

Spring Creek Watershed Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Held via Zoom
— DRAFT MINUTES —

CALL TO ORDER

Ralph Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

VOTING MEMBERS:

Randy Brachbill (in person) - Bellefonte Borough
Jim Lanning (in person) - Benner Township Alt
Dustin Best (in person) College Township
Kevin Abbey (in person) - Ferguson Township Alt
Bob Igo (in person) - Harris Township Alt
Doug Mason (zoom) - Patton Township Alt
Dick Decker (zoom) Potter Township
Dave Capperella (in person) - Spring Township
Don Franson (in person) - Walker Township Alt
Jasmine Field (zoom) - State College Borough Alt

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ralph Stewart (in person)
Thomas Eby (in person)
Art Gover (zoom) - Potter Township Alt
Bill Sharp (zoom) - College Township Alt
Izen Lingenfelter (in person) - Communication Coordinator SCWC
Joanne Tosti-Vasey (zoom)
Jon Eaton (zoom)
Todd Giddings (zoom)
Ford Stryker (zoom)
Bob Carline (zoom) - Atlas Group
Zach Barton (zoom)
Travis Wingard (zoom) - Guest Speaker
Ray Stolinas (in person) - Centre County Planning
Lee Murphy (zoom)
Matt Geig (zoom)
Jere Northridge (zoom)

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations for SCWC Chair:

Kevin Abbey nominated Dustin Best of College Township to be elected as SCWC Chair.
No other nominations for chair were given.
All in favor, pass unanimously.
Gavel was turned over to Dustin Best at 7:11pm.

Nominations for SCWC Vice- Chair:

Bob Igo nominated Randy Brachbill of Bellefonte Borough to be elected as SCWC Vice-Chair.
No other nominations for vice-chair were given.
All in favor, pass unanimously.

Nominations for SCWC Secretary:

Bob Igo nominated Jimmy Lanning of Benner Township to be elected as SCWC Secretary.

No other nominations for secretary were given.

All in favor, pass unanimously.

PRESENTATION OF REVISED BY-LAWS FOR APPROVAL

Bob Igo stated that Harris Township would like to have the by-law changes and articles of agreement documents reviewed by legal before proceeding with a vote of the by-law changes.

Bob Igo makes the motion to propose the presentation of the proposed by-law changes until Harris Township legal council reviews the changes.

Second by Randy Brachbill.

Kevin Abbey gave a discussion on the background of the proposed by-law changes. Discussion took place on the process of moving forward with the proposed by-law changes and when the proposed by-law changes will be voted on.

Don Franson brought up that Walker Township would like to see a change on the proposed by-law revisions for better clarity.

ARTICLE 3 COMMITTEES

The Commission may establish committees and shall be responsible for appointing committee members.

Section 1. Executive Committee: The four elected officers, plus one appointed "at large member," shall comprise the Executive Committee. The committee will oversee other committees. The Executive Committee will be responsible for setting the regular meeting agenda, submitting the annual plan and budget to the SCWC, and recommending any fees, membership dues, or rate changes.

Back to motion on the floor.

All in favor with Kevin Abby abstained

Passed unanimously, motion carries.

ELECTION OF 2023 OFFICERS UNDER NEW BY-LAWS

Agenda item tabled

NEW AGENDA ITEMS

Motion by Dustin Best to change agenda item MATTERS OF RECORD from an agenda item to a discussion with vote for the 2023 meeting schedule. Second by Randy Brachbill.

All in favor. Passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joanne Tosti-Vasey commented that she enjoyed her time that she served on the SCWC and hopes the best for the future of SCWC.

During her time as acting chair in December 2022, she created and signed the award letters for the Spring Creek Mentor Award program that was sent out to the 20 award recipients. She received a thank you letter in response from the awards.

Thank you so much for the letter and acknowledgement of my service to the Spring Creek's Watershed. Your words were so beautifully expressed and presented. It helps to inspire me to further engage in seeking solutions. It reflects what an ongoing privilege it is to serve with the most wonderfully dedicated people. Gratefully, Barbara Fisher.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the November 2022 meeting minutes by Kevin Abbey, second by Doug Mason. All in favor. Passed unanimously.

EDUCATIONAL TOPIC

Introduction of educational presenter by Doug Mason.

Travis Wingard: Master Watershed Steward Coordinator Penn State Extension –
The Pennsylvania Wilds Region

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Secretary: Nothing to report at this time.

Vice-Chair: Nothing to report at this time.

Chair: Nothing to report at this time.

Reviewed the other committees:

Education Committee: Doug Mason and Jasmine Fields

Atlas Project: Bob Carline

Phase III Working Group: Bob Igo (Chair), Kevin Abbey, and Jim Lanning

Randy Brachbill made the motion to accept the Education Committee and Atlas as standing committees. Second by Don Franson.

All in favor. Passed unanimously.

Bob Igo gave a report from the Phase III Working Group Committee. Reviewed the background of the committee and current projects that they are working on.

OLD BUSINESS

Atlas Project: Bob Carline

Mentor membership awards were completed and were sent out to all 23 recipients.

Next Atlas meeting will be held via zoom on Thursday, January 19th at noon.

Education Committee: Doug Mason and Jasmine Fields

Erin Letavic, Senior Project Manager at HRG will be speaking at the March meeting.

Will be speaking on the watershed improvement plan.

Tim Gleason, Director of the Office of Science Outreach with Penn State will be speaking about their environmental projects and programs at the May meeting.

Communication Coordinator: Izen Lingenfelter

Working on an educational committee platform on the website that will include presenter's bios and links to their presentation.

Also was able to gain access to the Google Business Profile with the assistance of Deb Nardone so we can link the website with Google and be found on the web easier.

NEW BUSINESS

Onboarding and Orientation: February 15, 2023 at 7pm. Location TBD

Kevin Abbey is requesting to have a training session to help the new members and officers of SCWC learn their positions and responsibilities and inform new members on the projects that are currently in progress.

FINANCIALS

No financials available at this time.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

No bills for approval at this time

ONCE AROUND THE WATERSHED

Bellefonte Borough - no update at this time

Benner Township - no update at this time

College Township - Spring Creek Park master plan in the works in the township

Ferguson Township - no update at this time

Harris Township - no update at this time

Patton Township - Doug mentioned a children's book that was inspired by their walks in Spring Creek Park. Below is the information provided on the book:

Mr. McTavish Goes to the Community Park
by Bon Kay - Fulton Books, Meadville, PA

This is the third book in the Mr. McTavish series written by Bellefonte author Bonnie Spetzer about her companion animal of 12 years, a Scottish Terrier named Mr. McTavish.

Potter Township - no update at this time

Spring Township - Talked about being more vigilant and mindful with things we do in the watershed such as washing your car. All are components of the MS4.

State College Borough - Announced that they are going to start drafting their climate action resiliency and environmental sustainability plan.

Walker Township - no update at this time

Kevin Abbey noted that Watershed CleanUp day is on April 23, 2023.

MATTERS OF RECORD

Dave Capperella made a motion to approve the following meeting schedule for 2023.
Second by Bob Igo.

Dustin recommends making a special meeting in February to vote on the proposed by-law changes to take place prior to the training meeting.

Dave Capperella redrew original motion.

Kevin Abbey made a motion to revise the following meeting schedule to include a special meeting to take place on February 15, 2023 beginning at 7pm and immediately after will be the onboarding training meeting. Second by Bob Igo.

All in favor. Passed unanimously.

Remaining meetings for 2023:

March 15, 2023

May 17, 2023

July 19, 2023

September 20, 2023

November 15, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Randy Brachbill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Don Franson.
Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

The January 18, 2023 SCWC is sponsored for C-NET by Bellefonte Borough, and will air:

Wednesday, February 1 – 9:00 p.m.

Friday, February 3 – 2:00 a.m.

Saturday, February 4 - 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 5 – 4:00 p.m.

As always, it will also be available to watch online within 72 hours at www.cnet1.org.