

Minutes

January 20, 2021 Meeting of the Spring Creek Watershed Commission.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

New member introductions:

Voting members:

Joanne Tosti-Vasey, Bellefonte Borough
Paul Takac, College Township
Bob Carline, Atlas Workgroup
Janet Engemann, State College Borough
Don Franson, Walker Township
George Harrigan, Harris Township
Larry Lingle, Benner Township
Douglas Mason, Patton Township

Other attendees:

Jasmine Fields, alt. State College Borough
Bill Sharp, alt. College Township
Jim Lanning, alt. Benner Twp & Clearwater Conservancy
Corey Rilck, Centre Region Planning Agency
Ryan Hamilton, Clearwater Conservancy
Todd Giddings
Caitlin Teti

Approval of Minutes:

Hold until March meeting due to lack of quorum

2021 Officer Elections:

Hold until March meeting due to lack of quorum

Citizen Comments:

Caitlin Teti provided an introduction and background on her two+ year involvement with SCWC and Atlas Project. Currently joint appointment with NASA and Penn State doing science outreach and pursuing Masters degree and current status of research on One Water Plan. Will report again in March.

Presentation:

State College Borough MS4 Stormwater Management Plan.

by Jasmine Fields, Sustainability Program Assistant (State College Borough)

Presentation topics:

- History of stormwater management in the United States
- NPDES (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) and MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit basics
- State College Borough MS4 permit requirements
- Chesapeake Bay Pollution Reduction Plan

Q&A

Slides to be posted on web site.

Quorum achieved so moved to:

Approve Minutes

(Motion: George Harrigan, Second: Janet Engemann)

Passed unanimously

Election of 2021 Officers:

Nomination of Joanne Tosti-Vasey to serve again as Chair.

(Motion: Janet Engemann, Second: Paul Takac)

Passed unanimously

Nomination of Paul Takac to serve again as Vice Chair.

(Motion: Douglas Mason, Second: Janet Engemann)

Passed unanimously

Nomination of Jim Lanning as Secretary.

(Motion: Larry Lingle, Second: Douglas Mason)

Passed unanimously

Nomination of Bill Sharp to serve as Treasurer.

(Motion: Paul Takac, Second: Don Franson)

Passed unanimously

One Water Report status update:

Paul Takac, Communication Work Group will have met twice before planned work session on February 17th. Goal is 8-10 minute presentation on Phase II Report (approved in December 2019) and future plans. Municipalities must approve plan before moving into Phase III and financial planning phase. Discussion. George Harrigan volunteered to help with both communication and financial work groups.

Reports on Related Plans:

- Centre County Watershed Plan (5 Year): Comments due by end of January.
- Susquehanna River Basin Commission Plan: Comments due by Feb. 14th.

Discussion about integration and coordination of plans.
Potential future updates from Clearwater Conservancy pending Board approval.

Atlas Project:

Bob Carline, Milestone: 50th article published in 2020. Three more ready to go once new Communications Coordinator is hired.

Education Committee Update:

Jasmine Fields. Will follow up with Terry Melton on future speakers. Confirmed speakers for March and May.

Communications Coordinator/Website Manager Vacancy:

10 applications. Following up on 3 candidates and hope to have interview committee (Tosti-Vasey, Takac, Carline, Sharp) conduct interviews in next couple of weeks. Jim Lanning will be added.

2020 Invoices Update:

Municipal invoices for 2020 apparently were never sent. Must be received by January 30th. Requirement to support SCWC is mandated by State College Borough's MS4 plan. Discussed motion to send invoices with a notation that it is not an obligation due to the Commission's oversight and compliance/audit deadlines.

Motion: Paul Takac, Second: Douglas Mason.

Passed unanimously.

Annual PA Groundwater Symposium at Penn State (May).

Virtually conference this year. Watershed Commission has paid for voting members in past.

Motion was made to table this until March meeting when financial situation is more clear.

Motion: Paul Takac, Second: Larry Lingle.

Passed unanimously.

Treasurer/Financial Reports:

Bill Sharp. Report for October, November, December.

Two funds: Project Fund and General Fund (municipal contributions). Some 2021 contributions have already been received.

Once Around the Watershed:

- College Township: Three major projects: Aspen Heights student housing project. Lot of focus on underground stormwater management (infiltration and storage) and expansion of riparian buffer along Thompson Run.
- Bellefonte Borough: PSU Sustainability engineering class will present recommendations for Talleyrand Park Dam. Water now being diverted around raceway.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn (Motion: Janet Engemann, Second: Douglas Mason)

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.