

**Spring Creek Coalition Board Meeting  
May 12, 2022 Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Beth Rooney at 6:01pm on Thursday, May 12, 2022. Present were Board Members Jennifer Donnelly, David Martinez, Chris Beckwith, Bill Chambers, Sandy Whitekiller, Beth Rooney, Karen Harris, and Angela Brazeal. Absent: Michael Appel, Travis Fite

An update on the recent May 4<sup>th</sup> flooding was discussed. Bill Chambers reported that gravel was pushed all the way up into his field. Angela reported that the area around the Lucky Slab neighborhood was flooded for a week and some neighbors could not get out for a few days. The gravel bank was raised approximately 4 feet with new gravel.

Legal has reported that some action would take place this month on our case.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:04-6:12 – to discuss our lawsuit against the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture.

A civil investigation by the OK Attorney General is proceeding with a request for our fundraising and other records. Beth has sent the requested documents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:16-6:24 – to discuss the Attorney General's investigation.

MOTION: A motion was made by David Martinez and 2nd by Sandy Whitekiller to accept the April Board Meeting Minutes  
PASSED

The treasurer's report was accepted for filing by President Rooney; We have \$56,117.12.

**Fundraising – Rooney**

- a. Funds are holding steady so no fundraising has been needed yet.
- b. We are now registered with the OK State Department for fundraising in 2022.

**Goa #9 - Strengthen Relationships with like-minded groups**

- A) Travis Fite and Angela Brazeal attended Earth Day Festival and were able to talk to many throughout the day and meet with other organizations of like mind including the Sierra Club and an Arkansas River Group
- B) Conservation Coalition of OK report: Bill Chambers reported that Governor Stitt is supposed to sign a bill, The Glover River Bill, that will protect the Glover River against dams; this might be relevant for Spring Creek as well. A nutrient management bill has passed that will simplify the process of how much nutrient will be safely spread. Phosphorous was discussed as the marker instead of nitrogen for the degrading of water quality.

Goal #1e – Improve Community Relations- Mike Appel absent.

Goal #3 - The issue with Lithochimeia and David Page bills is resolved; the motions made 4/14 have been implemented.

Goal #7 - The water quality report given by Bill Chambers indicated that there is clear and consistent damage by bacteria in the watershed including E. coli. E. coli numbers have been off the chart during high water. He suggested going to the Cherokee Nation to investigate septic systems upstream.

Other: We welcomed special guests Charles Tramel and B J Gann from Pryor to hear their concerns; B J is a water treatment specialist:

**Special Guests: Charles Tramel and B J Gann – regarding MidAmerica Industrial Park's plan to create a tax increment financing (TIF) district to lure in a major company, unidentified, but known to be Panasonic who would be manufacturing lithium-ion batteries.**

- a. Requesting our help in getting information to SCC mailing list registered voters in Mayes County with the objective of having them sign a petition
- b. Wanting to bring us up-to-date on their concerns with the potential environmental impacts resulting from lithium-ion battery production

MOTION: A motion was made by Jennifer Donnelly, seconded by Sandy Whitekiller, to send an email to our full mailing list providing information about the petition.

PASSED

Goal #8 – Water Quantity. One board member reported that pot farming near member Wes Combs’s house in Teresita is seemingly stalled; however, Karen Harris saw a person likely from this farm taking water at Lucky Spring into tanks on a pickup truck; when asked, they admitted that they didn’t have permission.

Goal #4 – Watershed Assessment Plan:

- a. David Martinez is the lead working the Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) on a watershed assessment plan. He reported that the plan has been delayed due to a shortage of staff. OCC is in the process of building a model that will tell us where to put our resources. They hope to have a more formal update for us later in the summer.
- b. Karen Harris is working with OCC on a grant to make an educational pamphlet.

Goal #10c - David Martinez and Travis Fite are working on gathering the pros and cons of becoming a Scenic River.

Goal #1a - Beth Rooney sent newsletters on 4/20 and 4/28, some 350 electronic newsletters via MailChimp as well as 31 mailed newsletters.

Other: A poll was taken about resuming in person meetings. The consensus was to have such meetings as long as there is a zoom option, at least one in Tulsa and one in the watershed.

Meeting was adjourned at shortly after 7:30pm.

Next meeting: June 9, at 6pm.

Minutes were prepared by SCC Secretary Angela Brazeal