

MINUTES  
CONEWANGO CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION  
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING  
April 14, 2009

PRESENT:

Directors: Liz Dropp, Larry Bourne, Dick Hotchkiss, Brian Schrantz, Steve Kimball, and Chris Humphrey.

Watershed Curator: Kim Sherwood

Cooperators: Wes Ramsey

Brian called the meeting to order at the South & Center Sewer District, Celoron at 9:05am with a quorum. Introductions were made.

MINUTES: It was noted that the March minutes needed a correction from al to all under Report of Audit. Larry made a motion to accept with the correction noted. Liz seconded. All were in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Liz reported issuing 3 checks for support of the Envirothons plus a payment to Kinzua County Enterprises for the last mailout. A \$50 business membership was received from Conewango Kayak and Canoe. The ending checking balance was \$5211.13. The ending savings balance was \$1344.67. Chris made the motion to accept the treasure's report subject to audit. Steve seconded. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chris noted Liz's email to the group about an article appearing in the Warren paper by Dr. Robert Watson on the subject of Marcellus Shale oil production in Pa. There was discussion on the article. A motion was made by Liz and seconded by Larry for Kim and Chris to draft a response to the article to submit to the paper. All in favor. The draft will be distributed electronically for approval and comments prior to submission.

9:15 Jean Gomory and Tom Osborne arrived.

Chris also noted that 2 of the dams in the County received Federal Stimulus Funding for upgrades. Liz reported she received a renewal notice for our insurance of approximately \$300. Chris made a motion to authorize Liz to pay the renewal. Steve seconded. All were in favor. Liz submitted two articles from the Warren newspaper, one about Warren County getting GIS and the second about a Jackson Run dike washout during a recent storm. Discussion led to the group's decision to see if we can help with possible funding for repairs while also investigating the plan for area remediation through the County Stormwater Plan. As a first step we asked Jean to research the property owner/owners and to see who might own any easements. She will email the group.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Curator's Report – Kim gave highlights from his report. See attached.
- WEMO – Kim spoke of the several presentations he gave this last month.
- Flowchart – Kim asked for input on his plan to inventory road culverts in chosen places. The plan is favored by the group.
- Salamander Project – Liz reported that she and Tom went to the Pinegrove Township meeting to inform them of the migration. The Town Board provided barricades and was supportive. Liz suggested applying for a grant for safety equipment for us to use this as an educational experience. Warren County Conservation District has a teacher/naturalist who is excited about using this as a demonstration project. Chuck Williamson from the Western Pa conservancy says

this is a very unique site. Last Friday night approximately 12 people attended the start of the migration.

- Warren County AG Day – Liz said the day went well. Some of the volunteers said there were many questions about the Warren dam.
- Computer Equipment – Liz has been researching the requirements to run Arc View.
- Curator Contract – Kim said he has heard nothing about continued funding of his contract which is due to expire in June. He will not be able to maintain the same level of investment without funding. The group would like to find a way to help. Kim wants to proceed with his culvert inventory and work for Dry Brook.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Conewango Waterways Trail – Tom submitted a proposal to the group to establish a waterways trail along the Conewango. He provided a guidebook from Pennsylvania. He has support for the project from Kathy Rapp. A question of who is responsible for management came up during discussion. Tom offered to find out who usually assumes responsibility and will also approach Warren County. Wes stated Penn Soil R&D Would be interested in participating.
- Directors – Liz spoke with Dave Bauer who said he would be willing to step aside. Liz will ask him for an official resignation. Chris and Dick Hotchkiss arrived at a way of communicating and Dick wants to participate in the group.
- Conewango Clean-up – Tom outlined both the plans for the Allegany River Clean-up during the week of September 12<sup>th</sup> and of his own Conewango River Clean-up on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. He already has 58 people signed up. It will take place from the state line to the Warren Mall this year. He has hopes of expanding it in successive years. A Brokenstraw group will also be cleaning their creek. Tom's website is [paddleconewango.com](http://paddleconewango.com). He will post this on his website and plans on doing a flyer mailing. He received authorization from the group to solicit funds and materials using our name as a sponsor. He suggested we run a membership drive at the same time.
- Youth Volunteer Corps – Liz brought information that Warren County hosts groups of high school students to work for different organizations as volunteers during the summer from 9-3 4 days a week. She would like us to find jobs for them to do for us.
- Trout & Clean Streams Expo – The Expo will again be in Sheffield on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Jean can take the display but needs volunteers to man it.
- Allegheny Nature Pilgrimage – May 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>. We need volunteers to man the display.
- Audubon's Art in the Woods weekend is also upcoming. Discussion centered around enlisting our members for their help. We could email or send letters to them.
- Other: Liz and Tom stressed the importance of having a website. Tom said his costs about \$70 per year. The group felt they needed assurance and commitment from someone to keep it updated. Liz reported 7 new members on the yahoo group website.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at the South & Center Sewer Districts.

Larry made a motion to adjourn at 11:25. Liz seconded.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Chris Humphrey*