



Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2019, 10:00am - noon

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

Attendees:

Shane Morgan	Doug Janiec	Ed O'Donnell	Amy Reed
Grant DeCosta	Kelly Jacobs	Kristen Travers	Dave Hawk
Andrea Withers	Martha Narvaez	Kate Raman	John Goodall
Mike Zuk	Don Peters	Tracy Surlis	Aileen Parrish

Ed O'Donnell chaired this meeting.

Approval of December Minutes.

New Business

The Committee reviewed and unanimously approved the FY19 Workplan and Budget.

The Committee reviewed and approved of the White Clay Restoration Fund Spending Proposal with minor changes; reserved funds for the mussel bank will be released until further notice. It was also noted that land stewardship work involving invasive vine cutting will require a certified pesticide applicator to treat cut vines (this cannot be done by volunteers).

Old Business

There will be an upcoming meeting on March 28th regarding the Boards decision on the New Garden Cell Tower. The board is not in support of developing the Santoro property for a cell tower because it does not want to approve a second conditional use for the proposed property which would be in violation of their zoning ordinance.

The sewer pipe (Northpointe Monitoring Site, New Castle County Greenway) was fixed over the winter.

Shane was contacted by a member of the citizens for pike creek regarding the Three Little Bakers property. The person was interested in learning more about how they could better manage the open space once the golf course is not maintained. The citizens would like to see it remain in open space and not be developed. The developer offered 1 million in escrow to help with future maintenance, but the county does not think that is sufficient for the amount of management 130 acres will need. John Goodall indicated that the Brandywine Conservancy generally suggests that 5% of the total escrow be used to estimate the amount of money that could be spent per year to maintain the property in perpetuity this would also give the county a number to work with to help determine if it is feasible. For example, an endowment of 1 million would yield \$50,000 per year, whereas an endowment of 3 million would yield \$150,000 per year. It needs to be determined what

would be needed to hire a land manager and take care of any other maintenance needs. The county (or responsible party) should determine what number they are comfortable with and ask for that if they are interested in acquiring and managing the property.

NPS River Manager Report, Jamie Fosburgh

Shane reported out for Jamie that the Philadelphia position is still on hold. The position is approved, but waiting for paperwork to be finalized by the Office of Personal Management before they can advertise

Shane also noted that the President signed the omnibus parks bill which included the addition of three new Partnership Wild and Scenic Rivers in the new England region (Wood and Pawcatuck, Lower Farmington, and the Nashua Rivers).

No questions were asked about the March 2019 Statement of Financials

Subcommittee Reports

Land Preservation

Kate Raman (Natural Lands) noted that the Christie easement in New Garden Township is still moving forward. She also indicated that there is some interest in working with the Colonial Pipeline on adding a trail in southern New Garden Township. Colonial Pipeline seems willing to work on this and she will be reaching out to land owners along that section of pipeline since some of it is on private property. She also noted that there was a property owner in Franklin that is not interested in an easement, but wants to sell their property outright. She is going to talk to them more about donating it to the township as they've had trouble selling it.

John Goodall (Brandywine Conservancy) noted that Hutchinson should close first week in April. The property will also be switching hands that day to a local farmer who is aware and supportive of the conservation work and the woodland protections. John is also still working on the de-development project (across three municipalities).

Mike Zuk noted that the Chester County Conservation District will be pursuing an NRCS land treatment grant (PL566 Program). This program hasn't been funded until recently. It is less restrictive than EQUIP funding in that there are no project caps and only a minimum of 20% has to be used toward agricultural uses, the other 80% can be put to other uses. For instance, spreading or piling of spent compost isn't considered an agriculture use so with this funding they can put more BMPs in place to deal with spent compost (farm bill funds can't be used for this purpose). To apply for the grant the watershed area of interest needs to be 250 square miles. They are looking at the White and Red Clay, and possibly the Elk. The application is due in August and as part of the application an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required. NRCS will pay for the EIS. It could take years to complete the EIS and then the fund would be released for implementation. There are 25 million dollars available (nationwide).

Research and Restoration

Water Quality Monitoring Update

Shane shared the data collected to date at the four sensor sites on nitrates, phosphates, total suspended solids, chlorides and biweekly bacteria sampling. She also reviewed some potential new monitoring sites; one just outside of West Gove, another in the State Park just above Papermill Road on UT Middle Run, and one along the upper West Branch just above Franklin Township. She also shared with the committee what the current citizen scientists were up to in terms monitoring, modeling and developing in-situ storm samplers and lower cost continuous monitors. She also noted that there are two University of Delaware undergraduates doing stream sampling for nitrate and sediment at five existing sites under the direction of Jerry Kauffman.

Catch the Rain Update

Shane reviewed some potential larger projects that arose from Catch the Rain Site Visits. There is a buffer planting at HOA lands in London Grove Township scheduled for May 20, 2019. Another potential project located on HOA lands in New Garden Township involving invasive species management and buffer plantings which could take place this year. The HOA received a proposal from Red Tail Restoration and the township may be interested in supporting the project as well as it could benefit their municipal park. There is also a large land owner in Franklin township who is interested in a buffer planting on his property which already has a conservation easement in place. Shane and Rob Daniels (BC) met with the landowner and Rob put a proposal together that the landowner is reviewing. Finally, the Papermill Park site in New Castle County is another potential project where green stormwater BMPs could be implemented and used for public outreach and education as part of their GreenNCC initiatives. The county would like to move on this within the next six months.

Education/Outreach

Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership (White Clay Creek pilot)

We are still waiting for DEP to award new stormwater permits. Applications were submitted in September 2017 and not one municipality in White Clay has received their permit. DEP changed some of the guidelines post submission and there are still some unanswered questions that the municipalities are waiting for clarification on from DEP before they feel comfortable moving forward. This is slowing up any efforts to get projects implemented since the permits have not been approved. The municipalities want to be sure they will receive credit for any work they do before investing money into it.

We also had a meeting in West Grove with the borough manager and Chris Obropta (from Rutgers Extension Office). Chris is set up to do impervious area assessments and run off calculations and can provide engineering and design plans for green infrastructure. He and his team have been doing this throughout New Jersey quite successfully for a few years. He is also part of the DRWI and has funding to work throughout the Delaware River Watershed. Representatives from Penn State Extension, Chester County Conservation District, and

Brandywine Conservancy were invited and attended our meeting as there is interest to develop and implement a similar program in Pennsylvania. A proposal was put together to do initial work including the impervious area assessment, three concept plans, and one engineered plan, as well as supervision and management of one project for \$3500. Unfortunately, the borough does not want to put any more money into MS4 work unless they know they will receive credit for it. Their township engineer was also concerned that these small GSI projects will not provide enough reductions to be worth the cost. Shane would still like to pursue this option and is putting together a Dockstader Grant application to ask for support of this proposal including full implementation of one of the projects. Projects in the borough of West Grove would also provide opportunities for more demonstration gardens/practices.

There is also an effort to help municipalities identify projects for their stormwater permits that would lead to better water quality and improved habitat, which could be added and included in their revised permit applications. Several potential areas were identified along the Middle Branch in the northern portion of Franklin Township where there could be some opportunities. Some of the properties are already eased and others are large landowners who may be interested in buffer plantings. Shane will vet this further

Announcements

Creek Fest, White Clay Creek State Park, May 4, 2019, noon -4pm

Meeting Adjourned.

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Other events of note:

Newark Charter High School students are hosting a White Clay Creek clean up on March 30th, noon – 2pm, involving invasive vine and litter removal in Newark at end of McKee’s lane (behind car dealerships).

Christina River Watershed Cleanup at WCC Preserve (invasive plant removal along a section of the Tristate Marker Trail) Saturday, April 6 from 9-noon. To volunteer, please contact: April Schmitt (april.schmitt27@gmail.com).