

Spring Creek Coalition
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 13th, 2018

The annual meeting of Spring Creek Coalition (“SCC”) was held on Saturday, January 13th at Peggs Community Center in Peggs, Oklahoma. Forty-seven members and guests of the coalition attended. President Beth Rooney called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

State of the Coalition: Rooney reported 2017’s accomplishments including Education (Isopods seminar and Conservation Easement informational meetings), an outing to Three Springs Farm, a trash pickup at King’s Curve and Cooper’s Bridge in collaboration with Cedar Crest, and a field ecology day led by Oklahoma Conservation Commission Blue Thumb at Spring Creek for Peggs School 7th and 8th grade science students.

The Board was also able to extend the outreach of our quarterly newsletter by 25%. Rooney reported that the Peggs Water Company continues to work toward a secondary water source from an entity called the Tenkiller Utility Authority which is projected to be four years out.

Issue: Rooney told the group that an entity has requested a permit from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) to stock trout in Spavinaw Creek. The SCC board sent a letter to ODWC stating that we are against the issuance of this permit. We feel that non-native species should not be introduced into our Ozark streams. There are too many unknown risks, and once a stream’s ecology is changed, it can be impossible to go back.

Business: David Martinez, conservation biologist, and Rick Brattin, Cedar Crest landowner, were voted by the SCC membership to the board by acclamation for a three-year term.

SCC’s finances are healthy. We stayed within budget for 2017 taking in just \$100 over what we spent. We have savings of just over \$4,000.

Upcoming: SCC has scheduled a tour of GRDA’s Pensacola Dam for Saturday, April 14. Details will be in our March newsletter.

Featured Speaker: GRDA CEO Dan Sullivan discussed the history and mission of the Grand River Dam Authority, its sources of electric generation and watershed maps.

"We're working with the Grand Lake Watershed Alliance and others in trying to preserve and protect the water quality," he said. "We have also engaged Oklahoma State University to work

on the economics of the watershed. We have water quality and quantity issues we want to manage, and we want to be sure we fully appreciate the economics of all that. ... We have also recently entered into an agreement with Northeastern State University on a water lab that will be doing some work on the Illinois River."

There was a lively question and answer period after Sullivan's presentation.

Silent Auction: A silent auction was held throughout the meeting to raise funds for the coalition.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. Our next board meeting will be Thursday, February 8, at 6:15 p.m. at the Schusterman Library.

Respectfully submitted by B. Rooney, President.