

Minutes
Warm Springs Watershed Association Board Meeting
May 23, 2018

Attendance: Board Members present: Kate Lehman, Andy Swaim, Rebecca MacLeod, Betty Harmison, Michael Brooks, Stan Oaks, Norman Dean, Holly Hook, and Bob Wurster. Others: no one

Announcements and Reports:

Herb Petticord has asked us to help at a Morgan County tree planting on Friday May 25. The request was put on our facebook page and e-sent to all members.

Adopt-a-Highway Follow-up: 6 members participated in the May 1 Rt 522 clean-up: Rebecca, Bob, Andy, Kate Norman and Jeff. There seemed to be less trash than 'usual' this time. We will have to schedule two more clean-ups this year to satisfy the WV state requirements.

Master Gardeners Plant Fair Follow-up: We spent Friday, May 11 at the Fair. Stan, Mike Rebecca, Andy, Kate and Larry Lower helped at the table during the day. We signed up 3 new and 3 renewing members and sold 14 raffle tickets for books and snakes. So far only two winners have picked up their prize.

EPCD Watershed Group Gathering Follow-up: Stan, Norman and Jeff attended on May 15. Matt and Alana used a few of our projects in their talks and mentioned that “You are a rockstar watershed association”

Reminder: Watershed Celebration Day, October 26 and 27 at Adventures at the Gorge. Jeff and Stan attended last year at Kingwood.

Secretary’s Report: The minutes of the Annual Meeting on Apr 25 were accepted by common consent after the Treasurer corrected the bank balance (\$20,163.26 should be \$20,143.26).

Treasurer’s Report: There is one debit of \$18.75 to the Morgan Messenger for printing the annual meeting public notice. There are credits of \$129 from the Plant Fair (\$14 raffle tickets, \$10 donation, \$105 dues), \$175 from the 3rd Q hotel/motel tax and \$40 for a rainbarrel sale. The bank balance as of today is \$20,468.51. The treasurer’s report was filed to audit.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: There is one bill from Michael Brooks for \$89.94 for the website annual renewal fee. Stan motioned to pay it, seconded by Kate.

Advocacy: Jeff has been attending the Choose Clean Water Coalition meeting.

Membership Report: 3 new members joined and 3 ex-members renewed at the Plant Fair.

Program Committee: The Morgan County Exhibition will be held at the Senior Center Aug 24-26. There will be programs on Citizen Science, butterfly tracking, the importance of weeds and more. JoAnne Langabee, Kate's sister, will be presenting.

Stream Monitoring: It has been too wet lately to schedule any monitoring. Stream gauges at Dam #3 and Jimstown road bear witness to this.

Webmaster's Report: Mike made the monthly appeal to have WSWA members contribute to the website and Facebook. Rebecca asked to join the website as a moderator.

Unfinished Business

May 29 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Greenway Cemetery Rain Garden: Kate submitted an article to the Morgan Messenger. We will meet around 11 to setup canopies, tables and chairs for the occasion. There will be refreshments (tea, water, nibbles, nuts etc.). Matt Pennington will announce the event on his radio show. Kate has invited some 25 'notables' and is asking several to make a short talk. A drumming troupe may perform. We will meet tomorrow at 8 am for a weeding event. A mulching event will follow on Monday 5/28 at 9 am. The expense for 4 yards of mulch was approved (approx \$100).

2018 Stream Partners Grant Project: A new idea, hugelkultur, is being explored to control erosion on the soon to be closed south road in the Greenway cemetery. **Hugelkultur** are no-dig raised beds that hold moisture, build fertility, maximise surface volume. They are constructed from decaying wood debris and other compostable biomass plant materials. The idea has been discussed with Sebastian Donner at DEP who made positive suggestions. Mike Keefer may be able to supply aged wood chips. The Stream Partners Grant Proposal will be modified, mainly in the budget for materials section.

New Business

Tree Maintenance Scheduling: Our tree plantings at Double T, Debbie Dare, and Daisy Abbot properties will require pruning and mulching this year. We will try to schedule this at the next meeting. We are grateful to Mary Youngblood and friends for weeding the Widmyer Wetlands paths.

Other

The association has submitted two comments to WV DEP regarding to the Route 522 Bypass, one to the effect that WSWA would like to be involved in mitigation efforts and two that trees and shrubs need to be planted along the route.

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan will be discussed on June 1, 11 am at the Blue Ridge Community and Technical College in Martinsburg. Matt Pennington is involved with the Phase III Kickoff program.

The annual meeting was successful, even without an outside speaker. Kate appreciated the minutes taken by stand-in secretary Stan Oaks. Door prizes (a flower arrangement, snakes and a bottle of wine) were a novelty. Wine, beer, cookies and crackers were enjoyed by all.

The next Board Meeting: will be on June 27 at 6 pm at our new location, the WVU Extension Office Meeting Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25.