

SPRING CREEK WATERSHED COMMISSION

Regular Member Meeting



Wednesday, January 21, 2026,

6:00 PM to 8:00 pm

Patton Township Board Room

100 Patton Plaza, State College, PA 16803

Zoom Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89272152245?pwd=fUevNZ5Tg0y0frnPbDx2A74fflyG7j.1>

Meeting ID: 892 7215 2245

Passcode: 117650

1) Call to Order: Chair Brachbill will call the meeting to order

Note that our Member Meetings will start at 6:30pm ending at 7:30pm followed by an Educational Presentation starting at 7:30pm ending at 8:30pm.

2) Roll Call: Establish which Municipalities are present and recognize their representatives (Elected/Alternate).

Randy Brachbill - Bellefonte, Kevin Abbey - Ferguson, Lee Murphy - College, David Roberts - Benner, Susan Chyczewski - Patton, Trevor White - Ferguson, Mike Danneker - Spring, Chris Murrell - Harris, Lorin Nauman - Halfmoon, Donnan Stoicovy - Halfmoon, Gretchen Brandt - College, Olivia Lopatofsky. - State College, Bob Igo -Harris, Mike Danneker - Spring, Elyse Johnson - Watershed Coordinator, Jon Eaton - Atlas, Deb Escalet - Americorps.

3) Public Comment & Written Correspondence:

The public is invited to address Commission items not listed on the agenda. (Limit 5 min. per person). Electronic copies of comments may be submitted to SCWC and will be added to the meeting minutes.

No comments or correspondence received.

4) Review & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion and second called to approve the September 17, 2025 Regular Member Meeting minutes. Minutes approved.

5) New Agenda Items: none

6) Election of Officers

Nominations made and votes called. Officers for 2026 are as follows:

Randy Brachbill, Chair

Kevin Abbey, Vice Chair

Kevin Abbey, Treasurer

David Roberts, Secretary

7) Introduction of 2026 Representatives

New member representatives were welcomed to the Commission following introductions. Municipal member appointments and contact information are available at: <https://www.springcreekwatershedcommission.org/members>

8) Report on Officers and Committees:

a. Vice-Chair Standing Committee Report

The Commission's Watershed Plan has turned to active partnerships for watershed stewardship as the implementation of Phase III.

b. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Bills - Kevin Abbey

Member contributions have been raised from 15 cents to 25 cents per capita. ClearWater Conservancy maintains two custodial accounts for the Commission. Financial report can be viewed here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QqH2DQ9mIBOaGflqw12Vxq2oc5K-OUq5/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117860924494108927482&rtpof=true&sd=true>

c. Watershed Coordinator Report – Elyse Johnson

Elyse Johnson presented reports concerning the Rockview SCI closing and environmental assessment of the site. Penn State Sustainability programs invite student participation and support of watershed projects. Stroud Water Research Center is expanding stream chloride testing in Centre County with help from the Keystone Water Resources Center and PA Senior Environmental Corps. Elyse is available to discuss engagement and opportunities with the watershed commission and Keystone Water Resources Center.

d. AmeriCorps Member Report – Deb Escalet

Deb Escalet presented an update on Americorps activities including project data collection for GIS mapping and sampling for the seasonal Salt Snapshot with Stroud. Deb is interested in exploring Indigenous perspectives of our watershed.

e. Atlas Committee Updates

Elyse Johnson announced several new articles in the Watershed Atlas on Climate, Water Budgets, and Herbicide Use. Shane Adams, GIS Director of College Township, is recognized for his work on MS4 data, the Governments Committee, environmental assessment, and story mapping. There is an ongoing collaboration to identify Rockview SCI preservation needs and opportunities.

f. Conservation & Stewardship Committee Updates

The Conservation and Stewardship Committee works closely with watershed partners including the Centre County Conservation District, PA Senior Environmental Corp, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Clearwater Conservation District, Penn State, Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association and local conservation groups. Partners

continue to share resources and communication channels. The Watershed Educational Signage Project has received a mini grant and will coordinate the placing of signage within the watershed.

g. Governments Committee Updates

The governments committee is well represented by municipal engineers. Many are awaiting the MS4 permit to be released. Closer collaboration with both MS4 partners and non-MS4 municipalities downstream is a priority.

h. Authorities Committees Updates

The Committee members are holding active dialog concerning the Rockview SCI closing, potential data centre impacts, and impervious surface challenges and solutions.

i. Grants Committee Updates

A Grants Committee has formed to explore grant fund opportunities. Suggestions are requested for watershed projects needing grant funds.

9) Old Business

a. 11/23/25 Spring Creek Cleanup with Trout Unlimited outcomes

Over 40 volunteers collected 420 lbs of trash in collaboration with Trout Unlimited's Annual Redd Count.

b. Set date for 3rd Annual State of the Watershed Event

A motion was made and approved for the State of the Watershed Event to be held on April 2, 2026. Location to be determined. Event partners include Keystone Water Resources Center, Spring Creek Watershed Commission and Centre County CAP. The Event is planned as an interactive educational program with presentations and roundtable discussions.

10) New Business

a. Stormwater Workgroup's Tudek Park Regenerative Stormwater Project

The Stormwater Workgroup is preparing an SRBC Consumptive Use Mitigation Grant application. The reach of the Unnamed Tributary to Big Hollow flowing through Tudek Park is overly wide and banks have been eroding over the years due to stormwater surges from upstream development. The existing channel is entrenched and not well connected to the floodplain. The project will use rock crossvane structures similar to in-stream fish habitat projects to decrease stream velocities and reconnect the stream channel to the floodplain via a step-pool conveyance. As a high-profile demonstration project, it will showcase cost-effective stormwater management for ephemeral stream channels while adhering to the conservation standards established for the Tudek Park property. The project is fully supported by the Tudek Trust and Ferguson Township, who jointly manage Tudek Park.

- b. Public Project Viewer GIS Mapping Project Updates
Trout Unlimited, Clearwater Conservancy, municipalities, MS4 partners and PA Fish and Boat Commission are adding projects to the GIS map: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c65577ca3c8949d2b6ec3ec5fb59b8e2/>
- c. Clearwater Conservancy has announced the 30th Annual Watershed Cleanup Day will be on Saturday 4/18/26 from 8am - 12pm

11) Relevant water-related news from member municipalities

Benner Township continues to have a Per and Poly FluoroAlkyl Substance (PFAS) contamination issue effecting waterfalls and surface waters.

12) Educational Topic: On-boarding and overview of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission's history – Kevin Abbey

The Commission functions as an intergovernmental cooperation entity with decision-making capacity, while maintaining strong communication channels with the 11 member municipalities in the Spring Creek Watershed. Municipal appointees and alternates communicate with member municipalities. Input is needed to explore ways the Commission may be more impactful and supportive to member issues and needs.

The 2007 Intergovernmental Agreement which created the Spring Creek Watershed Commission (SCWC) established the following protocol for both Programs or Projects to be initiated.

- All newly recommended Programs and Projects will be submitted to all the participating municipalities to determine initial interest;
- Those municipalities that express interest shall then develop a detailed proposal that will again be reviewed by the SCWC and others may join at this point;
- If sufficient interest is expressed, the interested municipalities may proceed to enter into an appropriate arrangement or agreement or contract based on a voluntary contribution, or assessment, sufficient to cover all costs without an obligations on the non-participating municipalities

10) Matters of Record:

1. See [SCWC Event](#) Calendar for details and future postings.
2. Next SCWC Regular Meeting 3/18/26
3. Atlas Committee Meetings 2/19, 3/19 1:00-3:00 PM, Patton Township
4. Authorities Committee Meeting 2/26 1:30-2:30 301 N Spring St.
5. Conservation & Stewardship Committee Meeting 3/10 3:30-5PM, Willowbank Building

11) Adjournment called at 8:30PM