

# SPRING CREEK WATERSHED COMMISSION HYBRID REGULAR MEETING



**Wednesday, July 17, 2024**

**7:00 PM to 8:30pm**

Ferguson Township Municipal Building  
(Main Meeting Room)

3147 Research Dr. State College, PA 16801

**Zoom Link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83638528569?pwd=Seb4bZaMnCdbnupto9wokIRcI2ekNZ.1>

Meeting ID: 836 3852 8569

Passcode: 363628

**1) Call To Order** – Chair Brachbill 7:05pm.

**2) Welcome and Roll Call:**

Randy Brachbill - Chairperson/Bellefonte Borough (elected)

Bob Igo - Vice-Chair/Harris Township (alternate)

Kevin Abbey - Treasurer/Ferguson Township (alternate)

Lee Murphy - Secretary/ College Township (alternate)

Glenn Roth - Potter Township (elected)

Doug Mason - Patton Township (alternate)

Susan Chyczewski - Patton Township (elected)

Jasmine Fields - State College Borough (elected)

Lisa Strickland - Ferguson Township (elected)

Mike Danneker - Spring Township (alternate)

Debra Smeal - Benner Township (alternate)

Elyse Johnson - AmeriCorps Member

Kent Baker - Governments Committee Chair

Jon Eaton - Atlas Committee Chair

Ivie Foster - Conservation & Stewardship Committee Chair

**3) Organizational**

The Executive Committee approved holding off adding a second Vice President as we will be working with PMSC AmeriCorps. Decisions were made on AmeriCorps in new business.

#### **4) Public Comment & Written Correspondence**

There were no 7/17/24 public comments.

#### **5) Approval of Minutes of May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

<https://www.springcreekwatershedcommission.org/files/ugd/8c1ad286f7b77348914a539632d7d699a1cba7.pdf>

Motion to approve – Bob Igo

Motion to 2nd – Lee Murphy

#### **6) New Agenda Items:** No new agenda items were added.

#### **7) Educational Topic:**

- Chair Brachbill explained the commission is transitioning to hosting educational events on even numbered months, for a full hour, rather than trying to fit 30-minute presentations as a part of regular meetings.
- Elyse Johnson (SCWC AmeriCorps Member) provided an overview of [PMSC AmeriCorps](#) and her AmeriCorps role:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DXOYiiK9m8PFwVNmUaa\\_j88V0SdZNgkIMIPq8TuyBP\\_I/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DXOYiiK9m8PFwVNmUaa_j88V0SdZNgkIMIPq8TuyBP_I/edit?usp=sharing)
- Graham Markowitz (SRBC Hydrologist) presented “Identifying Optimal Groundwater Recharge Locations and Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Within the Susquehanna River Basin” to the Spring Creek Watershed Commission on June 26, 2024 at the PA Fish & Boat Facility. The presentation and program information are available on our webpage:  
<https://www.springcreekwatershedcommission.org/june-2024-graham-markowitz-srbc>

#### **8) Report of Officers and Committees:**

- **Financial Report – Kevin Abbey – Treasurer**

Kevin provided a review of accounts receivable and payable.

The current cash balance at the end of the second quarter was \$41,820. All member municipalities have provided their 2024 contributions. July 2024 expenses were approved.

Click here to view full July 2024 update:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10I5TAelKXbwBGQPKNVaS6qkJqvWZNnS8/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103973787035446491328&rtpof=true&sd=true>

- **Coordinating Committees Update – Bob Igo – Vice Chair**

The Government's Committee meeting on July 18th was canceled and rescheduled for October 17th. The Authorities Committee meeting is on August 29th. Conservation & Stewardship Committee is on July 29th and September 12th. The IT Workgroup meets again on July 29th.

- **AmeriCorps Update – Elyse Johnson**

Elyse has been facilitating the IT Workgroup to update our website and GIS maps. She is also coordinating the Conservation & Stewardship Committee with Ivie Foster to expand our partnerships with other conservation groups.

- **Jon Eaton - ATLAS Update**

The Committee will meet at 1pm in Patton Township board room on July 18 and August 22 before returning to our 3rd Thursday schedule on September 19th.

AmeriCorps member Caitlin Dooley will be helping the ATLAS committee publish new articles and host educational speakers.

## **9) Old Business:**

- Discussions on rebranding the SCWC logo are continuing.
- SCWC Spring Creek Trash Collection will be a partnership with Trout Unlimited for November 2024 Redd Count (Date TBD) to add volunteers for trash collection.
- Since we have partnered with AmeriCorps for 2024/2025, Jon Eaton (ATLAS Chair) and Randy Brachbill (SCWC Chair) will attend the 30th Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps (PMSC) Anniversary Celebration and Host Site Supervisor Orientation at the end of July.

**10) New Business:**

- Kevin Abbey (Treasurer) and Jon Eaton (Atlas Chair) interviewed 3 applicants to fill two 2024-2025 AmeriCorps positions. Elyse Johnson's AmeriCorps term was renewed for a 1700-hour position from August-August. Caitlin Dooley was approved for the 675-hour position from August-June. Projected goals for PMSC AmeriCorps:  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/14ltKHbhGRXPD1PDj5MISQtxLHIPkMJqH/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103973787035446491328&rtpof=true&sd=true>
- Act 167 and the facilitation of Municipal stormwater projects was addressed by Lee Murphy (Secretary). He explained that there is no interest in updating our Act 167 Stormwater Plan. An effort is currently underway by the MS4 permittees to submit revised ordinances to DEP by September 30, 2024. Those ordinances are not expected to be significantly different from the current ordinances because, for the most part, the existing ordinances satisfy the statewide minimum requirements.

As discussed at the State of the Watershed event in March, there is a consensus that the water quality problems in Spring Creek, primarily from dirty uncontrolled stormwater, are getting worse. He advises that the state minimum stormwater controls are not sufficiently protective because they are not tailored to regional needs. If municipalities do want to strengthen their ordinances, it will take time, partnerships, and education. The commission offers its support for municipal stormwater programs and projects.

Bob Igo pointed out that the many large events in and around the Centre Region contribute to pollution problems. Lee added that we can afford to protect our stream with the support of municipalities, COG, and the County.

Randy asked for clarification on whether a municipality would be expected to accept a model stormwater ordinance if parts of it are not suitable for its jurisdiction. Lee said no.

- Municipal Authorities Budget Donation letters are being drafted for 2025 budget.
- Agreement with Clearwater Conservancy payment is underway

**11) Around the Watershed, water-related news/projects from member municipalities**

Jasmine Fields and Kevin Abbey described collaborative projects in State College Borough and College Township, in parts of Millbrook Marsh and Walnut Springs, involving USFWS and PFBC stream restoration.

**12) Matters of Records:** The next SCWC Member Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Location TBD.

Upcoming Committee Meetings:

- **ATLAS Committee** meets on July 18, 2024 at 1PM in Patton Township lower meeting room
- **SCWC Conservation & Stewardship Committee** will meet July 23, 2024 from 2-3:30PM in the State College Borough Building (2nd Floor All Purpose Room) or via Zoom
- **IT Workgroup** meets on July 29, 2024 from 11AM-1PM in the Eric B Innovation Hub Classroom 113 (123 S Burrowes St. State College, PA)
- **SCWC Governments Committee** will meet on October 17, 2024 from 11AM-12PM in College Township Council Room and via Zoom
- **SCWC Authorities Committee** will meet on August 29, 2024 in Bellefonte Armory conference room (301 N Spring Street, Bellefonte, PA) or via Zoom
- **SCWC Executive Committee Meeting** will meet on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 from 11:30-1PM at Camp Breac or via Zoom

**Adjournment:** Meeting Adjourned at 8:00pm