



MEETING MINUTES

December 8, 2020

Attendees:

Shane Morgan	Doug Janiec	Ed O'Donnell	Don Peters
Jenny Egan	Hayley Rost	Sophie Philips	Cori Trice
Sarah Bursky	Kelley Dinsmore	Martha Narvaez	Rick Mickowski
Martin Wells	Andrea Withers	David Hawk	Kristen Travers
Jerry Kauffman	Tracey Surles	Laura Lee	

Don Peters chaired the meeting.

Approval of September minutes with one correction submitted by Rick Mickowski.

The committee reviewed the FY18-20 Budget Comparison as a guide to current and future work. We discussed where we were currently spending funds over the past few years, why we were spending funds in those area and how we may want to target future money. Water Quality Improvement Projects and Land Stewardship will be condensed into one project line going forward to make that funding more flexible in terms of how we spend it either pre-construction, construction, or post-construction work. We could also use this money to fund larger projects should they arise. It was suggested that we bring projects to our partners as opposed to them bringing projects to us. It was also suggested that we plan 5-10 years ahead and determine what those needs might be. One suggestion was to use those funds to hire part-time or seasonal assistance, or additional interns. We also discussed the water quality monitoring program and Shane suggested we have a smaller subcommittee meeting to discuss the details and so some future planning. She will send out a doodle poll for a late January/February meeting to discuss this further.

National Park Service Updates

Sarah Bursky noted that NPS hosted their first field date in early November with DCNR, Shane, and some of the Friends group members where we toured the Preserve as part of the National Park Service Rails Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. The next step is for NPS to gather as much information that exists out there in the forms of maps and other data to help with the development of a master plan for the White Clay Preserve (including the Big Elk section). Sarah also noted that NPS is now fully staffed.

Wild and Scenic Program Updates

There were two virtual NPS training dates for volunteers who signed up to assist with the Virtual Resource Inventory and one field training on December 3 held at the London Tract

Meeting Area of the PA Preserve. The next training event is December 17th and this one will be held at the State Park near the Robinson House.

There were three catch the rain related projects that were implemented this fall. The Judge Morris Estate Stream Planting led by Terri Tipping was conducted this past October/November with about 20 volunteers. They will do the seeding and planting of smaller materials in late winter/early spring. Rick noted that Terri gave a nice presentation on this at a DISC (Delaware Invasive Species Council) meeting. The Pierson Riparian Buffer project was also installed in early October. Trees were planted on both sides of the Middle Branch, with protective nets and rock mulch. Materials were funded via a TreeVitalize grant through Brandywine Conservancy and Wild and Scenic funds paid for the contractor. Finally, a Franklin Township resident installed shrubs and trees along the stream that cuts through her property. She used a contractor to do the design and planting which was a mixture of native trees, shrubs, live stakes, and perennials. The total cost was \$10,000, and she received a \$2500 rebate. All three of these projects were applicants to Catch the Rain.

Shane gave an update on municipal outreach programs. This included the Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership website (cwmp.org) to be launched officially in January of 2021. This site contains information that municipal officials can use to on board new staff members in regards to the MS4 program. It also will contain articles and information that they can share on their own webpages or newsletters for their education and public outreach component of their stormwater permits. The CWMP will also be offering training workshop through the year, and in October we hosted the first one at the West Grove Fire House using the Avon Grove Library Rain Garden as a demonstration site. We had about 16 live attendees and 8 virtual attendees as the workshop was also live stream via zoom. The workshop was funding by a Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) grant that Cori Trice applied for and we plan on applying for another one to fund this year's workshops. We are also asking participating municipalities to help fund the CWMP since the initial grant funding has run out. Shane also mentioned that she and Ellen Kohler (UMD-EFC) are attending municipal board of supervisor meetings through the winter to reintroduce the Wild and Scenic Program and how we can work with them on their stormwater management and education initiatives. We met with New London Township this past week.

Shane showed slides of the newly installed remote-controlled storm sampler that Rob Tuttle engineered. The initial design was developed by UD engineering students but after field testing it we determined it needed some more troubleshooting. Rob worked on that over the past year and we installed the newly improved version in late October. We are still in the troubleshooting phase, but Shane was able to call to the sampler from her cell phone and the sampler took three water quality samples during the November 29-30th storm event. We will be doing more testing throughout the year.

Kate Raman and Aileen Parrish not present at this meeting, but Shane let the committee know that there are land preservation projects moving along and that New Garden Township received grant funding from the County to assist with some of the open space projects discussed in the past. Don Peters confirmed that there are several projects being moved forward by the New Garden Open Space Committee.

Statement of Financials

There were no questions on the NPS budget expenses. She noted on the non-NPS funds table that we are expecting up to \$6000 in funding to supplement CWMP work in White Clay if all MS4 municipalities participate and agree to the suggested funding level. Again, this is because we want to continue with this Partnership and the funding to pilot it has been spent. The other thing to take note of is the Catch the Rain budget line, we are expecting \$11,600 via a grant that the University of Delaware included us on to implement Catch the Rain projects through the watershed. Because of this new funding Shane released the remaining funding initially put aside for the program under the White Clay Restoration Funds (DE Tax Check off). The committee reviewed the White Clay Restoration Funds Table which included new funds for 2021 recreational sampling (\$3000) for the state of Delaware, and we decided to increase (\$1500) the funding for outreach materials which are send to tax preparers and watershed residents. The fund brought in \$7760 in 2020 up slightly from 2019.

White Clay Related Updates/Announcements

Doug Janiec gave a quick update on the dam removal projects in Delaware (Dams 2 & 4). The survey work is complete on dam2 and that should be moving into the design phase soon. They are just getting started on the survey work for Dam 4 which was awarded funding later and is to be performed in conjunction with the pedestrian bridge. Both removals are tied to NFWF funding and timelines.

2021 Meeting Dates: (second Tuesday at end of each quarter)

March 9, 10am

June 8, 10am

September 14, 10am

December 14, 10am

Shane will send out a doodle poll with these selected dates to ensure that we will have a quorum.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.