

Minutes
Warm Springs Watershed Association
December 4, 2013

Attendance: **Board Members:** Norman Dean, Stacy Dugan, Betty Harmison, Kate Lehman, Rebecca MacLeod, Carol Reece, Andy Swaim. **Other:** Joyce Altomare (WSPSD), Tim Seims, Tyler Orr, Bill Clark. **Excused:** Susan Jones and Larry Lower

Announcements and Reports

The **Town of Bath Communi-tree planting** on November 5 went well. Twenty-four shrubs were planted around town hall. Town workers, Council members and Master Gardeners helped to plant the shrubs.

WSWA won the Margaret Meade Award at **Watershed Celebration Day (WCD)**.

Several WSWA members attended the **Invasive Species Workshop** sponsored by Cacapon Institute. Of particular interest was the presentation on goats used to clear areas overrun with invasive species. Interest was expressed in obtaining a grant to have the area east of the driveway to Berkeley Baptist Church cleared by goats.

Secretary's Report: The figures in the Treasurer's Report were corrected, as was the wording about obtaining information about the US Silica spill in August under the Freedom of Information Act. Stacy moved/Rebecca seconded that the minutes be filed as changed.

Treasurer's Report: Andy reported that as of December 4, 2013, there is \$14403.04 in the CNB account. In the last month there was one debit, a check for \$139.50 to Kate for expenses incurred during the trip to Charleston for a workshop. Permission to pay this debit had been granted prior to the trip, and was approved yet again at the October meeting. There were two credits: \$300.00 in donations from members as well as the \$100.00 prize that accompanied the Margaret Meade Award at WCD.

Two bills were submitted: the Morgan Messenger sent a bill for \$17.50 for printing copies of the most recent newsletter. No approval is needed to pay this bill since the expense is included in the budget. As approved at the last meeting, Susan Jones was reimbursed for \$55.46 to cover the cost of gasoline for the trip to Charleston.

Committee Reports: Norman reported on the post-gasoline spill monitoring. The control site, just south of Earth Dog Café, was much worse than last year. While there is no way to prove it, Norman believes that the dredging done in November of 2012 (after we established this area as a control site) had a negative impact. The Earth Dog site is now the same as the area affected by the gasoline spill. While the site just behind Coldwell Banker Real Estate office shows minimal improvement, the Yellow Run site is much worse.

Norman recommended that we do testing at Widmyer (south of the high school) early in the monitoring season next year. If conditions there are unchanged, or better, we will have more proof that the problems at Earth Dog are caused by the dredging at the high school. Norman also recommended that we do testing further upstream on Yellow Run in an effort to determine what might be going on there.

Old Business:

Since we will not have completed testing for fecal coliform bacteria in the Run until August, 2014, we were granted an extension of the **2013 Stream Partners Grant**. A report on what has been done to date will be filed by January 30, 2014.

We were awarded a \$3000.00 grant by the **Two Rivers Giving Circle**. The funds will be used to erect educational kiosks in the area of the Widmyer wetlands.

WSWA was also awarded a \$5000.00 **2014 Stream Partners Grant**. The funds will be used to plant trees on a portion of the Run that flows through private property south of Morgan Square.

Stakeholders Meeting re Stormwater Retrofitting: Kate proposed asking Bob Marggraf to address how such projects could aid economic development in Morgan County. It was agreed that this is a good idea.

A meeting to do further work on the **QAPP** for the 2013 Stream Partners grant will take place on December 12 @ 9AM at the Cacapon Institute.

New Business

Joyce Altomare addressed **Warm Springs Public Sewer District concerns** about the proposed trail along the Run. Stacy and Bill reported that the WSPSD had raised the same issues with the County Commission, and that a letter had already been sent assuring the board that these issues would be dealt with in a satisfactory way. Stacy reported that the environmental impact requirements for installing the trail are very strict, and thus as designed to protect the Run.

Betty moved and Stacy seconded that Kate and Betty will be included in future meetings held to discuss the project. The vote was unanimous. Bill stated that it would be helpful were WSWA to seek grants for signage along the trail.

Joyce also reported that a business west of Earth Dog Café has disconnected from the sewer line and is discharging waste directly into the Run. The Department of Health has been informed of this issue.

Tyler reported that the number of Face Book users is up, although the number of “likes” is down. The initial purpose of the FB page was to direct more people to the WSWA website. While that goal was not initially realized, there are now “teasers” in the FB page that direct people to the website. Website hits are up 40% this month and up 240% compared to last year.

The next meeting will take place on January 22 at 5:00 at the Extension Office.

Under a motion by Rebecca/seconded by Betty, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30.