**Spring Creek Watershed Commission**

July 17, 2019

Bellefonte Council Chambers

236 West Lamb Street

7:00 PM

**1) Call to Order:** 7:01 PM

**2) Introduce members: –** Janet Engeman (State College Borough), Ann Glaser (Potter Township), David Capperella (Spring Township), Tim Robinson (Benner Township), Dennis Hameister (Harris Township), Joanne Tosti-Vasey (Bellefonte), Bill Sharp (College Township), Chris Hurley (Patton Township)

*Not present:* Halfmoon township, Milesburg Borough, Ferguson Township, Walker Township

**3) Approval of minutes,** March 20, 2019 distributed

* Chris motioned, Joanne seconded
* David Roberts: Commented on the need for conservation for a need for healthy trout population and
* Approved with the amendment

4) **Citizen Comments:** The public is invited to address the Commission on items not on the agenda, (5 minutes per commentary) Electronic copy of comments should be submitted to SCWC & will be included in meeting minutes.

Bill Sharp – headline in CDT restore Pennsylvania’s waterways. We do recognize that our climate is changing

Maintaining waterways

Tali McArthur – Program manager for watershed – POWER

Been around for 20 years

When growing greener funds were funding creation of new watershed associations

Capacity building: board, grants, volunteers

PA’s waterways and watersheds

PA Environmental Council: under the umbrella of PEC

Expand the support of watershed support

Support recreation on our rivers

Leverage resources

Phase 3 Chesapeake Bay

Kayaking minigrants

Pawatersheds.org

Minigrant program PA’s water trails

Tali McArthur will tell Caitlin when the deadline is

5) **Educational Topic**: Todd Giddings *“How the Spring Creek Watershed Swallowed Half of the Excess Rainfall in its Wettest Year Ever*”

Watershed Symposium

* 77 rainfall record from 1941
* 30 year average 40.66.
* Last year 63.75. More than 50% more last year.
* How did the watershed behave? Groundwater recharge / stream flow
* Excess of 23.09 inches.
* Kept 11.93 inches.
* Water table rise: 66.3 feet. 36 billion gallons of groundwater.
* Well-distributed rainfall throughout the year in the 30 year average. Range only 2-6 inches.
* Last year: July had 9 inches. Larger range.
* 26th of July: took over 1st place record and held it through December 31st
* Distribute and get it infiltrated: dimensions of retaining groundwater.
* January March and May this year more than last year.
* Karst characteristics: Groundwater is taken from Spruce Creek Watershed. Makes the boundary 23% larger. In the headwater storage area.
  + Big Spring flows at 14 million gallons per day. 10 thousand gallons per minute.
  + Mountain runoff into sinkholes.
  + Streams distributing recharge
  + High infiltration capacity soils. Very sandy / permeable.
  + Leaf litter promotes high infiltration
* CE686: Ferguson township well. Unaffected by stream recharge.
* CE118: groundwater piracy area
* 16 million gallons per day of pumping
* More than 85% of stream flow is groundwater.
* 23% larger area due to boundaries being miles apart.
* Ferguson township well responds by height fast
* Piracy area hardly responds to rainfall

Chris Hurley: Does it mean anything that the last couple years have been the wettest year?

Todd: Not a climatologist, so hesitant to conclude that climate change is going on.

More intense heavy rainstorm with more water

Spring Creek watershed’s unique characteristics make it much more capable than other watersheds.

How does the vision increase the growth

Ann Glaser: Who is losing due to the piracy?

* Homeowners and farmers. Not many farms and houses there due to gamelands and sandy soil

Bill Sharp: In terms of drought, even when there’s a period of 3-5 years, capacity stays high. It seems to be a good “reserve” account.

David Capperella:

Bill Sharp:

**6)** **Old Business:**

A) Report from Technical Workgroup re: Update of “One Water Report” & moving forward, See attachments

* Hope to have a clean document within two weeks
* Reason we’re still working on the editing: front piece: Executive summary, fact sheet, and frequently asked questions,
  + Interweaving them into one
  + Short, sweet, compact, easy to understand.
  + New drafts will have a date and title.
* Send a copy to Jim Weaver

B) Spring Creek Watershed Atlas,

Application for RSVP volunteer - Bob Carline

* + - Doing advertising to get the word out
    - Need to have a memorandum of understanding
    - Joanne make a motion to make a Memorandum of Understanding
      * Chris Hurley seconded
      * Motion passes

**7) New Business:**

A) August 21 meeting of SCWC, Presentation by Jim Weaver, Retired Tioga County Planner & Biologist, *“One is Not a Simple Number”*

*- Special august meeting*

*- Came to our attention through Janie French*

*- Talking about a one water report concept*

*Bill: Statewide perspective to one water*

B) 2020 SCWC Municipal contributions – contact in August

*- Caitlin and Denny will work together for 2020 municipal contributions within the next couple of weeks*

**10) Financial Reports** Jon Eaton & Bill Sharp

**General Fund**: May & June Debit: 1032.44 – Balance - 15231.95

**Project Fund** May & June Debit:1653.88 – Balance - 4179.83

Project fund: started at 17000 now down to 4100.

**11) Once Around the Watershed:** Members are asked to share relevant water related news from their municipality.

Chris: Nothing from Patton

College Township: Recognized as a certified sustainability municipality. Borough platinum level. There are only 53 gold / platinum certified in PA and 6 of them are in this watershed.

Bellefonte: Pittsburgh region green cities joint program on August 9th and 10th on electric vehicle implementation. Friday Saturday: Businesses, developers, and general public. Bellefonte installed 6 electric charging ports and 4 by next year.

Harris: Nothing

Potter: Nothing

Spring: Nothing

Benner: Developments that had community wells… long term plans to get groundwater. One well serving multiple properties. Reliable water supplies for the developments.

State College Borough: Nothing

**Remaining meetings for 2019: Aug 21, Sept. 18, Nov. 20.**

CNET Air Times: This meeting can be viewed on Channel 7 (CGTV) on

Monday, July 22 – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 24 – 2:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 25 – 6:00 a.m.

Available on-demand at C-NET

*Thanks you to* ***Halfmoon Township f****or sponsoring the airing of the meeting*