

**TRI-COUNTY CONEWAGO CREEK ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING—JUNE 20, 2002, 7:00 PM  
MEETING MINUTES**

**I. Welcome and Introduction**

Board members present: Matt Royer, Hal Royer, Mike McKinne, Tim Hoover. Stream Steward Jack Smith also in attendance.

**II. Projects and Activities**

1. Landowner Database. Bob Pennell has volunteered to search Dauphin County tax maps for landowner information.

2. June 1<sup>st</sup> Birdwatching Hike. Very successful event. 26 total participants. 46 bird species identified, 11 butterfly species, numerous plant and wildflower species. Some new potential members recruited.

3. Eagle Scout Project. Nathan Gerard, a boy scout from Conewago Township, has approached TCCCA about conducting an Eagle Scout leadership project on the watershed. He has decided to organize a stream clean up. (Projected for late July)

Clean up of Hertzler Road dump area was also discussed. One idea is to plant tree or place large boulders in the pull off area to discourage illegal dumping. Matt will approach Mr. Davis about this.

4. New landowner contact: Bill Stoffel. Owns land on creek south of Colebrook. He has some interest in stocking that portion of the creek again. Tim can talk to Joe Miller about stocking trout at the Stoffel property as an incentive to restoration. (Joe raises trout at MHS hatchery in cooperation with FBC).

5. SWAP meeting at Etown. Took place June 13<sup>th</sup>. Hal Royer, Ron Laughlin were in attendance. SRBC assessment of potential pollutants to water supplies. Now, ball is in Borough's court to develop plan to address potential pollutants. TCCCA should approach Borough about establishing partnership to develop this plan.

6. MHS Stream Sampling. Took place mid-May. Sampled the creek at three points: upstream of 743, Old Hershey Road swimming hole, Aberdeen. Tim to get results to Tom Murray to add to monitoring data.

**III. Financial Report**

1. WREN Grant. Hal and Matt Kofroth attended WREN orientation meeting. Matt given half of grant money.

Web site design: approach Padraic Farrell or Andy Ohrman. Announce brainstorming sessions for web site and brochure design at next meeting.

2. Art Show. September 21-22 at Jim and Lynn Szymborski farm.

Potential artists: Sylvia Lehman, Carol Keinard, Trevor Hershey, Beth Banko, Don Bashore.

Need to ask Lynn: 1) protocol for asking for percentage donation; 2) who is considered the seller of the art for tax purposes. Matt to talk to Lynn and develop list of talking points that members can take to area artists.

3. Life memberships. Discussion tabled until quorum is present.

#### **IV. Membership Meeting Agendas**

Potential future guest speaker for July: Carrie Snavely, Conestoga Valley biology teacher, and students about Furnace Run project. Hal to contact Carrie.

#### **V. Stream Steward Report (Jack Smith)**

Fifty years of fishing and trapping on the Conewago.

##### **Species**

Fish species caught/observed over the years: smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, pickerel, crappy, bluegill, pumpkinseed, channel catfish, carp, trout, etc.

Species observed in 1950s: hellbender, American eel. Hellbender not seen on Conewago since 1950s (needs high quality water to survive).

New species observed within last five years: alewife or gizzard shad.

Outstanding fishing in the past: 1967, caught limit of pickerel, all between 17-23 inches.

##### **Base flow of Conewago**

From 1950 to present, volume of water has been reduced by  $\frac{1}{4}$ , perhaps by as much as  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Significantly less amount of water at base flow conditions.

##### **Fish Kills**

Few historically. Only fish kills in memory resulted from rendering plant near Falmouth.

##### **Sources of Pollutants**

Past: farmhouses discharged raw sewage to streams.

Runoff from fields and cows: under better control today.

Sewage treatment plants: problems with CSOs (combined sewage overflows). Overflows occurred in the past, and still continuing. Skeptical about how well facilities are operated. Many more sewage treatment plants presently. Many are located in headwaters.

## **Major Dams**

1. Aberdeen: washed out by Agnes in 1972.
2. Risser's Stone Dam. Located between Turnpike bridge and Prospect Road. One of best fishing spots (has yielded 20 inch smallmouth). Still in existence.

## **Bridges**

20 bridges over the Conewago.

One covered bridge on Covered Bridge Road (was burned by vandals).

"Old Stone Bridge" or the "Blue Light." Stone railroad bridge over Conewago. Quarry hole located near stream. Beautiful fish habitat, heavily forested area. Now private and posted.

## **Changes to the Conewago**

Lancaster paper used to give a fishing report and include "Hess's Hole" on the Conewago, downstream from the Blue Light. Not any more.

Many boulders on creek washed out by Agnes in 1972.

Muskrats: population decreasing last couple of years.

Siltation: has increased in recent years.

The Board members were very impressed with Jack's initial Stream Steward Report. With Jack's help, TCCCA may be able to put together a written history of the Conewago.

## **VI. Next Meeting**

The Board will set its next meeting at a later date when all Board members can be consulted.