

**CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**  
**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF NOVEMBER 17, 2009**  
**[www.clearfieldcreekwatershed.org](http://www.clearfieldcreekwatershed.org)**

The meeting was called to order by President Earl Smithmyer with the pledge to the flag. There were 18 members present and one visitor- Michael Hardy, a graduate student at Montclair State University. Earl welcomed Michael to the meeting. There was one correction to the October minutes. Art stated that he did not do a water sample at the Amsbry site as reported in his Tech report. A **motion** by Shawn Simmers and seconded by Dane Kalwanaski was then passed accepting the October minutes with the above listed correction.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Dane Kalwanaski did present a financial report at the November meeting. Dane e-mails me this spreadsheet to be included in the minutes. However, due to a hard drive crash, Dane was unable to forward the report. Hopefully, I will have it for the December minutes.

**Treasurer's Report Continued:**

Deposits:

\$230.00-from Clean Stream Foundation for the Ace Drilling project. Deposited in the General Fund.

Expenses:

All of the below expenses are from Mahaffy Labs:

\$84.00- water testing, Ace Drilling site- General Fund.

\$28.00-water testing, Glasgow site-Glasgow Fund.

\$264.00- water testing, Klondike- Rose Fund.

\$812.00- water testing, Muddy Run- Muddy Run Grant.

\$50.00- water testing, Amsbry site- Amsbry Fund.

A **motion** by Dick Dotts and seconded by Ed McMullen was passed authorizing payment of the above listed invoices and to accept the Treasurer's report.

**Secretary's Report:**

Jerry stated that he had little to report other than a few e-mails in correspondence. Below is a copy of the e-mail received from Ben Watt about the Trout in the Classroom.

The trout eggs have arrived and we have successfully hatched *some* of the trout. We don't have any exact numbers yet. We have very limited interaction at this point. During the sac fry stage, they are sensitive to light and disturbances. Within the next couple of weeks they will begin swimming to the surface and start feeding. At that stage, we will be able to remove the aquarium covers and have the opportunity to make more observations. Please pass the information on to the other members. As always, you and the others are more than welcome to come visit the school.

Ben has agreed to give us an update each month.

**Membership Committee:**

Bob Funicelli had nothing new to report for the past month.

**Public Relations:**

There was nothing new to report under public relations.

**Historical Committee:**

Ray Hollen was unable to attend the meeting this month due to his work schedule.

**Finance Report:**

Larry is to meet with Pat Dumm, an employee of M & T Bank to complete all paperwork for the new account.

**Grant Committee:**

CCWA is to purchase some trees for the Ferris Wheel Revegetation project between now and February 5, 2010 to use the funds of the Dominion Grant. Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that Shawn will ask for an extension to the February 5<sup>th</sup> required deadline so we can do the planting in more favorable spring weather.

The Grant Committee reported that a 2010 Dominion Grant application will be submitted requesting funds for the purchase of a new flow meter. Estimated cost of this meter is approximately \$600 to \$1,500. Dan and Shawn will discuss with Michelle the specs on a flow meter.

The following was presented by Michelle Merrow:

Grants-Muddy Run Mapping—The group is believed to have received a Foundation for PA Watersheds grant. Michelle will try to check to make sure, and she asked Earl to watch for any paperwork regarding this grant that might arrive. Time is of the essence right now because we are entering the end of the fall mapping flight period due to sun shadow and possibly snow, so we are in a hurry to get the contract executed so the sites can be flows.

Art added that CCWA should withdraw their Growing Greener application if this funding was already awarded. (CCWA did then get this grant—paperwork is forthcoming, and I have been busy getting mapping quotes).

**Election Committee:**

As reported last month there is one Board Member's position (a 3 year term) that will expire in January, 2010. Dan McMullen nominated Ray Hollen for this position. No other nominations were received at this time. Nominations will be open at the December meeting. They will then be closed until elections at the annual meeting in January.

**Tech Committee:**

The following tech report was submitted and discussed by Art Rose, chairman of the tech committee: **Tech Committee Report-November 17, 2009**

Klondike Project The site was sampled during a tour for Grier School for Girls on 11/8/09. A field analysis showed only 2 mg/L iron in the final outflow at KL-1,

compared to about 140 mg/L in the inflow. However, the pH was less than 4. The site was also visited on 10/28 with Malcolm Crittenden, and 11/7 with a group from Penn State.

West Ferris Wheel Project No activity.

Glasgow C&K Project Work by the contractor, Smith Excavating and Construction, on renovating this site was completed on 11/6. An inspection was made on 11/10, and Smith was notified that the work was satisfactory. The ponds are very slowly filling with water, but as yet have not flowed out. A bill for \$27,223 was received for the remaining amount on the bid, plus \$291.50 of minor expenses for items missing from the specifications. We will also owe the 10% that was withheld from the earlier bills. Preparation of a report on the project is underway.

Amsbry Project A set of samples from the AM-5 discharge and a small flow nearby was collected on 11/30.

Muddy Run Project The final set of monthly samples of discharges was collected by two of the groups on the weekend of 11/14-15, and the third group will collect the following weekend. It appears that aerial photography of Muddy Run will be funded by PA Watershed Program, and that we will withdraw our proposal to Growing Greener for this work. At Michelle Merrow's request, we furnished information on areas that could be skipped in the photography but still cover all the key discharge areas, so that work can proceed this winter whenever funds are available.

Tours As noted above, tours were conducted of Klondike Project and Brubaker Run for a group of Penn State faculty and graduate students interested in microbial processes on 11/7, and for a group of 6 girls in an environmental science class at the Grier School on 11/8. Also, Michael Hardy from Montclair State University visited on 11/17 to discuss research at the Ferris Wheel site.

Iron removal research Dr. William Burgos of Penn State has prepared a proposal for continuing his research on iron removal at low pH. This process is occurring at KL-1 and Brubaker. Information was sent to Dr. Burgos on these two sites, for inclusion in his proposal. A letter of support for his proposal has been prepared, indicating that we will supply information on the sites and assist with any sampling or field studies. On a **motion** by Art Rose seconded by Dick Dotts, the letter of support was approved without objection.

Inquiries An email was received from Timothy Auman of Harrisburg concerning mine drainage on tributaries near Clearfield, and expressing an interest in CCWA's work. The email was forwarded to Jerry McMullen as a potential member. Also, Ellis Michaels of Pittsburgh sent an early photo of Clearfield Creek and inquired about the location of the photo. Rachel Kester is checking on this.

Other items discussed under the Tech Report:

Ace Drilling Site- Earl reported that he recently sampled this site. One water control device was vandalized. The Blair County Conservation District will try to get the City of Altoona to attempt to flush out the iron buildup that is plugging the outlet side of the irrigation control box. Earl and Dick will sample this site again in early December.

Michael Hardy- Michael stated that he and his advisor have taken a closer look at his proposed project on the Ferris Wheel Revegetation site and are not sure this will work for his doctoral proposal. He is also doubtful they will receive a grant since treatment is a much higher priority

versus revegetation. He has been talking to OSM and hopes to have a copy of a proposal by early December. CCWA will offer a letter of support.

### **Old Business:**

**Trout Unlimited Stream Assessment-**Aaron Furgiuele, Trout Unlimited, stated that, weather permitting, they would like to get started on the stream assessment in December. Both the micro invertebrate and habitat assessment will be done at this time. The fish survey will be done in July and the final report compiled in August. This is possible with a technical assistance grant through Trout Unlimited. The survey areas will be Condryn Bridge downstream to Brubaker and upstream from the Black bridge to Amsbry.

**Gary Haluska Grant-** Earl had nothing new to report, and we are still hopeful to receive this grant. Earl mentioned that he will follow up with a phone call.

**Camera Purchase:** Ed reported that he has not purchased the camera.

**Michelle Merrow Report-** MR FROG—Michelle took David Hamilton of the Office of Surface Mining on a final view of the MR FROG site so he could close out the project. CCWA did the final paperwork several months ago, and he was doing a follow-up visit. He was pleased with the site.

**BOTH FROG AND TUFF PROJECTS—**Michelle discussed operation and maintenance of these two treatment systems. She had taken members of the Morgan Run Watershed Group out to the sites several times, and had a maintenance training day recently. Unfortunately, MRWG hasn't taken over the maintenance, and Alder Run Engineering is still doing the inspection and maintenance. While the systems are very low-maintenance, they still need periodic inspection and debris removal from the outlets, especially this time of year with all the leaves and sticks. Michelle will talk to Kelly Williams, watershed specialist, to see if the situation can be improved and MRWG be more active.

### **New Business:**

**Membership Cards-**Jerry mentioned that we will need to purchase new membership cards. A **motion** by Dick Dotts and seconded by Alene Smithmyer was unanimously passed authorizing Jerry to purchase 500 membership cards at Damin Printing.

**Tree Purchase-**a discussion was held about securing trees for the KL-2 area that would be suitable for wildlife habitat. Jerry agreed to contact Barry Zaffuto, PA Game Commission Land Manager, about the type of trees needed and possibly getting trees from the PA Game Commission.

**Fly Ash Hearings-**Shawn Simmers mentioned the upcoming Environmental Quality Board public hearings scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup> in Pittsburgh, December 8<sup>th</sup> in Ebensburg and December 9<sup>th</sup> in Pottsville. Verbal testimony on the use of fly ash will be recorded at the hearing. CCWA has seen firsthand the beneficial use of fly ash on our Ferris Wheel Revegetation Project.

**Final Notes:**

Earl gave Michelle a copy of a letter from the DEP. It was for the MR ROSS project. It was an administrative completeness letter, which says that the DEP has all the items it needs for the Wetland and Stream Obstruction and Encroachment Permit, and that they will be reviewing the permit application. No action needed.

MR Tuff –There was also correspondence from the Clearfield County Conservation District regarding MR Tuff. The system has a bypass channel that will be left in place, but the channel gets a little bit of hillside seepage during wet periods. There was a small amount of money left in the original project budget, and that money will be used to install limestone lining in the channel. Michelle had submitted a revised plan to the CCCD, and the correspondence was an approval letter and approved plans from the CCCD.

**Next Meeting: December 15, 2009, Prince Gallitzin Park Office Conference Room, 6:30 PM. Please note this is our winter meeting site.**

**Adjournment:** On a **motion** by Dane Kalwanaski and seconded by Shawn Simmers the meeting was adjourned.