

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

September 14, 2005 7-9 p.m
 Judge Morris Estate

Attendees:

Chuck Barscz	David Bartoo	Jessie Benjamin
Sally Cheyne	Martha Corrozi	Pat Horrocks
Jerry Kauffman	Janet Kalb	Nick McFadden
Rick Mickowski	Dorothy P. Miller	Norman Ness
Miroslava Ness	Roy Simonson	Linda Stapleford
Andy Urquhart	William P. Webb	Martin Wells
Leon H. Wilkinson		

Jessie Benjamin called the meeting to order, welcomed visitors, and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

MINUTES Sept.9, 2004

- *The minutes of the Sept. 9, 2005 meeting were read and approved by members present after noting corrections (adding Robert Lonsdorf to the members present, noting it is Penn State not Univ. of Penn. that is involved in the Bog Turtle Habitat Investigation, and noting previous corrections made on the website posting and corrected in the version available tonight.)*

NEXT MEETING

It was decided to hold the next Management Committee meeting Tuesday, Jan. 17, 1-3 p.m., at the London Grove Township Building in Pennsylvania.

RT. 41 PROJECT, AVONDALE

Madeline Fauser, District 6, PennDOT, and Lisa Brozey, KCI. Technologies, presented information on the Rt. 41 Project for the Avondale area. In 1993 a study on Rt. 41 from the Delaware line to Rt. 796 was set aside after a failure to reach consensus and insufficient funds available. The study now in progress is to try to reach agreement on project goals while examining safety and transportation issues as well as social, economic, and environmental impacts and regional land use goals and cost effectiveness.

The approach is “smart transportation” rather than a traditional approach with the objective of creating more capacity with a network design rather than an arterial one. The four options being considered are a by-pass in Avondale, providing more network by creating a London Grove Town Center at the boundary of Avondale and London Grove, roundabouts ~~or~~ and a possible by-pass in the Chatham area, and roundabouts north of Chatham. William Webb raised the concern regarding possible archaeological finds at the sites and was assured that an archaeological study would precede any excavation.

The Committee is composed of elected officials at all levels. The goals are to increase safety, reduce travel time, improve pedestrian access, slow traffic, and enhance the quality of life. The process originally involved group consensus but PennDOT changed in midstream to a group vote. It also has involved public meetings and the NEPA design process. The goal is reaching majority agreement and a final decision of record by October.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE FALL CELEBRATION

L. Stapleford noted the 5th year anniversary celebration of October 24th National Wild and Scenic designation is planned for *Saturday afternoon Oct. 29, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.* The family-friendly event is free of charge and will include a brief celebration ceremony; a live animal presentation on Amphibians and Reptiles of the Watershed; a demonstration tree planting; guided walks; displays of current White Clay Wild and Scenic River outreach projects including the two most recent additions to White Clay Creek Bi-State Preserve and Park; information on landscaping with native plants; and refreshments. The first 50 persons/families will also receive a FREE native tree. Visit www.whiteclay.org for upcoming details.

RECAP OF STREAM WATCH RESULTS

The 2005 Stream Watch findings presented in August at the Stroud Water Research Center were briefly reviewed by L. Stapleford. The upper East Branch of the White Clay Creek was the only site to receive a good ranking; other sites were fair or poor. The latter scores represent a loss of 50-100 % of the sensitive macroinvertebrate species and indicate that the White Clay is substantially impaired. The Committee is investigating ways to support the full analysis of the almost 15 year data set. See the WCWA website, www.ccil.org/~wcwa for further details of the 2005 data and 2003-2005 data comparison as well as a map of the sites.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Subcommittee

R. Mickowski updated Committee members on signage progress. The Delaware roadway signs are being fabricated and will be installed this fall. A poster design for a kiosk tackboard in White Clay Creek State Park and also for schools and other public spaces has been completed and will be printed this fall. A second tackboard poster will be designed and work will begin later on wayside signs for the Park. The Subcommittee is working with Stroud Water Research Center for a "Watershed Welcome Packet" which is being funded by a grant Stroud received from the Dockstader Foundation. The Subcommittee also met with Fish and Wildlife Subcommittee and will continue joint school outreach projects by Stroud staff.

Recreational Trails

D. Bartoo reported that he is passing along information to the contractor; the design phase will begin when the contractor has received all the elements.

Fish & Wildlife

The decision to continue to fund the Education Subcommittee's school outreach with the Stroud Water Research Center was noted above.

Open Space

No one was available to give a report.

Historical and Cultural Resources

M. Wells informed the Committee that there currently is an impasse regarding the April London Tract application submitted to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PMHC). Contractor Bob Wise proceeded with the submission based on a former PennDOT project historical investigation indicating the area was eligible for Historic Register nomination and the understanding from an onsite meeting of local residents with Commission members. He has now been told the area is ineligible. Bob Wise has been in contact with C. Barszcz and Carol Lee, PMHC, and it is hoped she will come down to the site to review the situation. Work on the study for determination of eligibility for the Landenberg Historical District will be suspended until the London Tract District situation is cleared up.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REPORT

Section 7 Review

C. Barszcz announced he was approving a Trout Run wetland restoration project and a Pike Creek stream restoration project in Meadowdale under the Park Service's Section 7 Review procedure. Another project he is reviewing is near the Heritage Elementary School on Mill Creek. Bruce Jones, formerly of DNREC, is the engineer on that project and is experienced in stream restoration techniques.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

L. Stapleford had no additional items to report.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

The meeting was adjourned.