

Spring Creek Coalition Board Meeting
Minutes – August 24, 2023

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

Meeting began at 6:01 pm

1. Lawsuit Update – B. Chambers:

- a. The hearing is postponed again as the judge is in the hospital.
- b. The lawyer, Matt, will let SCC board members know about alternative dates for rescheduling.

2. A motion was made by Angela to approval of June & July minutes. It was seconded & the motion passed.

Committee Reports/Old Business

3. Treasurer's Report – B. Rooney:

Beginning balance \$32,132.27

Donation from Kirkpatrick Foundation for Water Testing. +\$7147.00

Ending Balance. 39,279.27

There is a \$1.00 increase in the monthly fee for our email hosting provider.

4. GIS System & Meeting with the OK Water Resources Board – D. Martinez:

- a. Because of our affiliation with Water Keeper's Alliance (annual dues of \$150/yr), we can access and use the GIS for free, a \$200-250 savings (at the non-profit rate).
- b. The OK DEQ has made a call for information for their next integrative report
 - a. We sent our water monitoring data 2 years ago. The upcoming report should contain this data SCC submitted.
 - b. Board members discussed how the data is used and asked if sharing our data could work against us. Other members responded that the report shows the status of the waterways, the cause of impaired creeks, and suggested that we should share data with agencies we work with. Additionally, the DEQ should work to get Spring Creek off the impaired list. It was also mentioned that DEQ will share details of any determination upon request.
 - c. Karen Harris shared a conversation with Candace Miller (of OCC) who stated that Spring Creek is impaired due to the reduction in microinvertebrates. She also reported more Crayfish, Mad Toms and Sculpins. Otters eat these species. Sunfish populations have been down at multiple creeks and other bodies of water.
 - i. More observations and thoughts on observations were shared, including Hogsuckers being sensitive to environmental changes, less flooding, lots of small but few large crayfish, and more.
 - d. Bill Chambers stated the OCC has started sampling Spring Creek. DM to get results.
 - e. Beth Rooney spoke with Pam Kingfisher about getting our data out (on social media). Mike, Karen White and Beth to work with Pam on the effort of sharing data regarding the health and changes to Spring Creek with a wider audience.

5. OWRB updating comprehensive water plan (for the state)

- a. Last done in 2012
- b. Smaller budget
- c. 3 public meetings
- d. They are posting information to their website
- e. Survey also online – look for “public engagement”.

- f. There is an emphasis to contact water infrastructure to seek involvement in hopes they will require improvements in infrastructure and provide state funding.
 - g. David Martinez encouraged members to complete & submit comments in support of maintaining waterways in their natural state.
 - i. OWRB is interested in water development and has a pro-development bias.
 - ii. Oklahoma is the only state without protection of water flow. Sportsmen have fought in support of minimum water flows in the past.
6. Brad Rogers from OCC to speak at SCC Annual Meeting the 2nd Saturday in January. He is a modeler.
 - a. David Martinez is requesting members send impressions of hydrology and changes to him with details of impressions to the best of one's ability by 9/15.
 7. Goal 6b – Education with school children
 - a. Kids Field Day at Spring Creek 9/6/23 with Oaks Middle School with Beth R, Karen H, and Candace Miller. The Drury's to host and provide lunch.
 8. Bill Chambers shared an overview of the documentary film crew who worked with Bill and Sandy W. to film water sampling. The film to share impressions of the impact of farming on global waterways.
 9. 2023 goals were reviewed and progress documented.
 10. David Martinez motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm. Motion was seconded and passed.

Minutes prepared by Karen White, SCC Secretary