

Spring Creek Coalition Board Meeting July 08, 2021 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by SCC president Beth Rooney at 6:00 pm on July 8, 2021

Members present: Jessica Spencer, David Martinez, Karen Harris, George Kamp, Bill Chambers, Beth Rooney and Angela Brazeal.

Absent: Travis Fite and Jennifer Donnelly; Jim McCoy (sabbatical)

A discussion about the lawsuit was held, specifically items of interest from the deposition of ODAFF General Counsel Teena Gunter. She admitted that the large poultry houses recently built in NE Oklahoma **ARE** defined as CAFO's (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations) by Federal regulation. CAFO's have much stricter regulations. For example, they cannot be built within 3 miles of a surface public water source. Spring Creek is a public water source (Peggs Water Company). However, Ms. Gunter maintained that ODAFF **does not** define them as CAFO's. Our lawyers are discussing how best to use this issue and whether we would benefit from additional discovery/depositions.

Motion: George Kamp made a motion, seconded by Bill Chambers, to accept June's special meeting minutes.

Passed

Note: minutes for June's regular meetings are not yet available due to a theft of Secretary Brazeal's tablet with her notes.

Motion: Beth Rooney made a motion, seconded by Bill Chambers, to keep the minutes from the special meeting private (i.e., not published on the website).

Passed

Motion: Beth Rooney made a motion, seconded by David Martinez, to keep SCC Board meetings public with restrictions.

Passed

Two restrictions that we will follow are: speakers must be on the agenda and we will allow 15 minutes for them at the end of the meeting.

The treasury report was discussed and accepted by President Beth Rooney for filing. **Key Expenses for the month were:** I&E Mar-Apr Invoice: \$3,635; Board Insurance: \$609; Water Monitoring: \$970; **Key income** was over \$5,000 from fundraising.

Committee Chair Angela Brazeal reported that our **annual meeting** will be held at the Peggs Community Center on August 28, 1pm-3pm. Donations are being solicited for a silent auction

and raffle. Donna Drury will be contacted to see if she will donate snacks. Jessica reported that current cost for Peggs Community Center is \$114.

Fundraising: The board decided that of the \$34,800 funds raised, \$32,000 will be used toward our \$50,000 lawsuit goal and \$2,800 will be retained for expenses.

Jessica Spencer proposed a **“Day at the Creek” Fundraiser**, probably in September, that could be held at her property. Cost should be around \$50 for a port-a-potty. She will check with her husband and work out details for the next board meeting.

Water Monitoring Update: Bill Chambers reported that we have achieved our one-year baseline of data. Our next goal is to analyze the data by end of July.

Waterkeeper Alliance has agreed to help with half of the cost (50% matching) for another year of testing. Congratulations to Bill Chambers and his team.

Water Monitoring Meeting with Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) Director of Water Quality, Shanon Phillips: Beth Rooney reported on a zoom meeting held with Ms. Phillips, Emily Oakley (Three Springs Farm), and Kelly Foster (Waterkeeper Alliance).

Ms. Phillips praised SCC saying that what we do is very valuable to OCC. It helps them prioritize their resources. She talked about several programs that involve Spring Creek (SC) and should help with water quality:

1. **Projects:**

- a. Funding to work with neighbors of poultry farms on conservation projects to solve issues of living there such as catching runoff, checking wells to insure no impact, and air pollution remedies;
- b. This summer: a program to offer incentives to poultry farms to move litter out of NE OK watersheds; SC Watershed is on the list; rollout thru conservation districts and GRDA
- c. As part of the watershed plan for SC: Texas A&M is working on a computer model for SC; a Beta version to be ready by end of June calibrated for water flow hydrology; by September, calibrated for water chemistry & land use. This will tell us what the problems are in the SC watershed, what we need to focus on. **We should be able to see a demo of this model at our September board meeting.**
- d. Other help:
 - i. OCC has started a 2-years on, 3 years off, 2-more years on, sampling program on streams in NE OK; there are two sites on SC: Drury’s and Spencer’s. Includes fish and invertebrate sampling; E coli testing May-Sept; will be additive data to ours. May add our Site 2b (Adams Creek) and Site 1 (N590 Rd, high E. coli)
 - ii. OCC’s talent for working with landowners could help us; Ms. Phillips asked for Emily Oakley’s help in identifying a landowner for a farm demo project in Delaware County.

OLD BUSINESS:

Beth Rooney, Jessica Spencer, Sandy Whitekiller, Kim Sisk and others helped to make and put up Anti-Trash signs at Cave Springs/Littlefields and King's Curve.

A discussion of stream bank degradation solutions for Kent Rountree was tabled. No update available.

New Business:

George Kamp gave a report on our partnership with Waterkeepers; plans are to turn his position as our Waterkeeper Alliance representative over to Sandy Whitekiller. Sandy resides in the watershed, has many contacts including with GRDA, and has shown her caring for the creek in numerous ways such as at annual clean-ups and currently as a water monitor.

Potential new board members for 2022 are Sandy Whitekiller and Mike Appel of Three Springs Farm.

A report of fish seining was discussed as an issue of concern as a group of people were seen netting and pulling small fish out of the creek by the five-gallon bucket load at Littlefield's. The game warden was notified. Locals in the area have been asked to report these people to the Cherokee County game wardens when they see this happening. It is against the law to capture more than 25 fish of any one species, and the wardens will be able to fine those involved.

Hearing no objections, President Rooney adjourned the meeting at 7:37pm.

The next board meeting will be held on August 12 at 6:00 pm by Zoom

Minutes prepared by Secretary Angela Brazeal