

Spring Creek Coalition Board Meeting
Minutes – May 18, 2023

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

Meeting began at 6:00 pm

1. Lawsuit Update:

- a. The case will go to court Friday, June 16th at 9:30 am at the Delaware County courthouse in Jay, OK. Members are encouraged to attend to show support.

2. A motion was made by Mike Appel and seconded to approve the April 2023 meeting minutes. The motion passed.

Committee Reports/Old Business

3. Treasurer's Report – B. Rooney:

- a. April balance sheet sent to board members via email in advance of the meeting
- b. Credits from two gifts for a total of \$600
- c. Debits for legal fees, vests for adapt-a-road, Secchi disk turbidity tube (to assess water clarity) totaling 7,566.16
- d. Ending April balance: \$33,535.80
- e. Beth may apply for a grant from the Kirkpatrick foundation

4. Goal 1b – Community outing to Cherokee Nation Saline Courthouse Friday, May 5 -B. Rooney

- a. 11 people were in attendance. Feather Smith led an informative botany tour.
- b. Staff mentioned some water monitoring. Bill will collect bacteria samples & dissolved solids at next water monitoring.

5. Update on Securing a Meeting with Attorney General Gentner Drummond – B. Chambers

- a. Chris Beckwith helped draft a response to the concerns raised by Mr. Gaskins as to why Ms. Lewis should not meet with representatives of Spring Creek Coalition (SCC). The attorney for SCC (Matt Allison) advised that a meeting could be used against us and result in a suspension of the court case SCC is pursuing. Furthermore, correspondence with Drew Edmondson suggests that no outside groups will be included in the Frizzell ruling.
- b. SCC board decided not to pursue a meeting any further
- c. According to the extension given by Judge Frizzel, the date for the state and poultry companies to submit a plan to clean the watershed is fast approaching (June 16th).
- d. It was mentioned that with the Illinois, Eucha and Spavinaw watersheds all having plans in place for protection from poultry litter, Spring Creek may be increasingly vulnerable as one of the few watersheds in the region without legal protection from such pollution.

6. Goal 3b Water Quality - Isolate source of bacteria update – M. Appel

- a. The results of the E. Coli tests were shared :
 - i. Levels were highest at the site furthest upstream, and dropped at sites downstream, which was counter to what was anticipated.
 - ii. location of cattle was consistent with above findings
- b. A repeat DNA test deemed too expensive.
- c. Review of SCC historic water testing results which show a trend in rising Phos levels
- d. Next water testing date 6/22/23

7. Goal 4c Water Quantity: Status of USGS aquifer study – K. Harris

- a. Kim Winton contacted Shana Mashburn, head of the USGS study for the Boone & Roubidoux aquifers.
- b. They are collecting hydrologic data using a hydrogeologic framework.
- c. The results will be sent to OWRB to set maximum yields to be taken from the aquifers. Anticipate publication around December 2023.

- d. It was mentioned that according to the USGS website, until a maximum yield is determined, the default amount is set at 2 acre feet of water/acre of land owned. The maximum yield is defined as the total amount of fresh groundwater that can be withdrawn while allowing for a minimal 20 year life of a basin. It was mentioned that a 20 year life for a groundwater basin is not very long.
8. Goal 5a: Strengthen relationships with like-minded groups: Earth Day report - T. Fite, A. Brazeal
 - a. Travis and Angela represented the SCC at a booth at Earth Day in Tulsa. Other environmental groups were also present, such as the AR River Rights Coalition, a new group.
9. Goal 5a: Strengthen relationships with like-minded groups: Conservation Coalition of OK (CCO): Status of HB 2053 - B. Chambers
 - a. Bill missed the meeting, but K Harris states that OK representative Harden commented that HB 2053 is all but dead. The House seems to be sitting on it. Time may run out. Harden was found to state that special interest groups aren't his constituents.
10. Goal 6a: Education event for cattle farmers update: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 6:00 – 7:30 PM – B. Chambers
 - a. Education provided by The Nature Conservancy on ways to decrease use of fertilizers, stream management, erosion control, and care of riparian zones.
 - b. No cattle farmers attended.
 - c. Two staff from OCC and two from the Nature Conservancy attended in addition to B. Chambers & B Rooney. Educational program provided anyway. Information deemed very good and potentially impactful if cattlemen can be reached.
11. Goal 9: Adopt-a-Road effort - M. Appel
 - a. Cherokee County and Cherokee Nation have collaborated to start an Adopt-a-Road program in Cherokee County
 - b. SCC has adopted a 2 mile stretch on Highway 82A starting at the Cherokee County line and passing in front of Three Springs Farm.
 - c. Cherokee County provided 1000 bags to use and will pick up trash bags, allow us to borrow grab sticks, and provide a litter crew sign if we provide them with the trash pick-up date.
 - d. Next trash pick-up to be in the fall.
12. Old Business
 - a. D Martinez asked Cheryl Cheadle for interpretation of macroinvertebrate data. Should have soon.
 - b. Kent Roundtree was waiting on the OCC for help with erosion prevention, but gave up waiting and placed riprap.
 - c. Recent gravel mining in Teresita was discussed. Permit allows for the mining.
13. Open for Discussion and New Business
 - a. A Brazeal asked if SCC board members need to formulate a list of expectations for OK to put into the lawsuit.
 - b. While it is too late to do so, a discussion was held regarding goals and what is considered a "win".
 - i. it was mentioned that this lawsuit is a first step that will pave the way for others.
 - ii. goals included
 - a. Ability to protest poultry houses (which is what the lawsuit is currently about)
 - b. Chicken litter to be moved out of the spring creek watershed to allow for an eventual reduction of Phos in the creek
 - c. Environmental regulation (in line with the EPAs Clean Water Act)
 - d. For the OWRB to assess the quality of the creek
 - e. To classify the poultry houses as CAFOs, which have more regulatory hoops
 - f. For ODAF to use the nutrient management plan they have in place and enforce it
 - iii. Upcoming dates:
6/6 Cherokee Nation election; 6/16 SCC court hearing in Jay
6/22 water monitoring & next board meeting

14. Travis Fite motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm. Motion was seconded and passed.
Minutes prepared by Karen White, SCC Secretary