

York River Study Committee
Meeting Minutes (Draft)
June 28, 2016, Grant House, York

Voting Members Present: Chuck Ott, Karen Arsenault, Jean Demetracopoulos, Cindy Donnell, Thom Kearns, Jack Murphy, Judy Spiller, Bryce Waldrop

Voting Members Absent: Joan LeBlanc, Steve Pelletier, Stefan Claesson, Beth Walter

Other Committee Members Present: Jennifer Hunter, Jim MacCartney, and Paul Dest

Guests: Trenor Goodell

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chuck Ott, Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions: Chuck welcomed Trenor Goodell. Each member present introduced him/herself to Trenor.
Trenor, a large landowner and farmer, noted his concern about private property rights and zoning along the river. He felt there should be a balance between wildlife use and ecology.
2. Review of Minutes: The minutes of the May meeting were distributed. Jean made a motion, seconded by Jack, to approve the minutes. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.
3. June 20 Meeting De-Brief: Jenn asked for feedback and observations.
 - Comments/Feedback
 - Need to shorten presentation a bit, avoid redundancies, too much detail and allow for more questions
 - Fear of government and “takings” a big issue
 - Law confusing
 - How do we make way for other federal agencies?
 - Is there a need to do a “buildout” scenario for the watershed?
 - Do we need to conduct a survey to better understand components of system for species requirements?
 - Need to edit and summarize our message and try to get ahead of the issues by addressing them upfront
 - Follow-up meetings/outreach in fall
 - Various points of view on format:
 - Listening session: what do people value, what’s important to them, what is their relationship to the river?

- How much introductory information?
- What we want to accomplish?
- Canned presentation to make it consistent for all sessions?
- Ask audience to place dots on areas of most interest to them?

Most important message: **Study Committee is putting together a river management plan, with or without designation.** There is value in just having the plan. Designation is certainly a reward.

-People want to be informed, need to get them thinking, need to talk about ORVs that are rising to the top.

Follow up meetings with various audiences/next steps:

- York Code Enforcement/Planning Departments
- Pingree's staff in Maine
- Eliot Festival Days
- Riparian landowners highest priority and major tributaries
- Later fall meetings on management plan strategies
- Build up mailing list in all towns
- Put FAQs on website
- ORV Committee start putting "dots" together over the summer

4. Summer Work Plan

Jenn's summer schedule: Off completely weeks of July 18 and second week of August
[Note – change in Jenn's schedule from she indicated at meeting: she will be off the first week in August, not the second.]; working part-time other weeks in July and August.

ORV Subcommittee: with Joan, Beth and Stefan all absent from the meeting, Jenn identified who was leading the different areas for further study:

- Beth – water quality
Beth had wanted to talk with York's GIS person to help with data
She will be continuing to put together a bibliography list
- Joan – economic, watershed resiliency, natural resources
- Bryce – recreation/scenic
- Stefan – cultural/historic
- Jean – fresh water/wetlands
Jean would hopefully be able to provide visual data for next meeting and continue to collect maps, lists, data for fall
- Jack – Punkintown

Oral history film: Chuck reported he thought it would cost around \$10K, plus corporate sponsors for post-production. He would like us to consider spending \$5K of that amount and fundraise for the rest. Chuck will invite videographer to future meeting.

Outreach Subcommittee:

One pager about committee

FAQs for website

Other visuals?

Mailing lists

Email blasts announcing our meetings

5. Website

- Add “links” page: organizational documents, links to other sites (ex: Towns, land trusts, Museums of Old York, etc)
- Continue building ORV sections to fill out lists
- Let Jenn know if anyone wants anything added

6. Future Agenda Items

Reach out and engage large landowners and agricultural communities: Shaw heirs, Shermans, Clough, Davis, etc

Hearing no objections, Chuck adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, July 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the Grant House.

Minutes submitted by Karen Arsenault