Spring Creek Coalition Board Meeting March 11, 2021 Minutes

The meeting of the Spring Creek Coalition Board was called to order on March 11, 2021 at 6:01 pm. by President Beth Rooney

Present were George Kamp, Beth Rooney, Travis Fite, Jessica Spencer, Karen Harris, Bill Chambers, David Martinez, and Jennifer Owen.

We took a few minutes to celebrate the filing of our lawsuit against the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry, Wednesday, March 3. We received many positive responses from Coalition members and the community. Media reports were given by Rooney to D.E. Smoot (Tahlequah Daily Press & Muskogee Phoenix), Kelly Bostian (Tulsa World), and Seth Bodine for KOSU Radio.

Motion: A motion was made by Bill Chambers, seconded by George Kamp, to accept the February regular board and two special board meeting minutes.

Passed

The **treasury report** was reviewed and accepted for filing. We ended the month of February with a balance of \$13,634. No invoices have yet been received from our Legal Counsel for their work in January or February.

Legal Team Report: David Martinez addressed the benefit of the talking points we had for the filing of the lawsuit and the need for the board to enhance these talking points for the hearing. We will need to clarify our positions and what we want to happen before we get into negotiations with ODAFF.

Bill Chambers reported that **Water Monitoring** was going well and was bringing in new people. Someone from Sycamore Springs area is expected to join us this month. Our next date is Thursday, March 18. Anyone interested is welcome to join us, 9AM at the Country Store; Hwy 82 and Ear Bob Road.

Beth Rooney presented the **fundraising** report.

- 1. **Our February "Shortest Month" Campaign** matching Board member pledges up to \$4,440 was very successful. The campaign **raised \$14,160**.
- A creative fundraising idea: birthday present gifts. Karen Harris had the idea of requesting friends at her 70th birthday celebration donate to SCC in lieu of birthday gifts. Successful.
- 3. We received the Kirkpatrick Foundation grant of \$8,718. This will allow us to complete our year baseline water monitoring and to identify the source of high bacteria levels at sites 1, 2, and 3.
- 4. Bill Chambers reported that no dates have been set yet for our **fly-fishing fundraiser**, but he and Jennifer Donnelly plan to do this in April.
- 5. **Maddie Spencer showed us the goal poster she has created** for our "Fund the Lawsuit" efforts. It is a representation of our creek that will fill up with

- clean water and creek critters as we move toward our goal. Board members gave ideas for other "creek critters" to be added. See this poster at our website and on Facebook. As of March1 we had raised \$13,000 toward our \$50,000 goal (25%).
- 6. Given the success of our February matching fundraiser ("Matching is Magic"), Rooney has started a "Fund the Lawsuit" campaign where she will match up to \$5,000 brought in the last three weeks of March. Rooney and Chambers are going to work on this via phone contact to those who typically haven't given before.

New Business:

Potential feature-length documentary on the poultry issue: We were contacted by two young women who currently work for the Cherokee Nation film office for Osiyo TV. They want to apply for a \$100,000 grant to create a feature-length documentary on the poultry issue from the Cherokee point of view. They need a 501(c)3 to sponsor them and help make community contacts. I agreed that SCC can be their sponsor, Pam Kingfisher will be their community relations person, and Travis agreed to be our liaison.

Timeline: the grant process is competitive. Finalists will be chosen in April and the winner in August. Should they win, they estimate two years, by 2023, to complete the documentary. \$50,000 of the grant goes to making the film and \$50,000 to the non-profit to be used in the community however they see fit.

Do we want to join the Conservation Coalition of Oklahoma (CCO)? Karen Harris gave us an overview of this Coalition. She is currently a member representing the Tulsa Unitarian Church Green Team. Cost is \$500 per year.

The name of this group was incorrect on the board agenda (written as Commission instead of Coalition). George Kamp suggested we table this agenda item until we have more time to research CCO. Suggestion granted.

Other: Proliferation of Marijuana farms in NE Oklahoma. Karen referred to an article in this week's Tulsa World about the proliferation of marijuana farms in Oklahoma. The amount of water they need to operate is a threat to Spring Creek. Jessica Spencer confirmed that they are going up all around Peggs, and that Peggs Water Company (PWC) has told them they do not have the infrastructure to provide them with water. PWC has told them to drill wells.

Motion: A motion was made by George Kamp, seconded by Karen Harris, **to adjourn the meeting** at 6:59pm.

Passed

Minutes submitted by Beth Rooney