



[Home page of White Clay Creek Watershed Management Committee](#)

Meeting Minutes

White Clay Creek Watershed

Management Committee

March 11, 2003, 1-3PM

London Britain Township Building

London Britain Township, PA

Attendees:

Chuck Barscz	Fred Muller	Jack Stefferud
Leon H. Wilkinson	W. Lawrence Wilkinson	Warren Reynolds
Heather Rose	Bill Stulken	Janet Comly Kalb
Robert C. Chartowich	Edna J. Bente	Judith Shuler
Jerry Kauffman	Sally Cheyne	Jessie Farrell
Nancy Parker	Dorothy P. Miller	David Hawk
Robert Lonsdorf	Dave Diefonthayor	Vince Sortman
Jennifer Egan	Ed O'Donnell	Rick Mickowski
Denis Newbold	Walt Leis	Louis Kaplan
Susan Moerschel	Kristen Travers	David Bartoo
Andy Urquhart	Louis Kirkaldie	Jami Harry
Jake Michael		

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 01/15/2003

- *A Motion was made by Rick Mickowski and seconded by Dorothy Miller to approve the minutes of January 15, 2003 with correction of spelling error on page 2. The Motion was unanimously approved by those members in attendance.*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Subcommittee

Kristen Travers, chair of the subcommittee presented the report. Kristen passed out a draft brochure and application form for the Education Mini-grant program that the subcommittee has completed. The subcommittee is looking for comments on the draft materials. The proposed amount of the mini-grants are from \$250 - \$1000. The total amount that the subcommittee has allocated for this year is \$4000. The program is targeted for "grassroots" educational efforts. The grants will be made as reimbursements and

will start this spring, the deadline for applications is May 12. Kristen asked that a copy of the materials be posted on the website.

Kristen also reported that the subcommittee is working on wild and scenic river interpretative signage. Members of the subcommittee have met with Susan Moerschel, DNREC to discuss placement of signs within White Clay Creek State Park. Two locations for signs have been discussed, near Tweeds Mill bridge, Wedgewood and Creek Roads and at the Nature Center. These locations get a lot of pedestrian traffic and will link with an 8 mile trail network. DNREC will put the signs together in-house. The subcommittee will continue to work up a budget for the signs. Rick Mickowski indicated that the subcommittee needs help with contacting local parks and municipalities in Pennsylvania where signs may also be placed.

Recreational Trails

Jake Michael (Chester County Planning) reported that Kyle Gulbranson, DNREC has left his job with the State of Delaware and will no longer be a member of the Management Committee. David Bartoo, in the interim will be the contact for DNREC with the Management Committee. Susan Moerschel, DNREC will also be assisting the Trails Subcommittee.

Susan Moerschel and David Bartoo then displayed Trail Maps for the White Clay Creek watershed that DNREC have completed. These maps will be used to create a brochure for the watershed. One of the maps focused on the greater White Clay Creek region and the other at a more readable scale focused on the Preserve, White Clay Creek State Park, City of Newark and linkages with Fairhill Nature Center. Jake reiterated that the subcommittee focused more attention with the smaller map on the Delaware portion of the watershed because there are not many trails on the Pennsylvania side. The larger, regional map will indicate bike routes in Pennsylvania, could be used as a tourist map. Jake recommends going with the smaller map, which could be plastic coated so that it could be used outdoors.

Stroud Water Research Center – UpStream Festival – Saturday April 26

Jami Harry from Stroud gave an update on the Upstream Festival which will be held this year on Saturday April 26. Jami thanked the Management Committee for agreeing to participate in this year's festival. The theme of this year's event will be focused on the "watershed community" and will feature more interactive participation. The Management Committee will have a table and exhibit which will focus on the White Clay Creek as a Wild and Scenic River. There will be a scavenger hunt which Chuck Barscz has already provided questions for, the answers for which will be found at the Wild and Scenic River table. Jami indicated that the Management Committee will also be running a contest for participants to come up with ways to describe why the White Clay Creek is "wild and scenic." Jami said that we still need to provide her with more details about this aspect of our contribution, i.e. the rules of the contest, the categories, prizes and judging.

Fish & Wildlife

Ed O'Donnell reported that the Fish & Wildlife Subcommittee had agreed to make a loan of \$4000 to the Open Space Subcommittee. This money will come out of the FY 02 funding. Ed also indicated that a macro-invertebrate survey is being conducted in both Pennsylvania and Delaware. In addition because of the weather the fish stocking schedule is being changed, but it will not change the opening day. Ed stated that the species that are stocked are rainbow, brown and some brook trout. The Fish & Wildlife Subcommittee will meet before the next Management Committee meeting to finalize a FY03 workplan.

Open Space

Robert Lonsdorf gave an update on the activities of the subcommittee. Brandywine Conservancy and Natural Lands Trust have finished prioritizing critical areas and have developed a listing of "A" and "B" lands. There are priorities for both forested and agricultural areas. They have sent out 60 letters to landowners of "A" lands to see if there is interest in protecting these areas. The timing of these letters coincides with deadlines for farmland preservation and open space grants. Later this year they will send out 60 more letters to "B" landowners. The subcommittee has focused mostly on Pennsylvania but would like to also look at protection opportunities in Delaware as well. Jack Stefferud and Robert Lonsdorf have met with several Pennsylvania municipalities already to find out what open space efforts are in the works, they are about half way through that process. Robert said that it would be a good idea to invite representatives from both Pennsylvania and Delaware State Parks to give a presentation to the Management Committee about their open space initiatives.

Artesian Well – New Garden Township

Fred Muller stated that Denis Newbold, from Stroud Water Research Center was in the process of reviewing the answers that Demicco & Associates provided to the questions that the Management Committee has raised about the the Artesian Water Company well in New Garden Township. Denis is also seeking input from Walter Leis, professional geologist, who currently consults for Franklin Township. Denis has indicated that he has concerns about the water budget that Demicco has presented. Denis feels that based on the budget as presented that there is not enough water in the subwatershed to cover the proposed pumping. Walt Leis stated that he has concerns about the water budget as well. Walt also indicated that DRBC has to renew the existing permit every 5 years which would require looking closely at the existing conditions. Walt also said that PA DEP will require testing of the water chemistry which will require new test wells and DEP will also require a hydrogeologic report to prove that the proposed water to be pumped will not be taken out of existing water storage. Denis is preparing written comments and will forward to Fred Muller. These written comments should also be forwarded to Jan Bowers, Chester County Water Resources Authority.

White Clay Watershed Association

Judy Schuler reported that the White Clay Watershed Association has submitted along with Stroud Water Research Center and F.X. Browne two grant applications to the Pennsylvania DCNR for this year. The grants would fund the White Clay Streamwatch Program (Water Quality Monitoring) and a stream risk assessment project. The grants total \$300,000.

Executive Subcommittee – Local Wild & Scenic River Coordinator

Fred Muller stated that the Executive Committee had made a decision about who they would recommend for the Local Wild and Scenic River Coordinator position. The decision was a very difficult one to make. There were 22 applicants for the position. After reviewing all of the resumes 5 candidates were selected to be interviewed. The 5 candidates were interviewed by 9 members of the Executive Committee on February 12. Each candidate was interviewed for approximately 30 minutes. An initial secret written ballot for the top 3 of the 5 candidates did not reveal a clear winner. The Executive Committee ended up with the same number of votes for Linda Stapleford and Bob Chartowich. The Executive Committee then took two more votes between Linda and Bob and ended up with a 5 to 4 decision in favor of Linda Stapleford.

According to the process that the Management Committee agreed to the recommendation by the Executive Committee must be concurred with by the Management Committee. The members of the Management Committee were noticed that this recommendation would be acted upon at this meeting. According to the bylaws decision making can be done by those members in attendance at the meeting as

long as the proposed action was noticed prior to the meeting.

Chuck Barscz said that the Management Committee could do take any of several actions since the decision in favor of Linda Stapleford was so close. Chuck stated that the Management Committee could reject the decision, the Management Committee could direct the Executive Committee to conduct further deliberations or the Management Committee could endorse the Executive Committee's recommendation of Linda Stapleford.

There was some discussion by several Management Committee members about the merits and qualifications of Linda Stapleford and Bob Chartowich. A motion was then put forward.

A motion was made by Bill Stulken and seconded by Judy Schuler to accept the recommendation by the Executive Committee to hire Linda Stapleford as the Local Wild and Scenic River Coordinator. The motion was unanimously approved by those members in attendance.

Presentation on Trout Run Water Quality Issues:

Warren Reynolds from New Garden Township asked to make a presentation before the Management Committee to discuss water quality of Trout Run, a tributary to the East Branch of the White Clay Creek in New Garden Township. Warren contends that pollution from a neighboring mushroom composting facility is a source of contamination of Trout Run. This issue is the subject of a federal court case that Mr. Reynolds and his family brought against Rick's Mushroom Service. The composting facility is located on property located at Hillendale Road near Newark Road.

Warren explained that the composting facility is used to create potting soil from spent mushroom manure. The process is to allow the spent manure to leach for two years. Leachate from this process is full of nitrogen and phosphorous. After Hurricane Floyd PA DEP, Chester County Conservation District and USDA assisted in constructing a series of berms at the site and a 1.8 million gallon settling pond as a way to deal with the contaminated runoff. Water that is used in this leaching process settles in the pond and is also used to spray irrigate 3 acres of adjoining hay fields. Warren contends that the 3 acres is not sufficient to handle the volume of water that is being sprayed on the fields. He believes that the plants of the 3 acres can not possibly absorb all of the leachate. Warren contends that the problem continues and that it would take 110 acres to adequately absorb the leachate.

Jake Michael made a motion that was seconded by Fred Muller to invite the PA DEP and the Chester County Conservation District to the next meeting to make a presentation about this issue. The motion was unanimously approved.

THE NEXT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE:

Tuesday June 3, 2003, 1-3 PM

Judge Morris Estate, White Clay Creek State Park

North of Rt. 2 on Polly Drummond Hill Road

New Castle County, DE

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.