



Turtle Creek Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes May 26, 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, Paul Whealdon

Associate Directors: Rob Cronauer, Ben Hedin, Matt Valentine, Ed Zinkan

Executive Director: Tom Keller

Members and Guests: Mike Baer, Marco Vigilante, Monica Rebar

1. Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Chuck Duritsa, seconded by Paul Whealdon, to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2026 meeting. The motion was approved.

2. Treasurer's Report and Invoices

- Paul Whealdon reported that our checking account stands at \$7207.87 and our savings account remains at \$501.18. He noted that our first Certificate of Deposit now holds \$14,982.27 and our second Certificate of Deposit holds \$10,000.00.
- Karen Rose Cercone made a motion, seconded by Chuck Duritsa, to approve the Treasurer's Report for April 2026. The motion was approved.
- A motion to approve Tom Keller's expenses of \$104.28 for April 2026 was made by Paul Whealdon and seconded by Matt Valentine. The motion was approved.

3. Executive Director's Report

- Tom reported that Jim Brucker has donated 22 hours and 152 miles to the association so far this year.
- Other board members are reminded to submit their hours to Tom.
- Membership in TCWA increased slightly in May to 31.

4. Old Business

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

- As recommended by the board, a sympathy note was emailed to Irwin Sportsmen's Association for Joyce Lichtenfels. Smokey was kind enough to print it out for Joyce.
- Chris Corbran of PEC plans to attend the June TCWA meeting to update us on the current status and future plans for the Turtle Creek Connector Trail.

b) Irwin Discharge Committee –

- Jason McCabe reported that John Brentzel has agreed to the exploratory drilling locations and the right of entry letter. He will sign as soon as the DEP sends him the final version. Jason hopes to have monitoring wells going in sometime in the next few weeks.

- Marco Vigilante let us know that we did not get the requested ARIPPA grant, because the Biddle gate installation project was too small. Reviewers recommended that this work be incorporated into a larger grant submitted to a different funding stream. We can apply for ARIPPA again in the fall, but it would need to be for a different aspect of the Biddle project.
- Marco also reported that he has applied for a Trout Unlimited technical grant related to some Upper Turtle Creek AMD discharges along Ringertown Road.

c) TCWA Event Updates

- The Annual Ducky Race at Irwin Park will be held on June 20 from 11 AM to 2 PM. The application for small games of chance was signed by Paul and Karen Rose at the meeting. Karen Rose will talk to Kylie about putting a sign near the Irwin Farmers Market that morning to advertise the Ducky Race to the public.
- July 15 Tap Talk at Helltown Brewing with MAWA – Karen Rose Cercone will coordinate with Kylie to underwrite an advertising boost for this event through Facebook. She will also send a press release to local papers, including the Penn-Franklin News, in early July.

d) 2026 Annual Meeting

- A reservation has been made to hold the meeting on Tuesday, Nov 10, at Lucci's Pizza and Pasta in Harrison City (private room).
- A reservation form will be mailed in with our \$100 room use fee.
- Invites will be sent to Summer Lee and other local government officials

5. New Business

- a) Jim Brucker made a motion, seconded by Chuck Duritsa, that TCWA make a \$25 donation to the Westmoreland Land Trust in return for planting a sympathy tree.
 - b) Matt Valentine made a motion, seconded by Chuck Duritsa, to provide a letter of support for Westmoreland Conservation District's Growing Greener grant application for stream bank stabilization in the upper Turtle Creek watershed.
 - c) A letter of interest was requested by the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers (POWR) as it applies to be regional coordinator for a new EPA/DEP pilot water quality monitoring mini-grant program that could award up to \$15,000 in training and \$15,000 in Tier 3 water quality analysis. The board agreed that it would be a good idea to submit a letter of interest, which will not commit TCWA to apply.
 - d) August TCWA Board Meeting – Public Outreach Location in Irwin. Karen Rose will check with North Huntingdon Township to see if there is interest. If not, she will ask Shari Martino at Irwin Borough if they can host us in their new Municipal Building.
6. A motion to adjourn was made by Paul Whealdon, seconded by Chuck Duritsa. The motion was approved by unanimous consent and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.
 7. **The next regular TCWA Board Meeting will be held on June 30, 2026, 5:30 PM at the Monroeville Municipal Building and via Zoom.**

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Rose Cercone