



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

*Meeting Minutes*

**White Clay Creek Watershed**

**Management Committee**

April 9, 2002, 3-5PM

*Newark Delaware City Hall*

*Newark, Delaware*

**Attendees:**

Fred Muller	Bill Zimmerman	Salley Cheyne	Wayne Clapp
Kristen Travers	Lou Kaplan	Edna Bente	Jack Stefferud
Bill Stullken	Leon Wilkinson	Louis Kirkaldie	Connie Alegramte
Denis Newbold	Beth Webb	Fran Rubert Jr.	Rick Mickowski
Kyle Gulbranson	Patrick McKay	Robert Lonsdorf	Judith Shuler
Ed O'Donnell	Martin Wells	Patricia Walters	Claire DeMatteis
John Goodall	Sean Clancy	Jerry Kauffman	Dorothy P. Miller
Jake Michael	Charles Barszcz	Antoinette Jett	

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES 01/15/2002**

- *A Motion was made by Dorothy Miller and seconded by Louis Kirkaldie to approve the minutes of January 15, 2002. The Motion was unanimously approved by those members in attendance.*

Explanation of problems with email. ***The National Park Service is again connected to the Internet. Chuck Barszcz can again be reached at Charles\_Barszcz@nps.gov.***

Mentioned Committee Rules & Procedures asked if anyone wanted to become an official member. The Committee Rules & Procedures state that anyone who wants to become an official member of the Committee can do so.

**PRESENTATIONS** The following individuals representing various organizations and government agencies requested to make presentations before the Committee to explain existing programs and activities.

**Jake Michael, Chester County Planning Commission:**

The Chester County Planning Commission is involved in several initiatives to increase the amount and

quality of open space within Chester County.

***Linking Landscapes: A Plan for the Protected Open Space Network in Chester County, PA.*** (A Component of ***Landscapes***), was developed by the County to address open space needs.

In ***Linking Landscapes***, "open space" is defined very broadly to include any land that is not covered by building or pavement. With this definition, "open space" includes woodland, meadows, farms and even back yards or the lawns surrounding industrial parks.

40% of Chester County is undeveloped

60% of Chester County is developed

15% of Chester County is protected open space

***Linking Landscapes*** recommends that 5,000 acres of open space should be protected each year. If the County can protect open space at 5,000 acres a year, it will result in protection of 50% of the County's existing undeveloped land.

**Kyle Gulbranson**, *Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), Division of Parks & Recreation:*

### ***Green Infrastructure Program***

Currently there are 7000 acres of protected open space within the White Clay Creek Watershed, 5000 acres of which is in White Clay Creek State Park. DNREC will be acquiring more property within the White Clay region, currently looking at 600 additional acres. 80% of the White Clay Creek Watershed in Delaware is built out, 20% left is in open space.

Stream Restoration project – Pike Creek ( a tributary of the White Clay Creek) working with 3 Little Bears Golf Course to restore a ½ mile stream section using "natural channel" design methods. Restoration would include new channel geometry, establishment of floodplain and planting of riparian vegetation. Cost of project \$450,000, including monies from the state and EPA 319 program. The project still needs to raise \$100,000.

**Jack Stefferud**, *Natural Lands Trust :*

The Natural Lands Trust (NLT) is a private non-profit organization working to protect natural resources in the tri-state region surrounding Philadelphia. NLT has an interest in furthering their efforts within the greater White Clay Creek watershed.

Currently NLT is working on the acquisition of 38 acres in New Garden Township. Recently NLT was awarded a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) grant to acquire the property. Natural Lands Trust will transfer the property to New Garden Township once it is acquired.

**Kristen Travers, *Stroud Water Research Center:***

The Stroud Water Research Center is interested in continuing to work with the White Clay Creek Watershed Management Committee in the area of education.

The Educational Programs of the Stroud Water Research Center focus on 3 populations: students, educators, and the general public. Many of the Center's program focus on "hands on" learning for school groups. The Center also maintains a website which educators can access 24 hours a day. For the general public the Center is involved in sponsoring festivals such as the "Upstream Festival" which is held in conjunction with Earth Day.

The Center is also in the planning stages of an interpretative stream walk. The stream walk will provide information about streams and their ecology.

**Robert Lonsdorf, *Brandywine Conservancy:***

The mission of the Brandywine Conservancy's Environmental Management Center is to conserve the natural and cultural resources of the Brandywine River watershed and other selected areas with a primary emphasis on conservation of water quantity and quality. This is done through a variety of programs, conservation easements and land acquisition.

The Brandywine Conservancy is interested in working with the White Clay Creek Watershed Management Committee to fulfill its mission within the greater White Clay Creek region. Currently the Conservancy is working on a project in Kennett Township which may link well with open space within the White Clay Creek watershed.

The Brandywine Conservancy currently manages more than 2000 acres of open space within the White Clay Creek watershed.

**Route 41 Bypass and Expansion**

**Lou Kaplan**, Representative London Grove Township requested time to give a presentation about the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) Route 41 Bypass and Expansion project that is currently in the planning stages.

Lou explained that several areas are of concern. Several of the alternatives propose crossing the White Clay Creek with very large and very tall bridges. The current alternatives also call for widening the existing road from 2 lanes to 4 lanes with a 12 foot wide median divider.

Lou is concerned that the result of the expansion of the road will be increased development within the White Clay Creek watershed. The resulting development will cause water quality and stream health to decline. The proposed bridges will be out of character with the surrounding landscape and will impair

scenic vistas. Wetlands will be destroyed by the bridge construction and the increase in development.

Lou pointed out that the White Clay Creek Watershed Management Plan indicates that: "bridges should be: ...low profile, and constructed of materials which blend with the natural surroundings as much as feasible." Further the Management Plan also states that "A major goal for the overall watershed program is to guard against the indiscriminate urban sprawl-type development patterns within the watershed which serve to destroy or otherwise impact the very values which make the White Clay Creek an attractive place to live and work."

Judy Shuler proposed inviting PennDot to next committee meeting to make a presentation and to answer the Committee's questions.

➔ *The consensus of the Committee was to invite PADOT to the next Committee meeting for a presentation on the Rt. 41 project.*

### **Taybro Corp. Application for Zoning Variance, London Grove Township**

This application was forwarded to the National Park Service. The applicant seeks to install 2 (30,000 gallon) propane storage tanks within the floodplain of the Middle Branch of the White Clay Creek at a property located at 520 Baltimore Pike. The application before the Zoning Hearing Board seeks an appeal from the determination of the Municipal Engineer or the Zoning Officer concerning the administration of any Floodplain or Flood Hazard Ordinance, or similar provisions as may be contained within the Subdivision or Land Development Ordinance or the Zoning Ordinance. The application is also for a Special Exception. According to the London Grove Zoning Regulations hazardous materials such as propane are not a permitted use in the Floodplain. New construction is also not permitted in the floodplain.

The consensus of the Committee was that this kind of development did not support the goals and objectives of the White Clay Creek Watershed Management Plan and therefore the Committee could not support the granting of the variance or special exception in this case.

➔ *The Committee asked the National Park Service to convey in writing to the London Grove Township Zoning Hearing Board the opposition of the Committee concerning the granting of a variance or special exception for the storage of 2 (30,000 gallon) propane tanks at 520 Baltimore Pike by Taybro Corporation.*

### **Project Selection FY 02 (October 1, 2001 – October 1, 2002)**

➔ *Based on the voting for projects which occurred at the last Committee meeting it was the consensus of the Committee to focus on the following broad areas for projects this year: Open Space, Education, Fish*

*& Wildlife, and Recreation.*

### **Sign up for Subcommittees**

Fred Muller and Jerry Kauffman asked that the members of the Committee sign up for subcommittees, one subcommittee representing each of the broad subject areas. Each subcommittee will be charged to workout the details for specific projects that will be undertaken this fiscal year. Each subcommittee will decide which projects to fund and will further define each of these projects (who will work on the project, what it will cost, the exact nature of the project, and other funding sources or matching funds).

Fred Muller and Jerry Kauffman asked that a separate "Funding Subcommittee" be formed which will determine how much money each subcommittee will have at its disposal. The National Park Service projects that the Committee will have between 40K and 50K to spend this year.

Each subcommittee will then make a proposal to the entire Committee on how to spend its particular funding. The full Committee will then have an opportunity to amend or adjust the proposal.

-  
-  
-  
-

*The following Subcommittees were formed:*

### **Funding**

Fred Muller 610-869-9068

Jerry Kauffman 302-831-4929

Ed O'Donnell 302-395-5464

Patrick McKay 610-268-5840

Sally Cheyne 610-255-4152

### **Open Space**

Lou Kaplan 610 268-2153 x228

Martin Wells 610-274-1621

Sally Cheyne 610-255-4152

John Goodall 610-857-4369

Kyle Gulbranson 302-739-5285

Dorothy Miller 302-366-8059

Jack Stefferud 610-696-6187

**Education**

Edna Bente 610-255-5652

Kristen Travers 610-268-2153x239

Rick Mickowski 302-832-3100x113

Wayne Clapp 610-344-3285 signage element only

**Fish & Wildlife**

Ed O'Donnell 302-395-5464

**Trail Guide**

Kyle Gulbranson 302-739-5285

Bill Zimmerman 302-366-7055

**NEXT MEETING:**

June 12, 2002

1:00PM – 3:00 PM

London Britain Township Building

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5PM.