

Spring Creek Watershed Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

In-Person and via Zoom

Bellefonte Armory Building

7:00 pm

Call to Order – Chairperson Brachbill 7:00pm

ATTENDEES

Roll call

R. Brachbill – Chairperson/Bellefonte Borough

Bob Igo–Vice-Chair/Harris Township

K. Abbey – Treasurer/Ferguson Township (Zoom)

L. Murphy – Secretary/College Township

Jasmine Fields – Member-at-Large/State College Borough (Zoom)

Elyse Johnson – AmeriCorps Member

Izen Lingenfelter

Josh Portney – State College Borough

Debra Smeal – Benner Township

Mike Danneker – Spring Township (Zoom)

Susan Chyczewski – Patton Township

Doug Mason – Patton Township (Zoom)

Glenn Roth – Potter Township (Zoom)

Art Gover – Potter Township (Zoom)

Organizational

A motion was made and seconded to approve Bob Igo as SCWC Vice-Chair, given the resignation of Dustin Best. The motion passed.

Review Minutes of Previous Meeting

January 17, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

Educational Presentation

Introduction by Elyse Johnson & Doug Mason

Presenters: Penn State Graduate Students Shari Edelson, Diana Albuja Carbonell, Molly Lane,

Topic: Lawn to Habitat Conversion Pilot Project (TREES 574)

The TREES 574 graduate class supports the Centre County Conservation District's new lawn-to-habitat conversion program and advances Centre County Countywide Action Plan goals. By providing opportunities for Centre County residents, businesses, and municipalities to convert lawns to more sustainable landscapes, the new program will address many of the environmental and water quality issues associated with turf landscapes. This semester's GIS deliverables identified Ferguson Township, SC Borough and College Township as best opportunities for pilot projects at Municipality Scale.

Slideshow: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1Apq0RRUpzK8UKKC098ZZ2TxI4rKT25k/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103973787035446491328&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Please email americorps.scwc@gmail.com to request a copy of the final report.

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 first quarter was \$42,938. All municipalities have provided their 2024 contributions except State College and Bellefonte Boroughs.

May 2024 Financial Report:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1worXICY6Jai3C4ipaFkXWvC3NjwS8vg2/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103973787035446491328&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Comparison to Budget Q1:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1IJ0LRqb3UAUaNj2H5a4tWyCpQDdLp2oG/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103973787035446491328&rtpof=true&sd=true>

- **Coordinating Committee – Bob Igo – Committee Chair**

The Government Committee met on April 18. GIS mapping was discussed with HRG. MS4 was discussed, and the consensus was to wait and see what DEP announces for new permit requirements. Lee Murphy (SCWC

Secretary) suggested that the MS4 permittees should now be actively responding to the requirements in their permit, which they have had for years.

Upcoming committee meetings: Authorities Committee, The Conservation & Stewardship Committee, IT Workgroup will meet with a focus on rebuilding the website. (Dates/locations in Matters of Record)

- **AmeriCorps Update – Elyse Johnson**

Elyse attended the PSU Climate Solutions Symposium May 14-15 and distributed Spring Creek Watershed maps and ATLAS brochures. She is organizing the SCWC IT Workgroup to improve the Commission's website and maps and has been collaborating with Ivie Foster (Centre County Conservation Group) to coordinate the Conservation & Stewardship Committee.

- **Atlas Update- Jon Eaton**

The ATLAS Committee will meet on May 16. Committee members are attending the IT Workgroup to improve ATLAS's website.

New educational articles are being solicited for submittal to the Committee.

Old Business:

- **State of the Watershed program – Elyse Johnson**

The group was thanked for a job well done. There were 54 attendees. There has been a great deal of positive feedback.

Presentations are available on the Commission's webpage:

<https://www.springcreekwatershedcommission.org/state-of-the-watershed>

- **28th Annual Watershed Cleanup Day April 20, 2024 – Kevin Abbey**

Kevin reported there were 550 volunteers at 57 sites, and that 6,320 pounds of trash was collected.

- **A decision was made to postpone the discussion on a replacement of the At-Large Member position with a second Vice-Chair Position until the June 19 meeting. Consider developing a longer-term plan**

New Business:

- **2024-2025 Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps AmeriCorps Host Site (SCWC) Application –**

Kevin explained that the intent is to extend Elyse's position beyond its current expiration in August 2024 until August 2025, and to add an additional part-time position (August 2024-June

2025) that will interface between the SCWC and Atlas. Host-site expenditure of \$13,401 in 2024. We can account for 4.4% overage and still maintain a balanced 2024 budget. A motion to approve the application was provided and seconded, and the motion was approved.

Application: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1r4Dfw46AELa_qvhUFRqmbEzPDIHBzUm_I/edit?usp=sharing&oid=103973787035446491328&rtpof=true&sd=true

- **"Identifying Optimal Groundwater Recharge Areas and Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas in the Spring Creek Watershed."** will be presented by Graham Markowitz, Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) Hydrologist, at the PFBC facility off Benner Pike on Rolling Ridge Drive on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 from 4:00pm to 5:30pm

Matters of Records:

- The next SCWC Regular Meeting will be held on July 17th, 2024, location TBD From 7pm to 8:30pm
- SCWC Executive Meeting was held on March 21, 2024, to discuss final needs for the State of the Watershed Event.
- Upcoming SCWC Committee Meetings:
 - **SCWC ATLAS Committee:** Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 1pm in Patton Township lower meeting room
 - **SCWC Conservation & Stewardship Committee:** Thursday, May 16 from 7pm to 8pm on Zoom
 - **SCWC Authorities Committee:** Thursday, May 23rd at 1:30pm in Bellefonte Borough Council
 - **IT Workgroup Meeting:** Tuesday, June 11 from 11am-1pm in Happy Valley LaunchBox Classroom 113
 - **SCWC Executive Meeting:** Wednesday, June 19th 2024, 12-1pm.

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm