

Spring Creek Coalition Board Meeting March 10, 2022 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Rooney at 6:00pm on Thursday, March 10, 2022. Present were Board Members Bill Chambers, Jennifer Donnelly, David Martinez, Michael Appel, Sandy Whitekiller, Beth Rooney, Karen Harris, Travis Fite and Angela Brazeal.
Absent: Chris Beckwith

Following a brief lawsuit update in which good news was shared about an article written by Kelly Bostian about the recent win of our lawyers with Judge Denny regarding an OWRB case, a **MOTION was made by Bill Chambers and seconded by Sandy Whitekiller to approve the February board minutes.**
PASSED

President Rooney tabled voting on the February Annual Meeting Minutes until the recording of the meeting can be listened to and additional details added to the minutes such as the actual hand counts on motions made. The revised minutes will be sent to board members for approval via email.

The **treasury report** was accepted for filing. We currently have \$56,425.97.

Fundraising. President Rooney noted that, thanks to everyone's hard work last year, we are in much better financial shape in 2022 and have not had to do any fundraising yet this year. Our cash-on-hand January 2022 was \$42,368.00 vs. January 2021 of \$6,490.00.

Google Docs has been set up to contain SCC archives and important documents for the use of the board.

A revised version of the **2022 goals** was discussed and accepted as our working goals.

MOTION: Travis Fite made a motion **to continue membership (cost: \$500.00) to the Conservation Commission of Oklahoma (CCO)**, seconded by Bill Chambers. Board members spoke to the value provided by CCO of knowing what is going on in the legislature and of the articles written by Kelly Bostian that CCO pays for.
PASSED

Earth Day, Friday, April 22, will be represented by SCC; Travis Fite and Bill Chambers will set up and be in charge of a table.

President Rooney read a draft statement of **the Board's position on Public Rights on Spring Creek**. It was noted that although Spring Creek is a non-navigable stream, all waters of Oklahoma are public. Wading in Spring Creek is trespassing, but floating on the creek is allowed. The board's position statement reads in part:

SCC Board Position:

- Spring Creek Coalition is not a regulatory agency. We do serve as a clearing-house for information about Spring Creek (Bylaws, Section II, Goals).
- We encourage boaters on Spring Creek to act within Oklahoma law and also to take into consideration landowner and neighbor concerns for privacy on their properties.

MOTION: A motion was made by Karen Harris and seconded by Jennifer Donnelly to accept the document presented by President Rooney as the Board's position on Public Rights on the use of Spring Creek.
PASSED

President Rooney will put the document on the SCC Google docs.

President Rooney spoke about Spring Creek water quality issues and SCC's water quality monitoring efforts on March 2nd to **Dr. Hallman's Water Issues class at NSU, Tahlequah.**

Taxes were filed for 2021. This is the first year we have had to file a formal tax form instead of a simple ePostcard since we have raised over \$50,000 per year on average over the past three years.

NASA Grant: We have been asked if we would be a partner, along with two other community organizations with environmental concerns, to help two professors from the OU Department of Geography & Environmental Sustainability obtain a NASA Earth Science Grant regarding Equity & Environmental Justice in NE Oklahoma.

The other partners would be Green Country Guardians (Pam Kingfisher) and L.E.A.D. Agency/Tar Creek Waterkeeper (Local Environmental Action Demanded, Rebecca Jim).

If the professors receive the grant, our commitment would be to plan and host one of three community all-day workshops, probably in October, for up to 30 people. All costs would be paid for by the grant plus SCC would receive \$2,500 for our help.

A discussion was held which raised some questions regarding interest of residents in NE Oklahoma in a NASA imaging workshop and of how NASA grant funds might be benefiting the OU professors who are seeking the grant.

MOTION: A motion was made by Travis Fite and seconded by Sandy Whitekiller to participate in the NASA grant.

PASSED

President Rooney will notify Professor Laurel Smith of our acceptance to participate. (Note: President Rooney sent a Letter of Commitment to OU Professor Laurel Smith March 11 after talking further to her and to potential local partner Rebecca Jim concerning the questions raised by the board.)

Annual Meeting and Plan to Move Forward: The annual meeting had 45 adults and 2 under 16 in attendance; \$2157.00 was raised. We discussed possible steps to repair member unity. We decided to reach out to several members present at the meeting for their opinions and suggestions and use this input to inform our way forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm
Minutes were prepared by SCC Secretary Angela Brazeal