



MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2020, 10:00am - 11:15am

Recorded Meeting Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/2u9NDL N2zhOY6-K-BniQqMnMtjeT6a80yVN_qAizRmSTKY7XjOAyn8Y1xt5dCLQ?startTime=1591710408000

Note: this link is temporary for 3 months and requires a password

Password: 6A&?0z8e

Attendees:

Shane Morgan	Doug Janiec	Ed O'Donnell	Don Peters
Kate Raman	Rachael Griffith	Austin CCPC Intern	Cori Trice
Jenny Egan	Kelley Dinsmore	Martha Narvaez	Kristen Travers
Laura Lee	Andrea Withers		

March minutes were approved.

Kate Raman (Natural Lands) presented on two potential land preservation projects along the East Branch in White Clay.

Sarah Bursky (NPS) is currently on leave for the next few weeks but that she has actively been working on section 7 reviews for bridge crossing in the White Clay Creek. Jamie Fosburgh will be filling in as needed until she returns.

The various budgets were reviewed as were current grant applications. Grants submitted in 2020 included the National Park Service/USGS Water Quality Partnership proposal submitted in February (not awarded); the Delaware River Conservation Fund/NFWF proposal in the amount of \$180,000 for support of stormwater planning and project implementation; the NPS Cost Share Challenge proposal submitted for support of Dam #2 removal in the amount of \$25,000; and the NPS/River Network Community Watershed Grant proposal to support virtual Catch the Rain trainings in the amount of \$5400. The current Dockstader Grant in the amount of \$7500 was spent down on the West Grove GSI study and rain garden implementation this past quarter. Additional funding was received from Brandywine Conservancy to support Ellen Kohler's (UMD-EFC) involvement with the Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership planning team in the amount of \$3000.

The following projects were completed this quarter: the West Grove GSI Study and rain garden installation, and the Paper Mill Park (New Castle County) rain garden installation. The Franklin Township tree planting had to be postponed to fall due to the reliance on volunteers and COVID-19 restrictions.

The water quality monitoring program halted temporarily for the months of March and April due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, it resumed in May. The bacteria data collection will also continue to take place this summer with additional COVID-19 restrictions in place. Shane mentioned that our sampling data was included in the draft 2020 DNREC 303d integrated report and that comments are being accepted from the public until July 10th.

An abbreviated overview of the Christina Watersheds Municipal Partnership was provided. The group is working on a new website for Christina Basin MS4 municipalities and residents to access curated information regarding stormwater. The site will have a residential section, a municipal section (that includes articles, trainings, DEP memos, and a calendar of events), and a general information section on the MS4 program and what it means. Municipalities can use this site to help achieve their public education and public participation requirements, as well as learn about training opportunities to help with post construction stormwater management and pollution prevention/good housekeeping requirements.

Martha provided an update on the White Clay Creek State of the Watershed work. She, Andrew Homsey, and Shane have been meeting periodically to lay out the plan for the year. We are going to reach out to identified watershed stakeholders to gather input and develop the overall grading methodology for the report. It was noted that this work will complement work conducted on prior watershed reports (2009, 2016).

Shane used the remaining time to share her screen with the committee and go over the Arc GIS White Clay watershed map that University of Delaware helped to develop over the previous years. The direct link to the map is:

<https://udel.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=4bd6252384a44beca0105e5ed4cd64d0>

Next Meeting Dates:

Thursday September 17th, 10am

Tuesday December 8th, 10am

Meeting adjourned 11:15am.

Post meeting Doug J. shared this newly proposed bill (House Bill 233 - The Wetlands Act) introduced by Senator Hanen on June 3rd: <https://legis.delaware.gov/BillDetail/48118>
The bills intention is to provide better protections to nontidal wetlands in Delaware, but we should track it as it moves through the state legislature.