

*Meeting Minutes*  
**White Clay Creek Watershed  
 Management Committee**

June 7, 2005 7:00 p.m.  
 New Garden Township Building

**Attendees:**

Chuck Barscz	David Bartoo	Jessie Benjamin
Martha Corrozi	John Flannery	Marilyn Flannery
J. Scott Gantt	David Hawk	Janet Kalb
Jerry Kauffman	Bernie McKay	Jake Michael
Rick Mickowski	Dorothy P. Miller	Heather Rose
Brendan J. Ryan	Linda Stapleford	Kristen Travers
Andy Urquhart	Martin Wells	Leon H. Wilkinson
Thomas Zawislak		

Andy Urquhart called the meeting to order, welcomed visitors, and asked attendees to introduce themselves. Marilyn Flannery, the new educator at the White Clay Creek Preserve was in attendance and was recognized for her interest in learning more about the watershed. Scott Gantt, New Garden Township NPDES Coordinator and representative to the Management Committee was recognized for making arrangements for the meeting at the lovely new Township building and helping to provide refreshments.

**MINUTES Sept.9, 2004**

- *The minutes of the Jan.11, 2005 meeting were read and approved by members present.*

**BUDGET APPROVAL**

L. Stapleford explained the proposed budget. In addition to Subcommittee project budgets, \$15,000 was designated for mainstem restoration. The mainstem in the White Clay Creek State Park just above Newark is experiencing severe erosion resulting in bank instability and threats to various infrastructure. This amount represents a contribution to encourage all stakeholders to collectively consider a long-term approach to stream management. More will be heard about this in the future meetings. Funds were also earmarked for an October 5 yr anniversary celebration of our National Wild and Scenic River designation.

- The budget was passed unanimously.

**BOG TURTLE HABITAT INVESTIGATION**

Robert Lonsdorf, Brandywine Conservancy, provided a very informative presentation on the joint Fish and Wildlife and University of Penn Bog Turtle Habitat Investigation. Both Brandywine Conservancy and the Natural Lands Trust are assisting with the study. Bog Turtles are the only nationally threatened species in our watershed. The purpose of the study is to identify potential recovery areas that could be protected as part of a habitat conservation plan. White Clay watershed has some excellent Bog Turtle habitat that could possibly be identified as recovery areas. This first year of the 3 year study is field testing the Geographic Information System model. Attendees enjoyed learning about the turtle's life history and habitat requirements as well as the investigation details. Discussion also emphasized that poaching is a very real potential problem of which we should all be aware.

**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FALL CELEBRATION**

A celebration of the October 24<sup>th</sup> designation anniversary is in the very early planning stages. Attendees were asked to save that date for a public event. *[Please note that the date announced at the meeting has been tentatively changed to Saturday afternoon Oct. 29 in order to attract more of the public.]* M. Corrozi volunteered to assist with the planning.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### *Education Subcommittee*

K. Travers updated Committee members on signage progress. The roadway signs have a preliminary design but are a slow moving project because of the state approvals necessary. Signage for White Clay Creek State Park is in the design phase and several meetings with state park officials are moving us closer to defining the exact sign development process. Stroud Water Research Center received a grant from Dockstader Foundation for a "Watershed Welcome Packet." They will be working with our Committee and the White Clay Watershed Association to distribute packets to homeowners and to provide workshops for real estate agencies in both states.

### *Recreational Trails*

J. Michael reported that the *Request for Proposal* was sent out and 2 proposals are being considered with one interview scheduled for next week. A larger map than originally conceived was determined to be necessary so costs of production will be significantly higher. The current budget however covers the design phase. Several scenarios for handling the costs of printing are being considered.

### *Fish & Wildlife*

D. Miller was unsure of the status of survey work, but J. Benjamin and R. Lonsdorf noted that a couple of parcels are being surveyed for plants, and Jim White has been contracted for some herp surveys. A New Garden property was also suggested for surveying.

### *Open Space*

For those not yet aware, R. Lonsdorf noted that the Pennsylvania May 17 referendum for Growing Greener passed soundly. This provides funding for preservation, planning, and technical assistance. New Garden passed an Open Space referendum also for \$300,000-350,000 per year. Now the supervisors will need to enact it.

Robert also presented the need for municipal ordinance review since our Management Plan states that the local ordinance is the "heart of the plan." The intent will be to examine ordinances for consistency with the plan and then offer assistance to municipalities that request it.

Bernie McKay noted that New Garden is taking possession of 70 a. on either side of the creek; 18 a. from the Phelps Tract that they purchased with Natural Lands Trust assistance and 2 pieces (10 a. and 42 a.) obtained from negotiation with Wilkinson Builders. They also are planning a Rails to Trails project and a possible greenway trail in the open space.

### *Historical and Cultural Resources*

M. Wells informed the Committee that the London Tract application was submitted to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Committee two months ago but it may be another two months before a response is received. He noted that the new budget will accommodate their next project which is the determination of eligibility for the Landenberg Historical District. David Hawk has already done a lot of work so the proposal only includes \$2655 in additional work and should begin by early fall. The remaining budgeted funds will provide for completion of the present project and preliminary meeting of the Landenberg residents.

## **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT**

### *Section 7 Review*

C. Barscz announced a new Section 7 Review procedure to accommodate the large number of projects being reviewed and eliminate the need for devoting huge amounts of meeting time to that review. Chuck will screen projects and then get input by posting information about them on a listserve. Those interested in commenting can then discuss their concerns with him. He briefly listed the following projects at various stages; Trout Run Mushroom Wetlands, Avondale stream restoration project; New Garden Twp. Somerset Lake, London Grove Twp. 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Fox Chase; and Pike Creek, Delaware Park, Ball Run all in New Castle County.

## **ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

A. Urquhart thanked L. Stapleford for the very successful April 14 White Clay Creek Conference. He noted that he had heard good reports on the variety of interesting speakers. L. Stapleford noted the many remarks regarding the blend of the artistic and scientific presentations by Rick Darke, the keynote speaker, and Dr. Bern Sweeney. She also reported that there were 190 registrants with between 155-160 attendees. A summary will be posted on the website with postcards going out to registrants to view the summary on the site or request a written copy. Other items covered included: The biennial report is available in hard copy and on the website. A couple of Delaware permits (Southwood Farms and Dennison Development) were discussed. MBNA's Deerfield property is for sale and Committee members are working with a coalition to encourage the State of Delaware to purchase it. In response to our request DelDOT has removed the mesh netting used in Creek Road stabilization projects

within the Park. Wilkinson Builders won approval to build in the floodplain in Avondale in exchange for financial support for the treatment plant upgrade. We joined the River Network to receive up-to-date information on river conservation and protection across the nation and assistance with various river conservancy endeavors.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

In response to inquiry, J. Kauffman noted that the addition of the Newark Reservoir and removal of Lamborn Run to the New Castle County Water Supply options is on the DRBC docket.

#### **NEXT MEETINGS**

The next Executive Subcommittee meeting will be Tuesday, August 16, 1-3 p.m. at the Water Resources Agency at University of Delaware.

The next Management Committee meeting will be Wednesday, September 14, 7-9 p.m. in Newark at the Judge Morris Estate at the bottom of Polly Drummond Road.