

Town Run watershed meeting

March 12, 2024

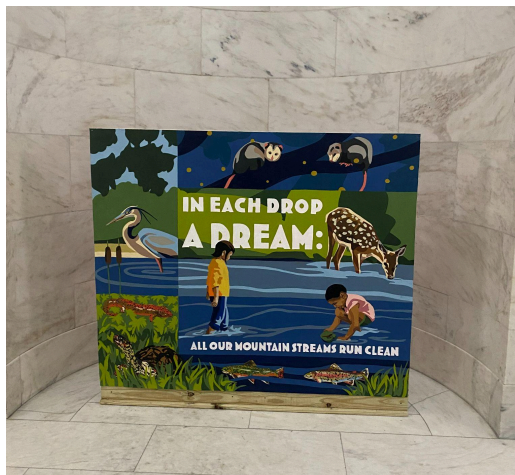
Shepherdstown Public Library, 145 Higbee Lane, Shepherdstown, WV

Additions learned at or after the meeting added in blue font. Action items in red font.

Participants: Jim Auxer, Kristen Bisom, John Bresland, Sandy Brown, Woody Coe, Evelyn Gettys, Stephanie Grove, Than Hitt, Bill Howard, Zachary Kelly, Sue Kemnitzer, Diane Niedzialkowski, Karli Rogers, Suzie Patrick, Maria Russo, Kay Schultz, Kenny Shipley, Greg Welter, Monica Whyte, Alana Hartman (facilitating)

Announcements

- a. Safe Water Conservation Collaborative is still looking for locations for 20 acres of riparian forest buffer plantings this year. *Flyer was attached to the meeting email.* One will occur at Morgan's Grove Park. *Kay would like to see a map and species, to see how it fits in with other initiatives.* *Alana will ask Cacapon Institute (CI) again.* Trout Unlimited (TU) does the plantings.
- b. SOS (Save Our Streams) workshops led by WVDEP's Callie Sams:
 - i. Wed Apr 24th 12:30pm – 4:30pm Morgan Park in Bunker Hill/Rt.11
 - ii. Sat May 4th 10am – 2pm Ranson Community Garden, 408 S Mineral St, Ranson, WV
 - iii. **Tues. June 11th, 2024 9:00am (time confirmed) on Town Run at Morgan's Grove Park;** *kids welcome; 4th grade is ideal.* *Please invite new residents from Toll House Woods.*
- c. Town Run Steering Committee & others' events (*some flyers attached to meeting email*)
 - i. "Planting for Pollinators and Birds," at the library on March 16th at 12:30; Peggy Bowers
 - ii. Stream Clean up Event on April 6th 9 AM- 1 PM; *flyer is copied at the end of this document; Pizza provided! Meet at Morgan's Grove Park and some will go to other locations. Shepherdstown representatives can provide a dump truck to collect the bags.*
 - iii. April 18th, "The Story of Town Run" by Dr. Keith Alexander
 - iv. Earth Day at Morgan's Grove Park on April 27th 12:00 -6:00 pm? staff a table among other nonprofits - *Diane N. is one of the organizers, PVAS will have watershed-related activities. Sandy is hoping to borrow CI's Stream Cleaner pinball game. Kristen B. can make a large-format watershed map, and our team can help visitors locate their home's position; Than recommended arrows indicating the underground watershed boundaries are broader than on the surface. Specialty Printing company can do large-format, but Than offered his lab's printer if that doesn't work out. Action: please help recruit kids to do the art contest.*
 - v. May 16th "Lawns to Life" by our Save our Soil partners
 - vi. Clean Water for All Mural will be at the Harpers Ferry/Bolivar library 6/10-7/10; *Maria will be in touch when a reception date(s) is planned.*



vii. October 10th, “Town Run, Risks and Resiliencies” by Than Hitt

Shepherdstown Source Water Protection Plan update - Monica encouraged those involved with the Shepherdstown water system to look at their SWPP strategies for any additions pertaining to Town Run. Updated plan is due May 1, 2024. Recommends including these meetings as a strategy for public involvement. 295 homes with septic systems are estimated to be in the Zone of Critical Concern (ZCC) for the Potomac River intake for Shepherdstown, and 56 homes with septic systems are estimated to be in the ZCC of the Town Run water intake. Little Run Acres has been considered as a future sewer project, but many grants are income-based and this disqualifies Shepherdstown. Some of the homes in this area have been connected to sewer; the remaining dozen or so are downhill and would require pump station. Discussion followed regarding what funding can be pursued to replace septic systems with sewer lines and pump stations. Nonpoint source funding (Clean Water Act Section 319) relies on a Watershed Based Plan being in place, which in turn relies on there being a Total Maximum Daily Load for the waterway. Alana said that septic systems, if maintained, may be adequately treating the effluent from septic tanks. If not, bacteria entering Town Run would be killed during the water treatment process. However, fecal coliform impairment indicates that there may be other pollutants in the stream from residential sources, so perhaps it would be good to pursue having those septic systems replaced by sewer service. This led into discussion of “c” below. Alana will summarize the impairment situation and potential DEP nonpoint source funding at the next meeting after learning more about the alternative process called an “Advance Restoration Plan” from others at DEP.

Town Run Steering Committee’s work not already covered above - Kay Schultz & team

a. **Logo-** Bill shared the DRAFT logo designed by Rebecca Starliper, a Shepherd student in Jenny Blonsky’s class, for which some edits have been requested.



b. **Communication Strategy questions** - Katie Allen has suggested that the Steering Committee answer some questions to prepare for future communications and to help Bill design the best website for our purposes. Alana will make a Google Form; all may provide input.

c. **sewer extent/map as a tool for identifying areas on septic systems** (continued from last 2 meetings) - Kristen shared an interactive web map in which users can turn layers on and off. Since the last meeting, she made it interactive, she added wetlands and ponds, properties and the year built. Think about any additional information that could be added in the future for our project planning needs. Kenny shared a print map of known septic systems close to the creek; we can use that to make edits for the “type” field for Kristen on individual parcels. E.g. “parcel ## is septic, parcel ### is sewered.” Bill will update the way it is embedded in the draft Town Run website, and the link will then be shared.

There is no maintenance requirement for septic systems, but we have discussed doing outreach to recommend maintenance. The map discussed above was created with that purpose in mind.

Establishing USGS flow/temperature monitoring sites - Than reported at this point USGS staff plans to monitor the spring at Morgans Grove (in the spring house) and also a site further downstream towards the water treatment plant. Than, Zach and Karli will coordinate with Shepherdstown water dept. staff on

a good location and install the pressure sensors before June. The goal is to estimate flow and temperature (and conductivity?) this summer, and to see if the spring levels predict downstream conditions or if the addition of other springs is more important. They will be able to report seasonally to this group (not real-time).

Elks Run Watershed Walk re-cap and possible cross-over topics - Maria said the Safe Water Harpers Ferry group has some similar interests to the Town Run group, including invasive plants and water availability in the stream channel for drinking water intake. They did a stream walk training in February and a stream walk in early March. Much of the length of Elks Run surveyed that day was dry. Data about water levels over time is needed to inform looming issues for water dept. Alana said the Stream Watch app or the Water Reporter app can be used to document days that a given reach is observed to be dry, so volunteers can build the data this way. Woody does not recall Town Run being dry [at the intake?] in his career. Sue and John on the water board heard an anecdote that people noticed a lack of flow one time when a streamside landowner had temporarily diverted water.

Shepherdstown Utilities needs or questions (for them or from them)

- Date to begin using Town Run water continuously has been pushed back to 2025.
- We were reminded that Town Run was the town's water source until switching to Potomac River in 1974.
- There are about 1800 water customers and about 1300 sewer customers.
- Town's monthly monitoring of Town Run includes:
 - Total Organic Carbon
 - Alkalinity (Town Run's is higher than the Potomac so can be used for a good blend)
 - bac-T
 - Nitrate
 - pH
 - Natural fluoride
 - Hardness
 - Temp
 - (I missed one)
- Is there any concern of Rockwool contaminating? Than said water does flow underground to this area from the direction of Shenandoah Junction, so water connection might be there, but metals monitoring, which might be the appropriate parameters to answer that question, is expensive.
- Town is required to do other tests at the intake every 3 years, including VOCs, F_C's (?) and IOCS.
- Who gets the Upper Potomac Riverkeeper's monitoring results? (I missed the answer)

Next meeting: Wednesday May 29, 2024 9:30-11:00 a.m. at Shepherdstown Public Library

Sue Kemnitzer shared that Susanna Henderson at Region 9 was very helpful to St. Agnes Church recently regarding a grant proposal. Her contact information is as follows:

Susanna Henderson, Economic Resilience Project Manager
Eastern Panhandle Regional Planning and Development Council (Region 9)
226 Pilot Way, Suite E
Martinsburg, WV 25405
(W) 304-263-1743, shenderson@region9wv.com, Region9wv.com

**Alice Ferguson Foundation &
WV MAKE IT SHINE**

TOWN RUN CLEANUP

**SATURDAY APRIL 6th
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**MORGAN'S GROVE
PARK**

**4198 Kearneysville Pike
Shepherdstown-Rain or Shine!!
Trash bags, gloves &
post-clean up PIZZA provided!!
Just Bring YOU!!**