

**Pure Water Forum Board Meeting
May 1, 2015
White House Farm Foundation, Luray VA**

Attendees

Joe Lehnen (DOF)	Mary Gessner (LFSWCD)
Otis Bilkins (HWSWCD)	Stephanie Chapman (USFS)
John McCloskey (Merck)	Charlie Newton (SVSWCD)
Jean Andrews (ACSA)	Chris Anderson (WHFF)
Paul Bugas (DGIF)	Wayne Webb (FOSR)
Beverly Pearce (Denizen Media)	Laura Naftel (PATB)
Tom Benzing (TU)	Tammy Stone (HRS)
Bill Howard (TDP)	Karen Anderson (FOSR)

Approval of meeting minutes

The minutes were approved with changes. Tom Benzing made a motion and it was seconded by Mary Gessner. The motion carried.

Correspondence

Ben Craig, in Nesha McRae's absence, shared the following items under correspondence:

- Friends of the North Fork hosting "Family Fun Day on Smith Creek" at the Susie Q Farm near Mauzy/Tenth Legion. Event to be held rain or shine on Saturday, May 30, 2015, 11AM – 3PM. Contact FONF for details and registration.
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation, in partnership with FONF is providing a Professional Learning Course for teachers in August, Clarke, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Warren or Frederick counties. "Chesapeake Classrooms" is a 5-day program with day trips beginning at the North Fork of the Shenandoah River and culminating at CBF's Fox Island Center.

Treasurers Report

Otis Bilkins provided a financial report. All submitted bills at this time have been paid. Awaiting one final Board Membership dues payment for 2015. The DEQ grant expenditures for the reporting period fell below DEQ's minimum reimbursement threshold. Therefore the Forum will have to wait to receive reimbursement during the next grant quarterly report for reimbursement, assuming expenditures reach or exceed \$1,000. The checkbook balance as of April 26, 2015 was \$21,622.32.

Joe Lehnen made a motion to approve the financial reports, Charlie Newton seconded and the motion carried.

Presidents Report

The Executive Committee has met twice since the February Board meeting. Major activities and topics of discussion included the following:

Small Grants Program: Decided on a 10 day scoring turnaround for proposals once received. Funding decisions made by the Small Grants Committee will be by majority rules, rather than by consensus. The Small Grants Committee will then provide the Executive Committee a recommendation for funding after scoring the proposal. Should there be a tied vote among Small Grant Committee members, the

Executive Committee will serve as the tie-breaker. Projects approved for funding will receive an award agreement letter from the Forum President. All awardees are required to submit a final report at the completion of their project. The Small Grants Committee will create written procedures for

The Forum provided letters of support provided for the following projects:

SVSWCD = DEQ TMDL Implementation Program in Linville Creek (residential septic, urban/suburban stormwater, pet waste, water quality and agriculture).

CSPDC/Town of Elkton = NFWF technical capacity grant. Elkton Floodplain and Bank Restoration Project. South Fork of Shenandoah River on town property located between Route 33 business bridge and the Route 33 bypass bridge. Extreme erosion issues. Safety risk to visitors at the public access point and boat launch downstream.

The DEQ Grant Agreement signed March 1st and project partners were sent grant agreements. The DEQ First Quarterly grant report was submitted on April 15.

The Forum's very first E-newsletter was distributed on April 13 to approximately 70 contacts. The newsletter had a 60% open rate.

Casey McCracken created a shared folder for storing pertinent organizational documents on the Forum's website. The Executive Committee has access to this folder.

Represented the Forum at Black's Run Clean Up Day – Green Scene on April 11th

Small Grants Committee

So far in 2015 three grants have been awarded and two denied funding. Discussion followed regarding the amount of effort required to submit a request for a small, \$500 grant.

Education Committee

Laura Naftel provided an update on Peak at the Bay activities. Greater discussion on the ability of the Forum to utilize larger grants considering the size of local projects and time restrictions. The Education Committee will explore coordinating regionally to combine into larger projects to take advantage of larger grants.

Website Committee

Jean Andrews provided a website visitation summary beginning January 2015 through April 2015. Suggestions provided to update the Forum's Board Meeting schedule and provide a link to the Peak at the Bay's website.

Board Development Committee

Ben Craig will convene the committee this summer to select a slate of officers for 2016.

Planning Committee for the Annual Meeting

Ben Craig provided a brief summary of previous annual meeting locations, venues, dates, topics and speakers. The Forum has funds in the DEQ grant for this meeting: \$800 for meals; \$700 for venue; and \$500 for travel (bus/van rental to field trip sites). The following members volunteered to serve on the Planning Committee: Tammy Stone, John McCloskey, Stephanie Chapman, Paul Bugas and Ben Craig.

Nesha McRae and Tara Sieber indicated via e-mail prior to the meeting that they will also serve on this committee. The Board feels the September – October time frame works well for this event. Ben Craig will convene the committee within the next month.

Board Meeting Venues and Presentations

Possible meeting venues for the August 28, 2015 Board of Directors meeting were discussed. The Friends of the North Fork offered to host with a potential site visit to the Woodstock hydropower dam.

Scholarship Program

The Executive Committee proposed to the board establishing a Pure Water Forum Scholarship program. This program would cover 75% of the cost for a student to attend a conference from a list selected by the Forum. It was suggested that this program be available to both grade school and college students. A motion was made by Charlie Newton and seconded by Jean Andrews to establish the scholarship. The vote was unanimous and the task was assigned to the Education committee to develop recommendations for this program.

Partner Updates

Presentation: Tour of Conservation Practices at EMJ Farm (Chris Anderson)