



Turtle Creek Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 31, 2026



Call to Order President Jim Brucker called the Board of Directors meeting, conducted in person and via Zoom, to order at 5:38 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: Amy Baer, Ben Hedin, Christina Edwards-McCune

Executive Director: Tom Keller

Members and Guests: Monica Rebar, Marco Vigilante

1. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Chuck Duritsa, to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2026 meeting. The motion was approved.

2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices

- Paul Whealdon reported that several renewals and new memberships came in last month. Our checking account currently stands at \$20,612.64 with our savings account at \$501.17. He noted that our first CD has increased in value to \$14,982.27 and the paperwork is in place to purchase a second \$10,000.00 CD.
- Chuck Duritsa made a motion, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, to approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2026. The motion was approved.
- A motion to approve Tom Keller's expenses of \$186.68 for February 2026 was made by Bill Mihalco and seconded by Chuck Duritsa. The motion was approved.

3. Executive Director's Report

- Tom reminded Associate Directors and officers to renew their annual memberships. As of February, TCWA has 27 total members, 9 of whom are lifetime members and 16 of whom are annual or business members.
- Tom thanked Jim Brucker for turning in his in-kind hours and 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
 - A thank-you letter was sent to Tony Visco of Field Environmental Instruments for his donation of a refurbished hand-held water meter.
 - Website questions were answered from Jackson Scott (CCAC Student) about Blue Lagoon and Tom Maleike (resident) about greenish plume in upper Turtle Creek.
 - A question from Lee Franklin (local EarthDay organizer) was answered with information about our Watershed Walk Earth Day event.

b) Irwin Discharge Committee – Jason McCabe

- Initial work is moving along, with right-of-entry forms being completed for several investigative borings of the mine pool. Two of these would be on Brentzel properties (one drilling into the Paintertown mine and one investigating the South Side mine). Another well would be installed on the Biddle property with a fourth one on North Huntingdon Township property north of Rillton.
- An in-situ monitoring device was installed on the actual Irwin discharge, which can transmit data wirelessly. The owner of the former salvage yard is renovating that property and was cooperative in allowing TCWA access. Initial water samples were taken from the Irwin discharge. Some other discharges were noted and will need to be assessed to determine volume and water chemistry.
- Utility tie-ins are being evaluated for the future treatment plant. Sewage lines run close to Biddle, but gas, electric, and water lines do not. The utility companies have been contacted but have not responded yet.
- Road and bridge planning – it seems like the best route in might be to improve the road to Irwin Sportsman’s Association and bring the utilities in from that direction. This infrastructure will be underwritten by the federal earmark.
- Grant and Earmark Updates – Kylie Schulz reported that the WPC Mini-Grant has been submitted for gates and infrastructure. Marco Vigilante is finishing up the ARIPPA Grant for additional gate funding and road improvements on the gravel road. The earmark will go to the county for administration, which may take a while.
- DEP Soil Cleanup – The initial report from BAMR recommended hauling the coal spoil piles off site as the lowest cost alternative but several board members suggested leaving it onsite and amending it with limestone as a better alternative.

c) TCWA Event Updates

- Turtle Creek Trout Stockings – The first stocking below Saunders Station bridge went well, with a second one planned for April 13 at 12:15 PM.
- Chrissy Edwards-McCune reported the Route 993 Litter Clean-up will be held on Wednesday April 8 at 2 PM. Volunteers can meet at the Mahaffey Hill pull-off.
- April 19 Earth Day Watershed Walk at Ackermann Preserve – Karen Rose Cercone reports that publicity is being done by the Westmoreland Land Trust for this event.
- June 20 Ducky Race at Irwin Park – Kylie Schulz reported that the event will start at 11 AM this year. Donations are already coming in from previous sponsors.
- Karen Rose Cercone reported that Helltown Brewing can host a Tap Talk for TCWA and MAWA this summer. The board chose July 15, 2026 as the preferred date.

d) Westmoreland Watershed Networking Event (April 30 9 am – 1 pm) – Jason McCabe, Bill Mihalco and Monica Rebar offered to represent TCWA at this event. Karen Rose will share the invitation with other board members when she sends out draft minutes.

e) TCWA File Archive Project Update – Monica Rebar reported that almost all of the old newsletters, minutes, and agendas dating back to the 1970’s have been digitized. The files are now being reloaded back into the file cabinets. Many unlabeled photographs

were part of the archives, and those still need to be dealt with. Jason McCabe made a motion, seconded by Karen Rose Cercone, to purchase an external hard drive with a value of up to \$200 to store the digitized archives. Karen Rose will donate a second external hard drive to use as a backup at a different location.

- f) Kiosk cleanup service day with Penn State Alumni – Bill Mihalco & Ed Zinkan will take care of the kiosk maintenance needs this spring. Volunteer helpers are welcome.

5. New Business

- a) Karen Rose made a motion, seconded by Bill Mihalco, to award business gold membership status to Field Environmental Instrument in recognition of their generous hand-held monitoring instrument donation.
 - b) Complimentary 'partner' membership status – the board agreed that our four main partner organizations (Westmoreland Conservancy, Westmoreland Conservation District, Murrys ville Area Watershed Association and Westmoreland Land Trust) could be given complimentary annual memberships in recognition of their cooperative work with the watershed association. This would allow them to receive our electronic newsletters and board meeting announcements.
 - c) 2026 TCWA Annual Meeting – Karen Rose Cercone will investigate dates and options for holding the annual meeting at Lucci's so that we can get an invitation out early to Representative Summer Lee and other local government officials.
6. A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Paul Whealdon. The motion was approved by unanimous consent and the meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.
7. **The next regular TCWA Board Meeting will be on April 28, 2026, 5:30 PM at Monroeville Municipal Building in the alternate upstairs location.**

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				