



SAN Engagement & Stewardship Workgroup Minutes

Wednesday, Mar. 1 | 10 AM - 12 PM

Attendance:

- Ryan Beltz, PWC
- Kaitie Evers, PDE
- Meghan Rogalus, PDE
- Kristen Cooney, PDE
- Chesa Blom, PDE
- Cindy Murdough, Tulpehocken Creek Watershed Association
- Caroline Muehlbronner, PWC
- Chad Heister, PA Rural Water Association
- Alexa Smith, Schuylkill Conservation District
- Alison Aminto, PWD
- Mary Beth Hertz, Teacher in the School District of Philadelphia, Walk About Philly Founder
- Tim Fenchel, SRG
- Joe Hebelka, DEP
- Beth Garcia, EPA
- Zach Nemecek, PA Sea Grant
- Maria Horowitz, PWD, Watershed Field Services Manager
- Liz Feinberg, NFWF
- Michelle Dunn, Keep PA Beautiful
- Doug Mauro, Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages

Agenda:

1. Welcome/Introductions (10:00–10:10) – **Kaitie Evers, PDE**
 - a. Welcome to our new E&S Co-chair - **Ryan Beltz, PWC**
 - b. Up and Coming Projects / Opportunities for Collaboration: (10:10 - 10:20)
 - i. **MaryBeth Hertz** - Walk About Philly
 1. Working on a new school for the district with 5 service learning components
 - Internship, wilderness, presentation, academics, service learning in an 'Outward bound' framing
 - Looking for partners interested in connecting students to the environmental field
 - Contact Mary Beth: marybeth@walkabout.org

2. What's in store for E&S 2023? (10:20 - 10:30)

- a. Overview of Workgroup Goals and Work Plan
 - ❖ Q2 - **May 9th** - Comms Community - *meeting on Zoom*
 - Invite your communications/media representative for an exchange of partner engagement strategies
 - ❖ Q3 - **Aug 1st** - Environmental Educator Workshop
 - for Act 48 Credits - in person *at PWC*
 - ❖ Q4 - **Oct 25th** - Building Stewardship - Potential planting Event - *in-person place TBD*

3. [Latest on the Schuylkill Scrub](#) (10:30 - 11:10) **Kaitie Evers, PDE**

- a. Plastics in our environment presentation announcing a call to action for joining the Schuylkill Scrub!
- b. Social Media Toolkit - to be sent out in follow-up
 - i. Question from Zach—how is trash weighted/averaged?
 - ii. Michelle—Usually we use 20 pounds per bag, closer to the ocean, more like 15 pounds per bag due to more floatables there, and for tires, average weight is taken, about 25 pounds per tire
- c. Storm drain Markers - **Chesa Blom, PDE**
 - i. Storm drain markers is a PWD program implemented by PDE to engage volunteers and community activists in an educational project to teach the community that stormdrains lead to the rivers.
 - ii. PDE has 2 programs, one in the city of Philadelphia, and another program outside the city spanning the Schuylkill Watershed. The city of Philadelphia marker set has 7 different icons and language based on the sub-watersheds where they will be installed.
 - iii. Can get a reduced cost for partners interested in this!
 - iv. Contact Chesa here for more information: fblom@delawareestuary.org

4. Up and Coming Projects / Opportunities for Collaboration: (11:10 - 11:30)

a. **Alexa Smith, Schuylkill Conservation District** - [Schuylkill Acts and Impacts](#)

- i. This week long adventure takes a group of 12 highschool students along the river to explore water quality and adjacent land use. The group paddles and camps out every day. There may be room for more campfire professionals to talk to the students about how they engage in water conservation professionally.
- ii. With the coordination of Take It Outdoors, Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Fairmount Water Works, Stroud Water Research Center, and a few other partners, this program is available to the students free of charge.
- iii. [Find more information and application information here](#)
- iv. 2023 trip is planned for Saturday, July 9 - Friday, July 14
 1. Applications are due by March 24th

b. **Robin Irizarry and Skye Glover, Audubon MidAtlantic** - [Plants for Birds Project](#)

- i. This program seeks to register properties along tributaries in the watershed as native spaces that include the Plants for Birds. Registrants who qualify will receive 6 free native plant species.

5. Vote on the 2023 Social Media # - (11:30 - 11:40) - **Kaitie Evers and Kristen Cooney, PDE**

- a. What will be the 2023 # of the year??
 - i. Top 3: Clean, share, protect
 1. #SharetheSchuylkill got 9 votes and is the winner!
Add [#SharetheSchuylkill](#) to all you posts, partners!

6. Other Project Updates, News, Grants, Resources (11:40 - 11:50) – **All**

- a. SAN's 20th Anniversary [Scrub and Pub](#) - March 31st - 2:30 - 5pm
 - i. Cleanup in Upper Merion and then Happy Hour at Puddlers Kitchen, Conshohocken Brewing

- b. [Perkiomen Stream Cleanup](#) - Sat. April, 15 9 - 12
 - i. Biggest yet, 1,700 people signed up!
 - ii. Looking for additional clean up sites
 - iii. 80,000-90,000 pounds of trash pulled on average
 - iv. A registered cleanup with Keep PA Beautiful. Aqua PA supplies gloves and bags for them and PennDOT also provides supplies if needed
 - v. Looking to connect with Keep Norristown Beautiful to add more sites to this year's cleanup!

- c. [Schuylkill Sojourn](#), 25th Anniv. - June 17 - 23
 - i. Registration opens on April 1st
 - ii. SAN will be sponsoring a Sojourn Steward and a Diversity Scholar, (please stay on the lookout to help us promote)

- d. Perkiomen Watershed Sojourn [Registration is also open!](#)

- e. PennState – [Be a Presenter at the Mid-Atlantic Region's Award-Winning Water Education Summit!](#), Thurs. Sept. 28th in Harrisburg, PA

- f. Maria Horowitz shared–PWD has a recent community meeting on Flat Rock Dam Project, received a PennVest grant to introduce more flow to Manayunk Canal, may impact residents as the Schuylkill River Trail will be closed until early spring 2024, completion of project will be fall 2024. Also may impact paddlers and related water users

- 7. Opportunity for all to share upcoming events and resources (11:50 - 12:00) – **All**
 - a. [Walking the Edge: Art from Our Borders and Boundaries](#) - Posted by [Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education](#) on January 31, 2023