



Watershed Management Executive Subcommittee Meeting
February 5, 2008
10 a.m-12 p.m.

Attendees

Chuck Barszcz	Sally Cheyne	Martha Corrozi	Doug Janiec
Jake Michael	Rick Mickowski	Dorothy P. Miller	Nate Nazdrowicz
Ed O'Donnell	Aileen Parrish	Maureen Seymour	Jack Stefferud
Linda Stapleford	Derek Stoner	Kristen Travers	

Aileen Parish, Pennsylvania Co-chair, convened the meeting at 10:06 a.m. with a welcome and introductions. Nate Nazdrowicz, a UD PhD student studying long tail Salamander Ecology, is new to the Fish & Wildlife committee.

BRIEF UPDATES

NPS C. Barszcz

- Still waiting for the final numbers for the budget, but it has increased. He's estimating an increase to \$125,000 from last year's \$85,000. It will be finalized in the spring.
- Contracting interpretation issues need to be addressed by creating a new cooperative agreement with this new number. The FY08 money needs to be put in a new agreement, not a modified or amended agreement. This will ensure the money will be around for 5 years. The current money linked to the current agreement will not carry over when the overarching agreement expires. It needs to be spent by the end of the budget year (spring '09). L. Stapleford noted that will not be a problem.
- C. Barszcz recommends 5 year contracts. New annual cooperative agreements are possible, but get complicated.
- The Partnership Wild & Scenic River Conference will be at the Marriott with about 20-25 representatives of Partnership Rivers from Atlanta, Florida, D.C., and Philadelphia. Since this event is hosted here, a welcoming and opening should incorporate the WCC to familiarize people with it. A field trip on Friday or meetings are potential ways to inform participants.

RIVER ADMINISTRATOR L. Stapleford

- E-mail updates are circulating inviting Exec. Subcomm. members to the Partnership Conference. Meeting meals are included as part of the conference expense and therefore covered..
- Community Spaces, Natural Places workshops will be held on Saturday, February 23rd and Tuesday, February 26th with field training events on April 19th and May 3rd. A notice is on our homepage with a link to the details.
- The website is up and hopefully all parts will be fully functional soon. The professor left in December, so there are loose ends to finish up. Everything from the old website has been incorporated, but it is more user-friendly with additional resources, such as a soon-to-be interactive map of the watershed.
- April 12th the Vineyard Christian Fellowship church in Landenburg wants a speaker to talk about the watershed for about 15-20 minutes for an environmental education day. L. Stapleford is looking for a volunteer.
- April 8th at 10 a.m. is the date for the April Management Committee meeting in Delaware, tentatively at the Judge Morris Estate.
- The State of the Watershed report will be done by May/June to be printed and presented. Hopefully it can be linked with the Anniversary celebration of the Wild & Scenic River and recognition of Mr. Wilkins for his generous donation towards the easements on his farm. The evening of Tuesday, June 3rd is the tentative date for the event.

- A task force of a few people are needed to organize activities for the Anniversary event. No volunteers at this point.

SUBCOMMITTEES

EDUCATION *R. Mickowski*

- Tack board is at the printer.

FISH & WILDLIFE *E. O'Donnell*

- Derek has completed bird surveys of the D'Andrea and Howard properties in Franklin Township. He is willing to give a presentation on the reports to inform about the species on their properties. The surveys indicate the preservation value of these properties.

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HISTORICAL & CULTURAL *M. Wells (not present)*

- L. Stapleford reports that not much has occurred. She had suggested to M. Wells that a list of designated National Register Historic sites be compiled and made available on the website.
- A. Parrish mentions that most municipalities have a list of historic sites.
- E. O'Donnell comments that they are easy to access either through the city/municipality planning office
- C. Barszcz thinks it's important to move forward with this for eligible properties to become designated, perhaps on a case-by-case basis, especially in PA, where the most difficult work needs to be done.

OPEN SPACE *J. Stefferud*

- Presented a map of on-going projects in the watershed. The Wilkins and Howard properties which were settled last year. There are several more properties in the pipeline. There has been some funding for trail connections and more applications for additional funding. About six properties within the watershed and one outside could potentially close by the end of the year.
- C. Barszcz thinks the anniversary is a good time to invite municipal officials and congressional officers to see the concerted effort put forth in the past 7 years and the progress which has been made over that time period. He suggests concentrating on the entire watershed, but using open space as a prime example of the progress, as well as incorporating the addition of Lamborn Run in New Garden.
- J.Stefferud, J. Michael, and M. Corrozi volunteered for a committee to help plan the event. J.Michael suggested considering something like the Schuylkill "flotilla" and start a hike in DE up to PA and end at the Wilkins property with DE and PA politicians involved.

TRAILS *J. Michael*

- The trail map is still in the design phase.
- Brandywine Conservancy received about \$700 for writing a RFP for a multi-municipality trail planning study. It will emphasize the trails crossing municipal borders.
- London Grove, New Garden, Franklin, and London Britain are involved in the project and will contribute some funds to be eligible for the county assistance.

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BUDGET DISCUSSION

- *L. Stapleford* (handout) noted that although the federal budget year is Oct.-Sept., our budget runs Jan.-Dec. This has worked well as it takes so long to know our final share of the appropriation and to actually receive the money. The '08 Obligations column summarizes what is needed (owed) for projects being finished up from last year. This totals about \$80,000. The balance as of 2/1/08 is \$97,000 less the \$80,000 obligated projects, leaving about \$17,000 to add to the \$125,000 for the '08 budget.
- L. Stapleford exits the room as the River Administrator's fees are discussed.
- (Censored Discussion)
- It has been voted on to increase the River Administrator's base to \$40,000 with a \$1,000 bonus and to further discuss upgrades (printer, computer, and phone) and other fees for conferences etc.

SUBCOMMITTEE BUDGET REQUESTS

EDUCATION \$10,9000

- \$5,000 for Introduction to Wild & Scenic Program brochure as an informational piece for townships and partners.
- \$2,000 for school projects- Assumption BBM and Avongrove
- \$400 for Sterck School Program
- \$100 for road signage
- \$400 for Rain Barrel workshop
- \$2,000 for a green technology demo on rain gardens, and stormwater issues in New Garden
- \$1,000 for general outreach and lectures.

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL \$2,000

- \$2,000 to compile database of historical sites and hiring someone with GIS experience to map.

OPEN SPACE \$34,000 - \$69,000

- \$20,500 for landowner contact and grant writing
- \$2,500 for municipal ordinance assistance
- up to \$35,000 for acquisition
- **FISH & WILDLIFE (under OS) \$11,000**
 - \$6,000 to continue flora and fauna surveys
 - \$1,000 for migratory fish research
 - \$4,000 for bird survey/trend analysis project

TRAILS \$10,000

- \$10,000 for trail map

WHITE CLAY CREEK FLOODPLAIN RECONNECTION PROJECT

- D. Janiec was concerned that none of our projects address restoration projects and suggests that the WCCWMC become the initiator of restoration projects in the watershed. He defined the White Clay floodplain reconnection project he mentioned in the fall as a good first example of a project to create habitat, a green approach to correct existing problems in the watershed. Being involved from the beginning stage of projects pulls weight and can provide seed money for larger state projects.
 - J. Michaels agreed that we should give attention to restoration and suggested a committee for management/restoration.
 - D. Miller expressed serious concern over the unintended impacts of a major stream restoration projects.
 - C. Barszcz felt the floodplain reconnection is not a major earthmoving restoration project. He also noted that NPS only becomes involved in the review of project permits and saw value in helping to shape projects.
 - A. Parrish raised the question of whether to start a new committee or add more people this committee.
 - D. Janiec stated that a wetland delineation and ground survey below Chambers Rock Rd. to the state line would cost \$35,000-\$50,000. The state already has a flight survey planned. Any amount of money would help.
- L. Stapleford suggested finding out what type of recommendations are being addressed in J. Kauffman's state of the watershed report.

See attached budget worksheet for other projects and total of requests AND some budget scenarios since developed.

COMMENTS none

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.