

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Minutes
Meeting of February 17, 2004

The **meeting was opened** by President John Strittmatter with the Pledge to the Flag. Twenty members were present, plus about half a dozen visitors from PA DEP and the Game Commission.

The **minutes** of the meeting of Jan. 20, 2004 were approved unanimously on a motion by Brian Rabish seconded by Ray Hollen.

Dana Krach of PA DEP, accompanied by Tim Kania and Miles Baird, presented a report and discussion on development of a **Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Brubaker Run**. A load is the quantity of a contaminant flowing past a given point over a given time, i.e. pounds of iron per day passing a sampling point on the stream, and is calculated by multiplying flow by concentration. A TMDL is calculated as the maximum load of various contaminants that can enter a stream without making it unsuitable for fishing, swimming or other recreational uses. The levels of iron, manganese, aluminum, alkalinity, and various other toxic substances are set at levels that will allow the desired type of activity 99% of the time, including periods of low flow. Brubaker Run is highly contaminated with acid drainage from abandoned mines, and is therefore considered impaired. Only small allowable loads of iron, aluminum and manganese are allowed above the amounts entering from the permitted discharges of the Bender and Cooney treatment systems. In the upper and middle section of the stream, 95 to 100% of the metals currently in the stream must be removed to meet the TMDL's. The establishment of the TMDL's on Brubaker Run gives additional priority for obtaining funding for remediation of the clay mine and other discharges in Brubaker Run. The draft report is on the DEP website at www.dep.state.pa.us/watermanagement_apps/tmdl/. Comments should be submitted before March 31, 2004 to Miles Baird at the DEP office in Ebensburg.

Following the presentation, extensive questions and discussion took place.

The **Treasurer** presented the following report:

During the month of January, the following activity took place in the bank accounts:

=====

Regular Account

Beginning Balance, January 1 st	\$3,416.07
<u>Expenses:</u>	
None	
<u>Deposits:</u>	
Dues	320.00
Bank interest	0.15
Ending Balance, January 31 st	\$3,836.22

Dues for Deposit at 1/31/04: \$0

Grant Account

	<u>GRANT</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>GRANT</u>	<u>Accrued Interest</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Beg Balance, Jan 1 st	\$ 0.00	\$1,000	\$ 452.00	\$29.87	\$1,481.87
<u>Expenses:</u> None					
<u>Deposits:</u> Bank interest				0.07	.06
End Balance, Jan 31 st	\$ 0.00	\$1,000	\$ 452.00	\$29.93	\$1,481.93

Other Business:

1. Klondike Grant (2003 DEP Growing Greener) – Funds not yet received.
 2. A second \$2,500 surveying invoice from George Cree was received; a total of \$5,000 is due for payment, pending receipt of Klondike project grant money.
- =====

A \$2571 check for advance of funds on the Klondike Mine Growing Greener grant was received from DEP the day before the meeting. Earl Smithmyer moved, seconded by Larry Sutton, that the first \$2500 installment on the Cree Surveying bill be paid. Unanimously approved. Checks for donations of \$70 from the Ashville VFW Park Fund and \$300 from their Memorial Fund were received for the Fishing Derby. Payment of \$68.90 bill for printing of Fish Derby raffle tickets was approved.

The **Secretary** had nothing to report.

Bob Funicelli reported for the **Membership Committee** that we had 100 members to date for 2004.

For the **Publicity Committee**, Pat McNulty reported no new newspaper coverage, but a TV reporter-camera person for Channel 6 in Johnstown was toured through Brubaker Run by Earl Smithmyer before the meeting, took photos during the TMDL presentation, and interviewed Arthur Rose on Brubaker Run. Excerpts were shown on the evening news.

For the **Historical Committee**, Alene Smithmyer reported on articles on the Bush proposal for the Abandoned Mineland Fund, and on the "Biggest Boney (coal refuse) Burner".

No activity was reported for the **Finance Committee**.

For the **Tech Committee**, Arthur Rose reported that the Growing Greener proposal for construction of two treatment systems and a stream restoration at the Klondike mine was nearly complete, and will be submitted before the March 5 deadline. A nearly final budget request of \$397,360 was briefly described. In addition, a \$43,530 in kind match by the Watershed Association is included. Major components of the match are the time of Association members Arthur Rose, Larry Sutton, Earl Smithmyer and others for supervision, inspection and management (\$15,000), and the donation of land rights by Blair County Solid Waste, Cooney Brothers and the Hite-Dobson family (\$25,500). Members and/or local youth will be recruited to plant small wetlands at the outflow of the systems. A proposed land agreement was presented to Blair County Solid Waste and is being considered by them.

Rose requested local members to obtain the Land Development and Stormwater Management Ordinance from Dean and Gallitzin Townships. A future meeting with Township Supervisors is anticipated. Also, letters of support will be solicited from the Townships by Earl Smithmyer, and from the Fish Commission. Letters were promised by Michael DiMatteo of the Game Commission and Beth Dillon of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. E-mail messages will be sent to Representative Haluska and Senator Wozniak requesting their support.

It was moved by Ed McMullen and seconded by Stephanie Wharton that the completed proposal be signed by President Strittmatter and submitted to DEP. Approved unanimously.

On the Brubaker Run project, the Phase I feasibility report by ATS Engineers is undergoing revisions. A meeting in Baltimore to present and discuss this report is anticipated but has not been scheduled. It is unclear whether Steve Garbarino will visit our March meeting as previously planned.

The **election of a director** for the Association then took place, to replace Dennis Storm whose 3-year term is expiring. Ray Hollen and Dennis Storm had been nominated at the previous meeting. Ballots were passed out to all members present. Ballots were counted by member Pat Dumm and visitor Beth Dillon. The vote was 12 for Hollen and 6 for Storm. Ray Hollen was declared the new Director.

Earl Smithmyer reported on the **Fishing Derby**. The fish have been ordered, and prizes of fishing rods have been arranged. Camp Hollow Maple is donating a prize, as is Bob Mooney. 2500 raffle tickets at \$1 each have been printed as a joint venture with the Laurel Run Sportsman's Club and will be distributed to members to sell.

A copy of the 3-volume Clearfield Creek **Assessment Report** by Melius and Hockenberry and the Cambria and Clearfield County Conservation Districts was displayed. Bryan Rabish agreed to give a presentation on the report at the March meeting.

Earl Smithmyer suggested the following dates for road and stream cleanups: April 4, June 6, August 8 and Oct. 10. On a motion by Dennis storm seconded by Ray Hollen, these dates were unanimously approved.

Larry Sutton pointed out that the **ByLaws** indicate we should advertise our elections in the newspaper. After discussion, Larry moved that the directors should change the Bylaws to require 10 days written notice to members prior to elections. After a second by Ray Hollen, the motion was approved unanimously. A directors' meeting will be held prior to next month's meeting, if possible.

The **next meeting** is scheduled for March 16 in the St. Thomas Church, Ashville, at 6:30 PM. On a motion by Bryan Rabish, the meeting was adjourned for Alene's delicious refreshments and discussion.