

MINUTES
CONEWANGO CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING
August 11, 2009

PRESENT:

Directors: Liz Dropp, Steve Kimball, Dan Steward, Tom Osborne, Larry Bourne and Chris Humphrey.
Watershed Curator: Kim Sherwood
Cooperators: Wes Ramsey
Guest: Andy Walker, Pa Environmental Council

Dan opened the meeting at the South & Center Sewer District, Celoron, at 9:08am with a quorum.

MINUTES: Liz made a motion to accept the minutes from July. Larry seconded. All were in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Liz reported no expenses this month and \$31 in donations from Tom's cleaning donations. The ending checking balance is \$4934.13, and the savings at \$1346.19. Larry made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Steve seconded. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Liz said other states are starting on their Rapid Watershed Assessments and that there is a brochure on the internet. This led Kim to discuss a new grant opportunity from the US Endowment for Forestry & Communities. It is a pilot project to compensate forest landowners for the production of drinking water which would be sold to a municipal drinking water supply. One of the selection criteria is having a completed RWA. Kim will be looking into this.

9:20 Wes arrived

9:25 Andy arrived.

Liz introduced Andy. He is the Director of the Northwest office in Meadville. It is a non-profit organization which started with the French Creek Project. He's working on getting French Creek into the Waterway Trail so he is familiar with the process and serves as technical assistance. He added the Pa Fish and Boat Commission has no monies currently to help with expenses. He discussed the steps needed to get the riverway designation among which are holding public meetings and that there hasn't been a liability issue as yet but that there is protection under the State Law with the Pa Recreational Use Statute. He said there have been economic studies done which indicate a riverway designation is an economic asset to a community and also added that emergency management will benefit from the improvements added to waterway access. He said our link to the Fish and Boat Commission would be Keith Edwards in the Meadville office. Andy will get the Agreement for us. He suggested we draft a memorandum of understanding for the four Townships and will look for an example. It is good to leverage private and public dollars. He will send the cost of printing brochures. We thanked him for his information and time. He departed.

UPDATES:

- Curator's Report – Kim gave the highlights of his monthly report and also went into more discussion about Mr. Haffner's request for assistance on his area of the Conewango. Brian Davis is gathering a group to go assess the situation.

- CAFO – Dan shared that CAFO rules and guidelines have changed.
- Salamander Project – No update
- Conewango Clean- up – Tom shared that he spoke with the manager of the Mall who said due to budget cuts he would not be able to clean his area behind the Mall, but he permitted us to and to use his dumpsters.. Tom wants Shults to take the tires and the ones from that area may be his to begin with. Tom’s insurance Company does not feel covering us as well would be a problem although the document given did not name us specifically as a coinsured. The water has been so high we may not be able to do the clean-up. There is a rain date, but we may not be able to have the clean-up.
- Canoe Trip for new and renewing members – Tentative date shall be September 17th, a Thursday, from 5:00 to 7:00pm.
- Youth Volunteer Corp – They did work with Betsy planting willows in Goose Creek.
- Website – Liz reported that we did receive the \$300 grant. Tom’s web designer is no longer working however. She will look for a new person.
- Rain barrel Fundraiser – Liz said Gary Philips and a member from the Dunkirk area came and helped.

NEW BUSINESS:

- NW PA Nutrient Reduction Project – Wes shared that a company by the name of Integrity Ag approached JoAnn about doing a nutrient reduction project of farms in the area. They claim to have new technology. She contacted Wes and they participated in a telecast. He wondered about the number of eligible sites in this area so he suggested expanding it to the Upper Alleghany Watershed and the Pa portion of the Lake Erie Watershed. They are considering applying for a Federal Conservation Innovation Grant for nearly \$500,000. This would be for innovative technology and would run across state lines with 3 RC&D groups in 2 states participating. Wes is applying for a \$217,000 Pa Growing Greener Grant. The deadline is nearby and it would provide some matching funds. These monies would have to be spent in Pennsylvania. Seneca Trails would have to get matching funds in New York. The assumptions included with the grant were that there would be partners who would outreach and educate. Wes thinks the CCWA could fill that role. Wes has identified 10 farms on which he could set up the demonstration projects. The y would be 2/3rds to 80% funded. Farmers should have some input. Integrity funds will provide some of the matching funds. Time wise, the Growing Greener grant might be a fall announcement, but more likely a spring decision. It might take up to 1 and 1/2 years to start action. Wes has not yet applied for the CIG grant and says he could scale down the project. The federal grant is due in February. He mentioned the letter of support that CCWA already sent under executive decision.
- Pa Association of RC&D Councils – Wes announced that he is hosting their annual meeting on September 15 & 16th. The second day is training for 501C3 groups. A motion to send Liz to the training was made by Steve and seconded by Larry. All were in favor.
- Membership Renewal – Liz emailed letters to members and will mail to those who do not have emails listed.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 15th and 9:00 at the Sewer District.
Larry made a motion to adjourn at 11:55. Liz seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Humphrey