

## Robinson Run - Chartier's Watershed Municipal Alliance Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** March 13, 2018  
**Location:** North Fayette Township 1:30 pm

**Attendees:** Johnna Zona (North Fayette Township)  
Rebecca Zeyzus (Allegheny Watershed Alliance)  
Amy Miller (Allegheny County Conservation District)  
Andrea Carson (USACE)  
Damon Weiss (AWA Engineer)  
Marilou Ritchie (McDonald Borough)  
Elmo (McDonald Borough Council)



### Topics Discussed

- **Army Corps of Engineers**
  - 3 representatives from Army Corps of Engineers attended the meeting to discuss funding that they must use by September 2018 on modeling certain areas for a Floodplain Management Study
  - This modeling will show flows, water surface elevations and velocity of water. It will also show how we can invest in possible projects to see the cost/benefit ratio and how those projects will affect flooding in the long run.
  - The funding that they have can model approximately 3-4 areas so the Chartier's group unanimously chose to have the USACE model Bridgeville Borough, McDonald Borough and Oakdale Borough. Should there be enough time and funding left, they will model the North Branch of Robinson Run in North Fayette Township that connects McDonald and Oakdale. Once the model is completed, we will receive from the USACE all the output data as well as the possible projects and rough estimates of costs.
  - The Chartier's Watershed Group is very thankful to the USACE for choosing our watershed to run their modeling program on. This information can be used in the future to help secure grant funding and will push our applications higher on the list since we will have tangible data proving what can work to help our flooding issue.
  - If you are aware of any previous floodplain studies that were performed on new bridges in your municipality, please try to find them and provide to the USACE so they don't have to model something that has previously been done.
  - **UPDATE:: Andrea came and spoke at the meeting to give an update on the funding. The funds, a total of \$160,000, is going to be spent over two years, so \$80,000 in 2018 and another \$80,000 in 2019. USACE will perform the existing conditions this year and next year will start on modeling some projects and their potential impacts on our watershed. They will be outlining a letter for the scope of work that they are performing and will**

need a signature to sign off that we understand what they are providing us. This money that they are using can also be used as a match for non-federal grants. Below is the scope of work that they gave us in regard to locations

- **Approximately 1.75 miles of McLaughlin Run in Bridgeville, from just south of its confluence with Chartiers Creek near Commercial Street to about 1377 McLaughlin Run Road**
  - **A length of river stretching from Mount Pleasant Township east to Oakdale Borough and north to North Fayette Township consisting of:**
    - **Approx 7.25 miles of Robinson Run from Mt Pleasant TWP at the intersection of Noblestown Rd and Taylor Rd to Oakdale Borough at the intersection of Noblestown Rd and Fayette Ave**
    - **Approx 2.25 miles of North Branch of Robinson Run from Oakdale Borough at its confluence with Robinson Run to North Fayette TWP at the intersection of N Branch Road and Old N Branch Rd**
    - **Approx .15 miles of an unnamed trib to North Branch of Robinson Run from its confluence with North Branch onward, which may be modeled as inflow to the North Branch of Robinson Run section.**
  - **It was also brought up to the USACE attention about the permitting process of stream bank restoration projects. The projects are being done for the betterment of the environment, so there should be some sort of leniency during the process. With how it is set up now, it makes the municipalities go through the same process as an entity that is disturbing a stream. Andrea is going to take our concerns back to her office. This is something that the municipalities should work together on changing.**
- **Mini Watershed Grant Tree Planting in North Fayette Township**
    - **April 28<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm at North Fayette Township Building**
      - **400 North Branch Road, Oakdale PA 15071**
    - This grant was awarded to the Watershed Group and will consist of planting approximately 70 native trees and shrubs along the North Branch of Robinson Run. This planting will not only help the watershed out, but can count as MS4 participation.
    - The AWA is going to send out a letter stating a request of a small fee for those participating to cover the cost of drinks and snacks for our volunteers. This will also provide you with advertisement materials, including a press release, to show proof to the DEP that your municipality participated in an event. Please provide your response by March 26<sup>th</sup> along with your logo so it can be placed on the flyer if you are participating.
  - **State of the Watershed Day:**
    - **May 16<sup>th</sup> 2018 Oakdale Community Center 6:00-8:00pm.**
      - **104 seminary Ave, Oakdale, PA 15071**
    - Allegheny County Watershed Alliance is providing those participating with an advertising package. The participation will include a small fee to cover food costs for the event. We are also providing a letter to send to local businesses to see if they would like to donate something to raffle off. This will help gain public interest. For example, North Fayette will

reach out to a local winery to see if they will donate a bottle of wine, or a free bathe for a dog from a groomer etc.

- Please think of any relevant speakers that may want to attend and talk about their personal stories of how they have been impacted by flooding. Also gather photos and provide them to Johnna. ACCD is going to ask Matt Gordon to talk about dredging and how it may not be the answer to our issues.

- **Next meeting:**

- Have a list of outreach goals for the group. This includes how we want to reach out to the community.
- **Please provide Amy or Rebecca your PRP so they can incorporate your proposed projects into their program that they discussed.**
- The Watershed Group would like to adopt a mini-operating plan at the beginning of 2018. This plan will state some goals, such as applying for at least 2 grants and having an outreach party.
- The next meeting is scheduled for **April 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at McDonald Borough.**

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