

Spring Creek Coalition Board Meeting May 13, 2021 Minutes

The meeting of the Spring Creek Coalition Board was called to order on May 13, 2021 at 6:01 pm. by President Beth Rooney

Present were George Kamp, Beth Rooney, Travis Fite, Jessica Spencer, Bill Chambers, David Martinez, and Jennifer Owen. Guests present: Matt Alison of IEA Law Group.

Matt gave an update of our lawsuit.

- They received a clarification of ODAFF's initial contradictory responses to our lawsuit filed March 3rd.
- Basically, ODAFF has said they are complying with current poultry act and do not have the power to do more.
- The Lawsuit is now open for discovery. Matt and Jason have requested that ODAFF Director Teena Gunter sit for a deposition but have not received any response.
- Next step: they will issue a subpoena to force her presence.
- Matt expects this to be the only deposition; he noted that depositions are expensive and time consuming.

Jennifer Owen asked whether the lawsuit has deviated from its initial intention of challenging the jurisdictional statutes.

Matt replied that no, the lawsuit has not deviated from that intent, if he understood her question correctly.

Motion: A motion was made by Jessica Spencer, seconded by Travis Fite, to **approve last month's regular and special meeting minutes.**

Passed

The **treasury report** (Arvest statement) was reviewed and accepted for filing. We ended the month of April with a balance of \$23,445. We have not received bills from IEA Law for March or April.

President Rooney reported that Jason Aamodt has recommended not paying anything on David Page's bill; Aamodt intends to work with Page on making this bill go away.

However, Aamodt does recommend we pay Lithochimeia's bill in full (\$3,958.42 for work through Dec 28, 2020). Two board members felt strongly that we "should not pay another cent." President Rooney assigned Vice President Chambers the task of further consulting with Aamodt on his recommendations and reporting back to the board.

Bill Chambers reported that **Water Monitoring** continues to go well. Kelly Bostian attended April's monitoring and wrote an excellent article on our efforts. Additionally, we met this week with Emily Oakley of Station #2, Three Springs Farm, and Kelly Foster of Waterkeeper Alliance to work out a plan to determine the source of high bacteria at that station. At our regular monitoring date of May 20, we will be adding two additional stations upstream of Three Springs Farm to capture runoff from tributaries. We have also ordered DNA test kits that will be used to identify the source of the bacteria: human, poultry, sheep, pig, cattle, and dog.

CCO weekly zoom meetings: Bill Chambers, our CCO representative, has been attending their weekly Friday zoom meetings. Bill reported that there is much to learn, and at this point he has been a passive listener as CCO goes over the legislative bills they are working on.

Fundraising report;

1. **The Women's Fly-Fishing Clinic was a great success.** It brought in \$4,800 and was an excellent educational experience for those attending concerning Spring Creek and our efforts to protect it. We would love to do this clinic again.

Old Business:

Discussion on Designating Spring Creek a Scenic River: Guest speaker Shanon Philips, Water Quality Director, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, was not able to attend as expected. There was a short discussion on involving area residents and landowners extensively should the board wish to pursue this. For now we are trying to understand the pros and cons.

Russ Dutnell has suggested an alternative to rip rap to prevent bank erosion on Kent Rountree's Spring Creek property. The alternative is attractive but more expensive; Kent has asked if there are funding sources that can help. Beth will contact Shanon Phillips of the OK Conservation Commission for ideas.

Potential feature-length documentary on Poultry Issue. Travis Fite reported on Brit and Loren who are competing for a grant to create a documentary from the Cherokee point of view on the poultry issue in NE Oklahoma. SCC fulfills the grant requirement that they have the support of a 501(c)3. The ladies made the first cut in the competition and have until June 2nd to provide an expanded, full application. Grant winners will be announced in early August.

New Business:

Creating anti-litter signs. We are going to meet Kim Sisk to hand-create anti-littering signs to be posted at King's Curve and Littlefield's slab. Kim posted some last year at King's Curve and felt they had a positive effect. Paula Blakely of Cedar Crest has already made and posted signs at Cooper's Bridge.

Location: Saturday, June 5, 10am-noon, Locust Grove Methodist Church.

David Martinez gave a presentation of the **2020 draft ODEQ Integrated Water Quality Report** which consolidates data from water testing throughout Oklahoma. Spring Creek is shown as Fully Compliant in all categories except for a 3 in the Cool Water Aquatic Community designation. David is going to research why Spring Creek received a 3 and report back.

Jennifer Owen requested that we explore **ways to make our board meetings more open to the public.**

Motion: A motion was made by Bill Chambers, seconded by Jennifer Owen, **to adjourn the meeting** at 7:35pm.

Passed

Minutes submitted by Beth Rooney