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Meeting Minutes

**White Clay Creek Watershed
Management Committee**

September 9, 2003,

Londonderry Township Building

Cochranville, PA

Attendees:

Chuck Barscz	Fred Muller	Janet Comly Kalb
Jerry Kauffman	Sally Cheyne	Jessie Benjamin
Dorothy P. Miller	Edna Bente	Jack Stefferud
Martin Wells	Gene McDowell	Heather Rose
Rick Mickowski	Virginia Frallarola	Kristen Travers
Andy Urquhart	Jake Michael	Linda Stapleford

MINUTES 3/11/03 and 6/03/03

- *The minutes of the March 11, 03 meeting were read and approved and those of the June 3, 03 meeting were read and approved pending correction of the attendee list by members present.*

APPROVAL OF FY 03 BUDGET

Linda Stapleford reviewed the increase in the FY 03 Budget to \$69,500, noting that the National Park Service had released funds to increase it from the estimated \$50,000 to \$60,000 and the Executive Subcommittee had allocated those funds. Since their last meeting an additional \$9500 was available due to a reallocation of previous study funds not yet expended. Accordingly Chuck suggested the River Administrator salary be increased by \$3000 to compensate for a shift of administrative responsibilities from the National Park Service; and the remaining \$6500 be designated for administrator's expenses to provide future allocation flexibility. It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to accept the revised budget.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Subcommittee

Kristen Travers, chair of the subcommittee, reported that the Stroud Center had to cancel a teacher workshop on the White Clay Creek because of lack of interest. During a discussion about how to increase interest, Kristen said she had made new contacts since then and planned a change of focus to art and the environment. Rick Mickowski said he would contact science supervisors to advertise for future programs. The subcommittee plans to follow-up with plans for school groups within the watershed and to meet with the Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee to work cooperatively with their planned school class offerings.

Fish & Wildlife

Dorothy Miller confirmed the subcommittee is looking forward to meeting with the Education subcommittee and will work on the school outreach program to reach students in both states. They need input from Open Space subcommittee to select sites for the phased upper watershed flora and fauna study to be conducted by Jim White and Janet Ebert.

Open Space

Jack Stefferud reported that they had mailed the Pennsylvania 'A' list farm owners in August. They will soon be starting to contact the 'B' list in Pennsylvania and the 'A' list in Delaware. Natural Lands Trust received a contract from New Garden Township for land owner outreach so that means more of the subcommittee' landowner contact funds will be for other municipalities. They are meeting with Franklin Township next week.

Recreational Trails

Jake Michael (Chester County Planning) reported that DNREC is hoping to get the Fairhill trail information from the state of Maryland. He estimated that the Request for Proposals will be issued in about 6 months. In response to a question about the process, he explained that DNREC is still gathering information and putting it in GIS to produce the map. Outside vendors will do the graphic design and text layout and print it. They still need to contact Ed O'Donnell on some of the text.

LOGO DESIGN

Linda Stapleford reported that the Executive Subcommittee approved \$1500 for designing a logo, business card, and stationery. The logo would be a first step in a public relations effort for the watershed's wild and scenic designation and is looking forward to future marketing of the management plan. After some discussion regarding a logo contest, it was decided a professional look was needed and only place a casual notice regarding logo design ideas on the upcoming Newark Community Day display. On a related topic it was generally felt that repeating the "Why is the White Clay Wild and Scenic?" multi-media contest at the Stroud Upstream Festival was desirable and should be promoted this fall. Those interested in viewing the portfolio's of the 2 vendors interviewed to date can do so after the meeting.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT

Section 7 Reviews

DNREC Wedgewood Trail Extension

Chuck announced that Delaware has plans to extend a 10' wide preserve trail and prefab bridge that would connect the City of Newark to the current bridge near Wedgewood Road. After a brief discussion those interested in providing comments were encouraged to stay after the meeting and review the plans. The project may not require federal permits as they plan to use existing abutments.

Gouge Subdivision Trail Plan, London Grove Township

Chuck summarized the presentation by the townships trail consultant for our Exec. subcommittee. At the subcommittee's direction, Chuck drafted a letter reaffirming the townships' trail system and stating some requests for the section on this property. He explained that the subcommittee supported the developer in opposing a bridge over the Middle Branch and that the township itself had already decided against it. Two other wetland and tributary crossings are the only reasonable sites and the designs are environmentally sensitive. Everyone involved is aware that this is prime bog turtle habitat and wants to minimize impact; the project will include a riparian corridor restoration, with Jessie Benjamin as the consultant.

DelDOT Hockessin Park stormwater plan

This project is far from the designated area but Chuck invited those familiar with the area to view the plans today at the end of the meeting and contact him if you see a problem.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship Conference

Linda reported she and Chuck will participate on the Partner Wild and Scenic Rivers panel for this national conference sponsored by all the major federal agencies with stewardship oversight of public lands, natural resources, and historic. It will be an opportunity to showcase partner rivers like the White Clay Creek and to network with like organizations. The National Park Service highly values our participation.

Miscellaneous announcements

The William Penn Foundation has initiated a Watershed Grants Program to protect watersheds and improve water quality. Proposals are being sought in Chester County watersheds and are due by late October; guidelines to be released soon. Also, USGS has released reports on macroinvertebrate sampling for a number of watersheds in our region including the White Clay and Red Clay Creeks. They note some improvement in diversity and numbers of taxa, but overall the biologic indices reflect impacted watersheds. Copies are available. And Chester County Water Resources Agency released their *WCC Watershed Action Plan*. It is a very comprehensive summary of watershed facts, goals to protect the water resources, and recommended measures to accomplish the goals. Copies are available from the agency.

Received Dockstader Foundation Grant

We received 75% of the requested funds to explore the use of *Smartyards* as motivation tool to encourage residents in the Pennsylvania portion of the watershed to adopt landscaping watershed conservation and protection measures. Homeowners receive free native plant material, landscaping instructions and plans, and/or wildlife habitat enhancements in exchange for agreeing to convert some of their lawn to native landscaping. A one page project highlight was distributed.

Water Quality / Municipal Outreach

The Executive Subcommittee has agreed that municipal outreach is a priority this year as a means to improve the water quality problems in our watershed. The main approach will be for Linda to make presentations at individual township meetings. Jessie Benjamin, Jack Stefferud, and other members of the Open Space subcommittee will provide assistance in developing the presentations and they will be coordinated with the Chester County Water Resources Agency.

CHRISTINA BASIN EPA GRANT

Jerry Kauffman gave a brief overview of the Christina Basin \$1 million EPA Grant with match to bring the total to be expended to \$1.3 million. Project items that will address problems in our watershed include agricultural Best Management Practices Implementation in PA, Pike Creek stream restoration, Delaware *Smartyards* landscaping, possibly some stormwater retrofits in Delaware, and possibly monitoring projects.

OTHER BUSINESS

London Grove Proposed Automotive Repair Shop

London Grove Township approved this project contingent upon our review and recommendations. At the Exec. subcommittees request, Jerry Kauffman wrote a response letter in which he suggested specific best management practices, drawn from New Castle County ordinances, to protect the Cockeyville aquifer and the floodplain of the creek. It was suggested we include such protective ordinance language in our consistency review of municipal ordinances.

Ground Water Withdrawals / DRBC Ground Water Protection Area

Jerry Kauffman explained that the DRBC's southeastern Pennsylvania Ground Water Protection Area (which does not include White Clay Creek) withdrawal requirements are the same standards recommended in Chester County *Watersheds*. Jerry is going to assign a graduate student to update the Chester County database to include individual homeowner well withdrawals and present the information at our next meeting. Concern was also expressed regarding whether the 1 in 25 rule is protective enough. Jerry talked with Jan Bowers and she has encouraged the White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic Committee to utilize the 1 in 25 year water withdrawal approach outlined in *Watersheds*.

Lamborn Run

A brief discussion occurred regarding seeking to de-list Lamborn Run from DRBC's reservoir list since Newark is finishing their reservoir. Kevin Donnelly, DE DNREC is proposing to ask for that. Dorothy Miller will bring this issue up at the next Delaware Water Commission meeting.

SECCRA landfill footprint

The landfill's proposed footprint that now is moved around an unnamed tributary was the discussed briefly. It was noted that they are buying adjoining property for "buffer" but state they won't expand across the road. No one present was certain how much of the landfill is in the WCC watershed. It was decided to invite Bill Stulken to our next general meeting in Chester County.

Meeting times/dates

We would like to have an evening meeting but decided that it would be best to do that in late spring. A more informative program will be planned rather than a business meeting focus. The next meeting will be in January in Delaware. It was also suggested the River Administrator advertise these quarterly public meetings in the local papers.

Pesticide-Free Zone Signs

If you refrain from using pesticides in your yard, small attractive plastic signs featuring a ladybug are available to promote this environmentally friendly practice. Anyone interested in these nominally priced signs should contact Heather Rose.

THE NEXT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE:

Tuesday January 13, 1-3 PM

Judge Morris Estate

Polly Drummond Road (just above Kirkwood Highway)

Newark, DE 19711

The meeting was adjourned at **3:15 PM.**