



**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

December 12, 2019, 10:00am - noon

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

**Attendees**

Shane Morgan	Ed O'Donnell	Don Peters	Joe Duris
April Schmitt	Doug Janiec	Kate Raman	Rachael Griffith
Rick Mickowski	Grant DeCosta	Aileen Parish	Dave Hawk
Martha Narvaez	Rob Tuttle	Jeff Chambers	Kristen Travers
Kelley Dinsmore	Cori Trice		

**Approval of September Minutes**

Presentations:

Next Generation Water Observation Systems in White Clay Creek, USGS, Joe Duris

Overview of Delaware River Watershed Initiative work in White Clay Creek (including new BMP project proposed for local dairy farm), Brandywine Conservancy, Grant DeCosta. Following the presentation the committee voted to fund the water quality improvement project at the Waltmoore farm in the amount of \$3000.

New Business

Shane will be going out to various Board of Supervisor meetings in the watershed this new year to reintroduce herself and the Wild and Scenic Program due to the high turnover of elected officials this past election, specifically, in municipalities where we focus much of our work.

Chester County is updating their Watersheds Plans (including the Act 167 update) this coming year. They are seeking input from the public, non-profit and other stakeholders, and the agricultural community. Meetings with the general public were held this fall, and the first watershed roundtable stakeholder meeting will be January 17, 9AM at the Government Service Center on Westtown Road. On January 23, at the Herrs factory in Oxford, they will be seeking feedback from the agricultural community.

New Castle County is updating their ordinances via the GreenNCC initiative. They are seeking feedback on the following three ordinance by January 6: Forest Conservation, Community Open Space, and their Drainage Code. Shane will put together a letter and circulate to the committee for review prior to January 6.

Old Business (10:50-11:00)

Shane shared with the committee that the Papermill Road Annexation unanimously did not pass. City Council based this decision on economics, but there were several members of the public present to speak about the importance of not losing 7 acres of woodland. An

alternative development plan will likely be presented to New Castle County which would be more restrictive.

Reviewed the idea of pursuing a White Clay Creek Report Card modeled off of something similar that the SUASCO rivers did. A preliminary budget was developed by University of Delaware in the amount of \$15000 to host stakeholder meetings and develop replicable methodology for determining grades. Outside funding sources were discussed and Martha is going to see if this is something the DRWI cluster would be interested in pursuing as a pilot for the other watersheds. Joe Duris mentioned that USGS could partner on the water quality/quantity part and that there is funding that they could apply for that could support their time via the USGS/NPS partnership technical service proposal. He noted the call for proposals is generally late winter/early spring.

#### NPS River Manager Report (11:00-11:05)

Sara Bursky (SUASCO, New England office) will be reporting as the new National Park Service White Clay River Manager in January.

Our FY20 budget should be released soon and is expected to remain at its current level, or possible increase, if both Houses of Congress come to a final agreement and pass a final FY2020 Interior Appropriations Bill by December 20<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise we may see a slight decrease in funding for FY20.

#### September 2019 Statement of Financials

NPS Budget was reviewed.

White Clay Restoration Fund was reviewed. 2019 funding support was slightly down from 2018, just under \$8000.

Outside funding sources were also reviewed.

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#### Wild & Scenic River Program Updates

An overview of the Catch the Rain Program was presented showing its growth over the past three years, the interest level and implementation level by watershed municipality, as well as the most popular practices being installed. Upcoming Spring 2020 projects were also discussed including the Paper Mill Park Rain Garden, West Grove Borough Rain Garden and other GSI work supported by the Dockstader grant, and the riparian buffer planting in Franklin Township. Brandywine Conservancy is working on Catch the Rain brochures that can be supplied at outreach events and to watershed municipalities.

The status of Water Quality Monitoring at sensor stations and bacteria monitoring at thirty sites throughout the White Clay was presented. While we are still impaired for bacteria, there were some encouraging signs, such as decreases in bacteria concentrations downstream of the Hoopes and Walt Moore farms where several best management practices have been implemented. In terms of grab samples at sensor stations, nitrate concentrations are generally higher than the water quality standards permit, orthophosphate appears to be just at the water quality standard, chlorides are on average between 10-35mg/ml at the sites assessed, but appear to be increasing over time. Total Suspended Solids are generally <5 mg/ml during baseflow and there is a need to get more data for storm events.

Jeff Chambers and Rob Tuttle (volunteer water stewards) were present and gave a brief update on the status of the University of Delaware Senior Design Project. The students are finishing up last minute details this week and Rob and Jeff will be testing out the new design and making necessary tweaks as well as providing manuals for how to design and operate DIY remote sampling devices.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15