

Spring Creek Watershed Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2022 at 7:00 PM
Held via Zoom
— DRAFT MINUTE —

CALL TO ORDER

Paul Takac called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm on Wednesday, September 21, 2022.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

VOTING MEMBERS:

Paul Takac - College Township (Chair)
Joanne Tosti-Vasey - Bellefonte Borough (Vice Chair)
Jim Lanning - Benner Township (Secretary)
Bob Igo - Harris Township
Doug Mason - Patton Township Alt
Mark Garlicki - Ferguson Township
Jasmine Field - State College Borough Alt
Art Gover - Potter Township

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Kevin Abbey - Ferguson Township Alt
Bill Sharp - College Township Alt (Treasurer)
Izen Lingenfelter - Communication Coordinator SCWC
Terry Melton
Nancy Long
Andrea Murrell
Lauren McPhillips - Guest Speaker

CITIZEN COMMENTS

No comments at this time.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS

Joanne Tosti-Vasey made the motion to amend that agenda to include a discussion that took place at the Bellefonte Borough Council Meeting regarding the SCWC under new business, second by Bob Igo.
Passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the July 2022 meeting minutes by Bob Igo, second by Jim Lanning.
Passed unanimously.

EDUCATIONAL TOPIC

Walnut Springs Constructed Wetland in the Borough by Dr. Lauren McPhillips, Penn State University.

Jim Lanning comment on how well he enjoyed the presentation and also invited Dr. Lauren McPhillips to be involved in the SCWC Phase 3 working group as a technician advisor.

OLD BUSINESS

One Water Plan - Phase III Working Group: Bob Igo

Bob Igo gave an update on the meeting that took place on August 9th. At that meeting, Bob was elected a chair for the working group and adopted the proposed documents as part of the operating plan. Another meeting took place on August 31st at Camp Breac. At that meeting, the following was discussed: forming committees, potential candidates of committees, and outreach. Action items for the rest of 2023 will be outreach and finalizing committees along with creating the job description of the executive director.

Will try to meet again mid-October at Camp Breac.

Atlas Project: Bob Carline (update via email - read by Paul Takac)

"An article by Dave Roberts on PFAS chemicals will be posted on the Atlas web site in the near future. We have received commitments from three new authors to provide articles for the Atlas."

Watershed Mentor Awards - Project has slowed down but is still moving on track.

Education Committee: Doug Mason

November 2022 - Kimberlie Gridley: tentative title Pennsylvania's One Water Task Force

Doug mentioned that Lexie Orr will be speaking in January.

Terry Melton suggested a speaker on the new 322 routes and the impact that they may have.

Social Media and Public Relations: Izen Lingenfelter

Izen mentioned that the social media presence is slowly growing. He requested information on the presenters to use as content to help build the page growth.

Joanne suggested posting the CNet link of the presentation on the page as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Bellefonte Borough Update: Joanne Tosti-Vasey

Joanne stated that Bellefonte Borough has been in a legal battle with the Bellefonte Water Authority for about a year regarding the One Water Plan and membership on the SCWC. Brief description of the conversation that took place at the Bellefonte Borough Meeting was presented. Several representatives spoke at the Bellefonte Borough Meeting with their concerns. End result is that the borough is still a member of SCWC. The following was quoted by Joanne Tosti-Vasey:

"Water Authority Feared that the One Water Plan was a taking of Bellefonte's water. They believe that anything that comes up in the Big Spring belongs only to Bellefonte despite the fact that the source of the water is upstream. They initially threatened of lawsuit if Council agreed to participate in the One Water Plan. So there was a vote in January by Council not to participate in the One Water Plan."

Then an order stating that I was not to participate in any way in the One Water Plan was made to me based on the January vote. Which is why after the working group was created that I haven't participated. Another Threat of a lawsuit if Council did not agree to give the seats on the Commission solely to members of the Water Authority. I questioned why this was being done in executive session in July. That's when I found out about the threat of a suit by the Water Authority Back and forth in executive sessions of the council with a deadlock on what the council would do. Me speaking in favor of continued membership and Doug Johnson speaking as a member of both the Water Authority and the Council to leave the Commission.

On Friday, September 16, the agenda came out with the proposed motion. I heard from three people even before I opened my packet that this was on Monday's agenda. Since it was now out in the public and I was no longer silenced by the Executive Committee rules, I put out a statement asking the public to come and speak out.

About 40 people attended the meeting to speak out in support of the SCWC. No one spoke for Bellefonte to leave the Commission although there was one member of the Water Authority in the room.

Initial Motion: "Remove Bellefonte Borough from the SCWC by revision or amendment to the ordinance originally adopted by Bellefonte Borough" (in 2006). Made by Kent Bernier and seconded by Doug Johnson.

Substitute motion: "Move for Bellefonte Borough to remain in the SCWC with one change: The Water Authority would make a recommendation to council on an annual basis for the appointment of the representative and the alternate with both people being members of council. The council would then affirm these recommended appointments." Motion by Joanne T-V and seconded by Doug Johnson. Vote was unanimous

Having the community speak up for continued involvement in the SCWC, for our water quality, and for transparency in government really helped. Without your voices, including some of you an this Commission,, I don't believe my compromise motion would have prevailed.

So what this means is that come January 1, neither Jon Eaton nor I will be representing Bellefonte on the SCWC because Jon is no longer a council member and I am an unwelcome person within the Bellefonte Water Authority. I decided to make this motion in the interest of the borough, even knowing that this meant I would have to step down at the end of this year. I have enjoyed my work with you and truly believe that the work we are doing together, including creating the One Water Plan, is for the betterment of the entire watershed."

FINANCIALS

Presented by Bill Sharp
July, 2022

	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
PROJECT FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,150.63
GENERAL FUND	\$55.00	\$0.00	\$27,269.64

August, 2022

	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
PROJECT FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,150.63
GENERAL FUND	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,269.64

Short discussion took place on the past due invoices and the invoices for 2023

ONCE AROUND THE WATERSHED

Mark Garlicki - Ferguson Township: Penn State Extension Master Watershed Program and how important it is on an individual basis and the impact that it makes. Several discussions took place on how to make an educational program for next year.

Doug Mason - Patton Township: Clearwater has acquired a piece of property called Gray Woods Preserve with trails and wetlands to be conserved and open to the public.

<https://www.statecollege.com/centred-outdoors-to-explore-grays-woods-preserve/>

Paul Takac - College Township: Hilltop Mobile Home Park is being developed as a large student housing project. Discussed the concern of the impact of Thompson Woods Preserve with this development. An intermunicipal agreement has been drafted and approved to provide a governance committee to make recommendations on the management of this area.

REMAINING MEETINGS FOR 2022

November 16, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Joanne Tosti-Vasey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Doug Mason. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm on Wednesday, September 21, 2022.

CNET coverage of this meeting is sponsored by Centre County Government.

The airtimes for the 9/21/22 SCWC meeting to air on C-NET (Comcast Channel 7) are:

Monday, September 26 - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 28 - 5:00 a.m.

Thursday, September 29 - 2:00 p.m.

Friday, September 30 - 12:00 am.

Sunday, October 2 - 4:00 p.m.

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