

MINUTES
CONEWANGO CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING
March 10, 2009

PRESENT:

Directors: Dan Steward, Liz Dropp, Dick Burlingame, Steve Kimball, Larry Bourne, and Chris Humphrey.
Watershed Specialist: Jean Gomory

Dan called the meeting to order at the South & Center Sewer District, Celoron at 9:15am with a quorum.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Tom Osborne

MINUTES: The January minutes with corrections noted last month were accepted by a motion from Liz with Steve seconding. All were in favor. Chris stated the motions made in February were passed with an electronic vote after the meeting. Larry made a motion to accept the minutes with Steve seconding. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Liz reported receiving the check for the dry hydrants project in the amount of \$3000, and one membership. The checking account is at \$5418.24 and the savings at \$1344.24. Larry made the motion to accept the treasure's report subject to audit. Steve seconded. Motion carried.

REPORT OF AUDIT: The audit committee met prior to the meeting and reviewed the books. Dan submitted a report stating that al records seem to be in order and there were no discrepancies found. A motion to accept the Audit Committee's report was made by Chris and seconded by Steve. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Chris read an article submitted by Kim regarding salamander migration in another part of New York. Liz submitted an article printed in the Warren Times by Jean describing CCWA's riparian planting and rain garden.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Larry made a motion to continue with the same slate of officers for this year. Steve seconded. There were no other nominations. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY TOM OSBURNE ON SALAMDER MIGRATION IN RUSSELL:

Tom told us there is a large salamander migration every spring on the Big 4 Road in Russell. He has been observing this for years and sharing it with local children. He has counted 11 species of salamanders. Many get run over every year by cars. Driven to return to the wet area of their birth to reproduce, they must cross a 400 foot section of the road. He is approaching us to ask for assistance in devising a protection plan.

Liz will accompany Tom to the Town meeting this evening to discuss the possibility of closing the road during the evening migration. The group felt it was a great opportunity for us to educate and to assist and possibly obtain a small grant to establish a road crossing for next year. Liz made the motion to form a committee to work on this project. Chris seconded. All were in favor. The committee will consist of Liz, Jean, Tom and Chris.

Tom went on to explain that there are some old dumpsites along that stretch of road and is sponsoring a clean-up day. There is already a group formed to clean up the Allegheny River from the dam to Tidioute via a canoe trek on September 15th and 19th. There are to be prizes for various collections of trash. They have a website: alleghenyrivercleanup.com. Tom wants to do the same along the Conewango from the livery to the mall on the 10th and 11th. Chris made a motion to be a sponsor to the Conewango Creek Clean-up Campaign in September, details to be determined. Liz seconded. All were in favor.

Tom had one last point he wanted to discuss with the group concerning the lack of public boat launches along the Conewango in Warren. He has already sought out several elected officials. Perhaps we could be of influence.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Curator's Report – Kim is ill and could not attend but the group had reviewed his report online. Chris reported that JoAnn did not feel that she needed a separate letter of support in applying for continued funding for the Curator's position. She has submitted the application and will let us know.
- Letters of Support of the Sewer districts Projects – Chris relayed appreciation from the Sewer Districts for the support letters. She reported that work on submitting these projects to various places is ongoing. Support has come from the other Environmental groups and from the Towns.
- Warren County Ag Day – Sat, March 28th. Liz reported she has the table, has made the reservation, and has some volunteers. She passed around the sign-up sheet.
- Computer Equipment – will be tabled until next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Directors – Chris opened a discussion about possibly replacing some directors. Several members offered to talk with them prior to our taking any action. Suggestions for replacements were Tom Osborne and Gary Barton.
- WCCD – They are temporarily moving to facilities in the old State hospital until their new building is finished. Liz relayed that they would like to discontinue our 800 phone number at least during this temporary displacement. There hasn't been much use on it. Chris made a motion to discontinue the 800 phone line at this time. Liz seconded. All were in favor.
- Allegany Nature Pilgrimage – Liz said the Audubon asked us to set up our display for the weekend at their event. In May. We will need volunteers to sit with it. She will get more information.
- Chris reported the progress on GIS in the County. It does now seem the County's GIS will have a subwatershed layer.
- Chris asked the group to think about finding grant funds to complete one of the projects submitted for bed tax monies that was not chosen for funding. It would be very good publicity.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, April 14th at 9:00 at the Sewer districts.

Larry made a motion to adjourn. Steve seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Humphrey