



Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2025

Call to Order President Jim Brucker called the Board of Directors meeting, conducted in person and via Zoom, to order at 5:33 pm.

In attendance:

Board of Directors: Jim Brucker, Karen Rose Cercone, Jason Fronczak, Jason McCabe, Bill Mihalco, Kylie Schultz

Associate Directors: Amy Baer, Craig Barras, Rob Cronauer, Ben Hedin, Chrissy Edwards-McCune

Executive Director: Tom Keller

Director Emeritus: None

Members and Guests: Mike Baer, Jacob Levendosky

1. Approval of Minutes A motion was made by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Kylie Schultz, to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2024 meeting. The motion was approved.

2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices

- A motion was made by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, to approve the Treasurer's Report for December 2024 and January 2025. The motion was approved.
- For the savings account (now that the CD has purchased), the board authorized the Treasurer to transfer enough funds from checking to maintain the minimum amount.
- A motion was made by Kylie Schultz, seconded by Bill Mihalco, to approve the Executive Director's expenses of \$204.99 for November 2024 and \$143.49 for December 2024. The motion was approved.

3. Executive Director's Report

- Tom Keller reminded everyone to submit their in-kind hours to him.
- The 2024 BHE MiniGrant Final Report was submitted before the deadline.
- Currently we have 95 names on our mailing list for our Spring Membership Drive. Karen Rose Cercone will condense the newsletter to two pages for mailing, and Tom will insert it into the membership mailing. A motion was made by Bill Mihalco, and seconded by Kylie Schultz, to spend up to \$100 for newsletter printing. Postage will be an added cost.
- Several larger donors will be solicited later in the spring in person or with personalized packets (Cochran, Spitzer, Monroeville BMW)

4. Old Business

- a) Letters issued and letters / emails received since the last meeting – Karen Rose Cercone
 - Request from Westmoreland County for Biddle information – Jason McCabe responded, and Karen Rose sent the most recent newsletter
 - Request from Murrysville High School Student for Blue Lagoon information – Paul Whealdon reached out to the student with information
 - An announcement of ARIPPA grants from EPCAMR and WPCAMR was received. Applications are due by April 15, 2025.
 - Jim checked on the status of our QHUP report. Jon Smoyer reports that it has not been formally approved, but it is on the list to be reviewed in 2025.
- b) Irwin Discharge Committee – Jason McCabe
 - Property lines have been walked to begin the Brentzel right-of-way layout.
 - Attorney John Ward has drafted a tax-exemption application for Biddle, using the basis that the property would be used for the public good. The request will cover county, local and school district tax. Examples from Sewickley Creek and Loyalhanna Watersheds (both of whom own tax-exempt property) were used to support this argument. A motion was made by Kylie Schultz, seconded by Bill Mihalco, to approve the submission of the application pending final edits.
- c) TCWA File Archive – Ed Zinkan
 - Progress has been made on cleaning up the old files, with research studies and financial guidance documents being preserved while removing multiple copies of old newsletters, old invoices, etc.

5. New Business

- a) Board members should look over last year's goals (attached) and come to the next meeting with suggestions for this year.
- b) The 2025 TCWA Watershed Walk will be held in one of the parks along Turtle Creek in Murrysville. WCD recently did some stream bank stabilization in that area.
- c) Kylie Schultz is in talks with Irwin Borough for scheduling this year's Ducky Race
- d) The visit to Gladden Treatment system will be rescheduled for mid-April. Ben will coordinate the logistics with the treatment staff.

6. Adjournment

On a motion by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Kylie Schultz, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM. The next regular meeting will be February 25, 2025, 5:30 PM at Monroeville Municipal Building

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rose Cercone

TCWA Objectives for 2024

End of Year Update

Technical Objectives

1. Complete the acquisition of the Biddle property. 6/31/24 ECD:9/30/24 **COMPLETED**
2. Submit the initial funding request for Biddle to BAMR. 12/31/24 **COMPLETED**
3. Submit the final QHU report to the DEP. 6/12/24. **COMPLETED**

Educational Public Outreach Objectives

1. Offer a Penn State Master Watershed Steward scholarship in 2024/2025 **COMPLETED**
2. Work with Allegheny or Westmoreland Master Watershed chapters to sponsor a stream cleanup day somewhere in the watershed (Substituted WCD Rt 993 Cleanup) **COMPLETED**
3. Offer a series of Watershed walks with different themes. (Geology Walk at Ackermann Preserve April 2024) **PARTLY COMPLETED**
4. Publish a newsletter three times a year. (Summer, Fall and Winter) **COMPLETED**
5. Provide training on water quality monitoring. **NOT COMPLETED**
6. Provide at least two educational sessions to groups within the Watershed. (BPMI-Green Group Lunch & Learn March 28, **PARTLY COMPLETED**

Funding and Membership Growth

1. Increase TWCA funding to support Biddle and other programs. (Initiated with federal outreach)
2. Reach out to the mailing list with info on meetings and activities. (Initiated 2025, Mailchimp)
3. Expand annual membership effort to include more businesses. (Initiated 2025, Mailchimp)

Turtle Creek Watershed Association 2025 Event Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
JAN				
	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
FEB				
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAR				
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
APR	TBA	TBA	Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek	Saunders Station, WHT
	TBA	TBA	Cleanup of TCWA Kiosk	Saunders Station, WHT
	TBA	TBA	Earth Day Watershed Walk	TBA
	29	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAY				
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
JUN				
	TBA	TBA	TCWA Ducky Race Fundraiser	Irwin Park
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	26	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
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	30	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
OCT				
	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
NOV				
	TBA	TBA	Annual Meeting	TBA
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
DEC				



Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2025

Call to Order President Jim Brucker called the Board of Directors meeting, conducted in person and via Zoom, to order at 5:31 pm.

In attendance:

Board of Directors: Jim Brucker, Karen Rose Cercone, Chuck Duritsa, Jason McCabe, Bill Mihalco, Kylie Schultz, Paul Whealdon

Associate Directors: Craig Barras, Smokey Burdin, Rob Cronauer, Ben Hedin, Chrissy Edwards-McCune

Executive Director: (absent)

Members and Guests: Jacob Levandosky (WCD AmeriCorps Member)

1. Approval of Minutes A motion was made by Paul Whealdon, seconded by Bill Mihalco, to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2025 meeting. The motion was approved.

2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices

- A motion was made by Chuck Duritsa, seconded by Jason McCabe, to approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2025. The motion was approved.

3. Executive Director's Report

- No report

4. Old Business

a) Letters issued and emails received: none

b) Irwin Discharge Committee – Jason McCabe

- Kylie Schultz reported that the BHE MiniGrant has been funded for \$3500 to pay for Biddle signs and a gate. Rob Cronauer and Jason McCabe informed the board that some anti-TCWA vandalism has already occurred on site. Rob recommended that we chain the existing (broken) gate on the Brentzel right-of-way, and hold the new gate and signs for future installation when trespassing activity lessens.
- Our larger grant for the AMD assessment at Biddle is under review. Jason McCabe reported that our contacts at the DEP seem more positive about possible funding.
- Jason McCabe and Rob Cronauer met with John Brentzel today about securing the right-of-way, and also about purchasing some additional property in the future. No commitment was made, but negotiations will continue
- Once we have the Brentzel right-of-way, we can begin chaining the old gate and requesting North Huntingdon police to patrol the access to deter trespassers.

- Tax assessment application – a hearing will be held Thursday, March 13 at 10:10 AM. Jason McCabe, Rob Cronauer, Bill Mihalco, and John Ward will attend.
 - DEP Consent for Right of Entry - TCWA officers signed and witnessed the document, which is listed for Sharon Refuse pile based on the old mine name under the Biddle property. Jim will email the document to DEP tomorrow. They have already started working on logistics of access in order to core and sample the spoil piles.
- c) Spring Membership Drive – some new business gold memberships have come in.
- d) TCWA File Archive –
- Our old Borland Farm files will be kept due to grant requirements, but can be shared with MAWA if they are interested in them.
 - Our old newsletters will be digitized and uploaded to the TCWA website.
 - A good project for Monica Rebar, our Master Watershed Steward scholarship recipient, might be to organize our old files. If she prefers a more hands-on project, she could also do some stream monitoring at Biddle or at Coal Run (this would require a pH measurement kit, a field calorimeter for iron, and a flow meter).
- e) Events
- Watershed Walk – will be April 22, 2025 with Westmoreland Bird and Nature Club. KR Cerccone will see if the WBNC can provide Westmoreland Heritage Trail with the required liability insurance form.
 - Mahaffey Hill Road Cleanup – will be the morning of April 12, 2025 in Trafford. Chrissy Edwards-McCune will share more information at our March meeting.
- f) TCWA 2025 goals – on a motion by Karen Rose Cerccone, seconded by Jason McCabe, the proposed objectives (page 2) were approved. Note – the Irwin Sportsmens Association facility would be available on a Tuesday evening for a future board meeting.

5. New Business

- a) ARIPPA grant application is due April 12, 2025. Since we don't yet have an active treatment system, we will wait and apply in a future year.
- b) Gladden treatment tour – Ben Hedin will reach out to BAMR about a new date

Adjournment

- On a motion by Chuck Duritsa, seconded by Paul Whealdon, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 PM.
- The next business meeting will be held at the Monroeville Boro Building on Tuesday, March 25, 2024, beginning at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rose Cerccone

Proposed TCWA Objectives for 2025

Technical Objectives

1. Support the grant to perform the engineering study for the elimination of the Irwin Discharge.
2. Support efforts to address the coal refuse piles at the Biddle property.
3. As necessary, respond to the PADEP review of the submitted QHU report.
4. Obtain a second right-of-way to the Biddle property.
5. If a grant is obtained, install a gate and signage for the Biddle property.
6. Install heavy duty corner property markers at Biddle.

Educational and Public Outreach Objectives

1. Support the stocking of trout in Turtle Creek (3/27/25 and 4/10/25).
2. Sponsor a cleanup day at the Biddle property (date TBA).
3. Visit the Gladden AMD Treatment Facility (date TBA).
4. Co-sponsor Mahaffy Hill Road cleanup with the WCD on 4/12/2025.
5. Sponsor an Earth Day Watershed Walk in Trafford with WBNC on 4/22/25.
6. Sponsor a cleanup day for the Saunders Station and Roberts Parcel TCWA kiosks.
7. Along with Irwin Borough, sponsor the annual Ducky Race on 6/21/25.
8. Publish a newsletter three times during the year (Winter, Spring, Summer-Fall).
9. Provide training on water quality monitoring.

Funding and Membership Growth

1. Increase TCWA funding by establishing a subcommittee to solicit larger donors.
2. Reach out to the TCWA mailing list with information on meetings and activities with an emphasis on obtaining new, engaged members.
3. Add meeting minutes and TCWA newsletters to website.
4. Obtain a tax exemption for the Biddle Property.
5. Hold at least one board meeting in the Irwin area

Turtle Creek Watershed Association 2025 Event Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
JAN				
	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
FEB				
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAR	13	10:10 AM	Biddle Tax Assessment Hearing	
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
	27	12:30 PM	Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek	Saunders Station, WHT
APR	10	12:15 PM	Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek	Saunders Station, WHT
	12	TBA	Mahaffey Hill Road Cleanup with WCD	Trafford PA
	TBA	TBA	Visit to Gladden Treatment System	Gladden PA
	22	5 – 7 PM	Earth Day Watershed Walk with WBNC	Trafford – Saunders Stn, WHT
	29	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAY	TBA	TBA	Cleanup of TCWA Kiosk	Saunders Station, Roberts
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
JUN				
	21	1 – 4 PM	TCWA Ducky Race Fundraiser	Irwin Park
	24	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
JUL				
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
AUG				
	26	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
SEP				
	30	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
OCT				
	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
NOV	15	-	BCO Registration Expires	
	TBA	TBA	Annual Meeting	TBA
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
DEC				



Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2025

Call to Order President Jim Brucker called the Board of Directors meeting, conducted in person and via Zoom, to order at 5:30 pm.

In attendance:

Board of Directors: Jim Brucker, Karen Rose Cercone, Chuck Duritsa, Jason Fronczak
Jason McCabe, Bill Mihalco, Kylie Schultz, Paul Whealdon

Associate Directors: Amy Baer, Craig Barras, Smokey Burdin, Rob Cronauer, Ed Zinkan

Executive Director: Tom Keller

Members and Guests: Mike Baer, Jacob Levendosky, Jon Russik (DEP),

1. Approval of Minutes A motion was made by Chuck Duritsa, seconded by Paul Whealdon, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2025 meeting. The motion was approved.

2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices

- A motion was made by Karen Rose Cercone, seconded by Bill Mihalco, to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2025. The motion was approved.
- A motion to approve Tom Keller's \$782.52 expenses for January and February was made by Jason McCabe, seconded by Paul Whealdon. The motion was approved.

3. Executive Director's Report

- Tom will update our mailing list as new memberships come in.
- Robin Kennedy from the DEP reached out to us to ask about getting in touch with the North Huntingdon Volunteer Fire Department to assist with access to Biddle. Smokey and Jason will follow up and provide the requested information.

4. Old Business

Letters issued and letters / emails received since the last meeting – Karen Rose Cercone responded to a recent email inquiry from FRHS students about road salt impacts

b) Irwin Discharge Committee – Jason McCabe

- The tax abatement hearing on March 13 went well. The final decision will be made on April 13. In the meantime, lawyer John Ward recommended that TCWA not pay the \$193 real estate tax invoice that we received
- Future board meeting at ISA - Smokey Burdin recommended scheduling this meeting in either July or August
- Biddle Grant Status– Kylie Schultz reported that the large DEP grant request was fully funded. The grant signatory agreement will be approved by WCD at their next

board meeting in April and then will probably get final approval in June or July. After that, the next steps will be contracting with an engineering company to do a feasibility study and some initial permitting.

- Spoil pile testing may occur as early as April 7, 8 and 9 if site access is obtained from the North Irwin Volunteer Fire Department (or Irwin Sportsmen's Association). The investigation section of DEP will test the coal refuse for BTU and other parameters.
- Our federal earmark request has expired, but we expect that we will be asked again. It would be good to get on all three congressional lists.
- The Brentzel Right-of-Way – our survey and proposed right-of-way was sent to John Brentzel, who told his solicitor he also wanted to get a survey done. Jason McCabe will reach out to John Brentzel to discuss this further.

c) TCWA File Archive Cleanup

- Ed Zinkan reported that the file cleanup is nearly complete. Studies are sorted out and will be organized this summer by our Penn State Master Watershed Steward.

d) Updates on Future TCWA Events

- Trout Stocking at Saunders Station - Bill Mihalco noted that anyone is welcome to join March 27 at 12:30 and again on April 10 at 12:15.
- Mahaffey Hill Road Cleanup (April 12, 8 AM to noon) – Kylie Schulz
- Earth Day Watershed Walk with WBNC (April 22, 5-7 PM) – Karen Rose Cercone
- Gladden Treatment Plant Visit – Ben Hedin sent out a poll to determine the date
- Irwin Ducky Race – Kylie Schultz noted that SOME donations have already come in
- Tap Talk at Wye Beer Company –TCWA and MAWA representatives will present an informal talk at this brewery in Trafford on Thursday, June 26 at 6:00 PM.

5. New Business

- a) TCWA Conflict of Interest Forms – please sign and give to Karen Rose Cercone
- b) Webpage Update and Spring Newsletter –
 - Karen Rose Cercone has the Spring Newsletter ready and requested that we print 50 copies for distribution to potential business members and at TCWA events.
 - Old TCWA minutes have been posted to the website, and older newsletters will also be scanned and posted to the website.

Adjournment

- On a motion by Chuck Duritsa, seconded by Paul Whealdon, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 PM.
- The next business meeting will be held at the Monroeville Boro Building on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, beginning at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rose Cercone

Turtle Creek Watershed Association 2025 Event Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
JAN	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
FEB	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAR	13	10:10 AM	Tax Hearing for Biddle Property	Greensburg Courthouse
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
	27	12:30 PM	Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek	Saunders Station, WHT
APR	10	12:15 PM	Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek	Saunders Station, WHT
	12	8 AM – noon	Mahaffey Hill Road Cleanup with WCD	Trafford PA
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	22	5 – 7 PM	Earth Day Watershed Walk with WBNC	Meet at Wye Beer Company
	29	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAY	TBA	TBA	Cleanup of TCWA Kiosk	Saunders Station, WHT
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
JUN				
	21	1 – 4 PM	TCWA Ducky Race Fundraiser	Irwin Park
	24	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
	26	6 - 7 PM	Tap Talk about Turtle Creek with MAWA	Wye Beer Company, Trafford
JUL				
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
AUG				
	26	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
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OCT				
	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
NOV	15	-	BCO Registration Expires	
	TBA	TBA	Annual Meeting	TBA
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
DEC				



Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2025

This board meeting was cancelled due to storm-related loss of power at the Monroeville Municipal Building.



Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2025

Call to Order President Jim Brucker called the Board of Directors meeting, conducted in person and via Zoom, to order at 5:30 pm.

In attendance:

Board of Directors: Jim Brucker, Karen Rose Cercone, Chuck Duritsa, Jason Fronczek
Jason McCabe, Bill Mihalco, Kylie Schultz, Paul Whealdon

Associate Directors: Smokey Burdin, Ben Hedin, Ed Zinkan

Executive Director: Tom Keller

Members and Guests: Mike Baer, Monica Rebar

1. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Chuck Duritsa, seconded by Paul Whealdon, to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2025 meeting (the scheduled April meeting was cancelled due to loss of power). The motion was approved.

2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices

- A motion was made by Karen Rose Cercone, seconded by Bill Mihalco, to approve the Treasurer's Reports for March and April 2025. The motion was approved.
- A motion to approve Tom Keller's expenses for March and April was made by Chuck Duritsa, seconded by Paul Whealdon. The motion was approved.

3. Executive Director's Report

- All members are asked to submit their in-kind hours to Tom.
- The TCWA membership list has been updated by Tom Keller and Paul Whealdon. We currently have 32 members, with 10 lifetime members.

4. Old Business

a) Letters issued and letters / emails received since the last meeting

- An online motion to move forward with the acquisition of the permanent ROW with John Brentzel was unanimously approved on April 16, 2025.
- On a motion by Chuck Duritsa seconded by Bill Mihalco, the TCWA board approved the sponsorship of \$50 (Donor level) for the Westmoreland Conservation District Awards Dinner on September 10, 2025.

b) Irwin Discharge Committee

- Discussions are continuing with John Brentzel about the right-of-way needed for the Biddle site. His attorney is planning to discuss options with him.
- A tax exemption for Biddle was granted by Westmoreland County in April with an effective date of January 15, 2025.
- BAMR drilling operations are complete, but lab results on the coal quality (BTU) are not in yet. The general findings are that the northern pile consists of 39,000 cubic yards of spoil material with 690,000 cubic yards south of Brush Creek. This would require a lot of dump trucks to remove; a rail spur might be more economical.
- June 10 meeting with County Commissioners – the Irwin Discharge Committee will meet with the three commissioners to update them on progress and plans.
- A FY26 appropriation request was submitted to Congresswoman Lee's office for Biddle including funds for bridge design, utility identification, reimbursement of property cost and project management. The request was submitted by Westmoreland County for the TCWA.
- Kylie Schultz says that the BIL grant agreement has been signed by WCD and we are now waiting to get the full signed agreement back from DEP.
- Smokey Burdin reports that July and August are the best times to have a TCWA board meeting at ISA. We have requested August 26 as the date. All ISA officers will be invited to attend.

c) Any follow-up on QHU report review by DEP

- Jim Brucker says the DEP told him that we should hear something back this year

d) Reports on Upcoming TCWA Events

- TCWA Kiosk cleanup – the Roberts Parcel needs to be painted and all newsletters need to be updated. Bill will send out an email when he's ready to work on it.
- Irwin Ducky Race – Kylie Schultz reported that most of the race preparation is complete, but basket donations are still welcome. TCWA volunteers should show up at 12 or 12:30 PM at the Irwin Park to set up tables and tents.
- Tap Talk at Wye Beer Company – Karen Rose Cerccone reported that we are set for June 26 at 6 pm with a rep from the Murrys ville Area Watershed Association.

5. New Business

- a) Inactive board members – Bill Mihalco noted that one of our board members has been absent from meetings for over a year. He suggests that we send a letter asking her to either become a more active member or resign from her position. If she resigns, the position will be offered to Smokey Burdin. Karen Rose Cerccone will write a letter for Jim to sign and send out. In addition, Bill suggests that we meet with staff from the

Allegheny Conservation District and discuss a more active role in the TCWA for the Allegheny County Conservation District.

- b) Possible Local Brewery Fundraiser – Kylie Schultz suggested that we reach out to Helltown Brewing in Export or Wye Beer Company in Trafford. Karen Rose has a contact at the Export Helltown location and will reach out to see if they are interested in partnering with us for the fall.
- c) Stream Team sampling of Brush Creek – Karen Rose Cercone & Carrie Lucci have found a spot to sample Brush Creek between Coal Run and Tinkers Run. A Hach kit has been purchased for iron testing.
- d) The TCWA Penn State Master Watershed Scholarship recipient, Monica Rebar, reported that she is finishing up her classes for her Certificate. For her final project, Monica would like to digitize the old TCWA records and research reports in the basement at the Westmoreland Land Trust Schwarz Farm so that they can be added to the TCWA website.

Adjournment

- On a motion by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Paul Whealdon, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 PM.
- The next business meeting will be held at the Monroeville Boro Building on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, beginning at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rose Cercone

Turtle Creek Watershed Association 2025 Event Calendar

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JUN	TBA	TBA	Cleanup of TCWA Kiosk	Roberts Parcel, WHT
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	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
AUG				
	26	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Irwin Sportsmens Association
SEP				
	30	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
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DEC				



Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 24, 2025

Call to Order President Jim Brucker called the Board of Directors meeting, conducted in person and via Zoom, to order at 5:31 pm.

In attendance:

Board of Directors: Jim Brucker, Smokey Burdin, Karen Rose Cercone, Chuck Duritsa, Bill Mihalco, Kylie Schultz, Paul Whealdon

Associate Directors: Amy Baer, Rob Cronauer, Ben Hedin, Ed Zinkan

Executive Director: (absent)

Members and Guests: Mike Baer, Jacob Levendosky

1. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Paul Whealdon, to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2025 meeting. The motion was approved.

2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices

- A motion was made by Chuck Duritsa, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, to approve the Treasurer's Report for May 2025. The motion was approved.
- A motion to approve Tom Keller's expenses for May was made by Paul Whealdon and seconded by Bill Mihalco. The motion was approved.

3. Executive Director's Report (submitted by email)

- All members are asked to submit their in-kind hours to Tom.
- The Zoom Fee has increased from \$15.99 to \$17.11.

4. Old Business

a) Letters issued and letters / emails received since the last meeting

- A letter was sent to Renee Dolney asking her if she was still interested in staying on the board, with a response requested by June 24. No response was received.
- On a motion by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, the TCWA board appointed Smokey Burdin as a full board member of the association, replacing Renee Dolney. The motion was approved.
- Letters of support were submitted to the Westmoreland Conservation District for two Growing Greener grants and for a new Watershed Planning Advisory Committee. Bill Mihalco has offered to serve as TCWA's liaison to this group.

b) Irwin Discharge Committee

- John Brentzel's attorney is still reviewing the permanent ROW agreement. Some possible options to make the ROW more acceptable to Mr. Brentzel were discussed. The Irwin Discharge Committee (Rob, Bill, and Jason M.) will make an effort to meet with Mr. Brentzel and work on finalizing an agreement in the near future.
- Preliminary reports from BAMR suggest that the coal refuse on Biddle is not suitable for use as fuel. We are still waiting for final analytical results.
- June 10 meeting with County Commissioners – Commissioner Chew and staff for the other commissioners met with TCWA representatives and reviewed the work done so far. Quarterly meetings will be scheduled for the future.
- Kylie Schultz says that WCD has received the fully signed agreement for the BIL grant. They now need to hold a kick-off meeting before she can begin working on the Request for Proposal for engineering firms.
- Bill Mihalco brought up the topic of deer hunting on the Biddle property. Since several hunters have been observed there, it might be a good idea to try and enroll the property as a Cooperator with the Game Commission. This would allow the local Game Warden to patrol it. Rob is meeting with a Game Commission official soon and will make inquiries as to the possibility of TCWA doing this.
- Rob noted that on July 1 around 10:30 AM, he will be doing a visit to Biddle to install permanent stakes and deal with some graffiti. All members are welcome to join him if available.

c) Recent and Upcoming TCWA Events

- Irwin Ducky Race – Kylie Schultz reported that the event went very well, and that we made a higher net profit (\$2415) than the year before. Some options for a less expensive festival music provider (DJ or radio station) were discussed, as was the possibility of moving the race up to overlap slightly with the morning Farmer's Market in Irwin. The board commended Kylie for a very well-organized event.
- Tap Talk at Wye Beer Company – Karen Rose Cerccone reported that we are set for June 26 at 6 pm with a rep from the Murrys ville Area Watershed Association.

5. New Business

- a) Website Updates – Karen Rose Cerccone plans to add older newsletters to our online archive. She would also like to add Business sponsor names to our website to show our level of community support. The board agreed this would be useful.
- b) Bill Mihalco suggested that TCWA become a Bronze Sponsor of the Westmoreland Land Trust, where our organizational records are stored at no cost to us. Amy Baer made a motion that TCWA become a Bronze Sponsor of the land trust, with Chuck Duritsa seconding. The motion was approved with two abstentions (Bill Mihalco and Karen Rose Cerccone, both currently affiliated with the Westmoreland Land Trust).

- c) Karen Rose Cercone suggested that TCWA again offer a scholarship to the Penn State Master Watershed Steward program to a person in our region who might be interested in working with us. Outreach through social media and the local Penn State Extension coordinators will begin earlier this year to recruit more candidates.

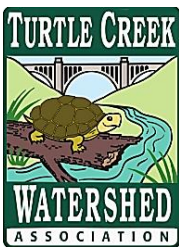
6. Adjournment

- On a motion by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Paul Whealdon, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.
- The next business meeting will be held at the Monroeville Boro Building on Tuesday, July 29, 2025, beginning at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rose Cercone

Turtle Creek Watershed Association 2025 Event Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
JAN	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
FEB	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAR	13	10:10 AM	Tax Hearing for Biddle Property	Greensburg Courthouse
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
	27	12:30 PM	Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek	Saunders Station, WHT
APR	10	12:15 PM	Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek	Saunders Station, WHT
	12	8 AM – noon	Mahaffey Hill Road Cleanup with WCD	Trafford PA
	TBA	TBA	Visit to Gladden Treatment System	Gladden PA
	22	5 – 7 PM	Earth Day Watershed Walk with WBNC	Meet at Wye Beer Company
	29	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAY				
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
JUN				
	21	1 – 4 PM	TCWA Ducky Race Fundraiser	Irwin Park
	24	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
	26	6 - 7 PM	Tap Talk about Turtle Creek with MAWA	Wye Beer Company, Trafford
JUL				
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
AUG				
	26	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Irwin Sportsmens Association
SEP				
	30	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
OCT				
	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
NOV	15	-	BCO Registration Expires	
	TBA	TBA	Annual Meeting	TBA
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
DEC				



Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

July 29, 2025

Call to Order President Jim Brucker called the Board of Directors meeting, conducted in person and via Zoom, to order at 5:30 pm.

In attendance:

Board of Directors: Jim Brucker, Smokey Burdin, Karen Rose Cercone, Jason McCabe, Bill Mihalco, Kylie Schultz, Paul Whealdon

Associate Directors: Rob Cronauer, Chrissy Edwards-McCune, Ed Zinkan

Executive Director: Tom Keller

Members and Guests: Melissa Church, Phillip Ferry, Jacob Levendosky, Monica Rebar

1. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Paul Whealdon, seconded by Bill Mihalco, to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2025 meeting. The motion was approved.

2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices

- A motion was made by Karen Rose Cercone, seconded by Bill Mihalco, to approve the Treasurer's Report for June 2025. The motion was approved.
- A motion to approve Tom Keller's expenses for May was made by Paul Whealdon and seconded by Karen Rose Cercone. The motion was approved.

3. Executive Director's Report

- Please send your in-kind hours to Tom.
- The 2025 Wish Book application period is now open. We can ask for up to \$5000. We have not been successful in the past two years. Karen Rose suggested public outreach (signs, brochures, etc.) to explain the future AMD remediation project.
- Zoom fees have gone up to \$18.18 per month.

4. Old Business

a) Letters issued and letters / emails received since the last meeting

- An email motion was made by Paul Whealdon, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, to reimburse Rob Cronauer for his purchase of property stake materials worth \$52.07. The motion passed by unanimous email vote on July 3, 2025. The T-stakes have since been installed, with the one closest to the Norfolk-Southern tracks being securely emplaced with several bags of concrete. An additional permanent stake was added near the Irwin Sportsmen's boundary.

- An invitation was received from the PA Master Naturalist association to present or sponsor their upcoming fall conference in Seven Springs.
- Jim Brucker talked to Jon Smoyer about our QHU application. A final response should be received in one to two weeks.

b) Irwin Discharge Committee

- PA Game Warden Phillip Ferry from the Westmoreland District visited to explain how the Cooperating Hunting Agreement works to regulate hunting. Becoming a Cooperating Area allows the Game Commission to patrol the land, and removes any liability for public hunting from the landowner. Any hunting violation that could be charged on state game lands can also be charged on Cooperating Areas. The landowner can regulate what type of game can be hunted and what hunting methods can be used. Selected Sundays are now open for hunting across the state, but that can also be controlled by the landowner. (For example, Smokey says that Irwin Sportsmen's Association allows it from noon to dusk). The PA Game Commission will erect safety zone signs around any homes plus any other signs that are needed. Free tree and shrub seedlings can also be obtained from the PA Game Commission through an online order form. Warden Ferry will check to see if the Biddle Site at 49.6 acres would qualify as a Cooperating Area on its own. If not, he will also investigate whether it could be combined with the Irwin Sportsmen's Cooperating Area, and report back to Jason McCabe.
- Jason McCabe reports that analysis of Two Biddle coal piles have been received for two of the three zones. The pile closest to the Brentzel property which visually has the highest carbon content does not have results back yet. Reclamation options for the other two zones do not include energy recovery or use as structural fill on site. The materials were found to be acid-forming with no option for self-neutralization if buried on site. They could be buried on-site if a low-cost alkaline material (such as biosolids treated with limestone) would be available. The other option presented was removal to a coal waste disposal site.
- John Brentzel remains concerned that we will sell the property to a developer if he grants us a permanent right-of-way. Rob suggested that Jim Pilsbury from the WCD (who has known John for many years) could reach out to explain the situation.
- The Alfieri Building near the AMD discharge is for sale, but the price is \$2 million. It would probably not be suitable for any treatment system we would like to use.
- Kylie Schultz says that WCD staff held a grant kick-off meeting with John Russick and Heather Agosti a few weeks ago. The next step is to put together an RFP for a consultant to work on the actual project. Site access would be a major focus.

c) Penn State Master Naturalist scholarship – outreach efforts have started. The requirement is just to become a member of the watershed association, but a successful candidate does not need to live in the watershed itself.

- d) Kiosk maintenance update – Bill Mihalco reported that the Roberts Station kiosk has been given some paint and TLC, but wasps prevented any clean-up on the Saunders Station kiosk. Monroeville Public Works (first) and the WHT Maintenance crew (second) will be alerted about the problem. Bill Mihalco made a motion, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, to hire a pest management consultant for up to \$200 to remove the wasps if a volunteer is not able to take care of the situation.

5. New Business

- a) TCWA Logo Update – Kylie Schultz will start gathering ideas for an updated logo. In the meantime, she suggested we could remove the 50th Anniversary part of the logo from our current letterhead and documents so that it would look less dated.
- b) TCWA embroidered polo shirts and hats – Karen Rose Cercone suggests that we contact local embroidery providers for a quote on polo shirts and ballcaps. She has a vendor near Greensburg who offers this service at a reasonable cost. Ed Zinkan also suggested a vendor in Irwin on Main Street. Karen Rose will gather quotes for the next meeting.
- c) The Fall TCWA newsletter will be assembled in mid-late August. Items suggested for inclusion are the Game Commission Cooperative Agreement for Biddle (if that is finalized); the Master Watershed scholarship and possibly a poll for the new TCWA logo.
- d) Chrissy Edwards-McCune will be doing an electrofishing survey on Haymakers Run near Murrys ville Municipal Building on Monday, August 4 at 9:30 AM. TCWA members are welcome to come and observe.

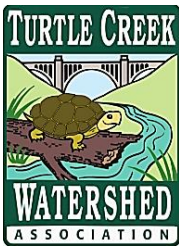
6. Adjournment

- On a motion by Paul Whealdon, seconded by Bill Mihalco, the meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.
- The next business meeting will be held at the Irwin Sportsmen's Association (705-800 Oakside Drive Irwin PA 15642) on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, beginning at 5:30 pm. Please be aware that there is currently a detour on Route 993 between Trafford and Irwin, so alternate routes might be preferable.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rose Cercone

Turtle Creek Watershed Association 2025 Event Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
JAN	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
FEB	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAR	13	10:10 AM	Tax Hearing for Biddle Property	Greensburg Courthouse
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
	27	12:30 PM	Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek	Saunders Station, WHT
APR	10	12:15 PM	Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek	Saunders Station, WHT
	12	8 AM – noon	Mahaffey Hill Road Cleanup with WCD	Trafford PA
	22	5 – 7 PM	Earth Day Watershed Walk with WBNC	Meet at Wye Beer Company
	23	12-3 PM	Visit to Gladden Treatment System	Gladden PA
	29	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAY				
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
JUN				
	21	1 – 4 PM	TCWA Ducky Race Fundraiser	Irwin Park
	24	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
	26	6 - 7 PM	Tap Talk about Turtle Creek with MAWA	Wye Beer Company, Trafford
JUL				
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
AUG	4	9:30 AM	Haymaker Run Fishing Survey	Franklin Regional Elementary
	26	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Irwin Sportsmens Association
SEP				
	30	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
OCT				
	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
NOV	15	-	BCO Registration Expires	
	TBA	TBA	Annual Meeting	TBA
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
DEC				



Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2025

Call to Order Vice President Chuck Duritsa called the Board of Directors meeting, conducted in person and via Zoom, to order at 5:33 pm.

In attendance:

Board of Directors: Jim Brucker, Smokey Burdin, Karen Rose Cercone, Chuck Duritsa, Jason McCabe, Bill Mihalco, Paul Whealdon

Associate Directors: Rob Cronauer, Chrissy Edwards-McCune, Ben Hedin

Executive Director: Tom Keller

Members and Guests: none

1. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Paul Whealdon, seconded by Jason McCabe, to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2025 meeting. The motion was approved.

2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices

- Paul Whealdon reported that the TCWA CD is doing well and will be renewed.
- A motion was made by Karen Rose Cercone, seconded by Bill Mihalco, to approve the Treasurer's Report for July 2025. The motion was approved.
- A motion to approve Tom Keller's expenses of \$104.28 for July was made by Jason McCabe and seconded by Paul Whealdon. The motion was approved.

3. Executive Director's Report

- Please send your in-kind hours to Tom.
- Tom submitted a grant request to the 2025 Wish Book for \$5000 to fund public outreach for Biddle. We will find out later if the request is approved for inclusion.

4. Old Business

a) Letters issued and letters / emails received since the last meeting

- Murrysville resident Brad Meehan got in touch with us about stream erosion. Karen Rose recommended that he contact the experts at the Westmoreland Conservation District. Kylie Schultz reported by email that she has been in touch with him and WCD is providing assistance with permitting and other resources.
- Our QHU grant close-out letter was received. We are still waiting on final approval.

b) Irwin Discharge Committee

- Discussions are continuing with John Brentzel about the right-of-way. Rob proposed to John Ward that we suggest a similar agreement to what TCWA has with Irwin Sportsman's Association. John Ward agreed and has told Jim Duffy (John Brentzel's attorney) that he could craft whatever language they liked. We are still waiting for a response from the attorney, but John Brentzel has been positive.
- The PGC approved our acreage at Biddle as a Hunting Cooperative Area. A motion was made by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Jason McCabe, to enroll Biddle in the PGS Hunting Cooperative Area. The motion was approved.
- The Game Warden will now need to meet someone from TCWA who has signing authority to finalize the agreement. Jason McCabe offered to meet with him and Smokey Burdin kindly offered to be present as well.
- Plans for fall hunting season – the public will have access to the Biddle site and know about it from the PGC website. The Game Warden will assist us in deciding on hunting stipulations and placing signage. He will also patrol the site.
- We are still waiting on the final results from the spoil pile analysis from BAMR. The level of toxic material in the spoil piles will determine whether it must be removed or can be emplaced on site. TCWA could offer to lead the spoil pile cleanup with grant funds or we could wait for BAMR to do the work on their timeline.
- BIL Grant status – the WCD is very close to sending out an RFP for preliminary site analysis by an engineering consulting firm.

5. New Business

- a) Planning for 2025 Annual Meeting – Karen Rose Cercone will contact Abruzzi's Restaurant on Route 30 to see if the TCWA Annual Meeting could be held there on November 6, 2025. We will invite Joyce, Smokey, John Brentzel, North Huntingdon Commissioners, our Business Gold member boroughs, Jason Rigone, and Phillip Ferry of the PA Game Commission. We will also invite Jon Smoyer and Jon Russick from DEP to give a presentation about the current state of AMD remediation technology.
- b) The ISA Annual Open House will be held on September 28 from 12 to 4 PM. Initiation fee is reduced for this event. All TCWA members will be notified in case they want to apply to support the ISA.

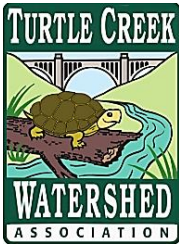
6. Adjournment

- On a motion by Bill Mihalco seconded by Paul Whealdon, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 PM.
- The next meeting will be held at the Monroeville Municipal Building on September 25, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rose Cercone

Turtle Creek Watershed Association 2025 Event Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
JAN	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
FEB	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAR	13	10:10 AM	Tax Hearing for Biddle Property	Greensburg Courthouse
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
	27	12:30 PM	Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek	Saunders Station, WHT
APR	10	12:15 PM	Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek	Saunders Station, WHT
	12	8 AM – noon	Mahaffey Hill Road Cleanup with WCD	Trafford PA
	22	5 – 7 PM	Earth Day Watershed Walk with WBNC	Meet at Wye Beer Company
	23	12-3 PM	Visit to Gladden Treatment System	Gladden PA
	29	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAY				
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
JUN				
	21	1 – 4 PM	TCWA Ducky Race Fundraiser	Irwin Park
	24	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
	26	6 - 7 PM	Tap Talk about Turtle Creek with MAWA	Wye Beer Company, Trafford
JUL				
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
AUG	4	9:30 AM	Haymaker Run Fishing Survey	Franklin Regional Elementary
	26	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Irwin Sportsmens Association
SEP	28	12 – 4 PM	ISA Annual Open House	Irwin Sportsmens Association
	30	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
OCT				
	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
NOV	15	-	BCO Registration Expires	
	6	5:30 PM	Annual Meeting (tentative)	Abruzzi Restaurant (tentative)
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
DEC				



Turtle Creek Watershed Association, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2025

Call to Order Treasurer Paul Whealdon called the Board of Directors meeting, conducted in person and via Zoom, to order at 5:30 pm.

In attendance:

Board of Directors: Smokey Burdin, Karen Rose Cercone, Jason Fronczek, Jason McCabe, Bill Mihalco, Kylie Schultz, Paul Whealdon

Associate Directors: Amy Baer, Craig Barras, Rob Cronauer, Ben Hedin, Ed Zinkan

Executive Director: Tom Keller

Members and Guests: Holly and Frederick Douglas of Cosmos Technologies

1. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Paul Whealdon, to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2025 meeting. The motion was approved.

2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices

- Paul Whealdon reported that the TCWA CD has been renewed for another nine-month term at a slightly lower rate.
- A motion was made by Karen Rose Cercone, seconded by Bill Mihalco, to approve the Treasurer's Report for August 2025. The motion was approved.
- A motion to approve Tom Keller's expenses of \$160.68 was made by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Paul Whealdon. The motion was approved.

3. Executive Director's Report

- Please send your in-kind hours to Tom.
- Our grant request for \$5000 was approved by the 2025 Wish Book to fund public outreach for Biddle. Donations will be solicited through Wish Book later this year.

4. Old Business

a) Letters issued and letters / emails received since the last meeting

- Middle school teacher Allison Benedum contacted TCWA looking for videos of mine drainage. Ben Hedin provided some watershed resources to her via email; Amy Baer also recommended Jennings Environmental Center as another good source of information. Karen Rose will send Allison's contact info to Amy for additional help.

- As a nominating organization, TCWA was asked to submit names to the Westmoreland Conservation District for Board Directors. Bill Mihalco moved and Paul Whealdon seconded the nomination of William Doney and Chuck Duritsa, both current board members who are interested in continuing their service to WCD.
- The board agreed that it would make sense for TCWA to join the Healthy Waters Coalition for the Ohio River Watershed, which is a new umbrella advocacy organization being formed by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers. This group wants to create a regional restoration and protection plan through new federal investments. Membership is free and allows TCWA to receive announcements via email listserv. Karen Rose will submit our organization's membership form and Tom Keller will be alerted once it is reviewed and approved.

b) Irwin Discharge Committee

- The General Liability Insurance Quote for 2025-26 has come in for Biddle. Since the Game Commission liability insurance policy only covers hunters, the board agreed that we should accept the bid and continue our general insurance for the site.
- The agreement with the PA Game Commission has been signed to open the Biddle property to public hunting. The Game Commission can now patrol the property, and hunters are covered under the state's insurance policy.
- To handle public inquiries about hunting on Biddle, TCWA should have a dedicated email account that hunters could use to contact us and ask permission. The Board recommended that a separate email address be created for hunting inquiries, and emails will then be forwarded to Bill Mihalco for processing permissions.
- An agreement for the Brentzel right-of-way has been drafted and Rob Cronauer plans to meet with John Brentzel soon to help get it finalized.
- The DEP coal refuse pile study has been completed for Biddle. Jason McCabe will forward the results to the board.
- BIL Grant status – the RFP has been completed and a call for bids will go out in the Trib soon. Bids are due back by November 5. The WCD will review the bids and submit them to the WCD board for final approval in December.
- Jason Fronczek recommended that an Operations Manual be created for the Biddle property / project.

c) Planning for TCWA 2025 Annual Meeting

- Lucci's Pizza and Pasta Restaurant on Route 130 has been reserved for our Annual Meeting on Thursday Nov 6. They have a party room which can hold up to 70 guests. The board agreed that the Bronze menu would be suitable for the dinner. Karen Rose will visit the site soon to see what technology is needed for after-dinner presentations, and will also check on beverage cost.

- Invitations will go out to the draft list of invitees, including all Business Gold and Gold members, in early October. Additional suggestions for guests should be sent to Karen Rose this week.
- A new sponsorship initiative will accompany dinner invitations to help cover costs.

5. New Business

- a) Hank Bradish at the conservation district informed us that the estimate to repair our Brush Creek data logger is \$439.74. Since the data from this monitor will probably not be helpful for future Biddle research, the board recommended that it be taken out of service for the time being. Hank Bradish can hold onto it for possible future use.
- b) Kylie Schultz reported that the PA Department of State Annual Report has created an [Annual Report requirement for non-profit organizations](#). This requirement is being phased in gradually, but by 2027 nonprofit status could be revoked if this report is not submitted. Bill Mihalco moved, and Karen Rose Cercone seconded a motion that Kylie Schultz fill out the report form on behalf of TCWA. The June 30 filing deadline will be added to our recurring TCWA Event Calendar.
- c) Paul Whealdon reported that the Allegheny Land Trust has requested donations as part of their annual fundraising campaign. The board agreed that TCWA would prefer to donate to ALT via a sponsorship rather than through a general fundraising drive.
- d) Since many of our Biddle project initiatives are still in progress, Bill Mihalco recommended that we cancel the tentative October update meeting with the county commissioners and hold our next formal meeting with them in January.
- e) Bill Mihalco brought up the question of how TCWA should respond to press inquiries. The board agreed that it would be good to have a small committee that could handle various inquiries without duplication of effort. This item will be put on the October board agenda.
- f) Holly and Frederick Douglas of [Cosmos Technologies](#) spoke to the board about how their portable active treatment system (using a catalyst system) could be used to remove metals such as aluminum and neodymium from the Blue Lagoon discharge. This system is small, modular, and could treat up to a million gallons of discharge. Several board members expressed interest in seeing the pilot system in West Mifflin.

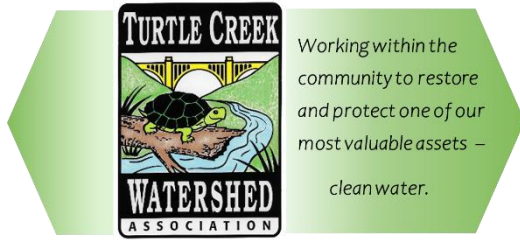
6. Adjournment

- On a motion by Bill Mihalco seconded by Paul Whealdon, the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM.
- The next meeting will be held at the Monroeville Municipal Building on October 28, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rose Cercone

Turtle Creek Watershed Association 2025 Event Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
JAN	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
FEB	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAR	13	10:10 AM	Tax Hearing for Biddle Property	Greensburg Courthouse
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	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
JUN				
	21	1 – 4 PM	TCWA Ducky Race Fundraiser	Irwin Park
	24	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
	26	6 - 7 PM	Tap Talk about Turtle Creek with MAWA	Wye Beer Company, Trafford
	30	-	Deadline for PA-DOS Annual Report (optional this year)	
JUL				
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
AUG	4	9:30 AM	Haymaker Run Fishing Survey	Franklin Regional Elementary
	26	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Irwin Sportsmens Association
SEP				
	30	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
OCT				
	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
NOV	6	5:30 PM	Annual Meeting	Lucci's Restaurant
	15	-	Deadline for PA-BCO Registration Renewal	
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
DEC				



Turtle Creek Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes October 28, 2025

Call to Order President Jim Brucker called the Board of Directors meeting, conducted in person and via Zoom, to order at 5:30 pm.

In attendance:

Board of Directors: Jim Brucker, Smokey Burdin, Karen Rose Cercone, Chuck Duritsa, Jason McCabe, Bill Mihalco, Kylie Schultz, Paul Whealdon

Associate Directors: Chrissy Edwards-McCune, Ben Hedin, Ed Zinkan

Executive Director: Tom Keller

Members and Guests: Mike Baer

1. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Paul Whealdon, to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2025 meeting. The motion was approved.

2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices

- A motion was made by Karen Rose Cercone, seconded by Chuck Duritsa, to approve the Treasurer's Report for September 2025. The motion was approved.
- A motion to approve Tom Keller's expenses of \$133.68 was made by Chuck Duritsa and seconded by Jason McCabe. The motion was approved.

3. Executive Director's Report

- Please send your in-kind hours to Tom.
- Donations should be arriving via the Wish Book program later this year.

4. Old Business

a) Letters issued and letters / emails received since the last meeting

- CMU student Lacey Pribanic from Murrysville contacted TCWA through our website, offering to share her recent study of AMD discharge in Turtle Creek. Her study has been sent and will be forwarded to the board. Lacey has also been invited to attend a future TCWA meeting.

b) Irwin Discharge Committee

- John Brentzel appears to be willing to give TCWA a temporary right-of-way to the Biddle property but has concerns regarding the right-of-way if the Biddle property were ever sold by TCWA. Attorney John Ward (TCWA) and Attorney James Duffy (Brentzel) are working on words that would be contained in the right-of-way agreement that would address Mr. Brentzel's concern.

- The RFP for the Biddle water quality testing has been sent out and a conference call was held recently to answer any questions from interested parties. Eleven people attended the conference call, so Kylie expects several proposals to arrive soon.
 - Kylie says that the next phase of grant request involving more DEP involvement and more engineering will most likely be sent out in the Fall of 2026.
 - Hunting update – Game Warden Phillip Ferry was given permission by John Brentzel to enter the property and has placed several signs outlining the hunting regulations now that the property is a Public Cooperative Hunting property. Warden Ferry has asked if he can place trail cameras to try to identify continuing violations by ATV's and other vehicles. The board agreed that would be a good idea.
- c) Annual Meeting on November 6 – Karen Rose Cercone
- Lucci's Pizza and Pasta Restaurant on Route 130 has been reserved for our Annual Meeting on Thursday Nov 6. The door to their party room is the second from the right. We have received one meeting sponsorship, 5 table sponsorships and 2 seat sponsorships so far. The board agreed that TCWA should underwrite the bar cost.
 - Karen Rose will check the audiovisual equipment and prepare tent cards and programs for the evening. She will also post a sign on the entrance door.
 - Bill Mihalco moved and Chuck Duritsa seconded a motion to approve reimbursing Jim Brucker for the cost of the Annual Dinner which he will pay for on November 6.
- d) Handling public inquiries about the watershed – Jim Brucker agreed to be the point person for all public inquiries and delegate them to another board member if necessary.
- e) Our Penn State MWS Scholarship for 2026 will be publicized by our 2025 recipient, Monica Rebar, through an upcoming Zoom meeting hosted by Penn State Extension.

5. New Business

- a) The Bureau of Charitable Organizations Renewal (BCO-10) is done and Tom is ready to submit it once our officer contact list is updated. A BCO-23 public disclosure form is also ready to be submitted by the November 5 deadline, with an updated 2024 budget.
- b) Nomination of officers and board members for 2026 – Bill Mihalco noted that Smokey Burdin, Jim Brucker, and Jason McCabe are up for re-election at the end of 2025. All three indicated they are willing to serve another term. Tom Keller agreed to reach out to Anne Fox and ask if she was interested in continuing to be an Associate Director.

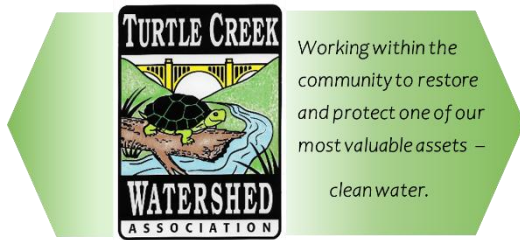
6. Adjournment

- On a motion by Bill Mihalco seconded by Chuck Duritsa, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 PM.
- The next meeting will be held at the Monroeville Municipal Building on November 25, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rose Cercone

Turtle Creek Watershed Association 2025 Event Calendar

Month	Date	Time	Event	Location
JAN	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
FEB	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAR	13	10:10 AM	Tax Hearing for Biddle Property	Greensburg Courthouse
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
	27	12:30 PM	Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek	Saunders Station, WHT
APR	10	12:15 PM	Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek	Saunders Station, WHT
	12	8 AM – noon	Mahaffey Hill Road Cleanup with WCD	Trafford PA
	22	5 – 7 PM	Earth Day Watershed Walk with WBNC	Meet at Wye Beer Company
	23	12-3 PM	Visit to Gladden Treatment System	Gladden PA
	29	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
MAY				
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
JUN				
	21	1 – 4 PM	TCWA Ducky Race Fundraiser	Irwin Park
	24	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
	26	6 - 7 PM	Tap Talk about Turtle Creek with MAWA	Wye Beer Company, Trafford
	30	-	Deadline for PA-DOS Annual Report (optional this year)	
JUL				
	27	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
AUG	4	9:30 AM	Haymaker Run Fishing Survey	Franklin Regional Elementary
	26	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Irwin Sportsmens Association
SEP				
	30	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
OCT				
	28	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
NOV	6	5:30 PM	Annual Meeting	Lucci's Restaurant
	15	-	Deadline for PA-BCO Registration Renewal	
	25	5:30 PM	TCWA Board Meeting	Monroeville Municipal Bldg.
DEC				



Turtle Creek Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes November 25, 2025

Call to Order Vice President Chuck Duritsa called the Board of Directors meeting, conducted in person and via Zoom, to order at 5:28 pm.

In attendance:

Board of Directors: Smokey Burdin, Karen Rose Cercone, Chuck Duritsa, Jason McCabe, Bill Mihalco, Kylie Schultz, Paul Whealdon

Associate Directors: Rob Cronauer, Chrissie Edwards, Ed Zinkan

Executive Director: (absent)

Members and Guests: Monica Rebar

1. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Paul Whealdon, to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2025 meeting. The motion was approved.

2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices

- Several donations were received in October in support of our Annual Meeting, which helped to cover the final bill from the restaurant including gratuity and room charge. A motion was made by Karen Rose Cercone, seconded by Bill Mihalco, to approve the Treasurer's Report for October 2025. The motion was approved.
- A motion to approve Tom Keller's expenses of \$201.78 was made by Paul Whealdon and seconded by Karen Rose Cercone. The motion was approved.

3. Executive Director's Report – (written document)

- Please send your in-kind hours to Tom.
- BCO10, BCO23 will be discussed later in the agenda.

4. Old Business

a) Letters issued and letters / emails received since the last meeting

- Contact from Jeff Volek, interested in working at our AMD plant in the future.

b) Irwin Discharge Committee

- A signed copy of a permanent right-of-way agreement is on its way to attorney John Ward's office. It would expire if TCWA ever sells or gives up the property. Rob and Jason feel it gives us the legal status that we need to proceed with research and development at the site. Since we have grant funds to cover it, Rob will remind John Ward to send us an invoice for his many hours of work on this project.

- Biddle grant update - staff from the Conservation District will meet on December 3 to choose between the three finalists for the initial phase of research. Their recommendation will be reviewed by the WCD Board on December 10. The winning consulting company will be invited to a TCWA board meeting in early 2026.
Bill Mihalco reported that the weight limit on the bridge over Norfolk Southern near Biddle is 6 tons. This could be a problem in disposing of the coal waste piles.
 - The grant to purchase a new gate should have its funds expended before February. A new gate will be purchased and then stored while the old gate gets locked and absorbs insults from trespassers. Kylie will contact the grant liaison and let her know about the delay in installation.
 - Hunting update – Bill Mihalco has fielded two requests to our new hunting email account, one from a member of the Irwin Sportsman’s Association and one from a trapper who takes coyotes from the Biddle site to prevent the spread of mange. Both were given permission to use the Cooperative Hunting Area.
- c) BCO 10 and BCO 23 – Our application was rejected by the Bureau of Corporations due to a lack of financial paperwork and lack of a check. Karen Rose requested that TCWA write a check to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for \$15 to cover the application. She will work with Tom and Jim to submit the amended paperwork.
- d) The deadline for TCWA’s Penn State Master Watershed Steward scholarship has been extended through January, when they will be holding additional recruitment meetings. Monica Rebar (our current scholarship recipient) will be present to discuss the opportunity with potential applicants.

5. New Business

- a) Debrief report from the TCWA Annual Meeting – next year, board members suggested trying a different venue (such as Abruzzi) and inviting more local officials (state, township, and municipal) to attend by calling or meeting them in person.
- b) Election of officers for 2026 – Bill Mihalco made a motion, seconded by Jason McCabe, that all current TCWA officers be re-elected for 2026. The motion was approved.
- c) Bill Mihalco made a motion, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, that Jason McCabe, Jim Brucker, and Smokey Burdin be elected to renewed terms as Directors for 2026 to 2028. The motion was approved. (Associate Directors do not require yearly elections and all current Associate Directors will remain on the board for 2026.)

6. Adjournment

- On a motion by Bill Mihalco seconded by Jason McCabe, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 PM.
- The next meeting will be held at the Monroeville Municipal Building on January 27, 2026 at 5:30 PM. Note - For January and February, if weather conditions are poor, the meeting will be converted to a fully remote Zoom meeting upon 24-hour notice.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rose Cercone