

CLEARFIELD CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting of December 16, 2003

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

On a motion by Ray Hollen seconded by Stephanie Wharton, the **minutes** of the 11/18/03 meeting were approved unanimously.

The **Treasurer**, Larry Sutton, could not be present but submitted the following report:

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

Regular Account

Beginning Balance, November 1st \$3,395.43

Expenses:

None

Deposits:

Dues 10.00

Bank interest 0.13

Ending Balance, November 30th **\$3,405.56**

Dues for Deposit at 11/30/03: \$0

<u>Grant Account</u>	<u>KLONDIKE</u>	<u>FISH</u>	<u>HEINZ</u>	<u>Accrued</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>GRANT</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>GRANT</u>	<u>Interest</u>	
Beg Balance, Nov 1 st	\$ 0.00	\$1,000	\$ 527.00	\$29.74	\$1,556.74
<u>Expenses:</u>					
Mahaffey Labs	_____	_____	(50.00)	_____	(50.00)
<u>Deposits:</u>					
Bank interest	_____	_____	_____	0.06	.06
End Balance, Nov 30 th	\$ 0.00	\$1,000	\$ 477.00	\$29.80	\$1,506.80

Other Business:

1. Klondike Grant (2003 Growing Greener) – Funds have not been received yet from DEP, but a \$2,500 surveying invoice from George Cree is received, and will have to wait.
2. Web site sponsor – Jack Calandra has again donated \$250 to help offset the annual cost to have a web site. The check will be deposited in December.
3. Invoice for approval - \$139.65 invoice from IT/IS For You, Inc. (Sean Bartlett), for web domain services up to Dec 2003, needs payment.

On a motion by Jerry McMullen, the Treasurer's report was accepted unanimously. The **Secretary** distributed a draft of a proposed Dues Notice and Listing of Activities and Accomplishments, and asked for suggestions or corrections.

The Chair of the **Membership Committee**, Bob Funicelli, reported that he will start soliciting for members in January.

Pat McNulty, Chair of the **Public Relations Committee**, introduced Linda Kudkins, reporter from the Altoona Mirror. It was announced that Jack Callander agreed to sponsor our website again. Arthur Rose has submitted writeups on the Klondike Project and Brubaker Run to Sean Bartlett for inclusion in the website.

A set of photos taken by Larry Sutton at the Klondike tour on 12/7 was passed around and turned over to Alene Smithmyer, Chair of the **Historical Committee**.

The **Finance Committee** reported no activity.

The meeting was then turned over to Steve Garbarino of the US Army Corps on Engineers for an update on the **Brubaker Run Project**. Phase I of the Feasibility Study is essentially complete and a draft report is being reviewed. It will be sent to CCWA for review in January. During further phases of the Feasibility Study, all reasonable solutions to the acid

problems of the drainage will be evaluated. All costs to date are being borne by the Corps, but on signing the Project Cooperation Agreement, the CCWA will contribute to share these costs. A meeting in Baltimore with CCWA members invited is planned for February at which time the Corps will present its evaluation of the alternatives, and further plans will be discussed. Possible ways in which the CCWA might furnish its cost-share were suggested. These included a State Growing Greener grant, participation by the PA DEP Bur. of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, donation of land and land acquisition costs, and services including construction management.

Andy Stern of ATS-Chester Engineers, followed by Tom Colozza, discussed the work to date, the coverage of the progress report and future steps. The report presents the purpose of the study, information on project conditions such as land use, physical characteristics, water resources, endangered species, socio-economic conditions, infrastructure, problems, proposed project design and cost, and data-gaps. The data-gaps include a need for further water data, principally in upper Brubaker Run, a mine map of the clay mine, detailed contour maps and geotechnical investigations, an eco-biological baseline, and a real estate plan.

Discussion indicated that CCWA was responsible for getting land agreements on the area, and should probably meet with the Watts regarding an agreement for access to their land for some of the further studies noted above. The acquisition of a map of the clay mine was discussed, and John Foreman will be contacted by Arthur Rose regarding a meeting with ATS Engineers.

For the Tech Committee, Arthur Rose reported on the field tour of the **Klondike project** area on 12/7. Eight members were present on the tour, in spite of about a foot of snow. The detailed topographic maps for the project have been received from Cree Surveying and we can now proceed with the design and permitting stages.

A draft report on the **Coal Refuse Project** has been prepared by Arthur Rose and was passed to Max Scheeler for comments. Rose suggested that the report should be submitted to the cogen companies, and plans for reclamation of the piles should be discussed with them.

Regarding the **Fishing Derby**, Earl Smithmyer reported that they were working on it.

Arthur Rose discussed the **Blandburg Treatment plant**, which is closed due to bankruptcy of C & K Coal Co. He talked to Mike Hileman, the DEP lawyer in the bankruptcy. The company will be liquidated, and has claims from the federal Pension Benefit Guarantee Corp. and the Black Lung Fund plus banks and surety companies, as well as the State of PA, but Hileman was confident that rights to the plant can be obtained by the state, and indicated that the treatment equipment has a high priority for the state.

The requirement for Congress to reauthorize the **Abandoned Mine Land Fund** was mentioned by Arthur Rose. He suggested that members should write to Congressmen and Senators urging continuation of this Fund. He will send members a draft of a letter to be written to Congress.

The **next meeting** will be January 20 at 6:30 PM at the Ashville church.

On a motion by Jerry McMullen, the meeting was **adjourned**, followed by Alene Smithmyer's cookies and informal discussion.