

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

June 8, 1:00 PM
City of Newark Council Chambers

Attendees:

Chuck Barscz
Sally Cheyne
Nicholas Lutwyche
Rick Mickowski
Judy Shuler
Kristen Travers
Leon H. Wilkinson

David Barttoo
David Hawk
Robert Lonsdorf
Dorothy P. Miller
Linda Stapleford
Andy Urquhart
Bill Zimmerman

Jessie Benjamin
Janet Kalb
Jake Michael
Fred Muller
Jack Stefferud
Martin Wells

The meeting was called to order by Jessie Benjamin.

MINUTES April 19, 2004

- *The minutes of the April 19, 2004 meeting were read and approved by members present.*

**DIALOGUE: HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATIONS/OPEN SPACE/STORMWATER FACILITY
MANAGEMENT CONCERNS**

J. Benjamin opened a dialogue about homeowner association management responsibilities for open space and stormwater facility management. Many perceive a large information gap between the associations and these management responsibilities assigned to them. Judy Shuler stated that Chester County's Water Resources Agency has a recent publication on post-construction management of stormwater facilities and that there are models on the CHESCO website. Cahill and Associates also have developed stormwater management models for the state. The question was raised if there was a list of homeowner associations and it was suggested that perhaps the various townships have them. It was noted that New Castle County is helping maintenance groups and that the Delaware Governor's Office provides an annual training workshop them.

- *Our website should provide links to these resources and to the DEP Update website.*

FY '04 ACCOUNTING AGREEMENT AND BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Chuck Barscz alerted the Committee that the cooperative agreement with the University of Delaware was expiring and arrangements needed to be made quickly with another entity to handle the accounting for the program. Linda Stapleford reminded subcommittee chairs that their previously established budgets will likely be reduced by 5 -8 % to pay for these services.

- *The Executive Subcommittee will meet immediately at the close of this meeting to discuss possible alternatives. David Hawk, treasurer of the White Clay Watershed Association, agreed to also attend that meeting.*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Subcommittee

Kristen Travers reported that text for the signage in the preserve was being finalized. Copies of the draft language were distributed. Over 250 students from Shue and Avon Grove Middle Schools came to Stroud for a stream field study component of the joint 7th grade outreach project with the Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee.

- *Anyone wishing to comment on the signage text should contact K. Travers.*

Fish & Wildlife

L. Stapleford reported that the same nine Shue and Avon Grove Middle School classes who participated in the Stroud Center field studies also received 2 classroom outreach programs each taught by she and Harriet Wentz. Activities included guided discussions, a windshield tour of the watershed and basic stream health messages via power point, a watershed delineation activity, and a laboratory on dissolved oxygen. These programs were complemented further by their participation in the **SMARTYARDS** program.

Open Space

Natural Lands Trust, pending the outcome of an application to Chester County for the last bit of needed funds, expects to soon close a deal on a 35 acre addition to the White Clay Creek State Preserve in Pennsylvania. They are also assisting New Garden Township with open space ordinance review and are developing land owner contacts in the township. A plant survey was conducted (not from White Clay Wild and Scenic funds) on a property in Franklin Township Prime bog turtle habitat was also confirmed on the site.

Brandywine Conservancy is working in Franklin Township on their Open Space plan and developing landowner contacts. An Open Space Subcommittee was established in London Grove as a result of previous work there and New London Township Planning Commission has requested a presentation by the Conservancy.

- *NLT Plant survey information will be shared with the Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee. Plans will begin for a fall multi-township meeting to build on this synergy and encourage open space initiatives and facilitate coordination between the townships.*

Recreational Trails

- *David Bartoo is working to have the Request for Proposal ready in the next few weeks.*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT

Section 7 Reviews

C. Barscz signed off on the Stonecroft development plan, previously reviewed by the Exec. Subcommittee and subsequently revised by the contractor. Awaiting an official report on Foxchase.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Spring 05 watershed conference, Thursday April 14, 2005

The above date was announced for our first White Clay Creek Conference at Clayton Hall. Rick Darke is the keynote speaker for a planned day-long event. J. Shuler and K. Travers volunteered to be on the planning task force and some other members agreed to assist with specific tasks.

- *Anyone else from the public interested should contact L. Stapleford to help with the conference.*

Committee Biennial Report

It was decided to use the outline previously developed for congressional delegation updates as the basis for a narrative full color narrative report with photographs and our soon-to-be completed new logo. This will also be made available digitally and will include a one page Executive summary as suggested.

- *L. Stapleford will develop the narrative report with feedback from Exec. Subcomm.*

SMARTYARDS Project

Hills of Sullivan participants and Avon Grove Middle School and Shue Middle School have installed their plants. The Avon Grove Sun article on the Avon Grove Fred Engle School **SMARTYARD** was passed around.

- *A survey of residents will be done in July and August to evaluate the program's impact. The Avon Grove Sun article will be posted on our website.*

Logo

It was discovered the previously selected logo design turned out to be inadvertently strikingly similar to another local organization's logo. Mark Deshon, the University of Delaware graphic artist working with us, graciously made a few style changes to the selected design and prepared an alternative. The alternate

was almost unanimously preferred by the Exec. Subcommittee. In view of the overwhelming popularity of the alternative and the amount of volunteer time Mark has already contributed volunteered, this design was presented to the full committee as our new logo. If a suitable silhouette of a more common bird of prey (Red-tailed, Broad-winged, or Red-shouldered hawk) is tracked down in the next few weeks, it will be substituted. The logo task force will make final decisions on colors for a few color versions.

- *Final logo product should be available by late summer.*

Bob Cheyne memorials

Sally Cheyne gave permission to post the drafted memorial on the website and will determine the best site in London Britain Township for a proposed tree planting in Bob's memory.

- *Memorial will be posted on website; tree and site selection will be finalized this summer.*

Municipal outreach

- *L. Stapleford is making a June presentation at a Franklin Township workshop.*

MISCELLANEOUS

14 White Clay Creek Drive update

Dorothy Miller relayed that unfortunately just after the appraiser completed the appraisal, the property owner's realtor called her to say that a contract had been signed for the property. The newest approval was in the same ballpark range as the initial City of Newark appraisal one year earlier.

Update on Needham property

This is a London Grove property, purchased by Buster Needham, which has been very controversial in the Township. The status is the same as last meeting: the Conditional Use hearing is postponed indefinitely until the legal matters are settled regarding the question of the completeness of the application.

- *Watch the legal ads and the Township website for further notice.*

Proposed Historic District Project

A public meeting is scheduled for Monday June 28th to explain the proposed project and seek community response. Invitations will be mailed out to residents and distributed to the full Management Committee and the listserv. Invitations were passed around tonight so anyone attending tonight will not receive one by mail.

- *Interested members of the public should attend the Monday June 28th meeting.*

I-95 Project

L. Stapleford reviewed DelDOT's plans available in the Delaware libraries; they do not include the wetland mitigation projects. Studies are still conducted on a possible reservoir on Bread and Cheese and impacts to the wetlands and vernal; no determination has yet been made of the future use of the Glenville area properties will be used; and Koppers site is still in question as a reservoir site.

Delaware Park's newest stream restoration

The requested redesign for this project is not yet available.

OTHER BUSINESS

Delaware's White Clay Creek State Park Master Plan

Andy Urquhart summarized the latest meeting updating the public on the park's master plan for: Life course, Disk Golf course, cross country trail, parking options, and picnic and restroom options. The poor condition of Creek Road and how that might eventually impact park use was discussed.

- *David Bartoo will ask Chazz Salkin, Director of Parks and Recreation Division, about this matter and the advisability of that discussion entering into the Master Planning process.*
- *Interested citizens should attend the last planned meeting to be held in August or September to discuss Environmental Education/ Facilities/ Lodging.*

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

THE NEXT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING WAS NOT SET.