

Spring Creek Coalition

February 8, 2018

6:15 @ Hardesty Library

Attendance: Jessica Spencer, Donna & Charles Drury, Jennifer Owen, David Martinez, Rick Brattin and Martin Rooney.

Agenda -good!

Housekeeping:

NSU student not able to serve on the board. Have 8 rather than 9.

Approval of last 2 meetings. Donna motion to approve minutes 'December & January' board meetings. Jessica second, all 'Aye'.

Beth will continue as treasurer. Balance = \$5,130. We will have some new items when we get into the budget.

Doing well- plenty of money!

Annual meeting auction yielded second largest 'take-in' since 2012, at \$721.00.

Beth will continue as president.

George will continue as vice-president.

David will serve as secretary. Jennifer requests to be secretary. With hesitation, David said that he would be back-up secretary.

Peggs Water Company annual meeting. Jessica is available to attend. Beth is curious about status of Tenkiller Utilities Authority. Jessica - 'will do'.

Rick- do we have a good understanding of the terms regarding minimum/maximum that can be extracted? Do we have a copy of contract? Yes, we need to know the framework of the contract.

Rick- do we know how much Peggs extracts presently? Martin- reason for secondary source is so the treating plant doesn't have to be expanded.

Jessica- two million gallons minimum must be pulled as per research summary document, done by Jessica. Martin- amount extracted would probably be determined by plant capacity. Cost of water to PWC from Spring Creek vs. TTA? David- testing expense probably a factor.

Annual Meeting Re-cap:

Beth sent email about the success. All-time high attendance! \$320 in membership re-ups! Kid's zone good! Local news- Tahlequah did good write-up.

Improvements- Head-set? Not loud enough. Dan Sullivan did not use a device but it didn't seem to be a problem. Rick- appreciated information such as when the Corps of Engineers took over the water.

Good to learn that different entities handle different situations.

Cedar Crest borders Corps of Engineers property.

Budget:

Two documents sent by Beth with agenda: 2018 proposed budget (mislabeled as 2017) and detail of annual meeting income.

Annual Meeting Total Income: \$1,340.00

Auction - \$721.00 + Other at \$619.00 = \$1,340.00

Jennifer asks for 10 minutes on next agenda to discuss the finances. Preparations for the auction (especially by Jessica) were excellent; offering a variety of items (small items as well as large) seems to be a good approach. Also took in money for totes, t-shirts & calendars.

Thoughts about speaker:

Martin liked the talk about the generating business. Interesting that he shut down coal plant...jurisdiction over different aspects such as water quality, mining etc. Rick – surprised that GRDA did not have more regarding trout.

David- GRDA plans to begin development of a ‘water plan’. They will use the same contractors that the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) did. Donna’s refreshments always create a welcoming atmosphere!

2018 Budget:

Martin- first column is a ‘projection’ as in, not real numbers. Real numbers are in the ‘January’ column. \$1,340.00 raised. We are paying for newsletter printing. Paying out of raised money @ \$960/year.

Jennifer- we need to seek a sponsor for printing the newsletters. \$410.00 is expense of calendar production which generated \$480.00; profit of \$70.00. Rick- so, we are breaking even with exception of \$440.00 (bottom line). Martin- not real numbers. That column is ‘projections.

Rick moved to approve the budget; Charles seconded; approved unanimously.

Spring Creek Newsletter:

Articles that Beth thinks are in the works- Beth article on annual meeting. Jessica -Spring Outing. Newsletter will include small ‘call for dues’ insert. Martin had examples. Yellow is good color. Jessica- could include couple of lines similar to that used in our poll, i.e. land-owner, friend, location. Article on ‘Meet you Neighbor’- nothing comparable to the Spencer Family! The Cisper family will be featured next. Peggs secondary water supply- if Jessica will get information then Beth will type it. There is room for other articles. Talk to Beth. Due date is February 23rd, Friday.

Charles- are dues collections going up because we are investing in soliciting memberships? Jessica- we missed one dues payer. Martin- can’t resolve; a rare if ever occurrence. Rick- how many dues paying memberships? Chas- we increased newsletter 25%. How much did membership increase? Jennifer- do we need to answer Charles? See how many paid last year comparison. Beth gave a presentation on this. Newsletters are also mailed to various agencies/entities. Jennifer-feels SCC is thinking too much like a business. Chas- a small number of members are landowners.

The 25% increase which was agreed on specifically targeted land-owners. Jessica- Many landowners own large tracts. Donna- Beth talked to Roland. Jennifer- hope that when a board member has a grievance it will be discussed round-table fashion to reach something everyone can agree on. Hopefully have Beth’s land-owner/members map at next meeting. Hope that Charles is satisfied with the outcome of that deal.

2018 Goals:

David distributed a draft list of goals that Beth had put together. These had not been provided ahead of time to the other board members, and the intent was that people take them home for consideration and come back prepared to discuss them at next month’s meeting.

As a point of order, someone noted the agenda as scheduling next board meeting on Wednesday, March 8th; however, March 8th is a Thursday. We would ask Beth to send clarification to everyone confirming the correct date. Has there been discussion of having a meeting in the watershed? Martin says Beth would have a negative reaction.

Spavinaw Trout:

Jennifer provided an update on the issue, including conditions demonstrating its great relevance to Spring Creek and the Spring Creek Coalition. These include:

- 1) Reference to the Spring Creek trout issue was prominent in Kelly Bostian's recent Tulsa World article which included a description of the Spring Creek Coalition and quotes from the board.
- 2) Spring Creek is being used as a reference stream by Oklahoma State University to establish 'base line' data of a healthy, large Ozark stream void of trout. They are on the creek now.
- 3) Chuck Shipley represents the newly formed *Keep Spavinaw Pure* organization. After much research, Shipley sent a letter with attachment of Judge Goodpaster's, Journal Entry of Judgement in the Spring Creek case. The significance is that **Judge Goodpaster 'struck down'** the Oklahoma Dept. Wildlife Conservation's **rules for fish-introduction**. ODWC was instructed to revise their rules at the time. One of our other lawyers determined that ODWC **never revised** their fish-introduction rules. Therefore their activity on Spavinaw appears to be arbitrary & capricious. Letter addressed to JD Strong, Director of ODWC also Barry Bolton, GRDA, the OSU professor and the directors in two United States Fish & Wildlife regions.
- 4) The letter to ODWC from the Spring Creek Coalition opposing trout stocking in Spavinaw Creek.

Spring Creek is the crux of the 4 most important documents that have thus far emerged. Jennifer- asked Martin if it was accurate to say that Beth did not want to get the Coalition involved? He wasn't sure. Need Beth to lead a board meeting addressing SCC and Spavinaw. Jennifer asked to form a committee in the interim. Rick offered to help.

Jennifer asked the board what their reaction was to the fact that Dept of Wildlife has not responded to our letter? No response except for David who thought we should send a follow-up letter.

GIS software:

Postponed to next month due to a lack of time.

Category 1 water quality attainment:

David handed out copies of pages from the new (2016) Oklahoma Water Quality Monitoring Integrated Report. As in the past, Spring Creek was found to have very high water quality that fully supports all of its designated beneficial uses!! Only three streams and three lakes met this Category 1 level of water quality (the other 2 streams were North Fork of the Red River and a segment of the Arkansas River). THIS IS VERY NOTABLE.

Adjourn @ 7:53. All were complimentary to David for a great meeting!

After the meeting, Beth clarified that the next meeting will be on Thursday, March 8th, 2018