

MINUTES
CONEWANGO CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING
January 11, 2011

PRESENT:

Directors: Dan Steward, Liz Dropp, John Hafner, Dick Burlingame, Larry Bourne, Chris Humphrey, Steve Kimball
Watershed Specialist: Jean Gomory
Members: Kim Sherwood, John Gallagher, and JoAnn Curtis
Guests: Kylie Maland

Dan called the meeting to order at 9:16 am at the Sewer District with a quorum.

INTRODUCTIONS: Kylie Maland of the Western Pa Conservancy introduced herself as our new consultant to provide us technical assistance for the Bayer program.

MINUTES: Kim made a correction to the minutes from November under Correspondence stating that the words "Marcellus Shale" were left out. Liz noted that Hazardous Plan should read Hazard Mitigation Plan. A motion to accept the minutes as corrected was made by Larry and seconded by Dick. All were in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Liz presented her year report ending December 31, 2010. There were deposits and expenses leaving a balance of \$4,444.81. Interest was earned on the savings accounts for an ending total balance of \$9,400.45. Chris made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Larry seconded. All were in favor.

9:28 JoAnn arrived.

CORRESPONDENCE: Liz announced that the Conewango is officially accepted into the Pa Fish & Boat Commission as a River Trail. She also shared that the Warren paper wrote an article about the River of the Year award voting.

UPDATES:

- Annual Meeting and Director Elections – The meeting had to be cancelled in December due to severe snow storms. It was decided to reschedule for either January 25th or the 27th at 7:00pm at the Audubon depending on availability. The list of open Director Chairs was discussed. We need someone to fill Tom's vacant seat, Liz will rerun, John H will rerun, Dan tendered his resignation and John G. has offered to take his seat, and Brian has tendered his resignation. Dan is checking on a potential candidate.
- Water Trail – A committee is being formed to evaluate each site, for the grand opening ceremony and to involve members and agencies. John G. offered to head the committee.
- Capacity Building Grant – John and Liz gave an update of their trip to the Blairsville meeting. They shared that it seems that funds will become available for science related projects. We have a potential for submitting for our Salamander project. Also, groups were asked to come up with guidelines for water issues related to Marcellus Shale drilling. They were shown a new computer program called Frac Tracker which identifies drillers according to their past violations and urged groups to educate landowners and the public. They are thinking of offering educational programs to educate the watershed groups to enhance our credibility in the public's eye. We need to decide on our stance on this issue.

10:00 Steve arrived

At the meeting, John met the fellow, Eric, who did the mussel study in the Conewango last summer. It is due to be released shortly. A fish study and bottom mapping of the Conewango is planned for this summer. John would like to involve the public. Kylie shared that she will be looking at our priority issues. She plans to generate maps to highlight where we can be most effective and will help to find funding for some projects. Her involvement will be long term. Kim may give her a watershed tour.

- Rainbarrel project – Jean wants to set a date and make this fundraiser an annual project. She can then send out her bid packet for best pricing. She and Liz will plan.
- Conewango Clean-up – It is time to start planning. Liz and John want to participate with the Allegheny group again and then to expand further on ours. They would like to clean above Frewsburg and again down from there. The normal lower part will be easier this year as it is just maintenance. Liz wants to approach Cummins as a sponsor again. She also wants to involve Chautauqua Lake and the Chadakoin. Steve suggested approaching Lee Harkness and the DJDC. Dan reminded them that John H. wants to clean the upper Conewango. The old committee was reformed with John G. as the chair and Liz, Steve, Jean and Larry members.
- Model Forest Policy Program – JoAnn shared that she got the grant to monitor how climate change affects water quality due to forest change. She has decided to study all of Chautauqua County and will work with the Chautauqua Lake Management Plan. The study will include examining the results of the Emerald Ash Borer. It is a 10 month program. Additionally, through the Conservation Cooperative Practices Initiative, local farmers can apply for a specific pot of money. Rob Halbohm asked to target Clear Creek for bedload and headcutting. He would like to accomplish some stream restoration. JoAnn is applying for funding using the Rapid Watershed Assessment hoping to get funding through NRCS for EQUIP funding for private landowners to stabilize banks and they could then apply for grants for streambank buffer plantings.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Whistleblower Policy – Liz presented a model of this policy and also Document Retention practices for adoption by the Board to protect our non-profit status. JoAnn reassured that these are policies only and not legally binding. The group chose to amend the Document Retention Policy to read that documents may be destroyed rather than must be destroyed. A motion to adopt these two policies with modifications was made by Chris and seconded by Larry. There was no further discussion. All were in favor.
- Sportsmen's Show – Liz reminded that the show at Warren <Mall is this coming weekend. John G. and Liz will man the display. John brought up the issue of amending the membership dues structure. Liz shared that Peggy said we must send a letter to anyone who signs up for new membership. Larry moved that individual membership fees should have three levels of \$20, \$30, and \$40 respectively; Student fees should be changed to \$10; Business dues should become \$100 and the Lifetime membership should be increased to \$200. Dick seconded. All were in favor.
- New Stream Table – JoAnn shared that she purchased a new stream model which very visually replicates stream erosion. It is owned by the NRCS but can be lent out.

The next meeting will be the Annual meeting, date to be announced shortly. The February meeting will be on the 8th at 9:00. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Larry and seconded by Liz at 11:11. All were in favor. Meeting closed.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Humphrey