

Guardians of the West Fork Regular Meeting Clarksburg Water Board Nov. 17, 2021

6:30 PM via Zoom

President John Ciesla brought the meeting to order.

Attendees: John Ciesla, Martin Christ, Lisa Hollingsworth-Segedy, Paula Bomhoff, Rachel Pell, David Wellman, Jason Fillhart, Mike Murphy, and Randy Kesling.

The September 2021 meeting minutes were not available for approval.

Paula Bomhoff presented the Financial report through October 2021.

Dave Wellman (WVDNR) reported good news concerning the status of the West Fork River boat access sites. There are 10 sites between Stonewall Jackson Dam and Spelter being submitted. It will take approximately 2 months to work through the submittal process and then go to bids for the Engineering site development phase. DNR will negotiate with the DOH on Right-of- Agreements. Construction could begin as early as next summer. There are two new properties the process of signing lease agreements.

The sites included.

Lewis County: Stonewall Jackson Tailwater, Bendale Bridge, Middle Run Road Bridge, and the Jackson Mill Bridge
Harrison County: Good Hope, Rt. 19 Slide at Sniders, Rt. 36 Slide, Hide-A-Way Road (private property deeded to DNR), Two Lick Dam site, Spelter (private property deeded to DNR)

Locations not included:

The portage at the Hartland Dam is in the process of property transfer from the City of Clarksburg to the Clarksburg Water Board.

The portage at the Weston Dam is not included on the list.

The new location of the Polk Creek bridge is intending to have a boat access site developed when the bridge is constructed. The start of construction is projected to be about two years out.

Shinnston is not included in this submittal as it is currently being worked on. There is a glitch with the rail trail property originally intended for use as access. The property is owned by Riverside Rentals and not the Rail Trail. Negotiations are in process. The site of the Restroom facility is approved and was negotiated between the DOH and the City of Shinnston.

The DNR has completed 38 fish surveys since the Two Lick, Highland, and West Milford dams were removed in 2016. Analysis of the fish surveys are being conducted by a WVU graduate student, Catherine Aday(?) under the direction of Dr. Carol Arantes at the WVU Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design. Results are expected in 2023.

Mike Murphy asked Dave if the DNR had done additional work on an access site at the West Milford Dam site. Dave replied it was the Town of West Milford. He stated the DNR could assist by providing some materials (gravel etc.) if needed.

Jason Fillhart (WVU Water Research Institute) presented the status of the #7 and #2 treatment sites located on Lamberts Run. We need to sign new Right-of-Entry Agreements for Site 7 with the Barnhardt, Hutson, and Harold properties. Jason is pursuing WCAP funding Site 7. He has historical and analytical data. Sampling is currently in progress. We need to contact with the landowners at Site 2 to begin the process.

The end of the culvert in Pond 1 at Site 9 needs to be sunk below the waterline. This culvert drains Pond 1 to Pond 2. The culvert is above the water level exiting pond 1 and the overflow is escaping into the nearby creek.

The Clarksburg CVB invited the Guardians to participate in WinterFest. It is being held at Jackson Square in Clarksburg.

Friday December 3

Winter Market of Artisans (Jackson Square)	5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
WinterFest Parade (downtown)	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Tree Lighting Ceremony	After the Parade

Saturday December 4

Winter Market of Artisans (Jackson Square)	10:00 am – 6:00 pm
WinterFest Performances, Demonstrations, & Activities	10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Robinson Grand Holiday Event (Doors open at 6:30 pm)	7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

If anyone would like to volunteer to man a table let me know.

Action Items

Description	Respn.	Date	Status
Secure concrete blocks and rope in order to sink one end of a culvert between the first and second ponds at Site 9 (leave materials at Site 7)	Randy	Tuesday, Nov. 23	
Obtain new ROE Agreements for Site 7	Jason, John	TBD	

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 15th at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, John Ciesla, President