

Spring Creek Coalition Board Meeting

Minutes – March 16, 2023

Present were members Beth Rooney, Bill Chambers, Chris Beckwith, David Martinez, Karen Harris, Karen White, and Mike Appel. Absent were Travis Fite, Sandy Whitekiller, and Angela Brazeal

Meeting began at 6:01pm

1. A motion was made by Beth Rooney and seconded to approve the motion to approve February 2023 meeting minutes with the following two corrections:
 - a. to add who motioned to approve the last two months minutes
 - b. to reflect that the board member changes were also made by a motion that was approved in keeping with Robert's Rules.

2. Lawsuit Update:

Nothing new to report

An informal summary of the hearing and upcoming process was made by Bill Chambers & Chris Beckwith:

A request to dismiss the lawsuit was made by the state of Oklahoma. Dismissal requested on two grounds: credential standing (that no harm was done to SCC or its members) and also that district court wasn't the appropriate place to file the suit (alternatively an administrative law judge at the state level, which would be, in essence, the state deciding a case for the state).

The case was argued for an hour and a half. The judge asked for the attorneys to provide additional information in writing in two weeks time. Mike and Chris sent comments to Matt, our attorney.

If the case is dismissed, SCC could appeal at appellate court.

Committee Reports/Old Business

1. Beth Rooney, Treasurer, shared financial updates (report sent prior to the board meeting via email):
 - a. Checking account slightly different from report due to timing; balance \$41,290.91
 - b. We will incur bills/expenses from the Attorney's office since the case was heard at court.
 - c. 2022 taxes have been filed using 990 EZ form
 - d. Since the treasurer is responsible for SCC membership (goal 1e), Beth sent 209 emails to persons on the SCC newsletter mailing requesting membership, and SCC received 2 new lifetime members and 3 renewals for an income of \$305.
2. Water Monitoring
 - a. Next testing date Thursday, 3/23 at Spring Creek Store at 9am
 - b. E coli testing to take place at same date at select locations if water level is low enough
 - c. Bill Chambers is looking to step down from leading water testing and seeking a replacement
3. Members again discussed goals for 2023 (see pg 2):

Spring Creek Coalition 2023 Goals - draft 3/16/2023

1. Continue to strengthen a coalition of committed Spring Creek watershed Members, Landowners, and Supporters:
 - a. Newsletters – eNewsletters and mailed, as needed; a minimum of four per year *in progress*
 - b. Community Outing – Botany Walk at CN Saline Courthouse by Pat Gwin in April - Rooney *in progress*
 - c. Seminar on Marijuana Houses in Watershed - Fall -Travis Fite?
 - d. Community Events:
 - i. Tree Planting (2024)
 - ii. Fall Trash Cleanup
 - iii. Annual Meeting
 - e. Call for membership renewal in February - Treasurer, Rooney – *done*
2. OCC Watershed Assessment Plan – Martinez, Lead; Fite, Harris
 - a. Create master list of major impacts to Spring Creek and possible solutions – *in progress*
 - b. Re-establish contact with OCC: Shanon Phillips, Director, Water Quality Division - Martinez, Rooney
 - c. Include a survey of watershed springs & their status
3. Water Quality – nutrient loading (nitrates & phosphorous levels) and bacteria
 - a. Continue water quality analysis quarterly – Chambers wishes to step down as Lead; Whitekiller – *in progress*
 - b. Isolate the source of bacteria at site 2 (Three Springs Farm) – Appel & Beckwith– *in progress*
 - c. Hold press release with organizations: OCC, Cherokee Nation, Oaks Mission & others to find solutions, get help – Rooney & Karen White
4. Water Quantity – protect the Creek’s flows from excessive depletion
 - a. Update status of Peggs Water Co secondary water source – Rooney
 - b. Plan for Peggs Water Co 2026 contract renewal with GRDA – Appel, Harris & Beckwith
 - c. Stay updated of USGS 5-year aquifer study started 2017
5. Strengthen our relationship with like-minded groups.
 - a. Represent SCC at water-related events (i.e., **Earth Day**); - Fite, Brazeal
 - b. Represent SCC at **Conservation Coalition of OK** (CCO) bill-review meetings – Chambers
6. Education:
 - a. Education for cattle farmers on the creek with TNC and OCC
 - b. Sponsor field day at the creek for watershed school
 - c. Finish grant with OCC to create pamphlet specific to SCC landowners on stream issues - Harris, Candice Miller – *in progress*
7. Support community efforts on problems on Corps Land in Mayes County – Whitekiller
8. GIS: - Martinez
 - a. Develop additional science-related layers for Spring Creek watershed, with priority to water quality sampling locations and other data useful to development of a watershed conservation plan
 - b. Increase GIS knowledge and skills of Spring Creek Coalition Board members emphasizing free platforms (e.g., GoogleEarth)
9. Other - Mike Appel proposed SCC participate in the adopt-a-highway program to pick up trash

4. New Business/Open Discussion

a. Chris B. spoke with Jeri Fleming at GRDA. They & CN have funds for septic remediation. Need a report of odor, seepage, bacteria, etc. from anyone (not just a neighbor). They can test. GRDA will update/explain at our next board meeting.

b. Update on Peggs Water Company (PWC):

GRDA gave PWC a contract for 40 years, expiring 2026.

Current status on PWC's Secondary Water Source, Tenkiller Utility Authority:: engineers have finished easements & purchased a plant site on Lake Tenkiller. Awaiting DEQ approval. Then open for bids and contracts awarded. Anticipate 3 years for construction.

Harris stated she'd like to see limits for Spring Creek water usage in the new contract. She & Appel and Beckwith agreed to work on this (new sub-committee).

Able to file an open records request to see water usage.

c. Battery plant will not be constructed – lost to Canada.

d. D. Martinez to provide a demo of Google Earth next board meeting

e. Send agenda items to Bill Chambers at SCCBillChambers@gmail.com one week prior to next meeting

KH moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 pm

Minutes prepared by Karen White, SCC Secretary