

**Spring Creek Watershed Commission  
Annual Organizational and Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM  
Hybrid Meeting: Zoom and in-person at  
Bellefonte Municipal Building  
— DRAFT MINUTES —**

CALL TO ORDER

Dustin Best called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, January 17, 2024

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

VOTING MEMBERS:

Dustin Best - Chair (in person) College Township  
Randy Brachbill - Vice Chair (in person) - Bellefonte Borough  
Debra Smeal (in person) - Benner Township Alt  
Lisa Strickland (zoom) - Ferguson Township  
Doug Mason (zoom) - Patton Township Alt  
Ryan Newman (in person) Potter Township  
Josh Portney (in person) - State College Borough  
Don Franson (in person) - Walker Township Alt  
Glenn Roth (zoom) - Potter Township

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Izen Lingenfelter (in person) - Communication Coordinator SCWC  
Jim Lanning (in person)  
Lee Murphy (in person) - College Township Alt  
Kevin Abbey - Treasurer (in person) - Ferguson Township Alt  
Jasmine Fields (zoom) - State College Borough Alt  
Jon Eaton (in person) - Member of Atlas  
Eric Skrivseth (in person) - Educational Presenter  
Bob Carline (zoom) - Atlas  
Andrew Bechdel (zoom)  
Andrew King (zoom)  
David Roberts (zoom)  
Kent Baker (zoom)  
Samatha Walker (zoom) - Milesburg Borough

ORGANIZATIONAL

A) Election of 2024 Officers:

1) Chairperson:

Kevin Abbey nominates Randy Brachbill to serve as Chair.

Randy accepts the nomination.

Debra Smeal nominates Dustin Best to serve as Chair.

Dustin declines the nomination.

No other nominations for chair were received. Let the records show that Randy Brachbill is the new Chair for 2024.

2) Vice Chairperson:

Randy Brachbill nominates Dustin Best to serve as Vice Chair.

Dustin accepts the nomination.

No other nominations for vice chair were received. Let the records show

that Dustin Best is the new Vice Chair for 2024.

3) Treasurer:

Randy Brachbill nominates Kevin Abbey to serve as Treasure.

Kevin accepts the nomination.

No other nominations for treasurer were received. Let the records show that Kevin Abbey is the Treasurer for 2024.

4) Secretary:

Kevin Abbey nominates Lee Murphy to serve as Secretary.

Lee accepts the nomination.

No other nominations for secretary were received. Let the records show that Lee Murphy is the new Secretary for 2024.

B) Establishment of Committees:

1) Executive Committee: Member at Large

Randy Brachbill nominates Jasmine Fields to serve as Member at Large.

Jasmine accepts the nomination.

No other nominations for Member at Large were received. Let the records show that Jasmine Fields is the Member at Large for 2024.

2) Establishment of Standing Committees for 2024:

Atlas Committee - Coordinating Committee - Education Committee

Dustin Best makes a motion to establish the three committees which include the Atlas Committee, Coordinating Committee (Phase III), and Education Committee as the standing committees for 2024, second by Josh Portney.

All in favor. Passed unanimously.

## CITIZEN COMMENTS

David Roberts is looking to be involved more with the coordinating committee.

## NEW AGENDA ITEMS

Kevin Abbey makes a motion to change the agenda to move Old Business as the next item of discussion, second made by Josh Portney.

All in favor. Passed unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

A) AmeriCorps position update by Kevin Abbey:

Recapped the discussion about budgeting and pursuing an AmeriCorps position. The position is a 900 hour position that will run for 33 weeks from January through August 2024.

Kevin Abbey makes a motion that Elyse Johnson be awarded the AmeriCorps position through the Pennsylvania Mountain Service Corps for the 900 hour position from January 2024 to August 2024, second by Josh Portney.

Josh Portney asked where the funds were coming from for the stipend for the position. Kevin explained that it is a cost sharing that comes from SCWC and AmeriCorps. It was built into the budget for 2024, approximately \$7,000.

Discussion took place on the duties for the position.

All in favor. Passed unanimously.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the November 2023 meeting minutes by Dustin Best, second by Kevin Abbey.  
All in favor. Passed unanimously.

## EDUCATIONAL TOPIC

Introduction by Doug Mason, Education Committee

Presenter: Eric Skrivseth

Topic: Acid Mine Drainage and the Moshannon Creek Watershed Association

## REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

### A) Officer Reports:

Chair: Thanked everyone for the nomination and looking forward to hosting a full year of communication and action.

### B) Standing Committee Reports

1. Atlas - Bob Carline: We published on the website four articles originally written by the League of Women Voters and published in the Centre Daily Times. Articles described elected offices in the County Judiciary, County Government, Borough and Township offices, and School Board Directors. These additions bring our total number of published articles up to 60.

We added to our Art Gallery two new paintings by recently deceased artist Holly Fritchman, bringing total numbers of paintings to 7. We need to find someone to lead the effort to find new artists and paintings.

Committee members distributed about 700 newly printed brochures that describe the Atlas Project. It has been four years since we first distributed brochures. We plan to follow monthly visits to the Atlas website to determine if the brochures stimulated site visits.

Last year the SCWC established a Watershed Mentor Award that was given to 23 individuals. At its January 2024 meeting, the Executive Board asked the Atlas Committee to develop some guidelines for advertising this annual award and for soliciting nominations. The Atlas Committee expects to deliver its recommendations by January 19, 2024.

On January 12, 2024, C-Net videotaped a presentation by Dr. Richard Parizek entitled "Spring Creek Watershed – A Look to the Future". A brief question-and-answer period followed. After editing is complete, we anticipate that C-Net will broadcast the program, and the public will be able to access the program through the Atlas website.

2. Coordinating Committee - Bob Igo: Met with the three committee chairs which are Kent Baker of the Governance Committee, Ray Stolanis of the Authorities Committee, and Jim Coslow of the Conservation Committee. Kent has a meeting scheduled for January 18th to discuss mapping with HRG. The governance meeting is scheduled for February 15th and Ivy will be helping to schedule the Conservation Committee meeting in the near future.  
Bob gave an overview of various committees and functions.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A) "State of the Watershed" – Special meeting – 10A – 2P, Thursday, March 28, 2024  
Kevin Abbey gave an update on what the State of the Watershed meeting is designed for and who all will be included.
- B) Executive Committee Meeting(s) 2024 – To be held 3rd Wednesday of even months at Noon (Feb 21, Apr 17, Jun 19, Aug 21, Oct 16, Dec 18)

## FINANCIALS

Presented by Kevin Abbey - Treasurer

### SCWC Accounts

The Commission maintains two (2) separate accounts. Both accounts are identified as "custodial" accounts by the Commission's fiscal agent and long-standing partner ClearWater Conservancy. Both accounts are audited each year in conjunction with ClearWater's year-end audit.

1. General Administrative (Account #2304) – handles all administrative expenses, municipal contributions, accounts payable/receivable, public meeting expenses, and Communication Coordinator costs.

Income = \$4,903 since November 15, 2023 report through December 31, 2023.

Includes 2024 Municipal Contributions from:

Benner, Patton, Walker Townships;  
Harris Township 2023 contribution.; and  
Reimbursement of Bellefonte Borough 2019 contribution  
inadvertently paid to Keystone Water Resources Center.

Expense = \$0 since November 15, 2023 report through December 31, 2023.

BALANCE \$48,217.83 as of December 31, 2023

2. Spring Creek Watershed Plan Phase III (Account #2601) – established in 2018 at \$16,250 by SCWC members and community partners from public and private sectors to fund Watershed Phase II Planning activities. Re-named Phase III on 7/19/2023 by the Commission.

BALANCE \$2,150.63 as of December 31, 2023

3. Other Items

2024 Municipal Contributions have been received from seven (7) members:

Benner, College, Ferguson, Spring, Patton, Potter and Walker Townships.

## APPROVAL OF BILLS

Requesting Approval of 2023 bills to be paid

WIX website domain and web hosting \$962.66

Blue Moon Consulting – communications coordination, administration and meetings \$3130

ZOOM meeting costs \$168.42

CDT Legal Notices \$718.49

\$4,979.57

Motion to pay the bills by Kevin Abbey to pay the bills, second by Ryan Newman.  
All in favor. Passed unanimously.

RELEVANT WATER-RELATED NEWS FROM MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES:

Kevin Abbey - Watershed Clean Up Day will be on April 20th from 8am to noon. Will be the 28th Watershed Cleanup Day.

MATTERS OF RECORD

The commission holds its regular meetings on the third Wednesday every two months. The next regular meeting is March 20, 2024 at Bellefonte Municipal Building.

ADJOURNMENT

Ryan Newman made the motion to adjourn, second by Josh Portney.  
All in favor. Passed unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm

The January 17, 2024 Spring Creek Watershed Commission Meeting is being sponsored for airing on C-NET by the Centre Region COG and it will air on Comcast Channel 7 at the following times:

- Monday, January 22 - 6:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, January 23 - 12:00 a.m.
- Thursday, January 24 - 11:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 26 - 2:00 p.m.

As always, it will also be available to watch online within 72 hours at [www.cnet1.org](http://www.cnet1.org).