



**GCWA Board Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2018, 4-6 p.m.  
Owens Field Airport**

**Attendees**

Madilyn Fletcher, Ann Cameron, Ann Yancey, Lewis Kirk, Trish Jerman, Valerie Marcil, Buddy Atkins, Sam Agee, Carol Kososki, Mary McIntosh, Fran Varacalli

**Open Meeting and Overview**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:10 PM and moved directly to a guest presentation to accommodate the presenters schedule.

**Presentation on Little Jackson Creek Project**

Madilyn Fletcher introduced Ward Marotti, Senior Project Manager at WK Dickson, who gave a presentation on the Little Jackson Creek project. The Little Jackson Creek extends almost 5 miles from headwaters in the Spring Valley subdivision to confluence with Jackson Creek near Dentsville. Over several decades, it has been transformed into deep ditches, becoming a severely eroded and degraded habitat. Restoration of the creek served as a mitigation project to offset a runway project at Owens Field Airport. The project, implemented by WK Dickson, is an excellent example of how local government and the public community can come together to accomplish a complex restoration project.

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

A request was made to amend the agenda to reflect the change in order of business.

- ACTION: TRISH JERMAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. ANN YANCEY SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The minutes from the previous board meeting held on April 12, 2018 were distributed prior to the meeting for board members to review.

- ACTION: VALERIE MARCIL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS DISTRIBUTED. BUDDY ATKINS SECONDED AND THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Treasurer's Update**

Mary McIntosh gave a brief update of the budget, which included no unexpected changes.

## **Action Items**

No action items were discussed.

## **Discussion Items**

### **A. Strategic Planning, Committee Descriptions and Work Plans**

Madilyn Fletcher began by stating that this is a time, with our new Executive Director, to consolidate our strengths and streamline our organization. This coincides with a need to update our strategic plan. On May 3, 2018, the Executive Committee agreed to recommend that the strategic planning process be largely "bottom up" so that discussion was broad based and not focused in a select leadership group. The Technical Committee has taken this approach, and now has a Board-approved update to its Activities list under Goal #1. However, in the Education Committee discussion this past week, it became apparent that a longer, more focused discussion of objectives was needed before the Committee could address individual activities productively. Consequently, we will begin a "combination" approach, in which small, focused subcommittees will formulate updated goal statements and objectives for Strategic Plan Goals #2-7, and review these with respective committees as soon as such discussions will be productive. We also need to review the potential need for the Membership Committee, which was suspended this past year in lieu of an Events Committee. Madilyn Fletcher also spoke to the need for effective communication and advocacy by helping board members deliver the message of the organization, and supporting/facilitating our Executive Director's communication with a diversity of staff people in other organizations.

### **B. Advisory Board Establishment**

Fran Varacalli presented a concept for establishing an advisory committee of community leaders to provide input to the GCWA board of directors. Fran distributed a handout describing the roles and responsibilities of the proposed advisory committee. Discussion took place.

### **D. Board Membership and Officers**

Madilyn Fletcher spoke to the importance of the upcoming Board elections. We need to work hard to insure the diversity of the Board with key areas of expertise being included. It is extremely important that Board members help to identify strong candidates to fill these upcoming vacancies. New board members do not have to live in watershed, but do need to have a connection to the watershed. Madilyn asked the board to think about potential nominees and come prepared to discuss at the next meeting.

## **Executive Director Report**

Fran thanked the board for the opportunity to attend river rally where she met many great people and learned about what other watershed organizations are doing, as well as about best practices for organizational management and health. Fran provided an update on the results of Midlands Gives. The organization received donations in the amount of \$3,600 after the fee. Fran and the board thanked Valerie and her husband for their generation donation of the matching funds. Fran stated that we will be hiring a replacement membership coordinator as the existing coordinator will be leaving on June 4, 2018. A job advertisement has

been drafted and will be posted tomorrow. Fran has also started working on the budget for next fiscal year.

## **Committee Updates**

### **A. Stewardship**

The stewardship committee will be meeting in late May/Early June.

### **B. Education**

Ann Yancey provided a summary of recent education events and stated there are no more activities planned for this fiscal year. The committee is working on revising their portion of the strategic plan and will begin planning for next year's activities. Ann asked the board to provide suggestions for speakers. Lewis reminded the board about the upcoming Adopt-A-Highway litter clean ups planned for May 12, and May 19.

### **C. Events**

Valerie provided a summary of results for Wine 4 Water. She distributed a spreadsheet detailing expenditure and income totals for the event. Valerie recently met with Sustainable Midlands to discuss their concerns about how the money was divided this year. All of the issues are still not completely resolved. Discussion took place about these issues. All agreed about the need to examine this year's experience and think strategically about how we want to approach the event for next year.

### **D. Technical**

Lewis Kirk and Buddy Atkins provided a Technical Committee update. The 319 project is going great. We have a short list of qualified firms, but do not yet have a final recommendation. The selection committee hopes to have a firm selected for contract by the June board meeting. Buddy Atkins announced that GCWA was awarded the \$20,000 grant from the Richland County Conservation Commission for design work on the Crowson Road stream restoration project. The award still has to go to County Council for final approval. Lewis stated that construction on the Devils Ditch project may start soon.

### **Old/New Business**

No old or new business was discussed.

### **Adjourn**

The board meeting adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

### **Next Meeting**

The next board meeting is scheduled for June 14, 2018.