
Southeast Pennsylvania Watershed Group Workshop
June 28, 2018
Heritage Conservancy/Aldie Mansion – Doylestown PA

Watershed Group Round Robin – Achievements and Challenges Shared

Mary-Margaret Monser – Ambler EAC

- Part of Wissahickon watershed
- TreeVitalize – 4 sessions to plant street trees, upcoming riparian buffer tree planting
- Working with Montgomery County Planning Commission to update open space plan; want to include strong language for watershed protection
- Advocated for riparian buffer, steep slope, tree protection, wetlands ordinances – voted down by borough council
- Challenge = getting everyone on board with protecting natural resources
- Received \$206,000 Growing Greener grant in December to put in place rain barrels, downspout planters, rain gardens, pervious services – will start implementation this fall
- Hope to grow environmental stewardship in the community
- “Guidelines” sounds more palatable than “ordinances”

Jan Filios – Bucks Environmental Action

- Support Riverkeeper to protect Delaware River Watershed
- Have gone to open hearings to advocate for river protections

Meghan Lockman – Chester, Ridley, Crum Watershed Association

- Watershed runs from farm land to City of Chester
- Focused on tree plantings and annual streams cleanups
- Supporting municipal MS4 programs with streambank stabilization
- Problem = maintenance and management of plantings; funding is a challenge, participation is not

Sue Miller – Darby Creek Valley Association

- Sue is first employee of DCVA
- Association is part of Delaware River Watershed Initiative (DRWI)
- They do educational programs; most work done in downstream areas, but trying to work upstream
- Problem = getting younger volunteers
 - Tip: use beer/wine/brewery to attract younger (of age) people
- Have rain barrel/rain gardens homeowner program (do Streamsmart House Calls)
- Want to do more physical, noticeable activities to bring in more people; build base.

- Tip: kid activities attract parents
- Challenge = money

Suzanne Zlotnick – Friends of Poquessing Watershed

- Doing lot of work to get their watershed recognized
- Working with Glen Foerd on the Delaware; at mouth of Poquessing Creek; environmental education and boating access point programs under development.
- Working on 2 storm basin retrofits projects with townships, 1 on school property

Todd Stone – Gallows Run Watershed Association

- Partner with Heritage Conservancy on conservation/natural resource protection projects
- Conduct well monitoring, with network of (10) wells in surrounding townships
- Academic study of water levels → developing ordinance that ties development with water availability
- Challenge = legacy toxic dumping:
 - Concerned about increase in cancer levels
 - Want help in continued remediation of dump sites, along with support for stream monitoring
- Links provided by Todd:
 - Bridgeton Nockamixon Groundwater Management Committee, www.bntgroundwater.org
 - Gallows Run Watershed Association, www.grwabucks.org

Joyce Ely – Neshaminy Creek Watershed Association

- Very new group
- Lots of work in Tyler State Park; DCNR access
- Fund raising for more trees
- Stream side cleanups, plantings, invasive removal
- Serious flooding problems; flash floods
- Very experienced people in group; small core; have Master Gardeners, Master Watershed Stewards, but limited staff, and could use more volunteers/support
- Don't have social media yet
- Did a 10-mile paddling trip down the Neshaminy
- Goal = get more trees to slow runoff

Julia and Warren Woldorf – Newtown Creek Coalition

- Coalition established in 2006
- Bring together municipalities to look at creek as central feature of their jurisdiction/design perspective
- Assisting borough to get grants for projects along the creek

- Just restored Newton Commons; TreeVitalize grant to plant one side of the creek; the rest done with DCNR and Bucks County open space funding
- NCC has been more acknowledged by public in recent years
- They developed signs to tell people what they can do in their backyard
- Problem = diminishing number of regularly active members, aging population, need to expand capacity:
 - 200 on email list, but only 10 active members
 - Trouble attracting a younger group
- Trying to get involved with Bucks County Community College to reach younger members

Chris Mendel – Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust

- Trust encompasses 3 miles of Pennypack Creek in Montgomery County
- 1,200 members; good membership of anglers/birders; also have great board
- Most of their property is fee-simple owned outright
- Problem = aging population, small staff (7)
- Want to create educational experience, green jobs
- Invasive plant problems, hot creek, shading problems

Jean Akers – Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy

- Currently conducting river sojourn for youth (paddling Perkiomen to Delaware over 5 days)
- Known for environmental education, stewardship programs, spring stream cleanup, removal of water chestnut aquatic invasive plant.
- Support MS4 program with 23 municipalities signed up in the watershed
 - Facilitate outreach and education; very successful
 - Rain barrel workshops, rain gardens, mini grants
- Want to formalize volunteer programs (doing lots of TreeVitalize plantings, have 100's of volunteers)
- Water trail plan
 - Outdoor recreation – people don't know about it → outreach to inform them through water trail map
 - Feasibility study through September for 18 miles of water trail
 - Working with municipalities to get feedback
 - Plan to make recommendations for economic development and ways that reach beyond conservation
 - Map ready for sojourn
- Working with brewing companies, beer named after creek.
- Have Outreach Organizer position open (social media, event planning)

Francis Collins – Primrose Creek Watershed Association

- North of New Hope PA; big issue that started association is source water disappearing in creek. Tiny stream, big impact by large quarry operation
- Has trout designations
- Have TreeVitalize support, support from other groups for restoration and tree planting
- Education links with school district, Solebury and New Hope → younger volunteers can eventually take more active role
- Involved with Stroud and DRWI – monitoring real time water levels, temperature, conductivity, etc., remote sensing – data on I-phone, puts data right out there, stimulates interest
- Big question: where is the water going? At one point it went to zero!

Sue Boyd – Springfield Township (Bucks County) EAC

- New to organization
- At workshop to learn more

Ryan Newman – Tookany-Tacony/Frankford Watershed Association (TTF)

- Doing restoration work in Cheltenham, Jenkintown
- Do outreach in both City of Philadelphia and suburban areas
- Promote rain gardens, riparian buffers, and other projects

Mark Stannard – Trout Unlimited Perkiomen Valley Chapter

- Focused on upper portion of Perkiomen Creek above Greenlane Reservoir
- Small group; almost closed and now trying to bring it back
- Work with farmers: tree planting, cattle crossings, stream restoration
- Want to partner well to grow group; work with other organizations and need new members!
- Want to formalize volunteer program to recruit new volunteers.

Francine Schmitt, Tom Smicker – Upper Tohickon Watershed Association

- 2nd largest watershed in Bucks County; Association started in 2010
- Includes Lake Towhee and Lake Nockamixon
- Educational mission: community days, newsletters, speaker series
- At workshop to gather more information for public engagement

Chuck Marshall – Valley Forge Trout Unlimited

- Valley Creek runs through Valley Forge National Park.
- Problems = on 303-d list; sedimentation is main challenge, along with temperature increases (have 10 years of data), road salt (increasing chloride levels, regional issue)
- Helped form Valley Creek Restoration Partnership – an overlay organization

- Voluntary
- Deals with stormwater management through best management practices
- Have Growing Greener, William Penn Foundation, and NFWF grants
- Put in green roofs, bioswales, rain gardens, infiltration trenches, level spreaders, sidewalk trenches, etc.
- Attention now focused on MS4 programs
- But issue is that townships parcel land out of their pollution reduction plans; commit to only 10 percent pollutant reduction from non-parceled out land
- Need to do more; need TMDL
- Also have PA turnpike and Penn DOT right of way treated separately; want watershed specific plans these agencies
- Want stormwater fees, for Tredyffrin and East Whiteland Townships (they can work with Ellen Kohler/EFC on this)

Jen Bilger – Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association

- Association has done land conservation for many years
- Now doing community involvement push/want community to inform what WVWA does – doing roundtables to find out what people care about
- Do a lot of water quality monitoring
- Part of DRWI; struggle to collaborate effectively (meetings should have purpose, partners should have skin in game)