



White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Program Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2012, 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m
New Garden Township Building

Attendees:

Kyle Sonnenberg	Nick McFadden	Jerry Kauffman
Bob Kane	Kristen Travers	Jenny Egan
Jake Michael	Linda Stapleford	John Jackson
Julie Bell	Martha Narvaez	
Phil Geoghegan	Dorothy Miller	
John Theilacker	Jack Stefferud	
Douglas Janiec	Aileen Parrish	
Donald Peters	Martin Wells	

Approval of September 18, 2012 Minutes with one change requested by Julie regarding the section of the creek that the Inniscrone permit covers. The length of creek being relocated is 150', not 100'.

Next meeting will be scheduled for early March.

No revisions were made to the Strategic Planning Document.

Julie would like to edit the NPS section of the **Policies and Procedures** Document and give it another review before final approval.

Questions arose regarding the **Restoration Sub-committee** and whether it made sense to lump so many subcategories within this one subcommittee. Non-steering Committee members are welcome to join this subcommittee. Derek Stone, Rob Line, and Andy Urquhart were suggested as possible members. This subcommittee also needs two co-chairs, preferably one from PA and one from DE. More discussion is needed.

Mussel Restoration Proposal

John Jackson addressed the Committee with his concerns and posed the following questions to the Committee: What is the role we expect the mussels to play in WCC and why is this a management priority? Doug Janiec provided historical information regarding the project. It was acknowledged that yes, the science is new and there is a lot of uncertainty, but this is an opportunity to gain insight on what does (or doesn't) work (i.e. we could learn more about mussels and what they need to survive that could benefit the science community at large). Jake Michael added that mussels could generate more public interest in our creek in addition to raising awareness of water quality issues and mussel ecology. He suggested that if it fails then we talk about the failure and that the Committee should decide if we are willing to accept this as a possible outcome. Phil G. added that restoration of species is important for the Committee to support and that research is always questionable. Doug J. added that this research is another piece of the puzzle, along with other initiatives that the Committee has undertaken to address water quality. Furthermore, this project has the added benefit of providing insight into economic water filtration for drinking water. Drinking water is pumped during base flow and that is when these organisms are busiest filtering the water. Doug also indicated that this is not just a WCC discussion, this is a National discussion with collaboration among many researchers. Julie stated there was nothing in the Wild & Scenic regulations that precludes this project and that it is consistent with

our Management Plan. So as long as all the state approvals and permits are obtained it is just a Committee decision whether to proceed or not. Kristin T. suggested funding the surveys first and then following up with a review of the surveys to determine how we would like to proceed. Jenny E. concurred that we move forward with the surveys and make a determination on placement after they are completed. Jenny also indicated that EPA may have results from a stressor analysis conducted in the WCC that may give us additional information on water quality. Funding for this proposal would come from the WCC Restoration Fund (aka the DE tax check-off). It was noted that using tax money for the projects could aid our Committee in acquiring future funds from other grants. A vote was taken to approve this project in phases granting funds (\$2150) to start the survey work. The remaining funds will be reserved, and the Committee will wait until the survey results are reviewed before moving forward with the reintroduction.

Fourth Quarter 2012 Statement of Financials

The reallocations from the last meeting were questioned and reviewed on the current budget. John T. asked Julie if BC and NLT could include staff time under reforestation in the Cooperative Agreement. Julie noted the CA needs modifications. Julie also noted that we need to start budget discussions and come up with projects to spend money and that she would ask for a no cost time extension.

2013 Budget Discussion

We need to spend the remainder of funds in the CA that ends 2013 by September 2013. Julie will file for a no cost time extension.

Hunt at Louviers Stormwater Basin Retrofits : Additional plugs/or a combination of plugs and a fall seed mix is needed to help offset maintenance which is to be done by volunteers. It would cost \$13000 for 300 additional flats of plants, but any little bit would help. It was acknowledged that we have \$7000 in RES/ ER (habitat enhancement) that could be used. The City of Newark is looking into to getting additional funds from DNREC.

CFACE Proposal - Committee voted to approve \$2766.50 from OS/R budget line for the purchase of 250 trees, 150 tubes, and 10 yards of mulch for Phase III of a riparian planting at the Speakman farm this Spring .

Shad in Schools (Martha) - Committee voted to approve \$200 from EDU to fund the shad in schools program.

Mussel Proposal - Committee voted to approve \$2150 from the DE tax check off WCC restoration fund) to PDE to conduct mussel surveys in the Brandywine and WCC. An additional \$3850 will be reserved for the reintroduction after review of the surveys.

W&S 101 Municipal Outreach -This workshop is intended to be a refresher on the Wild and Scenic designation so that the municipalities can plan better. Shane is contacting the original signatories of the Act and gauging their interest in the workshop. Additional help making contact with municipalities is needed from other Committee members who have prior working relationships with the municipalities. This initial contact should conclude by early January.

Creek Fest – It was agreed that the 2013 budget is to remain the same as 2012 at \$6100.

Yeatman's Mill House – Shane inquired about spending money to tarp the roof at Yeatman's Mill House in the Preserve. It was decided that this house is in such disrepair that the tarps would serve little purpose. Martin W. believes the house is beyond salvation, and that it would be too expensive to restore. Aileen will check on the status of this house with the London Britain Historic Commission. Jack S. noted that the what it really needs is a roof, that at this point a tarp would do very little as the damage is done. He suggested that unless we had partners and outside funding that it wouldn't be possible for us to fund.

Announcements

Shane applied and is awaiting acceptance to the EIM Course (Jan. 9-13) at DNS. She applied for a scholarship, but noted that WCWA graciously offered financial assistance with their Jack Murray Scholarship Funds. The course covers topics such as goal definition and long-range planning, financial management and budgeting, volunteer coordination, publicity, marketing and publications.

FWCCSP Special Presentation: "A Brief History of the Mason-Dixon Line", Dec. 5. Registration & Light Refreshments 6:30 PM, Meeting Begins 7:00 PM, Deerfield Golf Club

FRAN RUPERT LEGACY PROJECT –Fran Rupert was an accomplished environmental advocate and information was provided on how to make donations to this project.

Subcommittee Reports

Education/Outreach (Kristen /Jenny)

Watershed Summit –The summit was well received. The audience would like to see this sort of symposium repeated every two years as indicated on the post summit surveys. Approximately 50 people attended the event. It was a low cost event that Stroud graciously hosted.

Research and Restoration (Water Quality, Flora, Fauna, Historic)

Dam removal update (Jerry) – We are still waiting for the approval from SHPO. It is anticipated that the removal will occur this winter (prior to March 15). The next 5 dams will have historical/cultural research conducted all at once (versus on an individual basis) as recommended by SHPO. Jenny noted that we still need the invoice for the historical work conducted on dam 1.

Stream Monitoring for Bacteria TMDL-PADEP (Jenny) – The results are not in yet,. More sampling is anticipating in Spring 2013

Stream Monitoring for Bacteria TMDL-DNS and DNREC (Kristen) – Bacterial sampling was conducted at various locations along the creek. In general the larger creeks had lower levels than the small tributaries. Sampling sites by the Hockessin Library were extremely high. More testing is needed if they are to make recommendations on land use and bacteria levels in the water.

Open Space (Land Preservation and Recreation) (Jack or John T)

Hendrickson update (Don) – Closing is expected around Dec. 7. This property includes both the upper and lower rail beds.

Parker-Graham update (Jack)– Settlement is expected in Jan-Feb 2013. WCWS previously pledged \$5000 towards settlement. This parcel contains 11 acres next to the Preserve.

Indian Run Park Reforestation update (John T.) -In November, 250 trees were planted by 25 volunteers in 1.5 hours along an impaired section of the east branch in Avondale Borough.

Nolan Reforestation update (John)– This fall 900 trees were planted in EV waters along the upper east branch on three acres of eased property planted by volunteers from BC and Dansko.

Countywide Riparian Buffer Chester County, PA (Jake) - A countywide survey of riparian buffers based on aerial photography for Chester County is to take place, primarily for filling in gaps. DCNR is funding the project, and Chester County is conducting the outreach.

41 Valley Update (John) – 154 acres in LGT with 3200' on the Middle Branch was sold to the Moore family and easement is pending. WCWS pledged \$10,000 towards the easement.

Another Avondale Reforestation Project in is the works for 2013.

Management Plan Coordinator Report

City of Newark Stormwater Basin Retrofits at the Hunt at Louviers -167 letters went out last week to homeowners notifying them of the project and inviting them to an Informational Open House to be held on January 15, 6:30pm at Newark City Council Chambers. The key to success will be recruiting and training volunteers to do the monitoring and maintenance. A planting date was targeted for late April – early May.

NCCo Swift Park Vegetated Swales Planting scheduled for April 20 (2000sq.ft.). Plants will be purchased from North Creek Nursery with \$5000 from DNREC.

Creek Fest is scheduled for May 4, 2013, with a rain date of May 5. New committee members include Ken Prager (PA friends), Glyn Thomas (DE friends), Tara Cote (volunteer coordinator DE parks), and Kate Miller (UD intern).

Applied for Google Apps for Nonprofits (easier collaboration, free for small non-profits with 24.7 support).

UDWRA is assisting with overhauling the current website and our goal is to have an abbreviated site up by January 15. UDWRA student Kate Miller is also helping with restructuring the site and including links to help with Social Media Outreach. (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Flickr)

FWCCP – The friends group is working on approval for a new trail to the tri-state marker. They will need help constructing the trail and are asking PA State Parks and Forests for assistance.

River Manager Report (Julie)

Wild & Scenic 101 workshop (covered under Budget Discussion)

Inniscrone Phase III update – Currently exploring other options with the developer. Draft of minutes completed. Final draft will go out to Committee in the coming weeks.

London Grove Township – A revised culvert design will be submitted to DEP with a letter from NPS. The original culvert was damaged during a recent storm. FEMA will reimburse the township.

Mill Creek – A private landowner wants to repair private bridge over the creek. The homeowner wants to use boulders to address this repair. Julie is meeting with DNREC on site today (Dec. 5) to look at the conditions and determine if abutment undercuts are the problem. Julie is concerned that if they use boulders to address that particular problem, it will constrict the channel.

Mill Creek – Currently reviewing plans for pedestrian crossings over Mill Creek and trail expansion.

Curtis Paper Mill – NPS is coordinating on this with the City of Newark

Other Comments:

Dorothy Miller asked Bob Kane (Joe Pitts Office) for any updates regarding the Wild and Scenic Expansion Bill. He said he would look into it and report back.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm