

Town Run Stakeholder Meeting

Shepherdstown Public Library, 9:30 am 1/30/2025

Participants:

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Than Hitt WV Rivers nhitt@wvrivers.org

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Callie Cronin Sams WVDEP-WIB callie.c.sams@wv.gov

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Monica Whyte WV Source Water Protection program monica.a.whyte@wv.gov

Marcy Bartlett Shepherdstown Council & Water Board member mbartlett@shepherdstown.gov

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Hanna Weikert WV Conservation Agency hweikert@wvca.us

Sky Brown WV Conservation Agency sbrown@wvca.us

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Sue Kemnitzer Shepherdstown Water Board skemnitzer@att.net

Greg Welter Town Run Watershed Steering Committee weltergj@gmail.com

Water and Sewer Updates:

- Funding from infrastructure bills is being used for a proposed project to upgrade water lines and improve water pressure in the system.
- The team is currently working on the budget for the next year and is considering potential projects.
- Rising costs pose a significant challenge; strategies are being explored to use current funds efficiently and secure additional grant funding; considerable cost for rock.
- Staffing the Water and Sewer Utility: Class 1-3 certifications; two new employees, both Class 2 certified, will handle technical chemical plant work.
- Efforts are underway to create informational pages explaining PFAS.
- Acknowledgment of the hard work and difficult conditions water system workers endure, including recent very low temperatures and frozen intake and several meters—emphasis on showing appreciation.
- The State of Maryland now requires biosolids PFAS testing before farm field application.
- Woody and Kenny were unable to attend because of the current high demand for their time in fixing the water system infrastructure on Mill Street.

Town Run (TR) in Drinking Water:

- TR water is not routinely blended into the drinking water supply; it serves as a backup.
- If biological contamination in the river water increases, TR water is used to reduce chemical treatment needs.
- TR water is also an emergency source in case river conditions become unsafe.
- Moving forward, TR water usage will remain the same; a permanent pump is now installed, replacing manual extraction.

EPA Inventory of Lead Lines:

- A survey on lead lines was completed by October 2024.
- The state will respond within three years.
- The survey cost was \$15,000, not including employee salaries.
- Source water cannot be changed during the survey period.

Septic System and Water Monitoring:

- Half of the applicants to the WVCA for septic pumping assistance came from the TR Watershed. (6 of the 12 from the overall County)
- Discussion on sign installation: determining locations, obtaining permissions, and identifying responsible parties for installation.
 - Jan Hafer suggested that we place one sign readily visible to the Toll House Woods residents.
- Bill proposed adding an ARC GIS water monitoring layer to mapping with various kinds of information and showed how such a system worked for a client in Michigan.
- E. coli data:

- Good news: Water from the Spring House is clean.
- Concern: Downstream areas (10-20 meters) show elevated E. coli levels.
- Investigating failing septic systems in Morgan Grove Park as a potential project.
- A high-cost solution involves connecting to the public sewer and water lines across the street.
- WV Eastern Panhandle is exporting data to the Chesapeake Monitoring Cooperative (CMC) for potential support and funding.
- WV Rivers Citizen Science Monitoring and Save Our Streams (SOS) programs are actively engaged.
- Callie is working with the Data Explorer and WVDEP GIS to input backlogged data dating back to the late 1990s.

Conservation and Watershed Management:

- **Erin**, the Field Operations Manager in the Conservation Agency, discussed:
 - Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs), septic pumping, tree plantings, and buffer installations.
- **Hanna**
 - Elks Run Focus:
 - Hanna is leading the county-wide septic pumping initiative in Jefferson County.
- **Skye** is assisting with Sleepy Creek efforts.
- No grants are currently administered by the Conservation District, but they partner with the Stream Partners Program.
- The 319 Grant Program:
 - Administered for Elks Run and Sleepy Creek, both classified as Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) waterbodies.
 - Tim Cradick (WVDEP) oversees 319 funding.
- Conservation District Program Coordinators manage grants by county.
- The 303(d) List includes impaired watersheds; TMDL designation can lead to watershed planning and collaborative restoration efforts.

Upcoming Events:

- **Earth Fest:** May 3, 2025
- **WV Forest and Drinking Water Forum:** May 7-8, 2025 (Morgantown area)
- **Lobby Day in DC:** March 4, 2025
- **E Day at the Capitol (Charleston, WV):** March 17, 2025

A group picture was taken with the large Stream Partners check to celebrate receiving the \$5,000 Stream Partners Award.