



TRI-COUNTY CONEWAGO CREEK ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – April 20th, 2004, 7:00 p.m.
MEETING MINUTES – Etown Water Treatment Plant Offices

Attendees: Matt Royer, Mike McKinne, Larry Coble, Ben Simmons, Bob Censier.

I. Secretary's Report

No report.

II. Treasurer's Report

No report.

- Elizabethtown Fair Registration
Board approved this expense, expected to be in the \$160-180 range.

III. Grants

- Growing Greener Startup Grant (Newsletter)
Newsletter has been finalized and will be ready for printing and distribution within one week. Articles include Landmark Trees (Larry Coble), Stormwater Management (Dan Helm); Native Tree Nursery and Koser Road Planting (Bob Censier); and EACs (Tim Schaeffer of PA Env't'l Council).
- Section 319 Grant
No report, still waiting for final contract approvals from DEP and EPA.
- 2004 WREN Grant
Application submitted on 4/2 to meet deadline. Request for \$1675 for fair display and materials for Stoffel sign.

IV. Projects and Activities

- Jim Hess Recap
Larry, Ben and Mike reported. Good work crew of 12. Jim Hess was very pleased. Matt to send thank you letters to Jim Hess, Jim Binder of Middle Creek and Heather Rodriguez of CREP.
- Tree Nursery
200 trees from CBF give-away are at Royer farm. 45 river birch and sycamores are at Lancaster County Conservation District ready for pick up. Matt to coordinate with Hal and Mary Royer for pick up. Scheduled potting party for

Saturday, May 1 at 9 AM at Bear Creek Farm in Etown. Bob to make sure 4 beds are available this year.

- **Watershed Snapshot, May 8, 9 AM**
Set for Lawn Community Park and adjacent property of Phil Rothermel. Park is reserved for our activity. Larry will bring tanks to put fish in, can set up under pavilion. Matt and Kerry will get donuts and drinks. Forms can be downloaded from DEP website this year. Matt to notify watershed specialists and Tom. Since the location has plenty of room and we are starting an hour later than the last two years, we will not split up and do two sites. Kerry to write and send press release.
- **Monitoring Program**
Matt shared Tom's comments with the group. All agreed to Tom's approach. All agreed that C-SAW was too technical and cumbersome to meet our goals. 2-3 regular mainstem monitoring points will be established for starters, with some tributary points that allow us to monitor our projects (like Brills Run). Matt will bring the big map to a summer membership meeting to pick locations, with a target to begin monitoring fall 2004 cycle.

Larry will do headwater monitoring on his own, accompanied by interested TCCCA members. One of the goals of this will be to see if the water quality and habitat are sufficient to support wild trout. This monitoring will be a combination of visual assessment, netting for fish species, informal bug surveys, and looking for Louisiana thrush (a good high quality headwater indicator species). Larry may go Sunday May 2 to look for signs of thrushes. Will also want to do monthly temp. monitoring, and perhaps some chemistry. All of this work can be rolled into our assessment.

- **Koser Road, Stoffel Work Days**
Koser Road work day to clear mile-a-minute and spray multiflora. Set for Wednesday evening May 12 at 6:30 pm at the site. Matt will check with Bill Stoffel to see if we can borrow his sprayer.

Bill Stoffel and Frank Rohrer working together to schedule a day to collect tree growth data, sometime within next few weeks. When date and time are firmed up, Matt to send email seeking volunteers to help. Only 2 are needed.

- **Hertzler Fencing and Planting**
Fencing funds (CREP, CBF) are in limbo. CREP is being redirected to northern and western PA. CBF has a backlog of farmers signed up, and is awaiting additional Growing Greener money. Mike Brubaker from CCD is preparing a list of options for John Hertzler. John is on board, and very interested. If only fence can be provided, given the limited funding, TCCCA's nursery trees can be used at Hertzler farm, with a fall target date. Fencing moneys may also be available by the fall.
- **Jane Wenger Property**
Tom Murray to follow up. Ben Simmons thinks Tom might be thinking of a different Jane Wenger, but he's not sure.

- **Milton Hershey School/Hershey Trust Project**
 Matt got favorable response from MHS office of the President. Marcia Paterson of MHS Environmental Center met with Ken Gall, director of real estate for the Trust, and Ken indicated his support for TCCCA. Next step is to pick a single project and approach Trust and MHS. If they are willing, then secure funding. Talk turned to try to get Hershey Foods to buy in and provide corporate sponsorship and funding. Matt and Larry to discuss potential projects on farms with Tim Hoover and Joe Miller. The dream project would be the Conewago where it crosses 743, both sides of the road, up into the tribs of Hoffer Creek to the east and "Gallagher" Run to the west. Project could involve natural stream design and stream bank stabilization, floodplain restoration, native warm season grass conversion, and forested riparian buffer establishment. Might need to start with something smaller at first, such as removal of multiflora, buffers on a smaller trib, etc.
- **Gallagher Run Application**
 Matt helped Ed and Millie Gallagher prepare an application for the naming unnamed tributary "Gallagher Run." Board approved TCCCA endorsement letter for application.
- **English Estates**
 David Wise of CBF contacted Frank English about Stream Stewardship Program participation on this proposed subdivision on Brills Run. English never returned the phone calls. CBF signed up other developers who showed greater interest and CBF's plate is now full. Since this is a phased development and Phase I does not involve the creek area, renewed interest may exist later.
- **Aberdeen Mills**
 Matt contacted Lancaster County Parks. They were unaware of the proposed development and were surprised they were not contacted as an adjoining landowner. They would support attempts by TCCCA to broker a deal that involves converting sensitive areas on property into public park linked to Conewago Trail, but cannot offer funds to be spent in Dauphin County. Matt will make similar pitch with Dauphin County Parks. In the meantime, Matt will contact developer and let him know generally of our concerns and our ideas for preservation.
- **Conewago Township Riparian Buffer Ordinance**
 We received a request from Conewago Township for draft language to increase riparian buffer protection requirements. Would go into Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance, which is currently being revised. Matt to contact Natural Lands Trust, which has model language, as well as Stroud Water Research Center for latest science on the benefits of buffers.
- **Etown Regional Authority Parks Project (public meeting May 6)**
 Larry, Mike will attend. Others encouraged to attend. This will be our first look at the proposed park.

- Barn Owl Project
Jim Hess agreed to host a barn owl box. Larry has four built. Another box will go to John Hertzler. Larry completed paperwork for landowners.

V. Outreach

- Website problems
Our website has been down for some time. Pam tracked down the problem. Host failed to send us renewal notice and then placed us in pending delete status, and is now requiring \$150 redemption fee. Matt to use his “lawyerly” skills to get us back up without paying fee.

VI. New Business/Announcements

Mike reported that Lancaster Pizza Hut sponsors nonprofit night, where 20% of proceeds go to a local charity. Linda to approach Etown Pizza Hut to see if they would sponsor a TCCCA night.

VII. Next Board Meeting

Because of busy spring activity schedule, next Board meeting will be just prior to regular membership meeting on Wed. 4/28. Board to meet at 6 pm.

Note: These meeting minutes were taken by Matt Royer. Thanks Matt!