

**CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
MEETING OF APRIL 18, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by President Earl Smithmyer with the pledge to the flag. There were 14 members and 3 guests present. On a **motion** by Dan McMullen and seconded by Ray Hollen the minutes from March 21, 2006 were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

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Regular Account

Beginning Balance, March 1 st , 2006	\$4,523.57
<u>Expenses:</u>	
Stamps	(7.88)
Annual liability insurance	(230.00)
Lab Analysis – ACE Drilling Project	(125.00)
<u>Deposits:</u>	
Dues	140.00
Donation	20.00
Bank interest	0.19
Ending Balance, March 31 st , 2006	<u>\$4,320.88</u>

Money Held for Deposit at 3/31/06: \$0

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Grant Account

Beginning Balance, March 1 st , 2006	\$3,367.58
<u>Expenses:</u>	
<u>Project costs:</u>	
KL1 (Growing Greener)	0.00
KL2 (EPA)	0.00
KL-Rose	0.00
Brubaker	4,000.00
Fish Fund	0.00
Heinz Grant	<u>0.00</u>
	(4,000.00)
<u>Deposits:</u>	
New Grant Awards Received	0.00
Grant Reimbursement – KL1 Project	1,050.00
Fish Derby – Ticket Sales	280.00
Fish Derby – Donations	850.00
Bank interest	<u>.54</u>
Ending Balance, March 31 st , 2006	<u>\$1,548.12</u>

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Respectfully submitted, Larry Sutton, Treasurer

Due to another commitment treasurer Larry Sutton was unable to attend the April meeting. The above treasurer's report was presented by Secretary Jerry McMullen. On a **motion** by Ray Hollen and seconded by Ed McMullen the treasurer's report was accepted and the following bills were approved: Mahaffey Labs- \$150.00 (general account), water testing on Little Laurel Run, U.S. Environmental Research Service- \$1,750.00 (Brubaker Grant) mapping on the Brubaker Project. Alene Smithmyer was reimbursed \$89.72 for roadway cleanup expenses (approved at March's meeting).

Jerry also reported that he had the following donations for deposit in the fish fund: \$300.00-Coal Car Saloon, \$100.00-Standing Stone Bassmasters, \$25.00-Slovikosky Excavating, \$125.00- an anonymous donor, \$25.00- Knights of Columbus (Fallentimber) and \$214.00, ticket money. There was also \$20.00 in dues for deposit, \$1,079.00 reimbursement for Brubaker expenses, \$123.79 reimbursement on Klondike I Growing Greener Grant.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Jerry McMullen had very little to report. He had received a \$20.00 donation from Roy Holtz for the fishing derby. This money will be used to purchase prizes for the derby.

Membership Committee:

Bob Funicelli reported that he had two renewal memberships and continues to solicit members. Honorary memberships were given to the 6 students from Bucknell University who spent a day working at the Brubaker site with Professor Geoff Moret. We want to thank these fine young students for their hard work.

Public Relation: There was nothing new to report at this time.

Historical Committee:

Alene Smithmyer reported that she had 4 newspaper articles to add to the historical book. Ray Hollen cut out 2 articles on The Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and the need for Congress to act on this fund. Jerry presented an article on the fear of flooding in the Northern Cambria area with the additional water from the Barnes 15 discharged into the Susquehanna Watershed. Alene had an article on the success story of Glen White Run and its ability to hold trout. The Federal government and various groups have been working on cleaning up this stream for the past 14 years.

Finance Report: Nothing 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

Requested revisions were submitted to DEP for the "Wetlands" permit, but no response has yet been received. Drafts of the bidding, contract and tech specs are being reviewed by Foreman and Rose.

BRUBAKER PROJECT

The Game Commission has constructed the roads and drill sites to the three proposed locations, though the drill pads may have to be enlarged in order to drill all holes proposed. Another series of geophysical surveys was conducted by students from Bucknell Univ. under the direction of Geoff Moret. Results are not yet available.

Several days have been spent by Foreman and Rose in compilation of maps of the mines, clay and coal horizons and past drilling. All drill hole data has been plotted and an initial correlation of beds has been achieved. A draft of a contract with Foreman has been prepared and discussed. Foreman has submitted a bill for the past month. Drilling is planned in the next two months.

Rose inspected the weirs in the upper Brubaker valley. Sampling of the stream at the new upstream weir and other sites should be conducted in the next month or two to evaluate the amount of acid coming from the "Highland Fling" branch of Brubaker Run.

FERRIS WHEEL PROJECT

Shawn Simmers attended a meeting of the Blair County Solid Waste Authority on April 11. They expressed their support for the project. Shawn submitted support letters to DEP.

AMSBRY PROJECT

A letter from the property owner was received indicating that they were planning to sell the property, and did not want to go ahead with the agreement to remove the coal refuse. Discussions have been held with Jeff Holtz and Robindale Energy to handle this unexpected problem.

GLASGOW PASSIVE TREATMENT SYSTEMS

A second draft of the Hedin Environmental Report was reviewed and the final version is expected to be received shortly. It supplies costs of several phases of the project. Rose flushed the two ponds on April 4. Pond 1 flushed a considerable amount of aluminum, and Pond 2 flushed better than the first time. Phase 1 of treatment improvement would involve short-circuiting flow around Pond 2 with an hour's backhoe work, draining Pond 2, and excavating the compost and limestone in several places with a backhoe to determine the cause of plugging and plan further work on the system.

WEST BRANCH RESTORATION COALITION

At a meeting on April 11, Smithmyer and Rose described the fish maps being prepared for Clearfield Creek, and suggested that other watershed groups may want to compile similar information. A research study of stream chemistry vs. fish health was suggested to aid in planning for cleanup of streams in the region, including the West Branch.

The Coalition will conduct the "West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium II" on May 12, 2006 in State College. Eleven talks will be presented on various aspects of restoration applicable in the region - examples of stream restoration, fish health, passive treatment methods. Cost of the conference is \$15 for members of non-profits or students, but scholarships are available to allow free attendance by watershed members and the like. Exhibits are also possible. Brian Rabish is to take our poster display to the symposium.

FISH MAP

The fish map is largely complete.

Old Business:

Fishing Derby- President Smithmyer reported that he still has lots of tickets left to sell. He would appreciate anyone who can help sell some tickets. A **motion** by Ed McMullen and seconded by Dave McMullen was passed authorizing the purchase of prizes for the fishing derby by Laurel Run Sportsman and the reimbursement to the Sportsman for these prizes.

Weirs-Brubaker and Little Laurel- it was reported that the weir on the bottom end of Little Laurel will have to be replaced again. There was a discussion as to the size and location of this weir and the need to stake the weir in place. A work date to set this weir is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3rd, 6 PM at Route 53 and Beldin Hollow road. There was also discussion as to whether a staff gauge could be placed under the highway bridge to measure the water flow.

New Business:

Jen Demchak & Rachael Kester-Jen & Rachael had a very informative presentation of the Restoration Plan for Morgan Run. They discussed the tasks of assessment and prioritization process for the 10 discharges to be addressed to restore 10 miles of stream. They have received 4 grants for these sites and have applied for 2 others. We want to thank them for their presentation and wish them the best of luck in their efforts to clean up a tributary to Clearfield Creek.

Grant Committee: President Smithmyer would like to see a grant committee formed to apply for various grants to assist CCWA in some of the smaller projects that we are working on. Members asked to serve on this committee were Ed McMullen, Dan McMullen, Brian Rabish, Shawn Simmers, Jerry McMullen and Ray Hollen. John Forman and Jen Demchak both volunteered to help in any way that they can.

Michelle Shetler- Environmental Education Specialist- for Prince Gallitzin State Park talked to the members present about the cleanup scheduled at the Park on Saturday, April 22nd. She also expressed the idea by Barry Wolfe, Park Manager, of a collaborative project between Prince Gallitzin State Park and CCWA. Mr. Wolfe is very open to ideas for this project. Subjects discussed were an educational project or an outreach project. Please contact President Smithmyer with your ideas and volunteer for this project. Michelle also made a presentation on the shoreline erosion at the Park. She passed out a pamphlet on this subject and had photos of the erosion of the shoreline near the main marina. All were amazed by the erosion caused by the wind in this area.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting, Laurel Run Sportsman, Dysart, 6:30 PM. Please note the location change to Laurel Run Sportsman, Dysart.

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,