

MINUTES
CONEWANGO CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2010

PRESENT:

Directors: Liz Dropp, Dick Burlingame, Larry Bourne, John Haffner, Tom Osborne, and Chris Humphrey.
Watershed Curator: Kim Sherwood Watershed Specialist: Jean Gomory
Members: Annette Strasser

Tom opened the meeting at the South & Center Sewer District, Celoron, at 9:06am with a quorum for Dan who needed to leave.

MINUTES: Jean made a correction to last month's minutes under Correspondence, Warren County's article on the Conewango clean-up appeared in their annual report; and that the Coalition of Watersheds should be WINS Coalition, Watershed Improvement Needs. Liz made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. John seconded. All were in favor.

Larry arrived at 9:12.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Liz submitted the report from March showing a \$10 membership deposit and 8 checks for various items in the amount of \$321.30 leaving an ending balance of \$3,347.87. Savings accounts showed only interest additions. Balances are \$1347.92 and \$3603.77. Larry made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted subject to audit. Dick seconded. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Tom read a letter of support from the Warren County Visitor's Bureau regarding the river Trail. He also shared that Bob Casey, US Senator in PA will be sending a letter of support as well. Tom asked that it be sent to Harrisburg in the hopes of reactivating this function of the PA Fish and Boat Commission. We also received brochures from the Foundation for PA Watersheds for the 2010 Watershed Summit in May which Liz, Tom, and Annette will be attending. Liz and Tom are also slated to be speakers.

UPDATES:

- Curator's Report – Kim deferred giving his report orally today in the interest of time.
- Road & Ditch Inventory – Work continues.
- Warren County Stormwater Management Plan – Kim reported that he submitted comments on the proposed Plan and received a response from the County's engineer. We again have an opportunity to comment at the public comment period.
- Warren County Hazard Mitigation Plan – still in draft; no new updates.
- Conewango Creek Water Trail – Tom reported that NY is stocking paddlefish, a species that went extinct in this area in 1919. He also reported the Burbot were discovered in the Conewango, a rarity in rivers. The creek has 71 species of fish. The Brochure committee showed its progress. Jean reported that Eisenhower school did not participate in the logo contest. She said 20 logos were submitted. Judging will be April 20 at the WCCD office. Dick agreed to be one of the judges. Tom reported that launch site work has been very active. The Akeley site is being privately funded. The Boy Scouts submitted a plan for their site at Front Street and want to rename it. The committee told the Board their decision to solicit donations from area businesses and to set up an escrow account to be used for major launch site repairs. Liz agreed to track the funds. Liz reported meeting with a lady from the Western PA conservancy who said there might be a grant available for launch improvements. Tom is attending a Pine Grove Township meeting and will ask to get the sites started.
- NW Pa Nutrient Reduction Grant – Liz reported that Wes received a Growing Greener grant of \$75,000 (applied for \$250,000) which can be used as a match for the Federal grant.
- Capacity Building Grant – Tom and Liz are meeting tomorrow morning with Peggy on our organizational list, partner list, issues and speaker topics for the watershed meeting.

- Rainbarrel project – Liz found there were no new orders so she cancelled the order for more barrels.
- Raingarden – Jean contacted EPA but they have no information yet on the grant.
- RC Solution s- no news.

Other:

- Kim discussed cutting back on his active participation in other organizations now that his funding is depleted.
- Audubon grant – Chris reported that the Audubon has a grant opportunity they would partner with us on to do an environmental project. The thought is to do some work on the salamander crossing.
- Redwood Creek Grant – Liz reported we did not get the Redwood Creek grant.
- T shirts – no update.
- Canoe Race – Tom reported the race is scheduled for July 24th. We can have a booth in Point Park. The group discussed raffling a kayak. Liz will look into permit requirements. The money could be put toward upkeep of the River Trail. Offer memberships on the side. Other prizes could be raffled such as Dick's duck carving. Chris made a motion to rent a booth at the race. Liz and Dick seconded. All were in favor. Chris made a motion to purchase a kayak for the raffle grand prize. Larry seconded. All were in favor.
- Newsletter – Annette asked for ideas for a newsletter.
- Priority issues for the grant – Liz passed around the results. The group thanked Liz and Wes for their efforts.
- Travel expenses – Chris made a motion to use the capacity grant funds to finance Liz, Tom and Annette's travel expenses to the watershed conference. Larry seconded. Vote was unanimous. Larry made a motion for Liz, Tom and Annette to attend the 2010 Watershed Summit. Dick seconded. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Conflict of Interest – Nothing new.
- Trout and Clean Streams Expo – Liz reported that about 150 people attended and that we got interest at the booth.
- Alleghany Nature Pilgrimage – Liz is looking for volunteers.
- Other – Tom reported that Piper Lindell from Alleghany Outfitters wants to create an Upper Alleghany Watershed organization. The group suggested meeting with her privately to discuss.
- Green Garden Expo – Kim explained the upcoming event at JCC and that he signed us up as an exhibitor. He asked for volunteers to man the display.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 11th at 9:00am at the Sewer District in Celoron. Larry made a motion to adjourn. Liz seconded. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Humphrey