replacement signs in bulk and have them available for the local municipalities to install as they see fit. The signs will use the updated logo colors. Shane will reach out to the municipalities and determine their needs. Tom Coleman suggested contacting Mark Lutz at DELDOT to ask about signs outside of Newark's jurisdiction. Doug J. suggested involving House Representatives if DeIDOT will not allow old signage to be replaced.

Shane asked the Committee how to proceed with the BMP marker signs. They are complete and ready to be ordered. The Committee suggested ordering the signs as is with a space for a municipality to place a decal should they want to have their name on the sign. A motion was made and approved to order the signs for New Garden Park. It may be cheaper to buy in bulk, she will circulate costs before ordering.

Shane showed the Committee the new website hosted on Squarespace and asked for permission to make it the primary site. The committee approved. Shane asked to eliminate the CCIL general list and use the Mail Chimp. Shane indicated that he CCIL lists for the watershed association board and the Wild and Scenic Steering Committee will still be active and can still be used as a forum to share and discuss ideas. The Committee approved.

Shane is still working on feasibility of an all-inclusive WCC trail guide. She mentioned a service that will print trail maps for free by getting local businesses to put advertisements around the perimeter of the map. The other side could contain any information we deem necessary and provide. We would have to pay for the updated map via our designer, and provide the content, but the company would do the layout and solicitation for sponsors. Julie was concerned that this could be problematic for the Committee to undertake with Federal funds. Jenny Egan mentioned that she would look into this project on behalf of the Watershed Association where there wouldn't be a conflict with federal funds. Shane mentioned that although we can put detailed trail maps on line, it is nice to be able to have something to give to people at outreach events and the trail maps are usually the most desirable. These could be given out at Creek Fest.

Shane sent out letters to 37 schools in the watershed in late September. Three schools responded and are already signed up for Stroud programming this year. Two of them are schools that are new to our programming and we are sending many more students than have been sent in previous years and we are matching funds with Stroud's EITC funding for Pennsylvania public schools (see MPC report below for more details).

Shane mentioned that she worked with Luc Claessens again this year by providing hands on conservation field trips for 60 students registered in his GEO 235 (Conservation of

Natural Resources) class. The four events took place at various sites in the White Clay during September (see MPC report below for more details).

Research and Restoration

Shane went over the preliminary data from the bacteria testing in the Pennsylvania portion of the watershed. It is clear that bacteria counts are high as most sites exceeding the recreational standard with the exception of one site along the main stem. She mentioned the summer intern is putting together site assessments for each sampling site and Andrew Homsey of UDWRA is putting together land use mapping for each site so that we can pinpoint what markers to use for the microbial source tracking. Shane will ask the intern to provide a short presentation on this data at the next meeting in January. She would like to have a Restoration Subcommittee meeting prior to the January Steering Committee Meeting to review the data and work on a path forward.

Shane updated the Committee on the New Garden Park Riparian Buffer Project. Specifically, the native plant enhancements to the wetlands were completed in September. The trees and shrubs along the floodway will be installed in late October, followed by the live stake plantings in early Spring.

Shane mentioned that she is still working with UDWRA on the 15 year report. Martha should have a final draft ready for review by late October/early November. Included in the report is a chart illustrating the Natural Resources Ordinance Review completed by Chester County Planning Commission from Jake Michael and former UD student Kate Miller. It is clear from the chart that woodlands ordinances are the weakest in the White Clay and we need to revisit this and the Reforestation Plan in planning for future projects and outreach. This could piggyback with the recently completed gap analysis performed by the Brandywine Conservancy.

Jerry K. updated the Committee on the status of the next two dams to be removed in White Clay. They will be applying for a NOAA grant in November. One of the dams is historic and will need a historic study completed prior to removal. Jerry also mentioned that UDWRA is looking into housing the Early Warning System for the White Clay. Student intern, Matt Luddington, is working on integrating the USGS stream stats alerts with a mobile ap specifically for White Clay. Jenny E. asked if this would involve additional parameters to be measured at USGS gages. Jerry said they are contemplating adding additional parameters to the stream gage at the state line in both the White and Red Clay with potential support from William Penn for the additional monitoring.

Shane followed up on last meetings action items. While we provided a support letter to Mowery LLC, the proposal was not funded. Mike Z. noted that Adam Mowery is still pursuing this as a viable option and is currently working with an interested farmer in the White Clay. Shane also mentioned that John Gaadt is willing to work pro bono with

Shane and Jenny to develop a proposal for a 5 year action plan for the White Clay to submit for funding. They will meet in the coming months time permitting.

Other Potential Projects on the Horizon that could be funded by the White Clay Restoration Fund include Curtis Mill tree planting with City of Newark and Newark High School teacher, and Cool Run (UD Farm) riparian buffer planting with UD CANR and DelDOT. Shane mentioned the need for a proposal application for use of White Clay Restoration Funds. This way we can market these funds so that people know they are available should they have appropriate projects. This is another item the Restoration Subcommittee could work on at the next subcommittee meeting.

Shane shared Stewart Wisenant's self-published photo book about the White Clay, entitled Flow. She asked for feedback on how this could be used and suggested adding some White Clay history to the book since we have so many stories and no one place to house them. She asked for volunteers to contact her if interested in working on that.

Open Space (Land Preservation and Recreation)

Open Space Updates (Erin) see attached NLT report. Erin said that the Bodorff property in London Grove would likely settle in the next few months. The Reynolds property is delayed in court, but once this is worked out it should move forward. Two other active projects are located in New Garden Township, and one in London Britain. These three projects are still in the early stages, but more information should be available at the next meeting.

Beth Burnam mentioned that Brandywine Conservancy is still working with London Grove to update their riparian buffer ordinances. They completed the riparian forest mapping for all White Clay municipalities in both PA and DE. They are currently working out how to present the data on an appropriate scale. The idea is to use this as a tool to help municipalities facilitate tree plantings. Shane mentioned that this could be part of a larger Reforestation Action Plan were we focus on woodlands protection and afforestation of gaps. We could target our outreach not only to municipalities but also developers, private landowners, and potentially mushroom farms on marginal land. Mike Zuk mentioned that mushroom farmers are often dissuaded from buffer plantings because of the perception of buffers providing potential rodent habitat. This is more so the case if the buffer is in close proximity to the mushroom house.

Beth mentioned that there is a 20-acre reforestation project they are working on along the East fork of the East Branch on a 200 acre horse farm. They are currently working through permitting requirements of the three stream crossings. John Goodall added that this project was a catalyst for an additional a 120-acre farm just downstream, in which the owner has agreed to have his farm assessed. They already have a 35' CREP buffer but are willing to go larger and stabilize the headwaters.

Mike Zuk mentioned that the requirements in (Stroud’s) 20-year contract agreements for buffer maintenance and monitoring tends to make potential farmers decline buffer plantings. Beth Burnam mentioned that Brandywine Conservancy works with the landowner to provide other reasonable approaches to maintenance, but that they are required to commit to maintenance.

Shane asked if there were any questions regarding the Management Plan Coordinator Report, NPS River Manager Report, or Natural Lands Trust Report sent out with the agenda. No questions were asked. (Note: these reports are added to the minutes below)

Dana Cooley, Hockessin resident, asked to address the Committee. Dana mentioned he lives in the headwaters of the Mill Creek area of White Clay. He learned about us through the Wild & Scenic watershed signage on Graves Road and is interested in getting more involved and teaching his neighbors about our efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 3pm.

Management Plan Coordinator Report to White Clay Steering Committee 10142015

QUARTERLY/ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT NARRATIVE

Cooperative Agreement #: CA_P13AC01266
Award Recipient: White Clay Watershed Association
Project/Program Title: Wild & Scenic River Funding
Date: October 7, 2015
Period Covered by Report: July 1, 2015- September 30, 2015
Funds expended during this reporting period: \$14,701.97
Submitted by: Shane Morgan, Management Plan Coordinator
Submitted to: National Park Service – Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers

1. **Summary of work performed during the period covered by the report:** This quarter work focused on hands-on restoration/maintenance activities with University of Delaware Students and other volunteers, continuation of our summer bacteria sampling and site analysis with a West Chester University graduate student, migration and improvement of our web presence, planning for the New Garden Park Riparian Buffer including the completion of the first planting phase, outreach to White Clay watershed schools in an effort to provide more kids with a meaningful outdoor environmental education experience. More details to follow.

2. **Progress Achieved in Accomplishing Program Goals & Objectives**

Objective/Task #1 Cooperative Agreement: Plan and implement the enumerated goals in the White Clay Creek Watershed Management Plan with county, state and

federal agencies, watershed municipal governments and non-government organizations with watershed conservation interests.

Deliverable/Planned Outcome: Partner with municipalities on installing and maintain existing and new green infrastructure.

Actual 1: Led two weeding events at Landenberg Junction Habitat Garden with Friend of New Garden Trails and five University of Delaware GEO 235 (Conservation of Natural Resources) students.

Actual 2: Led invasive species removal event with 14 University of Delaware GEO 235 (Conservation of Natural Resources) students at Goddard Park, West Grove at existing rain basins retrofitted by WCWS using DNREC and UWDE funds.

Actual 3: Led invasive species removal at basin 3 in the Hunt of Louviers stormwater basin retrofits with 9 University of Delaware GEO 235 (Conservation of Natural Resources) students. Students focused on removing a parasitic plant called Dodder from basin #3.

Actual 4: Led volunteer planting event at New Garden Park with 18 University of Delaware GEO 235 (Conservation of Natural Resources) students. 25 flats of native plants were installed in the floodplain buffer of Lamborn Run, a tributary to the East Branch.

*All volunteer events located at municipal owned sites and focused on invasive species removal while educating volunteers about the benefits of conservation landscaping and teaching volunteers about the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic River.

Favorable Development: One student is interested in interning with the Wild and Scenic Program from January- May 2016. Another group of students would like to continue helping with native plant restoration projects.

Deliverable/Planned Outcome: Provide a watershed education experience to 4 school groups during the year.

Actual 1: Drafted Environmental Education Award notification letter and sent to 37 watershed schools in late September.

Actual 2: Avon Grove Intermediate School requested funding to send 370 fourth grade students to Stroud over a four-day period in Spring 2016. White Clay Wild and Scenic Program funds will be used for transportation and program expenses will be covered by Stroud's EITC funds. This is approximately a 1:3 match.

Actual 3: BVM Assumption requested funding to send 27 seventh grade students to attend Stroud in Spring 2016. Our funding will cover all expenses.

Favorable outcomes: Avon Grove School District is at the heart of the watershed in Pennsylvania. It is a large public school that could not take advantage of programs such as this due to transportation barriers, and unawareness of EITC program funding. On average we have sent under 100 children per year to Stroud. The letter increased awareness of our program and what we do and we now have 400 children who will be

served, this is already a 400% increase over last year and we have matched our federal funds with state funds to send more students out in the field to conduct hands on watershed science.

Actual 4: Newark High School AP Environmental Science class of 27 students to attend Stroud in Spring 2016. Our funding will cover all expenses.

Objective/Task #2 Cooperative Agreement: Develop and produce interpretive exhibits, publications, other media and programs that interpret the resources of the White Clay Creek and watershed, with priority given to updating the website and maintaining an active social media presence.

Deliverable/Planned Outcome: New website design.

Actual: Migrated old site to Squarespace. The beta site is up and running and awaiting Committee approval to make the final switch over. <https://whiteclay.squarespace.com/>

Deliverable/Planned Outcome: Provide quarterly articles to watershed municipalities (New Garden Township and London Grove Township) promoting watershed stewardship and highlighting watershed projects.

Actual 1: Wrote and published article entitled, *What's new in New Garden Park? Improved Land Practices Promote Healthy Streams*, for the September 2015 New Garden newsletter. http://newgarden.org/newsletter/NGP_update_Sept_2015_newsletter-cr.pdf

Favorable Development: A New Garden Resident reached out asking to help with project. She lives near the park and is willing to help monitor the site.

Actual 2: Wrote and published article for the September 2015 London Grove newsletter entitled, *'How can parks improve water quality?'*
<http://www.londongrove.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/1164>

Actual 3: Designed new interpretive sign for the Goddard Park Rain Basins. The township installed the new sign in September. The fabrication of the sign was paid for by United Water Delaware (\$1000).

Objective/Task #3 Cooperative Agreement: Promote the long-term protection of the White Clay Creek watershed and its outstandingly remarkable resources.

Deliverable/Planned Outcome: Attend community events to increase general awareness of and appreciation for the natural, cultural and recreational resources of the watershed and expand audiences.

Actual 1: Attended Newark Community Day on September 20, 2015 (Jenny Egan and Tom Zawislak manned table)

Impact: Estimated 20,000+ residents in attendance, and 21 new subscribers signed up to receive notifications from the White Clay Wild and Scenic Program.

Actual 2: Provided display materials for the Somerset Lake Community Annual Pig Roast on September 20, 2015. Pat Ward (lake committee member) manned the table.

Impact: Estimated 200 residents in attendance. The Lake Committee is trying to make more of its residents aware of the impact their personal property has on the water quality in Somerset Lake and the larger watershed. As a result, based on interest, they are putting in an order for rain-barrels.

Actual 3: Attended public meeting with DRBC regarding the proposed Artesian Broad Run Well in New Garden Township. Submitted to comment to the PA and DE commissioners, DRBC, and DEP regarding the need for a more robust monitoring plan. Advocated for a working session with DRBC, UDWRA, CCWRA, Stroud, WCWSP, and Artesian to develop a more favorable monitoring plan to ensure adequate stream flow in Broad Run. Aileen Parish represented the interests of the White Clay Wild & Scenic Committee at the public hearing held on September 16, 2015.

Favorable development: DRBC postponed approval of Artesian's Docket for further review; the new docket will be posted on October 30th (10 days prior to the November 10th public hearing. Additionally, DRBC is changing their public input process to allow time for more consideration of information received at the public hearings rather than continuing hold the public hearing and meeting on consecutive days.

Objective/Task #4 Cooperative Agreement: Provide technical support to NPS for planning, education, outreach and research activities as they relate to the White Clay Creek watershed.

Actual: Met with NPS and University of Delaware management (Scott Hopkins, Jenny McDermott) on site to explore potential restoration projects that Wild & Scenic and/or DeIDOT could help fund. UD is receptive to installing a riparian buffer if DeIDOT is willing to help fund.

Favorable development: UD CANR is interested in pursuing and potentially expanding it's existing buffer regardless of DeIDOT and is aware of the White Clay Restoration Funds (DE taxpayer monies) for this type of project. *This brought to light the need to develop a proposal/application for these funds so our partners know how to apply for them.*

Actual: Assisting NPS and the Brandywine Conservancy as they navigate the Section 7 review process for the Moorehead equestrian farm. This project will include 100'-300' riparian buffers along Exceptional Value waters of the White Clay on 19 acres of horse farm. It involves 3 remove and replace stream crossings that will be reviewed by NPS.

Objective/Task #5 Cooperative Agreement: Support the needs and goals of the White Clay Creek Steering Committee.

Actual: Attended multiple meetings and conferences with other non-profits and government entities representing the interests of the White Clay Steering Committee and White Clay Management Plan. (Including the Christina Basin Task Force, Chester County Watersheds Roundtable, New Garden Township DRBC public meeting, and the Delaware River Watershed Forum, Healthy Watershed Fund meeting with London Grove and Penn Townships)

Objective/Task #6 Cooperative Agreement: Work with the Water Resources Agency, Natural Lands Trust, and the Brandywine Conservancy to provide GIS analysis, technical assistance and recommendations to the NPS, watershed counties and municipalities, other non governmental organization and the State of Delaware and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania concerning the management of river resources.

Deliverable/Planned Outcome: Work with WCWA partners at the UD WRA to research and publish a 15-year progress report for the White Clay Creek Wild & Scenic River Program, including a municipal ordinance review.

Actual: Reviewed and edited first draft of report. Met with Martha and Andrew (UD WRA) to go over suggested content edits and additional mapping needs. Second draft for review will be available early October.

Deliverable/Planned Outcome: Student and technical assistance from UD WRA to generate GIS maps for displays and website.

Actual 1: Generated updated maps for 15-year progress report, revised wild and scenic designation map to show gaps in designated miles, created locator maps for watershed interpretive signage. Currently working on producing land use maps in the surround catchment basins for each bacteria-sampling site in Pennsylvania.

Actual 2: Completed watershed signage report which includes map locating existing watershed signage and corresponding addresses, photos of existing condition of sign, contact information for replacements, and replacement priorities indicated. Map will be used in an effort to replace outdated, vandalized, and faded signage and keep track of new signage.

Deliverable/Planned Outcome: Hire summer intern to continue bacteria sampling at 12 sites in the Pennsylvania portion of the watershed following PA DEP sampling protocol.

Actual: Completed and collected 10 samples from each of the 12 sites. Compiled data collected 2012-2015 into one spreadsheet. Intern is putting together qualitative assessments for each site and Andrew H. (UD WRA) is developing land use maps for each sampling point (to be completed mid-October). The maps will help us determine which microbial DNA markers to test for. Patrick Heringslack (summer intern) also put together a snapshot of each sampling site, including site photos, qualitative data, and quantitative data

NPS River Manager Report to White Clay Creek Steering Committee

Financials

NPS funds tracking log indicate as of July 1, 2015 there was a total of **\$121,795.29** remaining in the White Clay Watershed Association's Cooperative Agreement consisting of 2013, 2014 and 2015 funds. The 2015 funds are as yet unspent. As of September 1st, NLT had **\$106,542.58** remaining in its Cooperative Agreement, consisting of 2012, 2013, and 2014 funds. The organization is looking at options to use these funds by June of 2016.

New Financial Assistance Rules

A meeting of Lower Delaware Wild & Scenic partners took place late July at Hunterdon Land Trust's office to review changes to Cooperative Agreements and financial assistance requirements under 2 CFR 200. Dave Hawk attended part of the NPS presentation, and participants had numerous questions. NPS would like to meet with White Clay representatives and subrecipients separately. There are questions arising from the WCWA contract with the MPC and also the WCWA contract with University of Delaware, which WCWA is currently working on with the assistance of NPS. Subawards must comply with the requirements of 2 CFR 200.

Education & Outreach

PSWR 20th Anniversary Newsletter

WCWA submitted its top program accomplishments to NPS for the Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers newsletter back in June. The newsletter celebrates the past 20 years of the Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers, 50th anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act, and 100th anniversary of NPS. NPS staff are in the process of compiling and editing all of the stories and are near to completion on an unformatted draft. The draft will be distributed to all of the river partners by the end of this year for comments, and high-res photos will be requested.

NPS Wild & Scenic Rivers Website

Wild & Scenic Rivers now has its own NPS website! Partnership W&S Rivers has its very own button! This is where we will upload the Partnership W&S Rivers newsletter when it is finalized. The web site is under construction and is not ready to be unveiled to the public.

Creek Fest and School Programs Update: Don't forget that the NPS Centennial is 2016 – Could use as a theme for Creek Fest? Special programming?

Research & Restoration

Cool Run Riparian Buffer

NPS met with MPC and University of Delaware management (Scott Hopkins, Jenny McDermott) on site to explore potential restoration projects that Wild & Scenic and/or DeIDOT could help fund. UD is receptive to installing a riparian buffer if DeIDOT is willing to help fund. In August, NPS responded to DeIDOT's request to review revised temporary and permanent fix options for the Rt 72 culvert. NPS noted that UD would be willing to work with DeIDOT on the project. We have not yet had a response. We requested a permanent fix that would involve replacing the existing culvert to accommodate the natural stream channel and fish passage, and in the interim we requested a temporary fix that would spray line the existing pipe with a 2" layer of concrete. The original fix would have installed a 4-6" layer of concrete in the existing pipe, thereby blocking flow and fish passage.

Section 7 Reviews:

1) Newark Regional Transportation Center Project (Newark, DE)- This is a new project for NPS review and we are just starting the review process. This is a major project with a US DOT TIGER grant to improve ADA accessibility and passenger safety and

convenience at the Amtrak/Septa station. This joint project of DTC, DeIDOT, and WILMAPCO proposes to:

A) Construct a high platform under and east of South College Avenue to eliminate the ADA deficiencies associated with the existing low platform. Track A in the station area will be relocated approximately 45 feet south to accommodate the new platform before transitioning back onto the Northeast Corridor right-of-way approximately 1,500 feet to the north in the vicinity of a tributary to Cool Run.

B) Construct a grade-separated pedestrian connection between the platform and the station building and parking area. This connection will allow passengers to access the platform without having to cross the relocated Track A. The platform will also have a direct stair connection to the existing pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks, similar to today.

C) Construct a station building (within the existing station footprint) with SEPTA and DART First State ticket window and ticket vending machines, along with improvements in parking and access in the area of the existing parking lot. The project will involve extending the existing culvert further south over a tributary to Cool Run. To the north are parklands and to the south are the University of Delaware's ag lands – If Track A and the maintenance road are re-located to the south, they would impact the UD. NPS anticipates requesting additional information and meeting with the applicant on site to better understand the potential project impacts to the stream and its riparian buffer and ag lands to the south. We believe the stream in question is not a tributary to Cool Run, but Cool Run itself. Coordination with the DE SHPO will be required because of the age (constructed in 1910) of the stone arch surrounding the culvert.

2) Moorhead Farm (West Marlborough Township, PA) – Brandywine Conservancy is working with Stroud and a private landowner on a proposal for a riparian buffer installation and Corrective Action Plan for three stream crossings for horses and cattle. NPS will likely review under Section 7, due to the use of Wild & Scenic funds and we assume state-assumed federal permitting through PA DEP.

3) Metro Business Park proposal (Newark, DE)– Per NPS & DNREC Natural Heritage request, a survey of potential rare plant habitat was conducted. While no plant “ORVs” (Outstandingly Remarkable Values) or other rarities were identified, Bill McAvoy (DNREC botanist) did discover a significant area of mature woodlands that the project applicant had not reported. These woodlands could harbor herp species and must be identified and mapped, per New Castle County ordinance. NPS is waiting for response from project consultant regarding the woodlands.

4) Jenny's Run stream restoration (Newark, DE) – NPS just completed the review for this project, which will remove invasive Japanese knotweed, eliminate sediment from inside the culvert and an area downstream, cut away a chunk of concrete sticking out into the stream and impeding flow, and stabilize upstream and downstream sections of Jenny's Run through Pinebrook Apartments. Knotweed has already been cut and herbicide applied over two growing seasons. Streambank stabilization measures along a 150-ft length include log vanes and live willow stakes in combination with boulders at toe of slope, and re- establishment of a floodplain with riparian vegetation.

5) Inniscrone culverts (London Grove Township, PA) – US Army Corps, NPS and the permittee finally resolved permit violation issues. Permittee agreed to: 1) remove

invasive plant species prior to planting native species along stream; 2) direct flow towards the center of the channel; 3) install a fiber log forebay at the storm sewer discharge, along with native river rock as riprap in the forebay, to reduce potential for scouring and settle out stormwater pollutants; and 4) stain the concrete culverts with a soy-based stain that is suitable for aquatic environments. The latter will hopefully address some of the residents' complaints about the culvert's aesthetics.

6) Former Avon site (Ogletown Rd, Newark, DE) –NPS had requested a rare plant survey to check if any Outstandingly Remarkable Values are present. Foresite Associates surveyed the site in May and did not identify any of the 6 species of concern; however, they did find a rare sedge in a mature tulip forest. NPS is still waiting for DNREC's Brownfield Investigation Report. Project review is currently on hold.

7) BR 1-254, Old Newark Road over Cool Run (Newark, DE)—NPS had issued a determination back in April, but because this is the project that would not die, we had to revisit the determination following a change in DeIDOT's plans. DeIDOT found they could not place the temporary pedestrian bridge where they originally anticipated. The new location further upstream required tree removal in the riparian buffer along Cool Run. NPS, USACE, DNREC and DeIDOT came to a consensus during a site visit in July to add 2 more Silky Dogwood to the north side of Cool Run, and 3 Sweetgum and 8 Chokeberry plantings to the south side of Cool Run, and to remove the Japanese hops and greenbriar that were choking the existing shrubs and trees. Fortunately, several of the existing trees are invasives such as Norway maple – Their stumps will be flush cut and herbicide applied to keep them from re-sprouting at the base.

8) Delaware Park Streambank Stabilization (Newark, DE)—Five sites within the golf course were identified as needing stabilization because of threats to the fairways from bank erosion. NPS just completed a Section 7 determination after resolving differing technical opinions of the applicant, US Army Corps of Engineers, State of Delaware, NPS, and consultants. A mix of different types of stabilization techniques will be used in different sections of the White Clay mainstem, including rock vanes to direct flow, soil anchors, and geobags with live willow stakes in between. NPS requested the stream channel be maintained in as natural a condition as possible, given the stream's location (and previous history of manmade alterations). Sand bar excavation was scaled back, and seasonal restrictions will be applied to construction, due to DNREC's concerns regarding sedimentation of and elimination of potential spawning habitat and migratory corridors for certain fish species (river herring, federal species of concern; and two state-listed rare species).

9) BR 248 and 289 (Chester County, PA)—NPS was recently contacted about two upcoming bridge replacement projects and whether the NPS had jurisdiction to review the projects. BR 248 is located just west of West Grove over the Middle Branch of the White Clay Creek. The applicant is Chester County, with funding and oversight from PennDOT. NPS had reviewed the proposal back in 2000 and determined no effect; however, the permit expired without construction occurring, so NPS was asked to re-issue the determination, which we did in October of 2014. BR 289 is a new project (at least new for NPS review) located on State Road just west of Avondale. NPS is awaiting further information about this project. Both project sites are located within 500 feet of wastewater treatment plants, in non-designated "gap" areas; however, NPS has jurisdiction to review federally assisted water resources projects in areas between designated sections of a Wild & Scenic River.

Section 10/Other Reviews:

1) Eastern Shore Natural Gas pipeline project (Franklin Township, PA)– No word on this project since May.

2) Artesian's Broad Run Well proposal (New Garden Township, PA) – DRBC postponed docket until Sept 30 due to extensive public comments. NPS submitted two rounds of comments, coordinating through our federal representative on the Commission. We recommended that the docket be renewed under the condition that the proposed monitoring plan for Broad Run be amended with the following: 1) The proposed duration of monitoring be extended to 5 years and be initiated 1 year prior to production well startup. This will provide one full water year of pre-pump data and 4 years of production data. 2) That the permittee and their consultants establish and maintain the gauging station, well, and piezometer monitoring sites following USGS protocols or other DRBC approved method, for flow measurements, rating curve development/updates, water quality data collection, sample handling, and analysis. The revised docket from 9-10-15 did not specifically include these revisions, whereupon our next fallback request was that DRBC provide the NPS a copy of the annual report prepared by a hydrogeologist. The report includes an assessment of the effects of well withdrawals on hydrologic conditions in the area as referenced in the docket.

3) DeIDOT maintenance & repair projects – DeIDOT sends us proposed projects to review that include repairs to bridge decks and basic maintenance such as repainting (BR 1-229A Muddy Run, BR 1-251 North Harmony Road). NPS confirmed with DeIDOT that for projects not impacting the streambed or banks and not including federal assistance, we do not review under Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. NPS does, however, have the option to review and comment on other projects within the 250-ft. designated boundary if we think there could be an impact to White Clay Creek or its designated tributaries. There have been two recent road failures – Upper Pike Creek Road and Creek Road – and we did comment on these due to the proximity of the road to the creek. In the case of Creek Road, there's apparently a rare plant near the project site and the potential for bog turtle migration along the creek corridor. We support the state's request for seasonal restrictions and other measures to minimize the potential for impacts to the creek's natural resources (or request our own).