

## **Spring Creek Coalition Board Meeting October 14, 2021 Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by SCC president Beth Rooney at 6:02 pm on October 14th, 2021.

Present were Travis Fite, Jennifer Donnelly, Karen Harris, George Kamp, Bill Chambers, Jessica Spencer, David Martinez, Beth Rooney and Angela Brazeal.  
Absent: None

Lawsuit Update: The Oklahoma Water Resources Board is fighting against I&E Law Group having a hearing for the Lou Cochran case; once that date is set, I&E Law Group will request a date for our hearing against the Oklahoma Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF). Matt Alison apologized for the delays.

A prospective new poultry house business owner who inherited land was discouraged from coming into the area to grow poultry by a Tyson representative who told him Tyson is no longer building poultry houses in Oklahoma because of the amount of pressure that Spring Creek Coalition is putting on ODAFF who in turn is pressuring Tyson. We are having an impact!

MOTION: a motion to approve the June and September minutes was made by David Martinez and seconded by Bill Chambers.  
PASSED

The Treasurer's Report, showing an ending balance of \$32,559.23, was accepted for filing by Beth Rooney.

Fundraising: \$900.00 was raised at Jessica's Creek Day fundraiser. Thank you, Jessica and Family. \$1,400.00 was raised in other donations and new life time memberships. We received a \$5,000 donation from STIR to be used on anything except the lawsuit; it will be deposited in October.

A discussion concerning a conflict with David Page and his involvement in the estrangement of our relationship with our partners Lithochimeia and Waterkeepers: We have sent final payment to Lithochimeia but they have not cashed it and will not acknowledge receipt of the check.

MOTION: A motion was made by Bill Chambers, seconded by Karen Harris, to inform David Page of our intent to file a complaint against him with the Oklahoma Bar Association and give him a reasonable amount of time to reply before we go ahead and file the complaint.  
Passed

Bill and Beth will help Jason Aamodt prepare the complaint.

Gravel Mine hearing follow up: A request for an environmental impact study was denied; Gayle Ross will pursue this further with the Cherokee Nation.

Scenic Rivers Committee: Jessica Spencer held a discussion with the board on the pros and cons gathered so far of becoming a Scenic River. Some of the cons were more regulations by the GRDA, the possibility of bringing in more people, and more restrictions and laws. The one pro discussed was no gravel mining. David Martinez said that there were additional protections found in the OK administrative code. Noted were the complaints of land owners opposing the idea of becoming a Scenic River.

Nominating committee: A report was shared by chair Karen Harris about the status of the board as we move toward the next election year. We will have 7 members returning and space for 4 new members. We are openly requesting new members who have a passion for Spring Creek and or clean water in

general. We are looking for those who live in the Spring Creek watershed although this is not a requirement. Some ideas suggested: people who have experience in fundraising, raising cattle, Cannabis farming, who are Independent self-starters and task oriented, etc.

Jennifer Donnelly led a lengthy discussion on proposed bylaw changes. Her committee has reviewed the bylaws thoroughly and researched best practices in response to the concerns of three members. As a board we discussed the proposed changes. We will vote on the changes next month.

New business:

- 1)The fall clean-up is scheduled for November 13, 10AM-12 at King's Curve and Cooper's Bridge. A newsletter needs to go out soon.
- 2) Gayle Ross reported an issue: the County Roads Commission is planning to re-construct Thompson's slab without any notification or involvement of landowners. Gayle believes raising the slab's height, which they are planning, will cause more gravel to be deposited and will affect upstream landowners.
- 3)An issue was reported at Smokey Valley Campground concerning reconstructing banks and selling rocks. The issue was reported to the Corps of Engineers. No word back from them yet.
- 4)The cannabis grow farm at Terrasita: SCC members Wes and Deborah Combs live nearby and are keeping an eye on this business. It appears to be legal.
- 5) 2022 calendars are here.
- 6) Jessica reported on the attempt by Kent Rountree to work with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) to fix stream bank erosion at his land on Spring Creek. Kent's permit to use riprap expires in January and the OCC has not been communicating. This project appears stalled. Kent plans to go ahead with riprap.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

Minutes were prepared by SCC secretary Angela Brazeal