

MINUTES
CONEWANGO CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING
October 13, 2009

PRESENT:

Directors: Liz Dropp, Dan Steward, Tom Osborne, Larry Bourne, Steve Kimball, Dick Burlingame, and Chris Humphrey.

Watershed Curator: Kim Sherwood

Member: Annette Strauser

Dan opened the meeting at the South & Center Sewer District, Celoron, at 9:14am with a quorum. Introductions were made.

MINUTES: August Minutes: Kim made the following correction: under New Business, NW Pa Nutrient Reduction Project, "1 and ½" should read "1 ½ ". Larry moved to accept the August Minutes with the correction. Liz seconded. All were in favor. September minutes: Kim noted the following error: under Updates, Curator's Report, second line "f or" should be changed to "for." He also corrected in the third line same report, "IDA" should read "PED" committee. Liz moved to accept the September Minutes as corrected with Dick making the second. All were in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Liz reported she has transferred the balance of money from the former accounts to the new bank accounts. It will show on next month's report. There was membership income, donation, and rain barrel income. Expenses were for new checks and checkbook cover. Chris made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Steve seconded. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Liz received a letter from the Forest Service thanking the CCWA and its members for the Conewango clean-up.

UPDATES:

- Curator's Report – Kim gave his summary of the September report.
- Conewango Creek at Brown Road – Kim summarized the Cattaraugus Co. WQCC's field trip to examine possible solutions to the stagnant area of the Conewango reported to us by Mr. Haffner. Approximately 20 residents attended as well as representatives from Senator Cathy Young and Antoine Thompson's offices. While Brian Davis is researching ideas, Kim pledged to the landowners that the CCWA would work with them throughout the process and urged them to remain patient. The group supported that stance.
- Stream Process Flowchart – Kim and Liz have begun their Road inventories.
- Marcellus Shale – Chris updated the group on the release of the NYS DEC's draft Supplemental GEIS On The Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Regulatory Program specifically in relation to horizontal drilling in the Marcellus Shale Formation. While at first glance it seems that the DEC addressed many of the issues our subcommittee pointed out during the public comment period, due to the length of the draft (800 some pages) it is unclear if those issues have been addressed to the point we had sought. Chris as well as Kim feels it is important that we review the document, and have people reviewing it who are 'experts' in their field. The comment period ends at the end of November. Dan suggested we limit ourselves to those issues of primary concern to us in our area of the country.
- Warren County Stormwater Management Plan – Chris updated the group on the meeting Liz, Kim, Jean, and she attended September 23rd. The consultants HRG presented a basic plan with possible remedial solutions to the Township Supervisors and their engineering firms and asked them to decide how stringent they felt they could or would want to incorporate into the plan with the understanding that individually

they could tighten controls within their own Townships once a basic Plan had been approved. The assembled group asked many questions and our group feels that they are coming onboard through this educational experience. Liz suggested to the Board that we make ourselves available to educate as the process moves along. All were in favor of that suggestion.

Kim left at 10:30

- Warren Dam – The century plus Warren dam has been removed. Approximately 7000 mussels were moved during the process as waters changed levels. No endangered species were found. There have been no reports of problems.
- Salamander Project – No new updates
- Conewango Waterway Trail – Tom spoke with Representative Kathy Dalkemper’s representative who said they would send a letter of support for our project. Tom also reported that the Township of Russell has approved setting aside land and constructing a launch site, and also will do the work themselves. Liz announced that we were not selected as a candidate for the Warren County Community Foundation Grant awards.
- Membership Drive – Liz reported that although the float was not successful probably due to under publicizing, she did receive several new members from the mailing.
- CCWA Website – Liz will demonstrate the website at the next meeting.
- NW Pa Nutrient Reduction Project – nothing new to report.
- Annual Meeting – Chris reported that Mr. DeForest Warn and Tom Erlandson will be giving a power point demonstration from Mr. Warn’s extensive collection of photographs of the changes to the area over the last half century due to the impacts of the population. The date has been set for Tuesday November 10th and the room at the Audubon reserved for \$120. Liz and Chris will discuss publicity. Notices will go electronically and via postal service. Chris was unsure of who was up for reelection but will handle the matter. She did report that Brian had emailed his regrets about not attending more frequently due to his work schedule and his offer to resign. The group wants him to stay as a Director as his input is valuable. Chris made a motion to donate \$25 to the speakers to defray the cost of digitalizing the slides as a move to support their historical preservation. Steve seconded. All were in favor.
- Other – Liz reported on the financial workshop she attended for non-profit organizations. The IRS is developing more stringent requirements for non-profits in order to maintain their tax exempt status. It may affect us when receiving grants. Liz will research this further.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Hatch Run Conservation Area – Tom said he walked the area and saw lots of garbage. He decided to organize a clean-up day, and has enlisted the help of the 4-H Club (about 20 people.) Date will be around Halloween. Liz said our regular liability insurance will cover cleanup volunteers if they cleanup from shore. We can also sign them up as NRCS Earth Team Volunteers for added liability coverage.
- Foundation for Pa Watersheds Grant opportunity – Liz said we were 1 of 30 groups who were invited to try out for a capacity building program. They want 3 to 4 people to commit to involvement for about 6 months. Experts will come in and help us individually build our association in all areas. The value of the grant is estimated at \$25,000. Liz, Tom, and Annette volunteered. The application is due in early November. Larry made a motion to apply for the grant with Steve seconding. All were in favor.

The next meeting is the Annual Meeting on November 10th at 7:00 pm at the Audubon Society. December’s meeting will be the 8th at 9:00 at the South & Center Sewer District

Larry made a motion to adjourn at 11:07. Tom seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Humphrey