

## CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting

August 19, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM at the Laurel Run Sportsman's Club by President John Strittmatter, followed by the pledge to the flag. Twenty three members were present.

The **minutes** of the previous meeting were approved unanimously, after a motion by Dick Dotts seconded by Ray Hollen.

**Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Larry Sutton reported the following balances and expenditures for the month ending July 31:

### Regular Account

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Beginning balance July 1              | \$3307.56 |
| Expenses                              |           |
| Buffet meal, Army Corps of Eng. Visit | (106.38)  |
| Deposits                              |           |
| Dues                                  | 60.00     |
| Bank interest                         | 0.14      |
| Ending balance July 31                | \$3261.32 |

| Grant Account    | WPCAMR<br><u>Grant</u> | Fish<br><u>Fund</u> | Heinz<br><u>Grant</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Beg. Bal July 1  | \$1300.00              | \$1000              | \$934.90              | \$3234.90    |
| Expenses         |                        |                     |                       | (958.10)     |
| Mahaffey Labs    |                        |                     | (275.00)              |              |
| Standard Labs    | (83.10)                |                     |                       |              |
| Hall rent        | (600.00)               |                     |                       |              |
| Deposits         |                        |                     |                       |              |
| Bank interest    |                        |                     | 0.14                  |              |
| End bal. July 31 | \$616.90               | \$1000              | \$660.04              | \$2276.94    |

In addition, \$20 in dues were received but not yet deposited.

**The Secretary** reported that minutes were being sent to all members for which an email address was available, and to all other members who attended the meeting, plus all officers and directors. It was suggested that a report of activities be sent to all members periodically, perhaps every six months.

**Mr. P.J. Shah** presented a talk on Passive Treatment Systems constructed by the PA Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation. He distributed a table showing detailed information on the characteristics, costs and funding of 47 systems, and commented on maintenance problems. These systems cannot be built and left, they must be maintained and sometimes modified. About \$12 million has been spent on these projects, at costs ranging from \$27,000 to \$1,200,000 per project.

A discussion ensued comparing the costs of these projects with the proposed Brubaker Run project, and on the potential of active treatment for this site.

On **membership**, it was suggested that notices be sent out in November, and that they might be given as Christmas gifts.

On **Public Relations**, Dick Dotts's contact with the Clearfield Progress had led to the visit by reporter Jane Elling at the last meeting and an article and picture in the paper. Robb Piper reported that the Cambria Co. Conservation District will have a booth at the **Cambria County Fair** and will incorporate information on CCWA along with other watershed groups. He also inquired whether we wanted to be represented at the **Cider Festival** this year. Several members indicated that they would help man a booth. Arthur Rose turned over to Pat McNulty a

news release on the completion of acid discharge monitoring for 37 sites, to be sent to newspapers in the area.

Alene Smithmyer reported for the **Historical Committee** on the article in the Clearfield Progress.

Regarding the **Finance Committee**, Jeff Holtz offered to hold the Second CCWA Skeet Shoot on the second weekend in October. It was moved by Earl Smithmyer and seconded by Arthur Rose that we hold this event, and unanimously approved.

For the **Tech Committee**, Arthur Rose reported no word yet on the Laurel Run Growing Greener proposal. Another month of sampling was conducted in Brubaker Run with Earl Smithmyer, leading to better information of acid from the upper section of the watershed. Strittmatter, Smithmyer and Rose visited Dee Columbus of the Cambria Co. Conservation Department and heard her experience of considerable problems on a Corps on Engineer program at Nanty Glo. No word has been heard yet of further work on the Brubaker Run feasibility study by the Corps and ATS Engineers, but will be checked on.

A passive treatment system near Glasgow is currently abandoned as a result of the C & K Coal bankruptcy, and may need flushing to maintain treatment. Rose discussed with Don Barnes of DEP the possibility of CCWA doing the flushing. Barnes encouraged us to arrange this with C & K Coal. The latter company had not replied to a message left the previous day.

An extensive phone discussion was held with Michael DiMatteo of the Game Commission regarding coal refuse and acid drainage about a mile north of Dean (our site 45-1). The Game Commission is negotiating with E.P. Bender Coal to grade out and reclaim these piles, and handle the acid discharge. A limestone-lined channel angling down the hill is a possibility for treating the acid water. The Brubaker project was also discussed.

The PENNTAP technical assistance group at Penn State was called to check on the possibility that AMD precipitate could be used for powder metallurgy, and had some encouragement. John Strittmatter reported a similar contact with a company in Ridgway who had experimented with this, with uncertain success.

Jennifer Demchak reported on a cooperative project on Morgan Run in Clearfield County.

Under **Old Business**, Earl Smithmyer reported a successful **road cleanup** on August 10 by 19 people. Also, it was decided to add a four-mile section of road from Ashville to Syberton to the cleanup, for at least one time. This cleanup will be held probably on October 19, and we hope to get coverage in the media to attract participants and members. Bob Mooney offered food for the event.

On the subject of testing and removing **coal refuse piles**, Bob Mooney and Mike Terlinsky of CMT Energy discussed their sampling of piles at Flinton, Gill Hollow, Shoff Mine, and several other areas including the Eureka Mine in Muddy Run. They have arranged with a cogen company to sample the sites. Jeff Holtz reported that the owners of the land with piles at Amsbury were Ray and Linda Larue, 2307 Flag Marsh Ave, Mt. Airy, MD 21771, phone 410-795-3374. Five piles at this site were previously sampled by Max Scheeler. The Larue's are willing to cooperate with our efforts to remove these piles. Mr. Mooney was to visit the piles in the near future with Earl Smithmyer. Stephanie Wharton had examined the deeds to this property, which do not mention any ownership of the coal refuse piles. Mineral rights were formerly owned by Bethlehem. We have about \$600 to spend on testing by about October 15, so further plans are needed.

**New Business** items included announcements by Rose of an Ohio River Watershed Cruise on 9/17, and stream Cleanup Training by the Susquehanna River Basin Comm. on 10/23. A road crossing in an area to be timbered on upper Laurel Run was noted but there were no objections.

An attendee at the meeting was **Jennifer Means**, a Watershed Coordinator at the DEP Williamsport office. She handles watershed issues other than mining, such as stormwater or agriculture problems, and is visiting to meet our watershed group and learn of any problems.

Earl Smithmyer reported that the **Dysart Dam** had been dredged and the project was essentially completed.

The Rotary Club in Ebensburg is looking for a speaker. Robb Piper indicated he might be able to speak for them.

The next meeting was set for September 16 at the Laurel Run Sportsmans Club, at 6:30. The meeting was adjourned.