**Spring Creek Watershed Commission**

July 17, 2019

Bellefonte Council Chambers

236 West Lamb Street

7:00 PM

**1) Call to Order:** 7:01 PM

**2) Introduce members: –** Janet Engeman (State College Borough), Ann Glaser (Potter Township), David Capperella (Spring Township), Tim Robinson (Benner Township), Dennis Hameister (Harris Township), Joanne Tosti-Vasey (Bellefonte), Bill Sharp (College Township), Chris Hurley (Patton Township)

*Not present:* Halfmoon township, Milesburg Borough, Ferguson Township, Walker Township

**3) Approval of minutes,** March 20, 2019 distributed

* Chris Hurley motioned, Joanne Tosti-Vasey seconded
* David Roberts: Commented on the addition of a need for conservation and support of healthy trout population.
* Approved with the amendment

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 included in meeting minutes.

**Bill Sharp**, College Township Representative – shared headline in Centre Daily Times about restoring Pennsylvania’s waterways.

**Tali McArthur**, In charge of Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR)

* POWR has been around for 20 years and was created when growing greener funds were funding the creation of new watershed associations.
* Primary focus is capacity building: board, grants, volunteers
* Goals are to expand the support of watershed support and support recreation on our rivers
* Kayaking mini grants are available, as well as a PA water trail mini grant.
* Website: [Pawatersheds.org](https://d.docs.live.net/e3d84cbeb35afa1f/Documents/Spring%20Creek%20Watershed%20Commission/Meeting%20Materials/July%202019/Pawatersheds.org)

5) **Educational Topic**: Todd Giddings *“How the Spring Creek Watershed Swallowed Half of the Excess Rainfall in its Wettest Year Ever*”

Watershed Symposium

* There is a 77 rainfall record that dates back to 1941
* The 30-year average 40.66 inches.
* 2018’s total was 63.75 inches, which is more than a 50% increase
* How did the watershed behave in terms of groundwater recharge / stream flow?
  + Excess of 23.09 inches.
  + Kept 11.93 inches.
  + Water table rise: 66.3 feet. 36 billion gallons of groundwater.
  + Well-distributed rainfall throughout the year in the 30 year average. Range only 2-6 inches.
  + 26th of July: took over 1st place record and held it through December 31st
* January, March, and May of this year has a higher total than last year.
* Karst characteristics of the watershed: Groundwater is taken from Spruce Creek Watershed, which makes the boundary 23% larger (in the headwater storage area).
* Big Spring flows at 14 million gallons per day (10 thousand gallons per minute).
  + Mountain runoff into sinkholes and the streams are distributing recharge
  + High infiltration capacity soils. Very sandy / permeable.
  + Leaf litter promotes high infiltration
* CE686: Ferguson township well. Unaffected by stream recharge.
* CE118: A well in the groundwater piracy area
  + 16 million gallons per day of pumping
  + More than 85% of stream flow is groundwater.
  + 23% larger area due to boundaries being miles apart.
  + Ferguson township well responds by height fast
  + Piracy area hardly responds to rainfall

Chris Hurley: Does it mean anything that the last couple years have been the wettest year?

* Todd Giddings: Not a climatologist, so hesitant to conclude that climate change is going on. More intense heavy rainstorm with more water. Spring Creek watershed’s unique characteristics make it much more capable than other watersheds.

Ann Glaser: Who is losing due to the piracy?

* Todd Giddings: Homeowners and farmers. Not many farms and houses there due to gam elands and sandy soil

Bill Sharp: In terms of drought, even when there’s a period of 3-5 years, capacity stays high. It seems to be a good “reserve” account.

**6)** **Old Business:**

*Report from Technical Workgroup re: Update of “One Water Report” & moving forward, (See attachments)*

* Hope to have a clean phase II report document within two weeks
* Combining the executive summary, fact sheet, and frequently asked questions into one document
  + Short, sweet, compact, easy to understand.
  + New drafts will have a date and title.

*Spring Creek Watershed Atlas Update – Bob Carline*

* Application for RSVP volunteer is out.
* Joanne make a motion to make a Memorandum of Understanding
  + Chris Hurley seconded
  + Motion passes

**7) New Business:**

*A) August 21 meeting of SCWC, Presentation by Jim Weaver, Retired Tioga County Planner & Biologist, “One is Not a Simple Number”*

* Special august meeting to talk about a one water report concept

*B) 2020 SCWC Municipal contributions – contact in August*

* Caitlin and Denny will work together for 2020 municipal contributions within the next couple of weeks

**10) Financial Reports** Jon Eaton & Bill Sharp

**General Fund**: May & June Debit: 1032.44 – Balance - 15231.95

**Project Fund** May & June Debit:1653.88 – Balance - 4179.83

* Project fund: started at 17000 now down to 4100.

**11) Once Around the Watershed:** Members are asked to share relevant water related news from their municipality.

**College Township:** Recognized as a certified sustainability municipality. Borough platinum level. There are only 53 gold / platinum certified in PA and 6 of them are in this watershed.

**Bellefonte:** Pittsburgh region green cities joint program on August 9th and 10th on electric vehicle implementation. Friday Saturday: Businesses, developers, and general public. Bellefonte installed 6 electric charging ports and 4 by next year.

**Benner:** Developments that had community wells… long term plans to get groundwater. One well serving multiple properties. Reliable water supplies for the developments.

**Remaining meetings for 2019: Aug 21, Sept. 18, Nov. 20.**

CNET Air Times: This meeting can be viewed on Channel 7 (CGTV) on

Monday, July 22 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 24 – 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 25 – 6:00 a.m.

Available on-demand at C-NET

*Thanks you to* ***Halfmoon Township f****or sponsoring the airing of the meeting*