



Turtle Creek Watershed Association

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

June 30, 2026



Call to Order President Jim Brucker called the Board of Directors meeting, conducted in person and via Zoom, to order at 5:29 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, Christina Edwards-McCune, Ben Hedin, Ed Zinkan

Executive Director: Tom Keller

Members and Guests: Mike Baer, Melissa Church, Brian Dougherty,

1. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Bill Mihalco, seconded by Paul Whealdon, to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2026 meeting. The motion was approved.

2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices

- Paul Whealdon reported that our checking account stands at \$6,746.45. Our savings account remains at \$501.18; our first Certificate of Deposit remains at \$14,982.27; and our second Certificate of Deposit remains at \$10,000.00. Both CD's should continue to earn interest.
- Karen Rose Cercone made a motion, seconded by Bill Mihalco, to approve the Treasurer's Report for May 2026. The motion was approved.
- A motion to approve Tom Keller's expenses of \$104.28 was made by Chuck Duritsa and seconded by Paul Whealdon. The motion was approved.

3. Executive Director's Report

- Tom reminded board members to submit their in-kind hours to him.

4. Old Business

- a) Letters issued and letters / emails received since the last meeting – Karen Rose Cercone
 - A letter of support was sent to Tali MacArthur of the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers in support of their PA-DEP Minigrant submission
 - Biddle Hunting Permission Emails – Bill Mihalco reported that he is getting many emails asking for permission to hunt at Biddle. Several of the requests were from Irwin Sportsman's Association members. Bill Mihalco made a motion to grant blanket permission to ISA members to hunt the Biddle property. Chuck Duritsa seconded and the motion was approved. Smokey Burdin noted that ISA would include this information in their next newsletter
- b) Irwin Discharge Committee – Jason McCabe
 - BIL Grant Updates – Ben Hedin reported that Armstrong will begin drilling monitoring wells next week, first at the South Side Workings, then at Paintertown Workings, then at the Biddle property. The drilling should take 2-3 days altogether.

- Pittsburgh Wish Book – a request was submitted by Karen Rose Cercone for funds to underwrite a drone video of Tinker’s Run and our Biddle Site for our website and outreach. If the grant is not funded, Rob Cronauer mentioned that the Conservation District may be able to assist with drone work. Melissa Church noted that federal grants do not allow funding for drones, so the project should not be included in any future federal grants.

c) TCWA Event Updates

- June 20 Ducky Race at Irwin Park Wrap-up Report – Kylie Schulz reported that all went well and the fundraiser made more money than usual due to lower expenses.
- July 15 Tap Talk 6 – 8 PM at Helltown Brewing with MAWA – Karen Rose Cercone and Melissa Church will coordinate a press release and bring literature about our projects. Ben Hedin offered to update the group about the progress of the Brush Creek investigation.

d) August Board Meeting – Karen Rose Cercone

- Tentative Location – Shari Martino is checking to see if we can use the Irwin Chamber of Commerce location and will confirm that with us.
- Advertising / outreach – flyers will be posted at Irwin Borough locations and public library
- Public information – the board agreed that the meeting should start with Jason’s PowerPoint overview of the Biddle Project.

5. New Business

- a) PA Department of State Annual Report – Kylie Schultz reported that our report was submitted before the deadline.
- b) CNX Project Ideas – CNX is seeking ideas for a community relations project that they could support within Penn Township. The board recommended adding signage in Penn Township for Bushy Run and possibly also a kiosk in Irwin for Brush Creek remediation, possibly at the PAL Ballfields or at one of the Irwin parking lots in downtown Irwin.
- c) Ed Zinkan reminded the board that on July 11, the Union Pacific Railroad will come past Biddle between 4 and 6 PM. We expect some railroad fans might come to view it.

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 6:15 PM.

7. The next regular TCWA Board Meeting will be held on July 28, 2026, 5:30 PM at the Monroeville Municipal Building and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rose Cercone