



# **Turtle Creek Watershed Association**

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

### **April 28, 2026**



**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 Fronczek, Jason McCabe, Bill Mihalco, Kylie Schultz, Paul Whealdon

Associate Directors: Matt Valentine, Ed Zinkan

Executive Director: Tom Keller

Members and Guests: Mike Baer, Monica Rebar, Marco Vigilante, Melissa Church (MAWA)

#### **1. Approval of Minutes**

- A motion was made by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Paul Whealdon, to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2026 meeting. The motion was approved.

#### **2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices**

- Paul Whealdon reported that we received some deposits plus one new membership last month, increasing our checking account to \$8064.09 with our savings account still at \$501.18. Our first CD stands at \$14,982.27 and we now also have a second CD with a value of \$10,000.00.
- A bill was received from Copy Center Plus for the spring newsletter. On a motion by Chuck Duritsa, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, payment was approved.
- Bill Mihalco made a motion, seconded by Paul Whealdon, to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 2026. The motion was approved.
- A motion to approve Tom Keller's expenses of \$145.68 for March 2026 was made by Chuck Duritsa and seconded by Paul Whealdon. The motion was approved.

#### **3. Executive Director's Report**

- Tom thanked Jim Brucker for turning in his in-kind hours and once again reminded other officers and board members to do so.

#### **4. Old Business**

- a) Letters issued and letters / emails received since the last meeting – Karen Rose Cercone
  - The Allegheny Conservation District has declined to appoint a new liaison to the TCWA after being informed that the former liaison was no longer a member.
- b) Irwin Discharge Committee – Jason McCabe
  - Jason McCabe shared photos of the on-going field study. A large AMD discharge was observed coming from Coal Run. Fred Dietz, who owns the property across from the PAL baseball fields, showed the team a large discharge pipe in his yard that is at least 80 feet deep and definitely down in the coal mine. It may have been used for sewage disposal back in the 1960's.

- Jason reported that the initial goal of the study is to determine if the different mine discharges are connected, so that we can be sure that pumping down the mine pool will reduce the AMD from all of them.
  - Grant and Earmark Updates – Kylie Schulz announced that the second RFP will be going out soon for the reclamation of the Biddle property. This will be reviewed by senior WCD staff and also by BAMR staff. The consultant who is selected will design the grading plan for the site and work out the logistics and costs.
  - In other good news, the gate at Biddle has not been vandalized yet. Kylie Schultz noted that we have some funds for a new gate but are waiting to hear back about our small grants to see if we get the remaining funds for the gate and the road.
  - PGC Hunter Access – Jason will call the game warden and re-up with the new program as Tier 1 site. The warden has been patrolling the site frequently.
- c) Westmoreland Watershed Networking Event – Jason McCabe, Bill Mihalco and Monica Rebar / Karen Rose Cercone (sharing a slot) will represent TCWA on April 30.
- d) TCWA Event Updates
- June 20 Ducky Race at Irwin Park – Kylie Schulz reported that additional donations have been received. She will bring those checks to the May meeting along with duck tickets for TCWA members to purchase.
  - Karen Rose Cercone will be working with Melissa Church of MAWA to organize the Tap Talk on July 15 at 7 PM. There shouldn't be a live band or other event going on that evening, so we should be able to present to whoever is there.
  - The date for the TCWA annual meeting has not been set yet but it may be a Wednesday this year to avoid Veterans Day and Thanksgiving week.

## 5. New Business

- a) 2026 PA Department of State Annual Report – TCWA received a reminder of the deadline for this report. Kylie Schultz said that she could fill the report out for TCWA again this year; Karen Rose will drop off the reminder card at the Watershed Networking event.
- b) 2026 PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations Report – Karen Rose Cercone suggested that we submit this earlier this year to avoid a year-end crunch. Paul Whealdon will share his 2025 financial records, Karen Rose will create a first draft of the report, and Jim Brucker will review and edit it prior to submission.
6. A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Whealdon, seconded by Jason McCabe. The motion was approved by unanimous consent and the meeting adjourned at 6:04 PM.
7. **The next regular TCWA Board Meeting will be on May 26, 2026, 5:30 PM at Monroeville Municipal Building.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Rose Cercone

## Turtle Creek Watershed Association 2026 Event Calendar

| Month | Date | Time         | Event                                        | Location                            |
|-------|------|--------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| JAN   | 27   | 5:30 PM      | TCWA Board Meeting                           | Monroeville Municipal Bldg.         |
| FEB   | 24   | 5:30 PM      | TCWA Board Meeting                           | Monroeville Municipal Bldg.         |
| MAR   | 24   | 12:30 PM     | Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek               | Saunders Station, WHT               |
|       | 31   | 5:30 PM      | TCWA Board Meeting                           | Monroeville Municipal Bldg.         |
| APR   | 8    | 3 PM         | Route 993 Litter Cleanup                     | Westmoreland Park, Trafford         |
|       | 13   | 12:15 PM     | Trout Stocking of Turtle Creek               | Saunders Station, WHT               |
|       | 19   | 1 – 3 PM     | Earth Day Watershed Walk                     | Ackermann Preserve w/WLT            |
|       | 28   | 5:30 PM      | TCWA Board Meeting                           | Monroeville Municipal Bldg.         |
|       | 30   | 9 - Noon     | Watershed Networking Lunch                   | West. Conservation District         |
| MAY   | TBA  | TBA          | TCWA Kiosk Clean-up                          | Westmoreland Heritage Trail         |
|       | 15   | -            | <i>Federal Form 990-N Deadline</i>           | <i>(already submitted for 2025)</i> |
|       | 26   | 5:30 PM      | TCWA Board Meeting                           | Monroeville Municipal Bldg.         |
| JUN   | 20   | 11 AM – 1 PM | TCWA Ducky Race Fundraiser                   | Irwin Park                          |
|       | 30   | -            | <i>PA State Dept. Annual Report Deadline</i> |                                     |
|       | 30   | 5:30 PM      | TCWA Board Meeting                           | Monroeville Municipal Bldg.         |
| JUL   | 15   | 7 PM         | Tap Talk with MAWA                           | Helltown Brewery                    |
|       | 28   | 5:30 PM      | TCWA Board Meeting                           | Monroeville Municipal Bldg.         |
| AUG   |      |              |                                              |                                     |
|       | 25   | 5:30 PM      | TCWA Board Meeting                           | Irwin Area Location?                |
| SEP   |      |              |                                              |                                     |
|       | 29   | 5:30 PM      | TCWA Board Meeting                           | Monroeville Municipal Bldg.         |
| OCT   |      |              |                                              |                                     |
|       | 27   | 5:30 PM      | TCWA Board Meeting                           | Monroeville Municipal Bldg.         |
| NOV   | TBA  | TBA          | Annual Meeting                               | TBA                                 |
|       | 15   | -            | <i>BCO Registration Expires</i>              |                                     |
|       | 24   | 5:30 PM      | TCWA Board Meeting                           | Monroeville Municipal Bldg.         |
| DEC   |      |              |                                              |                                     |