



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

September 11, 2007 1 p.m
New Garden Township Building
Landenberg, PA

Attendees

Aileen Parrish	Chuck Barszcz	David Bartoo	Brandon Boberick
Ed Cairns	Sally Cheyne	Martha Corrozi	Gary Coutu
Erika Farris	Marilyn Flannery	Scott Gantt	Nancy Geist
Phil Geoghegan	Dan Greig	George Haggerty	Barclay Hoopes
Tom Hubbard	Jan Kalb	Loius Kirkkladie	Pat Kraus
Joseph Manning	Jake Michael	William Murray	Rick Mickowski
Dorothy P. Miller	Aileen Parrish	Chris Robinson	Fran Rubert Jr.
Maureen Seymour	Roy Simonson	Chotty Sprenkle	Linda Stapleford
Linda Tirrell	John Trouba	Martin Wells	Kelly Wolfe

Aileen Parish, Pennsylvania Co-chair convened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. with a welcome and introductions.

MINUTES April 10, 2007

➤ The minutes of the April 10 meeting were read and approved by members present.

**NEW CASTLE COUNTY PUMPING STATION FAILURE/FISH KILL: LESSONS
LEARNED** *Tony Shiavi, NCC Special Services, Official county Engineer*

New Castle County maintains 1,700 miles of sewer pipes and 170 pump stations serving 400,000 people and processing 160 mgd of sewage at \$43 million annually. All stations have extensive backup with dual power sources and over 40 alarm points. The White Clay station that failed was constructed in 1977 and is the largest station, peaking at 85 mgd through 5 pumps. A control power panel failed at 1pm on a Saturday when no one was around to observe and report the incident. Typically the dual circuit would have transferred power to the other circuit, but the detectors also failed.

Station Upgrades: Began about 5 years ago piece by piece while still in operation. So far \$17 million of the \$28 million dollars budgeted for systems upgrades has been spent. Continuing upgrades for 30+ year old electrical systems, at a cost of \$1.2 million budget, are about 75% complete. They completed installation of high water floats with separate power sources. Alarms to notify of an inactive pump have been added at main office. The inspection of test pumps stations and alarm deficiencies is about 75% complete. Since 1992, \$91 million total improvements have been made and an additional \$282 million will be spent for system improvement through 2013.

Comments:

Who do residents contact if they observe failures during non-office hours?

The numbers are available in the Welcome to the Watershed packets and are:

- Delaware- dispatch office/DNREC (800)662-8802
- Pennsylvania-SE regional office 24 hour hotline (484) 250-5900
- Recommended future local newsletters include hotline numbers.

**West Chester University Broad Run 3D Stormwater Modeling Project & GIS Outreach
Opportunities** *Dr. Gary Coutu, Department of Geography and Planning*

Some graduate student research projects are based in White Clay Creek and Red Clay Creek communities of Hartefeld and Somerset Lake. Projects focus on sediment transport and stormwater modeling to create GIS data/maps to educate homeowners to make better stormwater management decisions. The plan involves delineating microwatersheds. This project is of real value in modeling runoff from impervious surfaces. In Broad Run, development is at top of watershed, above Somerset Lake so it is a good choice for this project.

Issues: multi-state data sets that do not correspond, GIS data on many scales and levels of accuracy, community decisions that require information below the existing data scales.

Comments: Concerns regarding rate of runoff as opposed to amount.

Why Hartefeld and Somerset communities? G. Coutu replied that these communities asked for help.

What are the plans for community to share GIS information? G. Coutu recommended the communities hire consultant/expert to interpret and use data.

How can Delaware and Pennsylvania collaborate on watershed issues/projects? It was suggested that G. Coutu contact M. Wollaston, A. Homsey, and J. Kauffman of UD Water Resources Agency for possible collaboration.

UD STATE OF THE WATERSHED REPORT

Jerry Kauffman will present at a future meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Education

A 2nd informational tackboard water poster is in progress. Received a Dockstader Grant for native landscaping workshops in the PA portion of the watershed next winter/spring. Look for details.

There will be a Fall Lecture series on Native plants focusing on biodiversity, sustainable landscapes, and invasive species with free plants and rain barrel raffle.

Facilitating a grant application for a consultant to assist with a WCC multi-municipal trial project.

Protecting Our Water, Who's Got the Power video being transferred to DVD for free. Those previously allocated funds can be used for other outreach efforts.

Fish and Wildlife

Two new subcommittee members, Nate Nazdrowicz and Derek Stoner. In past committee concentrated on botanical aspect, but will expand to wildlife aspects with additional members.

Historical and Cultural Resources

The appeal for proposed London Tract Historic District was rejected by the NPS. Bob Wise handed over for our archives the final reports and photographs prepared for the historic district nomination. M. Wells compiled a list of National Historic Registry buildings and bridges in the watershed. It was suggested the Subcommittee contact the Newark Historic Society to discuss possible assistance with future projects.

Recreational Trails

D. Bartoo reported the regional visitor brochure and trail map is on track for completion by the end of the year. J. Michael noted that municipalities are helping to investigate interconnection of their trails. They will apply for a Chester County Vision Partnership Program grant to receive 75-90% funding for hiring a consultant. Wild and Scenic funds will pay for hiring a consultant to write the RFP.

Open Space

Robert Lonsdorf reported Brandywine Conservancy is working in Franklin Township to preserve two very high priority properties and in one more in PA. The Wilkins property easement is moving along. R. Lonsdorf is also working with Penn State and others on a bog turtle recovery area plan for parts of the White Clay watershed, putting together information on the dams of the White Clay Creek, and gathering information on migratory fish (shad in particular) in the lower creek.

J. Ebert is working on the Franklin Township botanical survey. Copies of the London Grove survey are available. R. Lonsdorf recommends London Britain for 2008 survey. R. Lonsdorf noted 354 plant species were found on one property in Franklin Township.

National Park Service reported fewer projects this summer for section 7 review. The DelDot minor stream restoration project is underway. The House approved a major increase in Partnership Wild & Scenic River budget to \$2 million.

The addition of Lamborn Run to White Clay Creek Wild and Scenic designation will probably occur this fall.

Comments:

New Garden still undecided if they want to be included.

River Administrator Report Linda Stapleford

\$1000 donation received from United Water for lecture series promotion and the 2nd tack board poster project.

We received a \$2725 Dockstader Foundation grant to expand Community Spaces Natural Places workshops into Franklin, London Grove and London Britain Townships. Workshops in January and February will focus on the impacts of privately owned open space on the watershed followed by field training on invasive species identification and control.

Budget expenditures to date were noted in a handout.

Updates on Delaware issues include:

Newark denied annexation for the Stopyra property commercial development (public meeting Wednesday, September 26 on the next possible steps)

City of Newark Planning Commission meeting on Newark Country Club development proposal was cancelled in August but will be on their agenda soon.

There are several Papermill Road Parcels that have wooded steep slopes along White Clay Creek. Three are managed by trusts and one of those is for sale. A coalition are working together with DE State Park's in seeking preservation.

Dan Greig, Chester County Conservation District, is seeking stricter review by Pennsylvania Dept. Env. Protection, for White Clay Creek projects, especially projects touching floodplain

Exploring a Creek Fest with White Clay Creek State Park and other partners. Interested parties should contact L. Stapleford.

Del Chapel Housing, housing for University of Delaware students off Chapel Street, is built on a zinc contaminated brownfield. DNREC is piloting a project that utilizes a pH shift to cause the zinc in the ground water to come out of solution and thereby prevent contamination of Cool Run headwaters.

Old Business

None

New Business

D. Miller noted that the meeting for Committee for Natural Stream Valleys, Inc. on Thursday, October 18, at DelCastle Inn.

S. Cheyne announced the Chester County Commissioners are forming a Task force to study local actions to reduce Global Warming. She volunteered to represent the Committee on the Task Force. The consensus supported her participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.