

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Minutes, meeting of June 17, 2003

The meeting was **called to order** by President John Strittmatter at 6:25 PM at the Laurel Run Sportsmans Club, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Approximately 18 members were present, plus 8 visitors from the Corps of Engineers and their contractor.

The first part of the meeting was devoted to a presentation by Steve Garbarino of the US Army Corps of Engineers on the **Brubaker Run project**. A field visit to the clay mine site on Brubaker Run was conducted earlier, during the afternoon. The visit marked the initiation of the Feasibility Study phase of the project, for which federal funds were approved in January 2003. Mr. Garbarino's presentation is summarized on a handout distributed to the group.

The Feasibility Study will investigate and evaluate all reasonable solutions to the acid drainage problems in the Brubaker Run watershed. A solution will be selected and design will be carried through to the point that costs can be forecast. The resulting draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment will be furnished to CCWA for comment and concurrence. This step is expected in May 2004. The preliminary plan by CCWA for financing its 35% share of the costs will be formulated by CCWA and reviewed by the C of E for inclusion in the Report. Total costs are currently estimated as \$4.525 million, giving a CCWA share of about \$1.6 million. Late in the Feasibility Study phase, estimated to be in late 2004, a draft Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) will be prepared for approval by CCWA. After signing this document and legally committing to the project, contributions by CCWA will count toward its share of the costs. The Feasibility Study will be followed by a Detailed Design phase, and start of construction in approximately August 2005.

The representatives at the meeting from the C of E and its contractor are as follows:
Steven Garbarino, Project Manager, 410-962-6114, steve.d.garbarino@usace.army.mil
Thomas Colozza, Design Team Leader (geologist), USACE
Adam Oestreich, Project Real Estate Specialist, USACE
Michael Martyn, Civil Engineer, USACE
Erika Mark, Biologist, USACE
Heidi Cherry, Hydraulic Engineer, USACE
Lawrence Owoputi, Project Manager (Hydrologist), Advanced Technology Systems
Andrew Stern, Project Engineer (Mining Engineer/Geologist), Advanced Technology Systems.

Questions and discussion after the presentation focused on the CCWA contribution and the timing of this. CCWA members pointed out that for a Growing Greener proposal, information on plans and costs is needed by early January 2004 in order to submit a good proposal for the annual deadline in early February. The C of E indicated that an effort would be made to have plans and costs available at that time. The PCA Agreement would be signed in late 2004 or early 2005, after which CCWA contributions count toward the cost share. Competitive bidding will be used, with a preference for local small businesses. Labor costs will be calculated and credited on a Davis Bacon basis (does this mean that contractors must pay Davis-Bacon rates?). Mr. Garbarino urged CCWA to keep Representative Shuster informed of the project. It was noted that Shuster was informed at the recent meeting with John Strittmatter and the Smithmyers. Past President Jeff Holtz assured the C of E that the CCWA was strongly committed to successful completion of the project.

President Strittmatter read letters of support from PA Senator Wozniak and Representative Haluska.

After a short intermission, the meeting resumed. It was moved by Richard Dotts and seconded by Ed McMullen that the Association reimburse the costs of the dinner that was served earlier in the evening for the Corps of Engineers visit. This was unanimously approved.

The Treasurer, Larry Sutton, could not be present, but the **Treasurer's Report** was read from a written summary submitted by the Treasurer:

<u>Regular Account:</u> Beginning balance 5/1/03	\$3,636.71
Payment to NBMS (internet host)	(119.60)
Payment, John Strittmatter, membership cards	(40.00)
Deposit, dues	10.00
Bank interest	0.15
Ending balance, 5/31	\$3,487.26

<u>Grant Account:</u> Beginning balance 5/1/03	\$3,234.60
Payment, Mahaffey Labs	(800.00)
Deposit, Grant from WPCAMR	1,300.00
Bank interest	0.15
Ending balance, 5/31	\$3,734.75

Since the last meeting, \$10 in dues was received from a new member, Mike Condor. It was moved by Jeff Holtz that the Treasurers report be approved. Unanimously approved.

There was nothing to report from the Secretary or Membership Committee.

In **Public Relations**, Pat McNulty was thanked for arranging the television and newspaper coverage for the Corps of Engineers visit. The "ad" for CCWA observance of Watershed Week was submitted to papers by the committee under Jerry McMullen and appeared in 5 papers in the area. Sean Bartlett indicated that he had received several new items and pictures for the web site and will add them in the near future.

For the **Tech Committee**, Arthur Rose announced a major accomplishment by CCWA, namely completion in June of monthly sampling of 37 sites for a year. This brings to a successful close a 2-year effort by many members, starting with walking the streams, then installing weirs, and finally sampling water and measuring flow through a full year, including some challenging winter weather. Major contributors are Ed McMullen in Area A, Earl Smithmyer in Areas B and C, Arthur Rose in Area E and Jerry McMullen and Ray Hollen in Area G. In addition, Richard Dotts and Earl Smithmyer completed a year of sampling on Blue Run for the TMDL study. These members and all their many assistants were congratulated and thanked for their efforts. Art suggested that we prepare a news release on this accomplishment for later in the month, and agreed to prepare this and submit it to Pat McNulty.

No new information was available on the **litter site cleanup** near Frugality.

On the WPCAMR grant, Earl Smithmyer reported that **coal refuse sampling** is planned for June 18 at the piles on Gamelands property north of Dean.

Art Rose reported that Tom Holencik of DEP had received a favorable response from C&K Coal about a visit to the **Blandburg (Powell Run) treatment plant**. Art will arrange this tour with Tom Holencik. About 8 members indicated an interest in this tour.

Earl Smithmyer announced the successful completion of the **road cleanup** on June 8 by a crew of 22 volunteers. The next cleanup will be in August.

There was no new business.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 15 at the Laurel Run Sportsman's club at 6:30 PM.

On a motion by Richard Dotts, the meeting was adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur W. Rose, Secretary