

Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association
Annual Membership Meeting
Wednesday, November 16th, 2016

Minutes

Business Meeting for Members of the Watershed Association

The meeting was called to order by President Sarah Shockey at 7:02 p.m.

In attendance were Board members April Claus, Chriss O'Lare, Diana Morrow, Diane Abell, Harton Semple, Joe Hajnas, John Orndorff, Marisa Tobias, Sarah Shockey, Susan Craig.

Also in attendance were Watershed Association members Dana Adipietro, Hal Shockey, Bam Behrer, Arnold Behrer, Steve Downing, Chris Popovich, Mike Tomana, Richard Holzer.

Sarah introduced the members to Dana Adipietro, an attorney with the US Army Corps of Engineers, who is a member of our Advisory Panel and has been offering the Watershed Association *pro bono* legal counsel over the past year.

A motion made by April Claus and seconded by Marisa Tobias that the members accept the Minutes from the November 18th, 2015 Annual Meeting, as corrected, was approved unanimously. Diane Abell will make the corrections to the date and to Marvin Wedeen's name.

During the Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2016, John Orndorff reviewed the 2016 Income and Expense Statement. He noted that total operating expenses came to \$11,939.38 or 108.15% of the budgeted amount for the year, that there had been no capital expenses, and that total income came to \$18,036.83 or 100.18% of the amount budgeted for the year. He pointed out that the large increase in the Miscellaneous Expense category over the budgeted amount was due to a \$650 donation to the Big Sewickley Creek Fire Department.

John then presented the Budget for 2017. Under Operating Expenses, he noted that two new items had been added to the 2017 budgeted expenses – the Watershed Wonders event and the Total Suspended Solids project. In anticipation of the transfer of our two properties, there is no budgeted amount for 2017 for property insurance. Susan Craig noted that there might be a *pro rata* refund on the \$1205 amount paid in July of this year from the time that the properties no longer belong to the Watershed Association.

Under Capital Expenses, the budgeted amount for the vernal pond fencing was carried over, and an amount of \$20,000 was included for the upcoming watershed assessment, which brought total expenses to \$35,170.

Total Income budgeted for 2017 is \$9500 from membership dues/contributions and camp donations. In great part due to the amount budgeted for the watershed assessment, the expected expenses are higher than projected income. John noted that it is likely that we will need to access the liquid Money Market account within our Investment account in order to cover the difference, and the amount needed will depend on what grant money can be obtained for the watershed assessment project.

A motion made by Diana Morrow and seconded by Susan Craig that the Watershed Association members accept both the Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2016 and the Budget for 2017 was approved unanimously by the members.

Marisa Tobias, chair of the Nominations Committee, presented the slate of directors for the two-year term from 2017 to 2019. According to the Bylaws, there can be as few as 12 and as many as 18 Board members. The following Board members expressed an interest in remaining on the Board: Ann Coburn, April Claus, Chriss O'Lare, David Case, Diana Morrow, Diane Abell, Gary Smith, Harton Semple, Joe Hajnas, John Orndorff, Marisa Tobias, Sarah Shockey. Two long-term Board members, Susan Craig and Ed Schroth, will be leaving the Board, and Marisa considers them Emeritus Board members. Jean Sebolt has not responded concerning her continued interest, so is an "undecided". Two new candidates were introduced: Steve Downing and Chris Popovic.

Marisa then presented the slate of officers for the next two-year term: Sarah Shockey for President, Marisa Tobias for Secretary, John Orndorff for Treasurer.

A candidate for Vice President must still be identified as well as a Board member from Leetsdale, to take Ed Schroth's place as the LSCWA representative to that watershed municipality.

A motion made by April Claus and seconded by Diane Abell that the Watershed Association members accept the slate of officers and Board directors as presented, with the option to add Board members or a Vice President by electronic vote of the Board, was approved unanimously by the members.

A motion to adjourn the Business meeting of the Watershed Association members was made by April Claus and seconded by Diana Morrow.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Open Meeting for the Watershed Community

Total Suspended Solids Testing Program

Hunter Bearer, Robert Morris University biology student, reported on the results of the Total Suspended Solids (TSS) program he has been running since last spring. The program was set up to monitor two areas of the watershed: one in response to the removal of over 350 trees along the ridge top above the main branch of Little Sewickley Creek, and the other in response to the repair of the Camp Meeting Road landslide in Bell Acres, a potential cause of sedimentation to the same LSC tributary affected by the QVRA problems. Baseline testing was done at all test sites in both areas.

Although there were spring rains, drought conditions prevailed throughout most of the summer and fall. As of now, with very little storm water run-off, the testing for TSS and for metals has not shown any alarming results. In addition, the trees were only cut down two weeks ago, and the main repair work of the landslide will just begin tomorrow, so it will be important to continue the sampling. In light of the kinds of chemicals used for golf course maintenance, Hunter recommended additional testing for fertilizers, pesticides, and VOCs. Hunter will be graduating this year, but he has already enlisted the help of two RMU sophomores to continue the

monitoring of these sites. The members thanked Hunter for getting the testing program off to such a great start and for sharing the results with the Watershed Association.

Report on Distribution of Fish Species

QV Creeker John Rooney reported on the distribution of fish species before and after the removal of the Woodland Dam. Fish shocking done by Eric Chapman of Western PA Conservancy and the QV Creekers before the removal of the dam found 29 species below the dam and only 9 above the dam. The dam was removed in the summer of 2015. Fish shocking done in the fall of 2015 after the dam removal, at a half mile and a mile up from the old dam site, revealed three new species. Fish shocking done again this October of 2016 at those same two spots showed four new species at the half mile mark and nine new species at the mile mark. Monitoring will continue in the years ahead. The members thanked John for his report.

April noted that Duquesne University fish expert Brady Porter has reported actually seeing the front of new fish species as they move up the creek into new territory, now as far up as the Backbone Road bridge, mostly shiners.

Allegheny College Creek Camp Report

Abby Smith, who received the Watershed Association's Creek Camp scholarship for 2016, presented a slide show of her experiences and adventures during her camp week. Activities included water chemistry testing and kick-net sampling, fish-shocking, and searching for mudpuppies, hellbenders and other salamanders, as well as fresh water mussels in the high-quality waters of French Creek. She worked with a huge stream table in the geology department of Allegheny College, went owl and bat watching and canoeing, learned about dams and locks, and visited a planetarium. Abby thanked the Watershed Association for allowing her this opportunity and stated that, after her experience at Creek Camp, she is certain that her future profession will be in an environmental field of work. The members applauded her presentation.

It was noted how important it is for the members to see from these presentations how their money is spent - and how important the work of the Watershed Association is.

President's Report of LSCWA Projects, Programs, and Accomplishments in 2016

Sarah thought it would be redundant to report again on all the year's programs, projects, and accomplishments when everything was reported within the most recent newsletter. She did highlight two of particular importance. She talked about the LSCWA receiving the Sewickley Herald Citizen of the Year Award and thanked Bam Behrer and Liza Nevin and all those who worked on maps and baseline studies in the 70's and 80's and noted that this Award recognized all of that work.

Sarah also spoke about the Camp Meeting Road landslide repair project, begun prematurely before all permits were approved, leaving the steep hillside denuded of vegetation and vulnerable to storm water run-off into an important tributary of Little Sewickley Creek. Intervention by the Watershed Association ensured stronger erosion control measures on that hillside, and these measures, along with the lack of rain, prevented storm water sediment from negatively impacting that tributary. All permits are now approved, and work is expected to begin tomorrow at the site.

Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Assessment Report

April reported that the PA DEP Evaluation Report that recommended rejection of the petition to re-designate LSC from High Quality to Exceptional Value noted issues of sedimentation. The concerns raised by this report led the Board to recommend last January that an assessment of the creek be performed by a professional environmental consultant, with April and Diane Abell to lead this effort. April noted that although many who work in the LSC watershed can identify problem areas, there might be others that have not been identified. Also, when it comes to seeking grant money for restoration projects, it raises credibility that a professional consultant performed the assessment.

April reported that she and Diane worked on the development of a Request for Proposal, with input from Amy Miller and Damon Weiss of ACCD as well as review by the executive committee. Names of consultants were solicited from Roy Kraynyk of ALT as well as Marisa and Lori Gross. In all, eleven RFPs were circulated, including two to consultants that heard of the project second-hand. Of the eleven, six have submitted proposals, with five of the six in the \$20,000 range. Diane and April are now in the process of reviewing the proposals, and all the proposals have also been shared with the Executive Committee for their input. April finished by noting that a large part of the assessment will be performed by a volunteer corps trained in Visual Assessment Techniques by ACCD, and that she hopes that people will be interested in becoming part of this group.

At the close of the meeting, Richard Holzer, a Watershed Association member and also a member of the Sewickley Shooting and Fishing Club, expressed his concern about the proposed donation of Watershed Association properties, and a brief discussion ensued about the pros and cons of this direction.

At the close of the Open Meeting for the Watershed Community, Sarah thanked all non-Board members for their attendance, and announced that the Business Meeting of the Board of Directors would now begin.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Abell, Secretary
Little Sewickley Creek Watershed Association