



MEETING MINUTES

November 10, 10am-noon

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

Attendees:

Geoff Shellington	Ed O'Donnell	Doug Janiec	Brian Styche
Jin Jun Kan	Tom Coleman	Tom Hubbard	Don Peters
Shane Morgan	Erin McCormick	Ellen Kohler	Kristen Travers
John Goodall	Aileen Parrish	Martha Narvaez	Beth Burnam
Chuck Barscz			

Approval of August Minutes

New Business

Presentation: Geoff Shellington, Agricultural Programs Coordinator

Chester County Open Space Preservation Department

Overview of County Agricultural Programs and how they pertain to White Clay Creek

Geoff briefly reviewed the rules and guidelines of the Challenge Grant Program and State Programs available to farmers specifically noting the limitations to certain smaller farms. To qualify for funding farms need to be adjacent to preserved properties and 10 acres in size, or they need to be 50 acres if stand alone project (not adjacent to protected land). The county tends to process 20-14 farm applications yearly. Grants include land acquisition and BMP implementation. Geoff highlighted three projects based on stream frontage in the White Clay, but noted that there are at least 9 farms that applied in our watershed. NRCS funding is available for some of the projects through NRCS, but these require a 20% match. They are looking to leverage funding with the Wild and Scenic funding. Chuck noted that there could be problems if matching NRCS money with Federal money, but Beth and John G. noted that this has already been done with projects we supported in the White Clay, especially those through the Chester County Conservation District which uses NRCS funds for their projects. John G. also noted that if the contract is less than \$25,000 it is not subject to Department of Labor rules and requirements. Shane suggested that Geoff provide us with more details on each project, including costs, so we could determine which, if any, projects make the most sense to fund.

Presentation: Overview of Bacteria Sampling in White Clay Creek

Jinjun Kan, Stroud Water Research Center

Jinjun reviewed the basis for the bacteria sampling in the Pennsylvania portion of the White Clay Creek. He reviewed what's been done to date in terms of bacteria levels throughout the watershed and the entire Brandywine Christina and what the data collected to date tells us about the sources. Microbial source tracking has only been conducted on a few samples, and

more data will be coming. The few samples that have been run indicate human and cow as likely sources. Jinjun noted that current primers are not designed to pick up chicken, geese, and horse, so we need to develop better primers. He also noted that we need to collect at different times of the year (not just summer) to get a better understanding of bacteria in White Clay. Kristen asked whether the high summer counts are due to the bacteria reproducing during ideal conditions. Jinjun noted that enterococcus, the bacteria that Pennsylvania has now moved to for reporting water quality standards, does not able to easily reproduce in the stream. Shane and Jinjun will be meeting once all the source tracking data is in to determine the best path forward for next year.

Subcommittee Reports

Land Preservation

Erin McCormick provided an update on current Natural Lands Trust Projects.

- Kraus closed in July.
- Larmore closed at the end of September
- Boddorff closed in October.
- Sinclair Morris is still moving forward but there is no closing date set yet. NLT is working on finalizing the easement, but the owners still need to get the mortgage subordination.

Technically all the funds have been spent down from the old contract agreement on Kraus, Larmore and Boddorff which have all closed. The funds for Sinclair Morris are considered “spent” because they’re being held in escrow by the title company and will be applied to the purchase price when it closes.

John Goodall updated the committee on Brandywine Conservancy projects. He is coordinating with Geoff Shellington on several projects, but Hutchinson has been a priority project. They have funding through NRCS to do some BMPs on the property, but are looking for additional funding as match. John will send out more specifics on the project so the Committee can decide if they want to contribute funding.

Beth Burnam updated the committee on some recent reforestation projects. The volunteer tree planting at Franklin Preserve took place on Saturday, Sept. 24, 9am-1pm, 935 trees were planted, 50 volunteers (3 hours) plus 8 volunteers an additional 2 hours, 4 days of rain following planting. Tubes, cages, and various deer exclosures were tested and will be monitored by Red Tail Restoration while they perform invasive species management over the winter/early spring. Another volunteer tree planting on the Frankenberger property in Penn Township occurred on October 15th. Three hundred additional trees were planted along the riparian buffer by 75 volunteers for 2 hours. The spring planting was looking happy and some of the trees were already out of the tubes.

Research and Restoration

Shane and Beth updated the Committee on the Catch the Rain (Green Stormwater Infrastructure) pilot project progress. To date, two workshops were held and most of the attendees signed up for a site assessment. Nine site visits were completed in October and

they are working on putting together the site visit reports with suggested practices for each participant. They are currently working on the supporting materials for each Catch the Rain Practice and will likely seek additional funding to carry it into the following year. Kristen Travers mentioned that DNS may want to partner on this and help with training conservation volunteers to go out and do the site assessments.

Shane and Ellen Kohler updated the Committee on the Christina Watersheds Partnership pilot project. To date five of the six MS4 municipalities along the East Branch have signed resolutions to participate (London Grove, New Garden, Avondale, West Grove, and Franklin). Shane is attending the London Britain Board of Supervisors meeting on November 14th to bring them up to speed on the project and extend the invitation to participate in the White Clay Pilot meetings. London Britain is seeking a waiver for this permit round, but will have to submit a PRP plan for pathogens in 2018 so they may want to join in at some point.

Education/Outreach

Shane updated the committee on the status of current school programs. Letters were sent out again this September to all White Clay watershed schools grades 4-12. To date the following schools have signed up to attend field trips to Stroud (or have Stroud come to them):

- AGIS - (800 students, fourth and sixth grades) October & November 2016
- Kennett HS AP Environmental Biology (24 students) October 2016
- Newark HS (24 students) Spring 2017
- Assumption BVM (40 students) Spring 2017

Due to less EITC funding going around this year, Stroud asked Pennsylvania public schools to provide \$5/student to supplement the EITC funding, and the Wild and Scenic funds are then used to pay for transportation.

Shane met with Kelley Dinsmore (City of Newark) to discuss partnering on interpretive signage for Newark Reservoir. The sign will illustrate how water from the White Clay Creek arrives in the Reservoir, is treated, and sent out as drinking water. The City of Newark has funding for the design and printing. Shane is getting an estimate and will request Education funding for any remaining costs.

Shane completed the Stroud Watershed 101 Workshops and is planning on attending the Enviro DIY Citizen Science Monitoring workshop in late January with Marion Waggoner and a few other volunteers from the Save Our Water non-profit interested in helping out with monitoring White Clay tributaries. She mentioned that White Clay Watershed was selected as the local watershed partner by Stroud as part of their EPA funded citizen science grant. Partners receive training on how to build and use the sensor, a completed remote sensor (probe) to deploy in the White Clay, and additional funding (@\$2500) to maintain the probe for a year.

Creek Fest planning is underway for the May, 6, 2017 event. Shane requested volunteers to help mark the high water mark in Carpenter of the historic dam. The state park may be interested in installing permanent markers and we would like to do a history talk at Creekfest about the dam and the formation of the White Clay Watershed Association. Shane gathered information about conducting a 5k pre fest run to benefit WCWA. To pull this off we would need some sponsors to fund the costs of timing the race, and setting up the event. It was decided that we needed more time to get this together and that this should be put off until the following year (2018). Martha N. suggested reaching out to the student running club at UD to see if they could help out. Other suggestions included reaching out to Trail Dawgs and Trail Creek Outfitters.

Old Business

Shane asked for feedback on the Non-Profit Management Action Plan. None was received.

Shane reminded everyone to use our new mailing list - CCIL/groups.io - she noted there is a reply all or reply just to sender function.

Chuck reviewed the NPS River Manager Report. He noted that Shane and him were attending a meeting to review stream crossings of the new pipeline expansion in Penn Township following the Steering Committee Meeting. He also noted that we should try to turn our FY17 Budget Proposal in to NPS by year's end, before the new administration comes in. He said to expect \$95,000, but to ask for more if we could use it.

Shane asked for questions regarding the Management Plan Coordinator/WCWA Quarterly Report. No questions were asked.

Shane reviewed the third quarter 2016 Statement of Financials specifically highlighting the \$1500 donation Suez provided for the Catch the Rain program, and the \$5000 we received from the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance for our work on the MS4 collaboration.

Announcements

Gardening Speakers Series, White Clay Creek National Wild and Scenic River, Tuesday November 29th, at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Delaware in Wilmington.

Creek Fest, Saturday May 6, 2017, noon-4pm

Next meeting will be scheduled for February 2017

Meeting adjourned at noon.