

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Minutes

Meeting of November 18, 2003

The meeting was **called to order** at 6:30 PM in the St. Thomas Church in Ashville by President John Strittmatter at 6:30 PM, followed by the pledge to the flag. Eighteen members were present.

On a motion by Ray Hollen seconded by Jennifer Demchak, the **minutes** of the meeting of October 21, 2003 were approved unanimously.

Treasurer Larry Sutton reported as follows:

Regular Account

Beginning Balance, October 1	\$3,154.81
<u>Expenses</u>	
Road Cleanup supplies	(86.52)
Printing costs for brochures	(75.00)
<u>Deposits</u>	
Dues	230.00
Sale of hats and shirts	32.00
Skeet shoot profit	140.00
Bank interest	0.14
Ending Balance, October 31	\$3,395.43
<u>Dues for deposit at 10/31/03: \$0</u>	

<u>Grant account</u>	<u>WPCAMR Grant</u>	<u>FISH Fund</u>	<u>HEINZ Grant</u>	<u>Accrued Interest</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Beg. Balance, Oct. 1	\$616.90	\$1000	\$577.00	\$33.13	\$2,227.13
<u>Expenses</u>					
Standard Labs	(415.50)				
Meters and stamps	(201.40)			(3.58)	
Mahaffey labs	_____	_____	<u>(50.00)</u>	_____	<u>(670.48)</u>
<u>Deposits</u>					
Bank interest	_____	_____	_____	<u>0.09</u>	<u>0.09</u>
End balance Oct. 31	\$0.00	\$1000	\$527.00	\$29.74	\$1,556.74

The treasurer's report was unanimously accepted on a motion by Richard Dotts seconded by Stephanie Wharton.

The **Secretary** presented a record of stamps and other property at the Secretary's office:

- 1 4-drawer file cabinet
- 1 H-P Model d135 copier-printer-faxer-scanner
- 1 Orion Model 106 pH meter
- 1 Garmin eTrex Venture GPS unit
- 6.5 packages copier paper (500 sheets each)
- 43 File folders
- 2/3 box hanging file folders
- 1 box 500 business envelopes
- 1 black inkjet cartridge for copier
- 425 37-cent stamps (\$157.25)

Of an original 600 37-cent stamps plus 130 bought on the WPCAMR grant, the usage since January 2003 was: mailing dues/accomplishments flyer, 125 stamps; minutes 77, Klondike proposal 15, Treasurer 20, Klondike project 29, maps and data to DEP and others 16 and miscellaneous 23, for a total of 305 stamps (\$112.85). On a motion by Bryan Rabish seconded by Pat McNulty, the secretary's report was unanimously accepted.

The procedure for **membership renewals** was discussed, and it was decided that the secretary will prepare a dues reminder and list of activities/accomplishments as last year, to be sent out in December.

On **public relations**, President Strittmatter furnished the name of a reporter for the Johnstown Tribune-Democrat. Sean Bartlett reported that the **web site** has been revised, and requested updated information on Association activities. Arthur Rose will supply a description of the Klondike project. Larry Sutton will check with the current year's sponsor to see if he will continue sponsorship in 2004. Sean Bartlett will submit a bill to the Treasurer for the site through December.

The sale of CCWA **hats and shirts** was discussed. It was suggested we should sell these at cost in view of their advertising value. It was decided to keep the hats and shirts for the fishing derby.

No activities were reported for the Historical and Finance Committees.

For the Tech Committee, Arthur Rose reported that the **Klondike Project** funded by the Growing Greener grant was well underway. A meeting of Rose and Larry Sutton was held with Joe Allison, the Project Advisor and Watershed Manager, to discuss procedures, and a contract for the project was signed by President Strittmatter and forwarded to the DEP on November 10. Several weeks will be required for checking by the DEP and the several required signatures by the state. We can then apply for an advance of about \$2500. Cree Surveying has been active and is reported to have completed field work on surveying of property boundaries and detailed topography in three areas in which construction is planned. Two of these are downslope from the two acid discharges, and one involves a stream flowing over a highwall into spoil and probably feeding one of the acid discharges. The site was visited twice with Clark Cree, Earl Smithmyer and Arthur Rose, and once with Cree, John Foreman and Rose. At the latter visit, the areas for construction of ponds, roads and stream restoration were approximately outlined. Rose prepared access agreements with Coney Bros. Coal Co. for two properties, and John Strittmatter had them signed by Cooney's. These grant rights of access for construction and maintenance to the area of the discharges, which are on land of the Blair County Solid Waste Authority. Jennifer Demchak asked about permitting, and Rose said that would be the priority after information for a construction grant is developed.

A field tour for Association members is planned for Sunday December 7 at 1 PM. We will meet at the Burger Hut – Ice Cream stand on PA 36 between Ashville and Buckhorn.

An e-mail from Andrew Stern on the **Brubaker project** reported that collection of data was well advanced and would probably be completed in November. No progress had been made on acquiring the map of the clay mine from John Foreman.

Bryan Rabish arranged a **tour of the Corps of Engineers Dents Run Project** for November 9. Bryan Rabish, Dustin Drew and Arthur Rose were conducted over the area by Ken Rowe, Executive Director of the Bennetts Branch Watershed Association. The project involves 7 areas, mostly abandoned surface mines, at which limestone is being mixed into the spoil to decrease acid generation. Two vertical flow ponds are planned, and several open limestone channels have been constructed for drainage from underground mines. The cost of the project is about \$9 million. The watershed share is derived from a \$1+ million Growing Greener Grant, a \$1+ million limestone addition project by the DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation and smaller contributions for land from the Game Commission and land acquisition and arrangements by the Western PA conservancy. The project will remove severe contamination of Porcupine Run, which devastates several miles of Dents Run and the Bennetts Branch. Relations with the Corps of Engineers have generally been very satisfactory, although a recent cancellation of a meeting did cause some consternation.

The **pH meters** from the WPCAMR grant have been received. One is being used by Rose and the other is with Earl Smithmyer.

The report on the **coal refuse study** is in preparation. Data on Amsbury will be sent to Rose by Bryan Rabish, and some locations are still needed. Jennifer Demchak indicated that she is working on plans for economically marginal piles, and is interested in obtaining the data.

Old Business. The plans for the **fishing derby** will be presented at next month's meeting.

President Strittmatter inquired about the **Blandburg treatment plant** of bankrupt C &K Coal. Arthur Rose indicated that the plant was not active when visited a few weeks ago. Richard Dotts indicated that he will contact Gary Dotts to inquire about status and whether the plant is winterized. John Strittmatter and Arthur Rose will check on status of the plant in terms of the bankruptcy proceeding. Possible contact with a lawyer regarding the bonds and the plant was discussed. Sean Bartlett mentioned that the state is promoting use of treated minewater for industrial use, with the industrial use paying for treatment.

The next meeting will be December 16 at the St. Thomas church at 6:30 PM.

On a motion by Ray Hollen seconded by Dan McMullen, the meeting was adjourned for refreshments prepared by Alene Smithmyer.