

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

January 11, 2005, 1:00 p.m.
City of Newark Municipal Building

Attendees:

Chuck Barscz	David Bartoo	Jessie Benjamin
Phillip Bunnowsky	Ed Cairns	Sally Cheyne
Carrie Conwell	Martha Corrozi	Ed O'Donnell
J. Scott Gantt	Phil Geoghegan	David Hawk
Janet Kalb	Jerry Kauffman	Rick Mickowski
Dorothy P. Miller	Linda Stapleford	Jack Stefferud
Kristen Travers	Andy Urquhart	William P. Webb
Martin Wells	Leon H. Wilkinson	Thomas Zawislak
Bill Zimmerman		

Jessie Benjamin called the meeting to order, welcomed visitors, and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

MINUTES Sept.9, 2004

- *The minutes of the September 9, 2004 meeting were read and approved by members present.*

DeIDOT I-95 EXPANSION PROJECT

Gregory O'Hare and William Hellmann, engineers with Rummel, Kleper & Kahl and DeIDOT's contractors for the Delaware Turnpike Improvements Project, presented an overview of the improvements. Plans are to add a 5th lane north and south bound on the shoulders. This allows them to make a new shoulder on the existing slope so that no new excavation is required. They also explained the traffic patterns during construction. The project as designed has minimal to no impact in the White Clay Watershed so the Committee had little comment.

TWEED'S TAVERN PROJECT (Rt. 7 and Valley Road)

Jennifer Egan and colleague, Duffield Associates, described this project and resource protection elements. The South area includes soccer fields and stormwater management for this project and a Lantana Shopping Center realignment. The North area includes the Hockessin Athletic Club and Wellness Center and had some brownsfield concerns from past mushroom farming and a failing septic system. This project results in a small decrease in impervious surface and a decrease in forested area, but includes an increase in riparian forested buffer. Part of the project overlies the Cockeysville aquifer and measures were included in the project to protect that resource.

CHESTER CNTY PLANNING COMMISSION'S 537 SEWER MODULE PLANNING REVIEW

Carrie Conwell of the Chester County Planning Commission briefed the Committee on this initiative and noted that a review would be recommended for any projects within 250 ft of designated streams.

FISCAL PROCEDURES

J. Benjamin relayed that an official fiscal procedure document has been developed outlining required approvals for certain levels of expenditures and the request for payment process. The document was circulated at the meeting.

WHITE CLAY CREEK SYMPOSIUM APRIL 14, 2005

L. Stapleford distributed an announcement for the symposium, the agenda, and the plans to date. It is being held at the University of Delaware's Clayton Hall Conference Center. Rick Darke, landscape designer, author, and photographer is the keynote speaker and Dr. Bernard Sweeney, Director of Stroud Water Research Center will give the main address in the morning. The Committee will present our first

years' accomplishments; and a stormwater panel will conclude the day's activities. Those wishing to assist should contact Linda.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Open Space

Jack Stefferud reported that settlement for the Kramer property, a key acquisition, is set for Jan. 31. Ninety acres will be added to the White Clay Creek preserve in Pennsylvania and 14 a. will have a conservation easement. Landowner contacts are on-going in Franklin Township. New Garden Township passed an open space referendum and held a landowner meeting and more are planned. The fall open space workshop also resulted in some additional municipal officials joining the Open Space Subcommittee.

Fish & Wildlife

Ed O'Donnell relayed that the Subcommittee approved another round of educational programs, cost sharing with the Education Subcommittee and Stroud Water Research Center. Flora surveys are being conducted on two more sites.

Education Subcommittee

Kristen Travers told the Committee that the Subcommittee is getting bids on design work for signage. They hope to have a kiosk design this spring for the Delaware portion of the Preserve and are also working on the design and approvals of roadway signs. Harriet Wentz is the subcontractor assisting with this project.

Recreational Trails

Request for Proposal is almost ready to go and should go out later this week. The project should be completed by the end of the year.

Historical and Cultural Resources

Wise Preservation has completed the history part and black and white photographs for the submission and is now working on the description. The first draft is expected in a few weeks with the nomination completed within the next 3 months. There will then be some back and forth as the Pennsylvania office almost always requires some minor revisions.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT

Section 7 Review

C. Barszcz presented 2 projects very briefly and asked anyone with specific concerns to email him.

05 Budget

Chuck estimates the 05 budget portion for the Management Committee to increase \$10-15,000 above this year's \$100,000.

George Wright Society Field Trip

Chuck announced that the National Convention for this group of historic/cultural resource academicians and field personnel will be in Philadelphia the week of March 15. He has offered a full day field trip to the White Clay Watershed.

New Garden Township

The Township had decided they would like their East Branch segment to be included in the Wild and Scenic designation. The process to do so is now being investigated.

Lamborn Run

The question then arose about adding Lamborn Run since it has been removed from the Water Supply Council's list of alternatives; J. Kauffman will bring this up Wednesday at the DRBC meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

L Stapleford requested and received approval to take advantage of any publicity opportunities through the Stephens Gardens water display at the Philadelphia Flower Show.

OLD BUSINESS

Stroud grant for riparian buffers

J. Benjamin reminded attendees that money for another round of grant money for projects in the Red and White Clay Watersheds has been obtained. Anyone knowing landowners who might be interested should contact her.

Miller property proposed stream discharge

Franklin Township told DEP they did not approve this request. The owner has now submitted a new plan.

NEW BUSINESS

J. Kaufman reported that the Christina Basin hi flow TMDLs are due this year. There are two public meetings, one at UD Feb. 10 from 3-5 p.m. and at the Chester County Services Center in February. Delaware has questions about the bacteria level models; reducing bacterial levels is extremely expensive and therefore key that good science is behind the levels established.

D. Miller announced that the draft copies of the management plan for WCC Pennsylvania Preserve are available at the Preserve office, Landenberg and Kemblesville post offices, the Landenberg Store, and various libraries. The public workshop is Feb. 3, 6:30-9:00 p.m. at the London Britain Township building.

Phillip Bunnowsky of Windy Hills relayed how many residents have developed a sense of stewardship of the White Clay. He is interested in the Committee considering how to get information out to other people. The upcoming conference was cited as one attempt to do so, but we have considered other options such as reaching out to homeowner associations or directly to land owners. The Education Subcommittee has this concern on their list and the Committee as a whole has been discussing options and needs to keep this objective in mind.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

THE NEXT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING IS JUNE 7, 2005 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE NEW GARDEN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON STARR ROAD.