

Spring Creek Water Quantity and Quality Work Group Meeting Notes

August 23, 2018

Ferguson Township Building

7:00 – 8:15 PM

Attendance:

- Jason Wert, University Area Joint Authority/Retiree;
- Dave Smith (for Cory Miller), University Area Joint Authority;
- Dennis Risser, US Geological Survey;
- Deb Nardone, Clearwater Conservancy;
- Dave Yoxheimer PSU/Water Resources Monitoring Project;
- Don Franson, Spring Creek Watershed Commission/Engineer;
- Dave Swisher, PSU Office of Physical Plant Engineer;
- Jim Gazza, Coca Cola;
- Ann Glasser, Potter Township;
- David Roberts, Nittany Valley Environmental Coalition;
- Andy Gavin, Susquehanna River Basin Commission;
- Joe Falcone, PA-Rural Water Association;
- Terry Melton, Nittany Valley Environmental Coalition;
- Ford Stryker, Spring Creek Trout Unlimited;
- Dave Kristine PA-Fish and Boat Commission;
- Jason Detar, PA-Fish and Boat Commission;
- Dennis Hameister, Spring Creek Watershed Commission;
- Bill Sharp, Spring Creek Watershed Commission;
- Jessica Sprajcar, observer only;
- Janie French, facilitator.

Attendees introduced themselves and a brief power point was presented on the Spring Creek Watershed. PA DEP listed 25.58 miles of the watershed as impaired with most of the impairment along the main stem of Spring Creek. Causes of impairment include siltation, low dissolved oxygen, organic enrichment, metals and total suspended solids.

Population in the watershed increased by 30,000 from 2000 to 2017 according to US Census Bureau statistics. Between 2010 and 2017 Benner Townships population showed a 50.7% increase mostly due to Benner State Correction Institute. Other notable municipal population increases included Harris Township (19.1%), Ferguson Township (9.2%) and College Township (7.6%). Discussion ensued on whether Penn State University's students are included in population statistics for Centre County. Janie will try to report back on this.

Since PA Department of Environmental Protection listed segments on the 303-D list in 2004 and restoration projects, environmental protection ordinances have been implemented, a question was posed on whether any impairments have been reduced or resolved. A suggestion was made to petition DEP to complete a comprehensive review of the watershed.

Additional discussion involved locating more current data to determine the overall health of the watershed. It was suggested to provide a water data rubric to begin identifying data reports. The Senior Environmental Corp for Centre County has been assessing the watershed as has the Water Resource Monitoring Project. A suggestion was made to include the Senior Environmental Corp to the technical work group. Suggested data layers should also include Thermal Imaging and Impervious Surface coverage.

Janie will develop and provide a suggested rubric. Reports will be housed on Spring Creek Watershed Commission google doc site and a link will be sent to this site. Meeting minutes and the Phase 1 report can be found at www.springcreekwatershedcommission.org.