

**CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
MEETING OF MARCH 21, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by President Earl Smithmyer with the pledge to the flag. There were 19 members present. There were no new members or guests present. On a **motion** by Dick Dotts and seconded by Ray Hollen the minutes from February 21, 2006 were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

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Regular Account

Beginning Balance, February 1 st , 2006	\$4,133.91
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Deed copies (Amsbry)	(4.50)
<u>Deposits:</u>	
Dues	165.00
Donation	179.00
Little Laurel Grant payment – volunteer time	50.00
Bank interest	0.16
Ending Balance, February 28 th , 2006	<u>\$4,523.57</u>

Money Held for Deposit at 2/28/06: \$10

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Grant Account

Beginning Balance, February 1 st , 2006	\$2,014.02
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Project costs:	
KL1 (Growing Greener)	778.61
KL2 (EPA)	0.00
KL-Rose	0.00
Brubaker	1,079.00
Little Laurel Restoration	0.00
Fish Fund	89.04
Heinz Grant	<u>0.00</u>
	(1,946.65)
<u>Deposits:</u>	
New Grant Awards Received	0.00
Grant Expense Reimbursement – Little Laurel Run	3,300.00
Bank interest	<u>.21</u>
Ending Balance, February 28 th , 2006	<u>\$3,367.58</u>

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Respectfully submitted,
Larry Sutton
Treasurer

Larry reported that he had the following bills for payment: Ace Drilling Project-Mahaffey Lab-\$125.00 (regular account), POWR-annual insurance premium for liability insurance-\$230.00 (general account), Jerry McMullen-\$7.88-purchase of stamps (general account), and U.S. Environmental Research Service-\$4,000.00-mapping work on the Brubaker Project (Brubaker Grant Account)

Larry also reported that he had the following for deposit: \$100.00 from the Ashville Bass Club, \$250.00 from the Laurel Run Sportsmen Club, \$500.00 from the Allegheny Mountains Chapter SCI. This money will be deposited in the fishing fund. In addition there was \$140.00 of dues for deposit and a \$1,050.00 check from DEP for reimbursement on the KLI grant. A **motion** made by Dan McMullen and seconded by Bob Funicelli was passed accepting the treasurer's report and for payment of the bills.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Jerry McMullen reported that he has been working on the membership cards he has received. At this time there are 108 members.

Membership Committee:

Bob Funicelli reported that he is continuing to solicit new members. Several memberships were given to Secretary McMullen.

Public Relations and Historical Committee:

Ray Hollen, Jerry McMullen, Dick and Mabel Dotts had all brought in newspaper articles for Alene. Alene reported that all articles will be added to the historical book.

Finance Report:

Larry stated that he had nothing else to report, at this time.

Tech Committee:

The following tech report was submitted and discussed by Art Rose, chairman of the tech committee:

Tech Committee Report

KLONDIKE PROJECT

All required revisions to the E&S plan were submitted to the Cambria County Conservation District by John Foreman and we have verbal indication that the plan is approved. On the Joint Permit application ("Wetland permit"), a letter with 6 items, all minor, was received from the State. These items have been discussed and revisions have been submitted. We await approval letters from the State and the Corps of Engineers. The Highway Occupancy Permit was extended for 6 months. We will now turn to preparation for bidding.

BRUBAKER PROJECT

About two and a half days were spent by Foreman and Rose on compiling mine maps, geology and drilling. On March 3rd, Rose met in the field with Art Hamley, Michael Kammerdiener (forester) and Steve Kirsch (local foreman) of the PA Game Commission. Drill sites were visited and the construction of roads and drill pads was arranged. The Game Commission will have a logger prepare the roads and drill sites in return for cutting some trees from the upper area near Dougherty. This work should be done by May in preparation for drilling.

AMSBRY PROJECT

An access agreement was received from Attorney Bill Barbin. After a phone conversation with Mr. Larue, the agreement was sent to the Larues for their consideration. The agreement provides that CCWA will receive any access payments for the coal refuse, and will use these for the combined Amsbry-Ferris Wheel project, with no more than \$5,000.00 going to the Ferris Wheel site. We will hold harmless the Larues from any problems with the project, in part by preparing and submitting a Good Samaritan agreement to DEP, plus installing a locked gate on the access road and checking the site periodically for trash dumping. To the extent that funds permit, we will install a pond and limestone channel for the AM-5 discharge in order to decrease the acid flow into Clearfield Creek. Full treatment will await future funding.

FERRIS WHEEL PROJECT

The Growing Greener proposal for \$77,402.00 plus \$28,890.00 of in-kind support and match was submitted to DEP on about February 28.

GLASGOW TREATMENT SYSTEM

No further work was done on this system. Comments on the draft Hedin Environmental report were sent to Bob Hedin. Flushing should be repeated in the near future, and we should investigate surface property ownership. Plans for draining pond 2 and small-scale investigations were discussed. Art will develop a plan for this, and possible funding sources.

BLANDBURG TREATMENT PLANT

No activity on this plant. It is understood that a proposal for the Bear Loop Run inflow has been submitted by the Altoona Water Authority.

WEST BRANCH CITIZENS GROUP

At a meeting of this group on March 14, Deputy Director Tom Beaudry of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission described an important project that may lead to significant funding for acid drainage treatment in this region. SRBC needs additional flow to meet water quality requirements for Chesapeake Bay during low-flow periods, to account for agricultural water use. SRBC and DEP are collaborating on a proposal to build a new treatment plant on the West Branch for the potential Barnes-Watkins discharge. The current flow from the Duman plant into the Ohio River Drainage will be sent to the new plant and “surged” to provide added water from the mine pool during low flow. The plant will be funded by a trust proposed to be set up from money appropriated by the Legislature. At least one other plant will be funded, using water from one or more of the large underground mine pools in the region. The SRBC and DEP hope that additional such treatment plants can be funded from charges to consumptive water users. Ten sites are being investigated as possible sites for such plants, and several are in the Clearfield Creek watershed.

Letters of support to local legislators from CCWA and other groups are desirable to improve the chances of legislative approval of the appropriation. This plan might lead to treatment of several very large discharges in the watershed. A **motion** by Art Rose and seconded by Dick Dotts was passed to move that the CCWA write to local representatives and senators in support of this local treatment plant. The letter will also be available to members for sending individual letters.

Fish Maps

A map of fishing conditions in the north half of the watershed was obtained by Jen Demchak and will be combined with the previous map of the southern half.

Susquehanna West Branch Restoration Coalition

This group announced that a symposium will be held on May 12th at University Park, Penn State Conference Center. Talks and exhibits will be presented mainly on acid mine drainage and cleanup of the west branch. It was suggested that the CCWA display poster be taken for an exhibit.

Old Business:

Fishing Derby Tickets- President Smithmyer reported that he has lots of tickets left to sell. If any member can sell some tickets please contact Earl.

Sampling and Flushing- Ace Drilling Site: Earl has done this sampling and flushing for the first quarter. Malcolm Crittenden has given Earl a key for this site. Earl will continue to do this for the next quarter, probably in June.

Letters of Support-Ferris Wheel/Amsbry Project- Earl would like to see some sort of a letter drafted by CCWA asking for support on these two projects. This letter could then be presented at the local township meetings. Earl and Jerry are to work on drafting such a letter.

Grant for Glasgow Project- Art agreed to take a look at the plan to see exactly what we will need for this project. Brian Rabish recommended that we try to find funding to support this project.

Roadway/Stream Cleanup- all members are reminded that we will be doing our first cleanup of the year on Sunday, April 9th, 9AM, Laurel Run Sportsman in Dysart. Since we will be doing both the roadway and stream, we are asking for lots of volunteers to help make this cleanup a success. Earl stated that anyone working on the stream will have to sign a waiver required by PA Cleanways. A **motion** by Ray Hollen and seconded by Dave McMullen was passed authorizing Earl to spend up to \$125.00 for soda and food for the luncheon for the cleanup.

New Business:

Weirs- Earl reported that some weir work needs to be done on Brubaker stream. One of the weirs on the upper end of the stream will have to be put back in place and the weir at the bottom end of the stream is washed out. It was also reported that the weir on the lower end of Little Laurel has washed out, once again. There was a discussion as to the need for a larger weir and perhaps another site for this weir. The two weirs on the upper end of the stream are in good shape.

Klondike site- Earl reported that we need to cut off and widen the roadway and access area into the Klondike site. A group of volunteers was meeting at Earl's house, 8AM on March 26th.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting-April 18, 2006, Prince Gallitzin State Park, Park Office, 6:30 PM.

Adjournment: On a **motion** by Dan McMullen and seconded by Ed McMullen the meeting was adjourned.

Listed below are the address for the local representatives that Art would like all members to write to in support of the mine drainage treatment systems. Also, there is a sample letter that can be used.

Senator Robert Jubelirer
Senate Box 203030
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3030

Senator Donald C. White
Senate Box 203041
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3041

Senator Jake Corman
Senate Box 203034
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3034

Representative Gary Haluska
114 Irvis Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Representative Richard Geist
Main Capitol Building, Room 144
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Representative Lynn B. Herman
Room 45, East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Representative Camille George
38B East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

March 22, 2006

Senator John Wozniak
Senate Box 203035
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3035

Dear Senator Wozniak:

Several of our members recently attended a briefing by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission about a proposal by SRBC and PA DEP to construct one or more mine drainage treatment systems to increase the flow of the West Branch of the Susquehanna during low-flow periods. This proposal would have the multiple benefits of compensating for consumptive use by agriculture, and treating acid mine drainage. The first of these systems would be on the Barnes-Watkins site near Barnesboro where the mine pool blew out and devastated the upper West Branch about 35 years ago. Another system might be elsewhere in our vicinity, possibly in our Clearfield Creek Watershed.

We are strongly in favor of this plan. In addition to the benefits mentioned above, it would be a model for possible future projects to augment low flow, paid for by water-consuming industries such as power plants. Such projects open a new frontier for solving some of the major acid drainage problems from abandoned mines in the region.

We strongly urge you to support this important initiative, which will help both farmers and the streams in our region.

Sincerely yours,