

Morgan County Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
Morgan County Commission Meeting Chambers
September 24, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

I. OPEN MEETING

Meeting was opened at 7:06 p.m.

Members present: Jack Soronen, Susan Parker, Eric LaRue, Justin Andrews, George Didawick, Wayne Omps, Ken Reed, Lori Hansroth, Carl Cowgill (via telephone participation).

Members absent: Scott Swaim, Robert White.

Others present: Alma Gorse, County Planner, Amy Schumaker, County GIS Director. See attached sign-in sheet.

II. MEETING MINUTES

On a S. Parker/G. Didawick motion, the Morgan County Planning Commission unanimously approved the June 25, 2019 meeting minutes.

III. DISCUSSION TOPICS

1. Watershed Updates

Morgan County Planning Commission President Jack Soronen, reached out to some of our watershed groups requested they attend this month's planning meeting to bring the members up-to-date on projects the watershed groups are working on or have completed recently. The following groups were in attendance:

- Warm Springs Watershed Association (WSWA)
- Cacapon Institute (CI)
- Sleepy Creek Watershed Association (SCWA)
- Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD)

Rebecca MacLeod, representing the Warm Springs Watershed Association

Discussion points and projects included in the presentation:

- Stormwater issues and runoff – with increase in construction projects, this will cause increase in runoff issues;
- Driveways are a source of sediment runoff;
- Septic Systems being installed;
- Increased development in rural parts of the county;

- Route 522 Bypass development and interchanges;
- Need for an updated water management plan that requires our stormwater management ordinance to protect large forested areas. Trees are the best stormwater management practice;
- Town and County Officials need to work with the WV Dept. of Highways during the development and construction of the 522 bypass;
- Encourage green Best Management Practices, and;
- Support Education practices.

Chuck Marsh, representing the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association

Discussion points and projects included in the presentation:

- Noted that the 2004 Stream assessment has proven to be a good funding stream for the watershed group;
- Noted that the watershed has two endangered species, the wood turtle and harperella plant;
- SCWA in conjunction with EPCD, Cacapon Institute and WV Chesapeake Bay Forester have planted over 2,500 trees;
- 115 residential septic systems pumped (50% cost reimbursement up to \$150.00);
- 17 residential septic systems repaired (up to \$7300.00);
- Since 2014 SCWA has been working with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to assess, design and construct a stream bank restoration project a the Edmisten Farm at Winchester Grade & Autumn Acres Road. This is a \$400,000+ project; and
- Have been doing voluntary monitoring of streams through the Save our Streams Program.

Frank Rodgers, representing the Cacapon Institute

Discussion points and projects included in the presentation:

- Created an online map of the impacted areas of the Route 522 Bypass project and expressed concern of runoff caused by road construction;
- Donated over 1,000 trees to private land owners over the past few years;
- Completed the ditch mitigation project in Greenway cemetery to reduce runoff;
- Completed ditch mitigation project in River Ridge Subdivision to also reduce runoff;
- Assisted with several stream bank restoration projects that were impacted from flooding;
- Organize youth programs; and
- Conduct water sampling.

Jim Michael, representing the Eastern Panhandle Conservation Agency

Discussion points and projects included in the presentation:

- Completion of the stream bank restoration project along Warm Springs Run at high School;
- Noted that Warm Springs Watershed has 8 flood control dams that were designed and built in the 1950's and the County Commission is not maintaining them; and

- The Natural Resource Conservation Service completed a flood analysis several ago and he would like to see the county move forward with implementing the results of that study.

2. Route 522 Bypass Update

County Commissioner Ken Reed stated that he had requested the CAD drawing of the bypass route from the WV Department of Highways and has not gotten a response to date.

Planning member Eric LaRue stated that the grade proposed at Sugar Hollow Road is 14 percent and has commented that this needs to be improved on.

Planning member and Chamber of Commerce Director Lori Hansroth stated that appraisals are ongoing and has inquired about the completion of the environmental impact study. She also stated that there doesn't seem to be much information available about the project. Latest timeline from the WVDOH is to bid the project out in March 2020 and also start construction in 2020.

3. Morgan County Excessive Residential Noise Ordinance (Nuisance Ordinance) Review and Discussion

Planning President Jack Soronen stated that the group can do a review of this ordinance and any additional sources of information at a later date.

IV. STAFF REPORT

Planning member Susan Parker requested an update from staff on the progression of obtaining an entrance permit for Michigan Lane (Berkeley Springs Brewery) from developer/owner of Coolfont Larry Omps.

Staff had reported that she had been in contact with the WVDOH entrance permit department and they have received the final drawings and bond. According to Mr. Omps engineer Jim Golden, there are waiting for final review from WVDOH and bond has been submitted. Staff will follow up with WVDOH in the next week or so.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.