



Wild & Scenic White Clay Creek

Ours to *enjoy*. Ours to *protect*.

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2013, 10:00a.m. - Noon, London Britain Township Building

Attendees:

James Wagner	April Schmitt	Doug Janeic	Jeff Buler
Don Peters	Kristen Travers	Jenny Egan	John Goodall
Ed O'Donnell	Martha Narvaez	Martin Wells	Kyle Sonnenberg
Julie Bell	Tom Hubbard	Dorothy Miller	Shane Morgan

Approval of June 2013 Minutes.

Next meeting will be scheduled for December.

Third Quarter 2013 Statement of Financials reviewed. FY2013 Budget approved for \$82,000, down \$17,000 from FY2012 Budget. The 2013 Cooperative Agreement between NPS and WCWA has a total budget of \$49,200. The 2013 Cooperative Agreement between NPS and NLT budget is for \$32,800. Julie mentioned that this budget cut was across the board for Wild and Scenic Rivers and that the entire park service saw a 5% cut. It was noted that it could be to our advantage to work with the WCWA and our other partners to do fundraising for the program since employees receiving federal money are prohibited from fundraising and grant writing activities.

Announcements

Newark Community Day, Sunday September 15, 11 am - 4 pm (rain date following Sunday)

A Gift from the Water; Lenape People and the Shad, WCCSP, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2pm

Subcommittee Reports

Education/Outreach (Shane)

- **Stream Adoption Workshop** Kristen Travers ran a combined stream adoption/mussel survey program at Middle Run (DE) in July.
- **Children in Nature/Interpretive Hike** (Goddard Park, LGT) Shane, Jessie, Christina M. (Stroud) and our summer intern Ed T. conducted an interpretive hike through Goddard Park in London Grove Township on August 10. This was postponed from June 8 due to inclement weather. Twenty-four people originally registered for this hike, 9 people attended plus a representative from the townships parks and recreation board. Topics discussed included stormwater BMPs in use at the park as well as an interactive macroinvertebrate

survey down by the creek. Watershed passports were explained and given out to children, and White Clay Creek trail maps were provided for interested adults.

- **Sustainable SITES lecture and tour with Margot Taylor** scheduled for September 19, 5:30-7pm. Registration is closed. 24 people are registered to attend.
- **Creek Fest Update.** The Creek Fest Committee had their first meeting in early September. We are looking for interested sponsors to help pay for entertainment and giveaways. Contact Shane M. if you know of a business who may be interested in become a sponsor and she will forward the information to Angel Burns.

Research and Restoration

- **Mussel Survey Update** (Doug) – Funds were released for PDE to complete phase 2 of their research in the White Clay Creek. A small population of mussels from the Brandywine have been tagged and placed in various locations in the White Clay. These mussels will be monitored throughout the fall and spring.
- **Dam removal/Shad restoration Update** (Martha) – Still waiting for a few things to be completed with SHPO. The draft MOU has been sent out to interested parties to review. Once that is finalized the dam will be scheduled for removal, tentatively this winter.
- **Stream Monitoring for Bacteria** (Jenny) – PA DEP 2013 bacteria sampling continued at last year's five sites and an additional five sites through out the Pennsylvania portion of the watershed. The sites were sampled for both fecal coliform and E. coli. Preliminary results indicate high levels of bacteria in several reaches of the East Branch. It is therefore likely that a bacterial TMDL will be put on impaired reaches. While sampling one site along the East Branch, our intern noticed an unusual color to the stream. This was documented with photos, and a map and called into PADEP. Jenny is waiting to hear back from DEP to see how to proceed. Jenny will work directly with DEP and the Restoration Committee to take the next steps.
- **Potential New Garden Park Restoration Project.** Grant applications were submitted to both DCED (Act 13 Funds) and PADEP (Growing Greener). The project involves a riparian and wetland buffer restoration along a headwater tributary (Lamborn Run) in the lower East Branch that runs through New Garden Township Park. WCWA is the applicant.

Open Space (Land Preservation and Recreation)

- **Hendrickson** – Friends of New Garden Trails has begun clean up work on this site and was awarded a Dockstaeder Grant to fund the new trailhead as well as a \$10,000 PECO grant to help with electrical system work needed in order to demolish the existing house.

- **Armstrong** –Plans are moving forward. They are working on a survey and subordination agreements with the mortgage holder. The conservation plan is completed. This is a 34-acre easement area includes 3,000 linear feet of the Middle Branch of the White Clay Creek in LGT.
- **Parker-Graham** –This is an eleven-acre property in London Britain Township adjacent to the Preserve. **NOTE – Erin Lee (NLT) notified Shane M. after the meeting that they hope to close by the end of the year.
- **Weymouth/Moran Reforestation** – Plans are underway for a fall riparian buffer planting. This is the last property located in EV waters and plans are underway for an October 16-17th tree planting.

Management Plan Coordinator Report (Shane)

- **Summer Intern Award** discussed. Shane informed the Committee on all the work our summer intern, Ed Trommelen provide during his unpaid internship with the White Clay Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. She suggested an intern award be given to Ed. The Delaware Nature Society already contributed \$200 and Shane would like to match that with WCWS unrestricted funds or WCWA funds. It was suggested that Shane put it to vote with WCWA. John Goodall also suggested we include recommendation letters with that award. It was determined that due to our success with a summer intern this past year, that we should consider continuing this program. Martha N. mentioned it would be easy to find UD students looking for work experience. The Education Committee will discuss this at our next meeting.
- **Web Site and Social Media Outreach.** Shane reminded everyone to check out our social media, Flickr in particular, if you are interested in viewing photos of the various projects we have been working on this past year. There is a link on the right sidebar of the web site. It is the box with the blue and pink dots.
- **Stormwater Basin Retrofits at the Hunt at Louviers** - The City of Newark hired Brandywine Nurseries to maintain all three basins. They plan on doing a combination of spot spraying and manual weeding. The native landscape plugs are establishing nicely and filling in despite the constant pressure from invasive species.
- **Swift Park Planting** (Hockessin, DE) – Shane and Claudia West (North Creek Nurseries) hosted a BMP maintenance workshop for New Castle County on June 19. The in class session focused on non-structural BMPs (function, appearance, and maintenance strategies). We then took a field trip to the newly installed swales at Swift Park to go over a BMP checklist and determine the condition and maintenance needs of the swales. This was then followed up by two ‘weeding parties’, one in late June and the other in late August. The plants are well established and filling in, but will need on going maintenance. We were asked by some of the county employees to give our workshop to County Council since they too need a basic understanding of BMPs since they are taking calls from constituents who don’t like the look of them or understand their purpose. This was

viewed as a means to help County Council educate their constituents. We are waiting to hear back from New Castle County.

- **WCCWS Expansion Bill** passed through Senate on June 19th. Shane is taking Curt Imhoff (Senator Casey's Office) on a watershed tour late September at his request to learn more about the Wild and Scenic Rivers Program.
- **Friends of the Preserve - Tri-state Marker Trail** approved by the state of Pennsylvania. April S. noted that improvements are to be made at Arc Corner Road to provide better access to the park. They are replacing a bridge and moving clockwise along the trail to work on the construction.
- **Somerset Lake Report** – The Somerset Lake Community had a full report done on the Lake and surrounding catchment area. The study was funding by PADEP Growing Greener. Shane will circulate the report via email. This may be a good opportunity for us to partner with the community on suggested projects listed in the report to benefit water quality in the White Clay. There will also be a meeting at the New Garden Township Building in October. (*October 14, 7:30pm)
- **Whiteman's Garage – CVS Focus Group** – Greater Hockessin Area Development Association (GHADA) has been meeting to discuss the selling of Whiteman's Garage to CVS Corporation. There are several deed restrictions on the current property that CVS would need to have changed in order to put a store on that site. The civic group has been meeting with CVS to discuss their concerns and will be presenting to the Greater White Clay Civic Association as to whether they support or oppose the current deed restrictions to be lifted or not. Note CVS has not filed with New Castle County Land Use to date. This property is adjacent to the State Park on Papermill Road and is the current site of the Dempsey Garage. To be placed on the GHADA email list contact Mark Blake at markwblake@aol.com.
- **Creek Road DeIDOT Study** – A study was conducted on the feasibility of restoring Creek Road for vehicular use. It was determined that it would cost \$2.2 million to conduct this project. It would include stabilizing the steep slopes directly adjacent to the White Clay Creek. The Committee is not in favor of said project and it would be subject to section 7 review if it were to proceed. Shane will circulate the report via email to the Committee.

River Manager Report (Julie)

- **FY2013 Cooperative Agreement** – As noted, the new budget was approved for WCWA at \$49,200 and for NLT at \$32,800. There is \$47,047.59 left in the old agreement that needs to be spent down by September 13, 2014. Julie mentioned it was important to remind David H. to pay attention to line of accounting in ASAP and to use oldest funds unless new funds were specifically budgeted for a 2013 project.

- **Inniscrone Phase III update** – The issues surrounding this project have been resolved. The developer sent revised plans meeting NPS requests back to USACE. Revisions included no right turn lane into the new entrance; instead there will be a stop sign. Additionally, Jessie B. will oversee the stream restoration work on the stream segment that runs through the project area.
- **Radio monopole in White Clay Creek Preserve update** – There is no new information to report on radio monopole #2, but it appears they are not moving forward as of now. Julie has received notice that Section 106 process is underway on radio monopole #1.
- **Curtis Mill update** - Plans are moving forward. NPS determined there was no direct and adverse impact with certain conditions being met. The contaminated soil will not be hauled off site even though it is within or adjacent to the 100- year floodplain. Instead, “hot spot” areas will be excavated and consolidated in a couple locations, and backfilled/capped with clean fill and 6” of topsoil that will be seeded. The site will have on going water quality monitoring.
- DRBC completed their **freshwater mussel survey for the Lower Delaware**. Results should be available in October.
- **Mill Creek** – No new information from DelDOT on pedestrian bridges to improve access on Old Lancaster Pike.
- NPS completed review of an in-line stormwater basin in New Castle County in need of an emergency repair. An additional project under review is upstream of a culvert buried under 3 feet of sediment by a recent storm. The upstream area currently functions much like an in-line stormwater basin, capturing sediment from upland developed areas and modifying flow velocities downstream.