

Spring Creek Watershed Commission

7:00 p.m., May 20, 2020

Via Zoom

1. **Call to order** - 7:04 pm.
2. **Introduce members** Chris Hurley (Patton Township), Joanne Tosti-Vasey (Bellefonte Borough), Paul Takac (College Township Council), Prasenjit Mitra (Ferguson Township), Janet Engeman (State College Borough), Donald Franson (Walker Township), Bob Carline (Atlas), John Eaton (alternate from Bellefonte), William Sharp (alternate for College Tp), Brian Heiser (State College Water Authority), Terry Melton (Nittany Valley Environmental Coalition), Lynne Heritage (Spring Township), Andrew Warner (Penn State Water Initiative), Thomas Eby (community member), Dorothy Blair (community member)
3. **Approval of minutes** motion: Paul Takac. Second: Chris Hurley. Voted all in favor
4. **Citizen Comments** The public is invited to address the Commission on items not on the agenda. (5 minutes per commentary). Electronic copy of comments should be submitted to SCWC & will be added to meeting minutes. No comments were made.
5. **Educational Topics**
 - a. Chris Hurley introduced Andrew Warner
 - b. *Penn State Water* - Andrew Warner
 - i. “Penn State Water” = range of expertise related to water across many fields: e.g. economics, stormwater, art, agriculture, engineering...
 - ii. Penn State Water Initiative - created to encourage interdisciplinary efforts in advancing Penn State as an acclaimed water center of excellence. Parties working together to define focus areas for advancing Penn State Water include:
 1. University as a whole
 2. 10 colleges and institutes and 13 campuses/extension offices
 3. 170+ water faculty and staff
 4. Elected water council
 - iii. Areas of emphasis
 1. Protecting public health and environment
 2. Advancing resilient communities on a dynamic earth
 3. Driving innovation and technology
 4. Guiding social action, policy, and corporate transformation

- iv. Foundational pillars
 - 1. Transforming water education and student opportunities
 - 2. Engaging people, communities, and partner institutions
- v. Spring Creek Watershed Work
 - 1. Four categories: monitoring & assessment, wastewater, stormwater management, community engagement and education
 - 2. Examples: Living filter, stream buffer design
- c. Questions
 - i. Chris asked how the SCWC can collaborate with the Penn State Water Initiative given the shared goals of the two groups
 - 1. Andrew: members of Water Initiative (e.g. faculty) very excited to work with students and others on initiatives that support similar goals as the One Water Plan; opportunities currently limited by COVID-19. Encouraged SCWC to articulate research question needs with potential for directing future Penn State Water Initiative actions.
 - ii. Paul asked for further discussion on advocacy efforts by the Water Initiative to reach audiences that may or may not be aware of watershed and conservation issues
 - 1. Andrew named a few members of the Initiative, including faculty member Laura Fowler from Penn State Law/Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment and Lilliard Richardson, director of the School of Public Policy in the College of Liberal Arts, who focus in policy issues. Andrew says the area is growing and has great potential given Penn State's engineering and science capabilities.
 - iii. Bob asked if there are new interdisciplinary graduate programs in development related to the Initiative
 - 1. Andrew mentioned being part of a committee to design an intercollege water graduate degree program. Program is currently being vetted.
 - iv. Joanne asked how the Initiative works with the Sustainability Institute given the latter's access to students
 - 1. Andrew mentioned his proximity to the Institute administration and views them as a model for the Initiative; Institute work and Initiative work frequently overlap. Andrew maintains there is great potential for the Institute to work with the Water Initiative.

- v. Joanne mentioned the DEP grant program examining greenhouse gas plans for local communities that Bellefonte/State College have received and are participating in. She asked how the Initiative works with them.
 - 1. Andrew says there hasn't been direct interaction.
- vi. Joanne asks if the Initiative would be interested in working with the Bellefonte group for stormwater management.
 - 1. Andrew would be happy to connect Initiative faculty--e.g. Lauren McPhillips, Hong Wu, Shirley Clark of Penn State Harrisburg--to local jurisdictions, as well as their students, etc.
- d. Chris talked about plans for the year and thanked Terry for her help with making the educational speakers happen
 - i. Jason Deter, from Fish and Boat Commission, and Cory Miller, executive director of University Area Joint Authority, will present promotional video at June meeting (meeting intended only for One Water Plan presentation)
 - ii. 7/15/20 Tim Gould, public relations program manager from the Arboretum at Penn State, will speak about synergies between SCWC and Arboretum in future
 - iii. 9/16/20 Heather Preisendanz, associate professor of agricultural and biological engineering at Penn State, will speak on contaminants of emerging concern
 - iv. 11/18/20 Rachael Brennan, associate professor of civil and environmental engineering and agricultural and biological engineering at Penn State, will speak on biomediation and water infrastructure

6. Old Business

- a. **Status - One Water Report** Presentation and promo video will be shown at June meeting.
- b. **Atlas Project**
 - i. Project continues to work during shutdown and will meet on Friday, 5/22. New articles posted recently. Photo contest is running and submission will be judged at the end of this month with the goal of putting them on the site.

7. New Business

- a. Interview committee of Joanne, Paul, Bill, and Bob reviewed candidates. Gabrielle Stewart has replaced Caitlin Teti.

- b. CNET said SCWC does not need any more sponsors for the year because April meeting was cancelled. More information on sponsoring videotaping for next year to come later.
- c. Nittany Valley Joint Planning Commission is taking municipal and public comments regarding Benner Township's Act 537 special study through May 28th. The plan presented builds a sewer system from Shiloh Rd adjacent to College Township and follows Rock Rd and Big Hollow Rd toward the airport and under Spring Creek. This would hook up 74 residences and 2 commercial entities. Comments from SCWC were requested.
 - i. Comments can be sent to Elizabeth Lose at ealose@centrecountypa.gov

8. Financial Report

(LAST REPORT)

December –

Project Fund: Debit: \$40.00 Credit: \$00.00 Balance:	\$2,150.63
General Fund: Debit: \$473.08 Credit: \$00.00 Balance:	\$18,648.95

January

Project Fund: Debit: \$00.00 Credit: \$00.00 Balance:	\$2,150.63
General Fund: Debit: \$422.18 Credit: \$487.00 Balance:	\$18,713.77

February

Project Fund: Debit: \$00.00 Credit: \$00.00 Balance:	\$2,150.63
General Fund: Debit: \$353.08 Credit: \$95.00 Balance:	\$18,455.69

March

Project Fund: Debit: \$00.00 Credit: \$00.00 Balance:	\$2,150.63
General Fund: Debit: \$36.71 Credit: \$00.00 Balance:	\$18,418.98

April

Project Fund: Debit: \$00.00 Credit: \$00.00 Balance:	\$2,150.63
General Fund: Debit: \$1,184.74 Credit: \$1,366.00 Balance:	\$18,600.24

A small amount of money was used to set up Zoom accounts. ~\$18 will be charged monthly for Zoom until in-person meetings resume. Caitlin has not submitted for March or April so that she can add her hours for training her replacement to her final invoice.

Bill commended Caitlin for all of her past work for the Commission.

9. Once Around the Watershed

- a. Chris - nothing to report
- b. Paul - nothing to report
- c. Bill - College Township Planning Commission reviewed and approved plan for extending solar array at UHAA on 5/19

- d. Prasenjit - nothing to report for township; applied to Upper Middle Susquehanna Watershed Commission and may be serving on that commission in future
- e. Donald - nothing to report
- f. Janet - nothing to report
- g. Joanne - Bellefonte has been working since 9/19 on Greenhouse Gas Plan for the borough of Bellefonte. Plan will carry until 2050. Determined that majority of emissions are from residence, not vehicles, but trains could not be assessed. In 1/2020 a task force was set up and a survey was sent out. Focus group with ~15 community members met last week expressed interest in further setting goals based on survey results. Draft of plan should be ready soon.

10. **Meeting adjourned** 8:10 p.m. motion made by Chris, seconded by Paul

The May 20 Spring Creek Watershed Commission Meeting will be sponsored by Bellefonte Borough and air on Channel 7. The CNET recording will be made available after the meeting and will be posted to <https://cnet1.org> and linked from <https://www.springcreekwatershedcommission.org/>. The recording can be found at

<https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/GNduNoua2rBThhw6N4PRP9OCSPf6B2ru/playlists/4833/media/564411?autostart=false&showtabssearch=true&fullscreen=false&jwsource=cl>

CNET rebroadcast schedule:

Wednesday, May 27 - 10:00 p.m.

Friday, May 29 - 2:00 a.m.

Saturday, May 30 - 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 31 - 4:00 p.m.