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Meeting Minutes

White Clay Creek Watershed

Management Committee

November 13, 2002, 1-3PM

London Britain Township Building

London Britain Township, PA

Attendees:

Louis Kirkaldie Fred Muller Rick Mickowski W.S. Browne
Kristen Travers Shandor Szalay Robert Lonsdorf Andy Urquhart
Judith Shuler Dorothy Miller Sally Cheyne Chuck Barszcz
Jack Stefferud Jake Michael Kyle Gulbranson Jessie Farrell
Bob Chartowich Bill Zimmerman Melanie Hess

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 09/18/2002

The minutes for the September 18 meeting are still in the process of being completed.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Open Space Subcommittee

Jessie Farrell (Stroud Water Research Center) presented a Riparian Opportunities Map for the watershed. Jessie is working in conjunction with Natural Resources Conservation Service on riparian corridor issues within the watershed. According to the work on riparian opportunities a total of 176 miles of riparian corridor exist within the watershed. Of that total **41.7%** represents a full opportunity; **34.3%** represents a partial opportunity and **24.1%** represent a gap.

On **December 11** Stroud Water Research Center and Brandywine Conservancy will be hosting a meeting for riparian landowners and other landowners to discuss conservation options. Stroud has sent out over 100 invitations to the meeting. Jessie indicated that there are several programs operating to assist riparian landowners with riparian conservation. NRCS along with Stroud are offering free technical assistance. The NRCS Watershed 566 program offers reimbursement at a 75%/25% NRCS to landowner cost match. Ducks Unlimited offers reimbursement at an 80%/20% Ducks Unlimited to landowner match.

Recreational Trails

Jake Michael (Chester County Planning) reported that by January the subcommittee will have gathered

all of the information on trails, and will be visiting municipalities where trails have not been mapped. Jake indicated that there are not that many trails in the Pennsylvania portion of the watershed. In Pennsylvania we will be looking at identifying scenic byways (roads) and bicycle routes on existing roads more than off road hiking trails.

Education

Kristen Travers (Stroud Water Research) reported that the subcommittee has looked at the existing website for the White Clay Creek Watershed Management Committee that was put together by David Hawk. The subcommittee is putting together a list of topics that they feel should be incorporated on the website. The subcommittee is also working on putting together the municipal grants program. Kritten stated that the subcommittee still needs more volunteers and that she has contacted Delaware Nature Society to assist.

Fish and Wildlife

Dorothy Miller and Ed O'Donnell will assist the Executive Committee with the selection process for the Local Wild and Scenic River Coordinator position.

BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY – CRITICAL AREAS UPDATE

Robert Lonsdorf reported on the work the Brandywine Conservancy is doing with the Open Space Subcommittee. Robert presented a number of maps looking at various critical habitats and other open space areas within the watershed.

According to Brandywine's analysis 2/3 of the historic wetlands within the watershed have already been destroyed, mostly through historic conversion of lands to agricultural purposes. The White Clay Creek watershed historically did not have many wetlands to begin with. Currently Brandywine has identified 1505 acres of wetlands and 3000 acres of land with hydric soils. The largest wetland on the Pennsylvania side of the watershed is 23 acres and is located on the West Branch of White Clay Creek in Franklin Township.

Many areas within the watershed are still in contiguous forest blocks. Approximately 16,000 acres of forest remain within the watershed. Brandywine separated forested areas into several categories: 100 acres and greater; 50 acres and greater and 30-40 acres. Their research indicates that 22 areas are 100 acres or greater and 40 areas are in the 50-100 size. The greater than 50 acre category accounts for 6,000 acres and the less than 50 acre category accounts for 1400 acres of forest.

Robert stated that Brandywine has already mapped all of the Pennsylvania and Delaware Natural Heritage (PNDI) sites. All of the land that is in agriculture and the farms that are currently in some form of protection program are mapped. They next steps include collecting open space plans to see what they hold and to approach farms that qualify for protection programs. Eventually the subcommittee will need to discuss open space with the Municipalities and landowners.

Jake Michael suggested that the subcommittee look at the County Plans and compare existing zoning.

LANDSTUDIES PRESENTATION – RIPARIAN EVALUATION FOR LONDON GROVE TOWNSHIP – DCNR GRANT:

Mellanie Hess from Landstudies, Inc. gave a presentation on the findings that her firm just completed

for London Grove Township, the work was funded through a Growing Greener grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

The study performed by Landstudies looked at stormwater, agriculture, invasives and other stream corridor issues. The study did identify a number of issues but did not show all of the potential restoration sites. A detailed map of the riparian corridors was prepared as part of the project.

Shandor Szalay from F.X. Browne, Inc. stated that this project fit in with his firm's work on a stream restoration project in the Borough of Avondale. Their project is throughout the Borough of Avondale. F.X. Browne would like to do other restoration projects within the watershed. First step would be to set up Avondale permit as a watershed wide permit thereby permitting other projects within the watershed. F.X. Browne would like to work with the Management Committee and pursue a vulnerability and risk assessment for the entire watershed. This work would be done through a Growing Greener Grant. The risk assessment would incorporate the Landstudies work in London Grove.

THE NEXT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE:

NIGHT MEETING: 7-9 PM

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15, 2002

CITY OF NEWARK, DE

CITY OF NEWARK MUNICIPAL BUILDING, ELKTON ROAD

The meeting was adjourned at 4PM.