

Spring Creek Coalition Board Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2017

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Spring Creek Coalition (“SCC”) was held on April 13, 2017 at the Schusterman Library in Tulsa. The following board members were present: Beth Rooney, Donna and Charles Drury, George Kamp, Casey Ferguson, and Jessica Spencer. Guests Martin Rooney and Christine Grigsby were also present. The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m.

1. Goal #8: Board Sustainability – The board welcomed Christine Grigsby and approved her and David Grigsby as co-directors to fulfill Molly’s term for this year representing Cedar Crest. David will attend when he can, and Christine will fill in when David is out of town.
2. Housekeeping
 - A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve March’s minutes as written.
 - Treasurer Beth Rooney reported a balance as of \$5,411 as of April 1. Income included \$20 dues plus \$30 contribution from Rick Fortner and a lifetime membership of \$100 from Jim Deming. Expenses included \$283 to print the March newsletter.
 - Newsletter printing costs: In 2017 Thomas Russell supported all our printing costs. Beth recommended that we now pay our own costs and not ask for this donation since we have \$5,000 in savings. The budget was revised to show this additional expense. The board also agreed that we should fold the newsletters ourselves to save \$35 a mailing (\$140/year).
3. 2017 Preliminary Goals were reviewed and finalized.
4. Goal #7: Water Extraction: Follow-up on Peggs Water Company (PWC) annual meeting: Jessica reported that the Tenkiller Utility Authority project timeline is behind schedule. There have been delays getting approvals. Current estimate is 4 years from now (2021). When completed, this project will provide a secondary source of water to PWC. PWC will not have to improve or expand their facility, and there should be no increase in withdrawal of water from Spring Creek.
5. Goal #6: Education
 - The Conservation Easements Informational Meetings held March 23 and 25 were informative. There were several people at each meeting. Jay Pruett gave an overview of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the pros and cons of putting a conservation easement on a property. Renee Fite, reporter, attended Saturday’s session. Her comprehensive article was published the next week in the Tahlequah Daily Press. Jeremy Tubbs, Manager of the TNC Nickels’ Preserve, attended with his wife Amanda. We are interested in following up on some of the land management techniques he uses such as controlled burns and restoration of land to 100 years prior status. A trip to his preserve could be a future educational outing.
 - Isopods Outing, Saturday, April 22, 10am-noon – We discussed arrangements and assignments for this seminar. Beth gave a demo of a portable \$35 microphone. The board consensus was that it was inexpensive enough to purchase.
6. Goal #4: Science – David Martinez
 - David was not able to attend the board meeting but he reported via President Beth Rooney that our NSU Intern, Katie Easter has changed projects. She had delays in obtaining animal traps so she intends to study aquatic snails instead of small mammals. Katie is working with

us to meet Cherokee Nation Scholarship requirements of 20 hours work with a non-profit. David was attending a course from David Rosgen, an expert on fluvial geomorphology .

- Kip Heth: David let the board know that Kip Heth passed away last December. As David noted in an email to Beth: “Kip was a great friend and collaborator for me, and a brilliant scientist and educator for many. We were fortunate for Spring Creek to be among the many areas he studied and cherished.” The board would like to honor Kip’s contributions to Spring Creek possibly via a note to his family and an article in the next newsletter. We will wait to hear more from David.

7. Other

- Emily Oakley in the news – Emily Oakley, of Three Springs organic farm on Spring Creek, was named in March as one of the “Significant Women in Agriculture” by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and OSU. Emily has served as a Farmer to Farmer Consultant to Guatemala, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Ghana, and Nigeria. She has been instrumental in expanding the Cherry Street Farmers Market in Tulsa and is a founding board member and co-president of Global Gardens, a Tulsa organization that facilitates school gardening in low income areas. Emily served on the Spring Creek Coalition board for three years. It was suggested that we publish this news about Emily perhaps in conjunction with a fall outing to Three Spring Farms.
- Application to stock trout in Spavinaw update – Beth followed up with more talks to Jim Burroughs of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife (ODWC). Burroughs indicated that ODWC would welcome emails with follow-up letters from those that have differing views on the trout stocking. He said such input has an impact.
- Request for SCC to reach out to other watersheds to help organize groups – Brandon Brown, ODWC Paddlefish Director, has reached out to Beth requesting help. Landowners along streams in Northeast Oklahoma are dealing with the issue of people driving four wheelers through their streams. Brandon asked if we could help give these landowners insights on how to organize a watershed group. Beth agreed she would be willing to meet with landowners if Brandon could provide the contacts.
- Lunch meeting with GRDA (Goal 7: Protect the Creek’s flows) – Beth is going to set up a lunch meeting with GRDA representatives and asked the board for topic ideas. Suggestions were GIS, Scenic Rivers integration, rumor of a sale of GRDA. Christine said that the trash situation at Cooper’s Bridge has improved; she will call Darrell Townsend if Cedar Crest needs help, but right now they do not.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm. Respectfully submitted by Beth Rooney, President

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 11, 6:15-7:45 PM, Schusterman Library (2nd Thurs of each month)