

# Spring Creek Watershed Commission

## Minutes for the July 15, 2026

### Regular Member Meeting



The Spring Creek Watershed Commission Regular Member Meeting was held in person at the UAJA University Area Joint Authority Conference Room, State College, PA and via ZOOM. Recordings of the Commission's Regular Meetings are available at [www.cnet1.org](http://www.cnet1.org)

Regular Member Meetings begin at 6:30PM and end at 7:30PM followed by an educational presentation. Corey Miller gave a tour of the UAJA wastewater treatment plant at the end of the July meeting.

#### **1. Call To Order**

Meeting called to order by David Roberts, Secretary at 6:34PM.

David served as Meeting Chair as Kevin Abbey, Chair and Chris Murrell, Vice Chair attended via the ZOOM link.

#### **2. Roll Call**

Members Present:

Jon Eaton - Bellefonte  
Kevin Abbey - Ferguson  
David Roberts - Benner  
Olivia Lopatofsky - State College  
Susan Chyczewski - Patton  
Lorin Nauman - Halfmoon  
Chris Murrell - Harris  
Gretchen Brandt - College  
Trevor White - Ferguson  
Elyse Johnson - Watershed Coordinator  
Joanne Tosti-Vasi - Bellefonte  
Ethan Baldwin - ACRES MyWork  
Owen Ludwig - ACRES MyWork  
David Whitman  
Sonja Dahl  
Jen Dombronski - Clearwater Conservancy  
Jill Barsky - Clearwater Conservancy  
Bella Petita - Clearwater Conservancy  
Andrew Bechdel - SCWC Conservation & Stewardship Committee

#### **3. Public Comment and Written Correspondence**

No public comments

Correspondence received

#### **4. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Minutes approved

#### **5. New Agenda Items**

None

#### **6. Report on Officers and Committees**

##### **a. Standing Committee Report**

No report

**b. Treasurer's Report – Approval of Bills**

Kevin Abbey provided the treasurer report through the end of May.

There are currently nine active Municipal Members contributing to the Commission's funding. Contribution levels will remain at 25 cents per capita for the next budget cycle. Potter and Walker Townships are currently inactive. Expenditures include funds for the Watershed Coordinator position and public notice of the Rockview Resource Public Meeting.

Account balances are \$40,968.04 and \$2,150.63

**c. Watershed Coordinator Report**

Elyse Johnson, Watershed Coordinator reported on the AmeriCorps position and the need to recruit candidates. Walker Township held a watershed event partnering with CBF. National Trout Unlimited's Reel Girls program is being promoted to recruit and encourage women, and young ladies to enjoy the outdoor recreation sport of fly fishing for trout. An outing is being planned for next Spring.

PSU partnered with Barbara Fisher to record a Spring Creek watershed sound track. Barbara wrote a suite of piano melodies that represent the tributaries of Spring Creek.

Elyse also reported on the importance of the Commission's partnership with Keystone Water Resources and the continuous water monitoring dataset Keystone offers.

**d. Atlas Committee Updates**

Jon Eaton reported the committee had taken a Summer break and an Atlas meeting is scheduled for Potter Township. Jon expanded on the Barbara Fisher Spring Creek Piano Suites. The recording will be available for public enjoyment at the State of the Watershed Event.

**e. Conservation & Stewardship Committee Updates**

Elyse reported the committee has been collaborating with round robin discussions that have been very productive.

An update was given on the Spring Creek PFAS Monitoring Project. 16 surface water samples will be collected for PFAS analysis. Sample sites will include Major Springs, Spring Creek tributaries, and Bald Eagle Creek. Multiple Keystone sites will be used for monitoring allowing calculation of pollutant loading values and baseline conditions of the watershed. Monitoring partners include Centre County Senior Environmental Corp, Keystone Water Resources, and Moshannon Group Sierra Club.

**f. Governments Committee Update**

Shane Adams has replaced Kent Baker, who stepped down as Chair. Workplan meetings are scheduled to continue Committee discussions and collaboration.

**g. Authorities Committees Update**

Elyse reported that Pam Adams and Ray Solinas are serving as joint Chair.

Pam is devoting time to the Centre County Comprehensive Plan.

Benner Township is considering the adoption of a Data Center Ordinance. A draft Ordinance is being developed. The Committee continues to focus on Rockview SCI lands and assessment of Data Center impacts.

**7. Old Business****a. SCI Rockview**

A public hearing was held on June 24 at Schlow Library State College to gather public input and to share information about the natural resources of the 5000+ acres of Rockview fields, forests, mountains, springs, and fresh water trout streams. Shane Adams developed GIS maps displaying the Rockview site while a panel of presenters described the resources and co-joining conservation areas including the conservation lands on Mt Nittany and the Spring Creek Canyon Conservation Area. The meeting was very well attended with only standing room available. 17 people spoke at the hearing and a written comment was received. Ongoing public engagement is welcome.

Barbara Fisher as one of our watershed stewards spoke eloquently of a vision for a natural conservation area on the Rockview site that would benefit Bellefonte, State College, and all surrounding communities. Chris of Mt Nittany Conservancy, TCI Fly Shop's Shawn, and Elizabeth Chrisfield shared their expertise on the cultural, biological, agricultural, and hydrogeological importance of the Rockville lands. Community members expressed their connection with the natural/agricultural landscape. Any development should use best stormwater practices. Outreach to watershed partners to give context to common goals has been very successful. The Executive Committee will discuss the formation of a workgroup to facilitate discussion among partners per discussion.

#### **b. Stormwater Workgroup's Tudek Park Regenerative Stormwater Project**

The Tom Tudek Memorial Park Regenerative Stormwater Project is an ongoing collaboration of Fish & Boat, Trout Unlimited, PSU, and PADEP funded by a Susquehanna River Basin Commission Grant to establish in stream structures to increase recharge, decrease flashing, and control stormwater flow to the Radio Park Sinkhole. SCWC is working with Penn State engineering capstone students providing educational signage, technical design feedback, and implementation ideas to help build the ephemeral stream controls and monitor the benefits of the project with use of flow data and other physical site measurements.

### **8. New Business**

#### **a. 2027 Budget**

Kevin presented a draft budget for 2027. The budget includes contractor line items that will require drawdown of reserves by \$5271. The Commission will fund 1/2 of the Watershed Coordinator Position with a Keystone matching grant supplying the other 1/2 funding. Municipal fees remain at 25 cents per capita. Following discussion a motion was made by Jon Eaton and seconded by Grant to approve the 2027 Budget Proposal. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **b. Penn State Sustainable Communities Collaborative Discussion**

The Commission partnered with PSU Sustainable Community in the past during the early One Water Plan Phase II. Jon Eaton reported that the Sustainable Communities Collaborative contributed to the design, plant selection, and educational signage for the stream buffer in Bellefonte's Talleyrand Park.

The student's expertise would be a valuable technical partner for a scientific evaluation of the Rockview land and water resources. Municipalities are encouraged to consider and suggest future project collaboration with the group.

#### **c. Acres MyWork Updates**

Elyse reported on the great success of the Acres MyWork Program. The program benefits our watershed and provides work skills training to neurodivergent youth. The team took on all tasks in a professional and highly productive manner. The many projects they tackled included supervising a visiting high school football team for a stream side cleanup, maintaining the Calvary Lawn to Meadow Conversion, Helping plant native pollinator gardens at local churches, expanding Snetsinger Butterfly Garden, and technical stream monitoring with Keystone. Two Acres members joined us as guests for the meeting. We thank them for their hard work and impressive skills.

#### **d. Centre County CountyWide Action Plan( CAP) Sub Award Grant Program**

The CAP program continues to support water and land conservation projects. The Acres program collaborates with CAP to grow workforce development and maintain projects. Elyse Johnson is available to help anyone interested in applying for a CAP Grant.

### **9. Relevant water-related news from member municipalities**

Joanne Tosti-Verdi Bellefonte reported on the work at Talleyrand Park, in collaboration with SCWC educational signage project, to support riparian stream side plantings.

David Roberts, Benner reported that Benner Supervisors are considering adoption of a Data Center Zoning Ordinance.

### **10. Educational Topics**

Corey Miller of UAJA directed a tour of the state of the art wastewater treatment facilities at UAJA including the reverse osmosis filter plant, the biosolids digester, and the methane capture and energy supply system. UAJA produces high quality beneficial re-use water available for industrial and agricultural uses. Several local golf courses are using re-use water for irrigation and watering which has significantly reduced golf course drawdown of

groundwater supplies. UAJA has storage tanks that hold millions of gallons of highly treated beneficial re-use water for distribution to water customers. Their newest project constructed biodigesters that collect waste from local and out of state customers.

**10. Matters of Record:**

1. Next Regular Meeting September 17, 2026 location TBD
2. Atlas Meetings - 07/16, 08/20 1-3PM Patton Township.
3. Authorities Committee Meetings - 08/27 1:30-2:30PM 301 N Spring Street
4. Conservation & Stewardship Meetings - 7/14
5. See SCWC Event calendar for postings

**11. Adjournment**