

MINUTES
CONEWANGO CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING
December 22, 2009

PRESENT:

Directors: Liz Dropp, Dan Steward, Tom Osborne, Steve Kimball, Brian Schrantz, and Chris Humphrey.
Watershed Curator: Kim Sherwood
Watershed Specialist: Jean Gomory
Chautauqua County Watershed Coordinator: Rick Constantino
Cooperators: Wes Ramsey
Member: Annette Strauser
Guest: Jeff Allio, Resources for Communities and People Solutions (RCAP)

Dan opened the meeting at the South & Center Sewer District, Celoron, at 9:03am with a quorum.

MINUTES: Annual meeting minutes: Wes submitted three corrections: the spelling of Curtis should be Kurtis, and on page 2 under Watershed Curator's Report, it should read Seneca Trail Resource Conservation and Development Council, and lastly, under Main Presentation, Tom Booser should read Tom Buser. Liz made a motion to accept October's minutes with Steve seconding. All were in favor. Steve made a motion to accept the Annual Meeting minutes, with Brian seconding. All were in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Liz reported the expenses from the past month as \$25 to help defray the cost of converting Mr. Warn's slides for the annual meeting, and the income of \$50 from memberships. The ending balance of the checking account was given by Liz as \$1,578.90. The Escrow savings was reported at \$1,347.19 and the regular savings at \$3,601.81. Chris made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Steve seconded. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Liz received an invoice from Blair County Conservation District for \$22 for the training seminar Kim attended on dirt and gravel road inventories. Liz made a motion to approve payment with Chris seconding. Motion passed. Dan informed the group that CCWA sent a letter of support to Seneca Trails supporting their efforts to secure funding for another term for the Watershed Curator's position. Kim described his meeting with Senator Kathy Young who seemed very supportive. He has one month left of the past funds.

Jean, Tom, and Jeff Allio arrived at 9:11am. Introductions were made.

Liz stated the Annual meeting noticed was seen in both newspapers. Chris shared that Ruth Lundin, Jamestown Audubon, had previously called to request our support in a grant they were applying for. As it turns out, they decided to go a different way and won't need that help, but it's good they are thinking of us.

UPDATES:

- Curator's Report – Kim asked Rick to update the group on the happenings of the CLMC. Rick said their main focus is finishing the Lake Management Plan which he has reviewed the draft and returned it to the engineers. It should probably be issued after Christmas. There are many recommendations in the plan. Kim gave an overview of his summary.
- Road inventory – Kim said he and Liz finished the inventory for Dutch Hollow creek but has gone no further at this time.
- Marcellus Shale discussion – Kim and Chris updated the group on the comments document developed by a subcommittee of the WQTF consisting of himself, Chris, Bill Boria and Lee Servatius relating to the NYSDEC Draft Supplemental Generic EIS on Horizontal Drilling (...) and submitted to the State.
- New business: Kim was approached by a resident in the Town of Carroll regarding the stream. A walk-thru showed debris and trash disposal behind the school. The resident offered to approach the school and discuss a clean-up project with the school.
- Brown Road – no new activity.
- Warren County Stormwater Management Plan – Jean reported that progress on the plan has slowed but not stopped due to funding issues.

- Warren County Hazardous Mitigation Plan – Jean said the plan has been completed and is ready for review. She has a copy of the draft on CD and will bring next meeting. Comments are due in February.
- Conewango Water Trail – Tom passed around the November issue of Outdoor Life, a national magazine, which included an article about our September clean-up of the Conewango. Tom has met with each of the Townships bordering the Conewango and all are in support of getting it listed as a designated Pa Waterway Trail. All will provide letters of support. Glade Township has a piece of property and is thus far favorable about using it as a public launch site. Tom has been in touch with Chautauqua County Parks and will ask for their support in linking the Marden Cobb Waterway Trail with the Conewango. The next step is to set up public meetings. He is looking at the first part of the new year. He has also talked with the Division of Tourism who will let us use their site for public meetings and possibly help fund advertising. Tom has been approached by the Cornplanter Chapter of Trout Unlimited who are interested in this project. They are considering setting up a Youth Fishing Club which would tie in nicely. Liz added that there is a grant opportunity, found by Jean, which is willing to fund a large grant of \$50,000 and several for \$8,000 that will “preserve, protect, or provide access to the great outdoors” through Redwood Creek Wine Company in California. Liz offered to write the grant. Liz made the motion to apply for the grant. Chris seconded. Motion passed.
- Website – Liz will present next month.
- NYSDEC Draft Supplemental Generic EIS on Horizontal Drilling (Marcellus Shale) - Chris requested CCWA send a letter of support on this important issue. The group strongly agreed. Tom made a motion to send a letter of support. Liz seconded. Motion passed.
- Presentation – Chris shared that she invited Mr. DeForest Warn to archive his area historical slides and pictures with the CCWA but that he was reluctant because some did not belong to him. The Association does however have a CD of the presentation.
- Hatch Run Clean-up – Tom has postponed until spring. Kim added that some people are thinking of organizing a local lake-area clean-up around Earth Day. It might be good to coordinate a watershed clean-up. Jeff suggested planning for it in early April before the nettles are out.
- Capacity Building Grant – The committee went to the interview for the grant and it went very well. We should be hearing soon. There were 11 applications.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Chautauqua County Comprehensive Plan – Chris and Rick reported that consultants Wallace, Roberts, and Todd have been hired to write the new County Comprehensive Plan. They are looking for input from many areas but also from 20 subcommittees that have been set up. Chris and Rick shared that they are chairs for two of the committees, environment/waste and waterways respectively. They invited board members to participate.
- Rain Barrel Fundraiser. – Liz wants to repeat the fundraiser and to coordinate it with WCCD’s tree sale. A motion to spend the funds to purchase the barrels was made by Chris and seconded by Tom. Motion passed.
- RCAP Solutions – guest Jeff Allio introduced himself and explained about his organization. He said he has spent many years working locally and feels there is an opportunity in Conewango Township to inventory the onlot sewage systems. Jeff hopes to work with high school students to get and map the data. Conewango Township currently has about 175 homes that are not currently sewered. In West Virginia studies like this have led to funding for programs to provide low interest loans to make upgrades in septic systems and implement maintenance programs. Jeff is looking ahead to the possibility of getting a WREN grant which involves the partnership of a local government and a non profit organization. Although this is on a micro-watershed level, work of this nature could be expanded to encompass a watershed. Jeff will continue discussions with the CCWA.
- Natural Gas Drilling Study – Wes reported that Penn Soil RC&D has been invited by USGS to partner research on the potential effects of natural gas production in the Allegheny Forest through water quality monitoring. Penn Soil RC&D is to be an intermediary between the USGS and the Allegheny National Forest.

The next meeting is set for January 12th at 9:00 am at the Sewer District in Celoron.

Liz made a motion to adjourn. Steve seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Humphrey