Streamlines

Spring 2019

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Re: Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Dear Members and Directors,

On behalf of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of Green Valleys Watershed Association (the “Association”), we are pleased to provide the members (the “Members”) and the directors (the “Directors”) of Green Valleys Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania d/b/a Green Valleys Watershed Association (the “Association”) with a brief summary of the reasons for and key provisions of the proposed Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation (the “Restated Articles”) and Bylaws (the “Restated Bylaws”), to support their consideration and approval process.

BACKGROUND

The Association retained Laura Solomon & Associates (“LS&A”) in July of 2018 to review its Articles of Incorporation (the “Articles”) and Bylaws. In particular, LS&A was asked to consider whether any amendments were necessary to modernize the Articles and Bylaws in keeping with the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Act of 1988, as amended (the “Act”), and make them reflect the current practices of the Association, its Board of Directors and Committees of the Board (the “Committees”).

Following their review, LS&A recommended the amendment and restatement of both the Articles and Bylaws, to include the following:

1. Bring them into compliance with the Act;
2. Reflect the current practices of the Officers, the Board, and Committees;
3. Clarify the fiduciary duties of the Board and delegation of powers to Officers and Committees; and
4. Change the Association from a membership corporation to a non-membership corporation under the Act, to facilitate the healthy functioning of the Association and accurately reflect the role and level of engagement of the Members.

A memorandum regarding the proposed Restated Articles and Restated Bylaws is enclosed. A complete draft version of the proposed Restated Articles and Restated Bylaws are available at www.greenvalleys.org

VOTING

The proposed amendments to the Articles and Bylaws were approved by resolution and passed at the Board of Directors at their March 21st 2019 meeting. The Association is currently a membership corporation with Corporate Members and in keeping with its current Articles and Bylaws, the Members must approve the proposed Restated Articles and Restated Bylaws.

The current Bylaws require that any amendment be approved by a majority vote of a quorum (at least fifteen (15) Members) present at any annual or regular meeting following presentation of the proposed changes to the Members at least thirty (30) days in advance, by mail or at a special or regular meeting of the Members. The voting will occur at the beginning of the Board of Directors’ meeting on May 16, 2019 at 5:30 PM at Welkinweir. Refreshments will be available.

Should you have any logistical questions prior to the meeting and to RSVP please call 610.469.4900 or email gva@greenvalleys.org. Please hold all questions regarding the proposed Restated Articles and Restated Bylaws to the meeting.

Sincerely,

Christopher Orzechowski, MGeol, P.G., President

Allen G. Heist, Past President

Enclosed: Memorandum regarding Restated Articles and Restated Bylaws – LS&A
Announcing America’s Garden Passport

America’s Garden Capital Garden Passport is the ultimate guide and way to log garden visits to the 36 gardens in the Greater Philadelphia Region. The Garden Passport is organized by geographic region and provides need-to-know information and must-visit experiences at each garden. Treasure your garden memories by collecting stamps, stickers, code words, or staff signatures, and draw your own pictures at each of the gardens. Passports are available at Welkinweir while supplies last. An online version of the passport is always available here: http://americasgardencapital.org/passport

Mother’s Day Open House

Celebrate spring at Welkinweir during our Mother’s Day Open House, Sunday May 12th from 2 to 4 p.m. Enjoy the garden display of spring blooms and the peak bloom of our historic azalea collection. Refreshments will be offered; relax while taking in the view across the pond or listen to our recently restored 1928 Skinner pipe organ. RSVP please; fee charged. To register visit welkinweir.org/special-events.

National Public Garden Week

For 2019, the American Public Gardens Association has expanded the appreciation of the nation’s public gardens from one day to a full week – May 13 – 19th. Initially launched in 2009 on the Friday before Mother’s Day, this year, to mark the 10th anniversary, it is now a week-long celebration of the nation’s public gardens to emphasize their importance and impacts on local communities. We invite you to learn more about Welkinweir by visiting, volunteering, or supporting one of our region’s hidden gems. www.welkinweir.org

OUTHERE Adventure Challenge

With the warm weather it is time to get outdoors and participate in the OUTHERE adventure challenge. This is a fun family challenge, for ages 3 to 18. Answer all the questions then celebrate with FREE ice cream cone from Coventry Parlor Ice Cream Shop. To participate, pick up your adventure challenge packet at Welkinweir, then visit all the locations listed and complete the questions. Take the completed packet to Coventry Parlor to claim your free ice cream cone and drop your completed card in the adventure challenge box to enter for a chance to win an additional gift from REI.
Start with a beautiful sunny day, bring together an entire kindergarten class with a group of trained, dedicated high school juniors and seniors, add 900 seedling trees, and you have a perfect recipe for a future streamside forest! Kudos to the administration of Phoenixville Area School District for working with GVWA’s Margot Taylor to create this along a tributary to the Pickering Creek!

No other land use supports clean water like forests. Sediment, nutrients, and bacteria are the main pollutants in our watershed, and the on-land sources of them are almost always non-forested land uses, especially impervious and poorly pervious surfaces found in urban areas.

Planting and maintaining woody vegetation along streams provide a wealth of benefits. Stroud Water Center’s research has shown that stream health is dependent on the presence of woody vegetation along stream banks.

Since 2010 we have pursued restoring these streamside forests at numerous sites across the watersheds, and we are just getting started. With over $45,000 in support from both the Cora L. Brooks Foundation and Tree Vitalize we have engaged 1,700 volunteers to plant over 9,000 trees since 2010. The commitment and enthusiasm of these amazing volunteers, of all ages, who come out to plant in rain or shine, is simply inspiring. Girl Scouts, church youth groups, students at OJR & Phoenixville Districts, Cabrini College, Americorp, conservation organizations including Sierra Club, Valley Forge Trout Unlimited, corporate employees from Siemens, Janssen Biotech, Vanguard, Cerner, Environmental Advisory Council members, engaged residents and more have all given generously of their time and strength. Thank you!

Township parks, municipal-owned open space, land preserves, and farms – wherever there is a stream that needs trees we are working to get trees growing.

GVWA is working with aerial photography captured over the past 80 years to track changes in stream channels over time in our watersheds. By tracking these changes, we can measure stream bank erosion rates and estimate how much sediment is being generated from stream banks. This is important because recent research is showing that these stream bank sediment sources may be the major source overall of sediments in our streams.

While processing the 1937 aerial imagery it became quickly evident that our local watersheds have undergone a surprising transformation. The extent of local forests has increased dramatically, expanding from isolated patches on unfarmable land to reclaim 30% and more of the watersheds. Trees, especially trees in the riparian zones along streams, are critically important to maintaining healthy watersheds, making this very good news.
We are working with local farmers to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) at several farms. BMPs are primarily designed to prevent rainwater from carrying away soils and nutrients from farms—keeping these valuable resources for the farmer to use, and keeping it out of the streams. Truly a win win situation.

Funding of $135,000 from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation’s Delaware River Restoration Fund (a DRWI program) and funding of $148,000 from PA DEP is providing:
• Planning assistance to update conservation plans and manure management plans;
• Technical assistance to survey farms and prepare engineered designs for BMPs;
• Financial and technical assistance for BMP installation including covered manure storage, rainwater controls at livestock buildings, streambank fencing, new riparian buffers, stream animal crossings, and alternative (not in the stream) watering sources for livestock.

At Welkinweir we have new funding towards a major overhaul of the existing trails network.

Funding of $20,000 from PA DEP, and $5,000 from the DCNR’s Schuylkill Highlands Conservation Landscape Initiative for:
• Updating trails management at Welkinweir including evaluation of current trail and corridor conditions, inventory and features contained within the trail corridor, and collecting GPS data for an accurate base map.
• Re-routing trails away from sensitive areas and improving habitat conditions along waterways.

A 2-day professional trail workshop will be offered in 2019 at Welkinweir, led by the Penn Trails staff, who are conducting the current assessment. Stay tuned for more information.

GVWA NEW FUNDING: Supporting Local Agriculture & Enhancing Local Trails

Volunteering

Volunteers Wanted
GVWA has volunteer opportunities every month from April to November! Come assist with many different activities including monitoring trees at restoration sites, stream cleanups, and more. Please dress for the weather, bring work gloves, water bottles, and sturdy shoes. If you are interested in any volunteer activity, please contact Rebecca Blacketter at rebecca@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-4900. Registration is required.

Stream Day Cleanup
Join us Saturday April 20th from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Foundry in Phoenixville to clean up trash along the French Creek. We’ll provide everything needed – gloves, vests, and trash bags – we just need you, your friends and family to help make this year’s cleanup a success!
We are looking for other areas along our local streams that need to be cleaned up as well as partners to organize stream cleanups. Want to plan your own cleanup? Let us assist you in getting the supplies you need, organizing a trash pick-up, and anything else you may need. Let’s keep our water clean and clean up our waterways!

Schuylkill CleanSweep App
This new app, available on Google Play and in the i-Store, will let you register cleanup events, recruit volunteers or search for cleanups. Individuals can record what has been cleaned up during their event – showing the types of garbage, hotspots for garbage, and progress being made to clean our waterways. By using CleanSweep we can show the importance for not littering and keeping our waterways healthy.

Volunteer Training Programs Underway
Pennsylvania Master Naturalist (PMN) and Schuylkill Water Stewards (SWS) volunteer training programs began this spring. These two diverse training programs will strengthen our organizations volunteer force and provide support to our staff as they carry out the organizations mission. Both training classes are offered in the spring; PMN runs April to mid-June and SWS begin in March and runs through early May. We are excited for these training programs to be underway, appreciate the participants giving their time, and look forward to working with them as they complete their training.
Choose Your Adventure at Summer Nature Camp!

Summer Nature Camp Registration is officially underway! We have many exciting activities planned, including new topics like **Dinosaurs, Nocturnal Animals, and Be a Scientist**! Our days will be filled with nature walks, wildlife explorations, science experiments, outdoor games, and fun art projects.

Summer Nature Camp runs **June 17th through August 9th**, with each week having its own theme, so campers can choose their favorite weeks to attend! Nature Camp is held Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 p.m. for ages 4 and children entering Kindergarten; and 9:00 am to 3:00 p.m. for campers entering grades 1 through 7.

Don't miss out on some great discounts! Members of GVWA save money each week! Members with a minimum Family Membership rate of $60, receive a discounted fee for each camp. Early Bird Registrants receive a 10% camp discount when registering by April 26th and paying in full.

For more details on each camp theme, special programming, fees and registration, visit https://www.greenvalleys.org/summer-nature-day-camp.

Support a Local Family in Need: Donate to the Summer Camp Scholarship Fund!

There are children from Pottstown and surrounding communities waiting for scholarships in order to attend camp. Can you help give them a week of outdoor education and fun?
**Trash to Treasure**  
Thursday, April 18; 1:00-2:30 p.m.  
Join us to create art out of trash! Learn more about doing your part to protect the earth, and bring two recyclable materials to be repurposed as a bird feeder and a toad house! Ages 6 to 12 only. Adults must accompany children. FREE if you bring two recycled soda bottles or milk cartons.

**Salamander Saturday!**  
Saturday, May 4; 9:30-11:00 a.m.  
Discover the world of Salamanders! Join us for an informational presentation on local salamanders given by Patrick Gardner, the Chester County coordinator for the PA Amphibian & Reptile Survey (as well as a staff member for Natural Lands) followed by a walk to look for salamander habitat (and any other herps we can find). Ages 6 to adult.

**Night Sky Watch With Chester County Astronomical Society**  
Saturday, May 25; 8:30-10:00 p.m.  
Join members of the Chester County Astronomical Society for an informational talk on the spring sky and observation techniques. Then head outside to observe the night sky through telescopes. Guests are welcome to bring their own scopes! For ages 8 to Adult only.  
Registration contact: dwhite@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-8646.

**Creek Snorkeling Adventure**  
Saturday, June 29; 9:30-11:00 a.m.  
Join Keith Williams, Executive Director of Northbay Adventures to experience the abundance, diversity, and beauty under the surface of our local streams under the safe and watchful eye of an experienced snorkel guide. Ages 10 to Adult; $30 per adult; $15 for 10 to 16 year olds; fee includes all equipment.

Advanced registration required; spaces are limited. Fees per person: GVWA Members $7, Nonmembers $9 - unless otherwise stated.  
Registration contact: rebecca@greenvalleys.org or 610-469-4900.
The health of our watersheds has been our focus for over 50 years.

Green Valleys Watershed Association is located in northern Chester County, Pennsylvania, where our scenic watersheds are comprised primarily of Exceptional Value (EV) and High Quality (HQ) waters. These streams are in the top tier in Pennsylvania. They are a precious resource.

MEMBERSHIP includes newsletter subscription, notice of special events and programs, and reduced rate to special programs, workshops, and Summer Nature Day Camp.

Membership levels (please check one):
- Individual.................................................................$45
- Family...........................................................................$60
- Naturalist.....................................................................$100
- Environmentalist.......................................................$250
- Protector.......................................................................$500
- Preservationist............................................................$750
- Steward......................................................................$1,000

I am a:  □ New Member  □ Renewing Member
□ I am interested in including GVWA in my legacy planning.
□ Please notify me of GVWA volunteer opportunities:

Name ________________________________________________
Address ______________________________________________
City, State, Zip_________________________________________
I would prefer to pay with:  □ Check (payable to GVWA)
□ Visa □ MasterCard □ Discover □ American Express
Credit Card #:_________________________Exp.: ______/______ CID: ______ Phone*__________________
Email address*:_____________________________________

*Phone & email needed to process credit card payments. We do not share your information with other charitable organizations.

Detach this form and mail with payment to:
Green Valleys Watershed Association
1368 Prizer Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

Online membership also available at www.greenvalleys.org/support

Dues and contributions are tax-deductible. Green Valleys is a registered charitable organization. Copies of registration/financial information is available by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.