



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

Sept. 9, 2008 10:00 a.m
New Garden Township Building
Landenberg, PA

Attendees:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Chuck Barscz | David Bartoo | Jessie Benjamin | Mark Blake |
| Ed Cairns | Gary Coutu | Marilyn Flannery | Scott Gantt |
| Nancy Geist | James Ireland | John Jackson | Doug Janiec |
| Janet Kalb | Jerry Kauffman | John Kennel | Lou Kirkaldie |
| Robert Lonsdorf | Carla Lucas | Jake Michael | Rick Mickowski |
| Dorothy P. Miller | Maureen Nelson | Ginger North | Aileen Parrish |
| Fran Rubert, Jr. | Dick Saunders | Chotty Sprengle | Linda Stapleford |
| Jack Stefferud | Fran Swift | Stephanie Town | Kristen Travers |
| Andrew Urquhart | Andrea Withers | | |

Aileen Parrish called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m., welcomed visitors, and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

MINUTES April 8, 2008

The minutes of the April 8 meeting were reviewed. Minutes were approved with the following correction under the Bird Survey Results: "the 82 a. D'Andrea" property.

FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed to hold the next Management Committee meeting on **Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 10 a.m.**, the site TBD. The next Executive Subcommittee meeting will be set by email for this fall.

TREES, STREAMS, AND WATER QUALITY: THE CONNECTION, John K. Jackson, Stream Ecologist, Stroud Water Research Center

J. Jackson emphasized five main points in his presentation. First, the greater the forest cover, the healthier the stream. Second, the analysis found no threshold in the relationship of forest cover to stream health. Third, there is a direct effect of buffers on stream water quality. Fourth, upland forests are indirectly connected to stream health through ephemeral streams, intermittent streams, and wetlands. Finally, healthy streams remove pollutants better than degraded streams.

J. Jackson illustrated his points with a presentation of a study done on streams in the Schuylkill River Basin. It looked at the water quality of 115 sites between 1996-2006 using pollution sensitive and pollution tolerant insects as environmental indicators. The study showed that sites scoring a good for water quality were the sites which had the most forest cover, while the poor scoring sites had the least forest cover. A similar study conducted on the Hudson River drew the same conclusion. Forest cover allows a stream to maintain healthy insect populations and trout stocking abilities while agriculture and development negatively impact them. Forest cover is good, regardless of where it is located. Forest-like conditions create water quality and desirable stream conditions that address erosion, morphology, temperature, food resources, and nutrient and organic matter processing. Data from the American Water Works Association shows that the higher the percentage of forest cover, the less the cost for drinking water treatment. For more information visit: www.stroudcenter.org/schuylkill. Responding to questions J. Jackson stated that sediment does not always indicate poor water quality. The occurrence of pollutants attached to the sediment is what makes it bad. J. Jackson also answered that it would be difficult to do similar biological testing in deep water aquifers, and that planting enough trees to create the forest-like conditions is the key to improving water quality. He has yet to study a single suburban stream that has not been impaired.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Subcommittee

K. Travers is planning a kick-off event for families volunteering for water monitoring for National Monitoring Month. The committee is working with Avon Grove Charter School to provide kits for the families to monitor for a month.

The White Clay brochure being created will have three key sections: an explanation of Wild & Scenic, the goals of the Management Committee, and how to use/access the river. The content draft is expected to be done by early October.

In future meetings the subcommittee will discuss creating signage for community parks and trails.

Fish & Wildlife

D. Miller reported that the flora and fauna surveys are still on-going.

Historical and Cultural Resources

L. Stapleford reported that Martin has been working on a list of the buildings on the Historic Registry in Delaware and Pennsylvania. He has also been compiling a list of the named streams.

Open Space

J. Stefferud reported an increase in the number of projects to about 20, of which 6-7 will be closing in the next few months. They are working on grants for funding various projects. The next executive meeting will discuss those projects and allocation of Comm. funds. R. Lonsdorf added that the Brandywine Conservancy was working on a few Chester County Farmland preservations within the watershed.

Regarding the Reforestation Project, J. Michaels reported that the Comm. could request a free Anderson Land Use aerial mapping package from Chester County, that would be helpful in the digital mapping involved in the reforestation project. A motion was approved to request the free mapping material. R. Lonsdorf is working with J. Benjamin, Stroud Water Research Center, and land owners on the reforestation study project.. He gave a brief description of the current forestation of the watershed. The DE portion is mostly either developed out or preserved. The PA portion is 23%-24% forested with a goal increase of 16% forest cover; so the target would be about 6,000 additional acres (10 sq. mi.). Targeted lands include public lands (some within in the WCC Preserve) as well as land trusts and marginal farm lands with certain characteristics. The highest priority is preserving existing forest.

Recreational Trails

D. Bartoo reported the Trail Guide/Visitor brochure could be in print by the end of the year and that there is a new 100 foot clear span bridge being installed in Middle Run to protect the stream.

J. Michaels noted the multi-municipal trail project is being scaled back to focus on one crossing because of tight township budgets. Additional funding will also likely be needed. L. Stapleford noted the WCCWMC could consider a request for 2009. The WCWA was also suggested as a possible source.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT L. Stapleford

- Budget – The NPS allocation decreased by \$2000. She also noted that although the Open Space overall balance is correct, there was an error within the line allocations.
- Fall Program- Possible joint program with WCWA in October or November.
- Delaware Open Space – Both the Stopyra property and Newark Country Club property development are currently stalled. One of the small Paper Mill Rd. parcels sold but the State is seeking an easement on part.
- A second City of Newark Comprehensive Plan public meeting is scheduled for next week..
- The site for the proposed New Garden Town Center was previously documented as contaminated, and no record of a clean-up has been available. W&S sent a letter to EPA and the PA DEP requesting this be resolved before the construction E&S Plan is approved.

- The Newark Raceway was dredged and had a large downed tree down. These issues are being addressed by the State.
- The Curtis Papermill site is in the public planning process. There is no definite plan, but part of the plan will include conservation and ecological interpretation. Find out more at: <http://curtispapermill.com>.
- The WCC Fest is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd. The WCC Preserve, State Park are partnering in the planning.
- The Center for Watershed Protection has submitted a RFP for grants. If anyone would like more information, see L. Stapleford.

U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION UPDATES *M.Nelson*

The 5th Annual River Action Day event, hosted by American Rivers, provided an opportunity for M. Nelson, UD graduate student assistant to W&S, to learn first-hand about the federal political discuss and Wild & Scenic Rivers. It also offered the chance for her to update the PA and DE delegations on the White Clay Creek W&S program. The PA congressional representatives with whom she met were unfamiliar with the WCC but became more interested after a brief introduction of the WCC and the work that has occurred since its designation. It appeared to be worthwhile for the WCCWMC to make more effort at communication. It would be especially helpful for some local residents to reach out to Sen. Casey and Sen. Specter. L. Stapleford inquired if anyone knows of any helpful contacts. R. Lonsdorf stated that he may be able to assist.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT *(C. Barscz)*

There is a new cooperative agreement for the FY08 funding. Money from the old agreement must be spent by Sept. 30, 2009. but L. Stapleford said that will occur in the next few months. The new agreement allow 5 years to spend the money.

The process to add Lamborn Run (DE) and a few segments in New Garden Township (PA) as designated W&S appears to require a hearing. C. Barscz is working with Senator Biden and his legislative staff to accomplish this. Chuck signed off on the Section 7 review for the Landenberg bridge and reconstruction will begin. The bridge over the east branch has been closed since 1999-2000. NPS has approved the plans to keep the historical character of the bridge, but it will be wider to accommodate a sidewalk.

New Castle County is in the process of two major projects in Pike Creek: 1) upgrading an existing sewer line from an 8-12" line to a 15" line; homes on the site will be converted from sewer to septic. 2) the other project near Independence School deals with stream bed erosion exposing the sewer line.

C. Barsz is also is reviewing the retail development, New Garden Town Center, on Route 41. An approval letter is close to being signed. Thus far, the proposed BMPs for controlling stormwater include vault systems to put stormwater back into groundwater sources. Local residents are concerned about the movement of soil during construction because of potential contaminants. They want PA DEP to require monitoring to prevent possible historic contaminants from entering groundwater or streams. The Management Committee sent a letter to EPA and PA DEP officials requesting attention to that concern.

OLD BUSINESS

none

NEW BUSINESS

D. Saunders reports the a newly formed Hockessin Conservancy is attempting to purchase a 27 acre parcel for conservation and is in need of support. This forested parcel is critical to the aquifer. The property owner is asking \$5 million for the property. A big box store developer is also vying for the property, but the current owner has given the HC more time to raise money for the land. Commercial businesses have contributed money, but the HC is seeking public assistance. The HC wants to use this parcel as a hub for a small trail system. C. Barscz will present this to the open space committee.

The New Garden Open Space/Greenways meeting is being held at 7pm on Sept. 23 in the New Garden Twp. building.

R. Lonsdorf reports the proposal to extend sewer capacity up Newark Rd., north of Rt. 1 as well as new medical center, hotel, and restaurant on a 17 acre parcel, which is in an area of exceptional value to the WCC watershed. A major concern of extending sewer beyond Rt. 1 the increased opportunity of new development. The proposed lines can tie in to the East End Plant or Avondale wastewater treatment plant. After the New Garden Town Center is complete, it can also be sent to the South Plant. So far they have obtained a timber permit from the county and began cutting down trees.

A. Parrish inquires if there is any more new business.
The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.