



TRI-COUNTY CONEWAGO CREEK ASSOCIATION
LAWN FIRE COMPANY, FEBRUARY 23, 2005
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- I. **Secretary's Report** - Reviewed minutes from 1/26/05 general meeting.
- II. **Treasurer's Report** - Ending balance of \$1,971.24 as of 3/16/05.
- III. **Grants Report**

Section 319 Grant:

Rettew has identified several "hotspots". Meetings between Rettew and DEP are going well. Matt Royer has been meeting with Mark Metzler to get an early prioritization list.

There was some concern over the video footage and photographs of the watershed. These are strictly for informational purposes for TCCCA and will not need to be included in the final report to DEP.

Rettew has entered the first set of data into the DEP program. The DEP has since found the program doesn't work correctly and has been reconfiguring the parameters.

Growing Greener Grant:

The group has until June '05 to spend approximately \$1,500.00 left in this grant. There is an opportunity for one newsletter (Spring '05). There was some discussion about "buying" ads in local media outlets for some of the projects/events the group will be hosting. Also discussed using the grant to fund postage, business cards, membership cards, magnets and window decals.

Grant Applications for 2005:

Wren Grant:

April deadline. This grant will be used for a permanent display at the Governor Dick Nature Center in Mount Gretna. There has been interest from the Little Chiques, Quittapahilla, and Swatara Creek watershed groups to have a comprehensive display.

IV. **Outreach/Membership**

Donegal Conservation Show:

Show was held on Saturday, March 5th. TCCCA did welcome one new member, but all in all, this event was not well attended.

V. Projects and Activities (events now posted at www.conewagocreek.net)

Live stake planting on Jane Wenger property on Saturday, April 9th. This is tentative until Larry Coble checks out the property.

Bill Stoffel property: Elizabethtown College students (under Tom Murray) have adopted this project and hope to work on it over the coming months. Wayne Fettrow has returned from traveling and will work on the trail sign for this property.

Snap Shot: April 23, 2005. Meet at Mill Road Elementary School. Rain Date, April 30th.

Hertzler property: A local Eagle Scout (Nathan Gerard) has adopted this long-term maintenance project.

Warbler Walk : Sunday, May 15th at 4:00 p.m. Meet at the Lebanon Valley Rail to Trail parking lot in Colebrook.

Elizabethtown Fair: August 22 through 27. **Note: At the Board meeting on 3/16/05, the group unanimously agreed to not "man" a Fair booth this year and instead use its resources in different areas.*

Aberdeen Mills: Matt Royer received a phone call from the current landowner 1/26 and was informed that they have put a new sketch before the Township. This new development sketch decreases the properties from 40 homes to 20 homes. They would still "entertain" an offer from the conservancy people on the remaining land. A realtor from Lancaster is valuing the structures in order for the Conservancies to approach the landowners again. The Conservancies would need to sell off (sub-divide) some land to recoup costs for the entire property.

Conoy Creek: Larry Coble has announced that he will be forming a local watershed group for the Conoy Creek in Elizabethtown. TCCCA has agreed to help the Conoy Creek in projects. There is a "demo" area that the Township has approved for some streambank restoration/stabilization. Larry hopes during the March/April timeframe to plant in this area.

VI. New Business/Announcements

Cindy McClaine was unanimously accepted to the Board (3/16/05).

All current officers were re-elected to their positions (3/16/05).

1970's Fish Survey: A contact at the Donegal Conservation Show shared with TCCCA a fish survey that was taken on the Conewago in the 1970's. The report is very well documented and specific to the area. There was some discussion on replicating the study as well as can be managed to see the fish population differences in the last 30 years.

Hershey Trust Outreach: Mike McKinne, Matt Royer, and Ed Warfel (Rettew Associates) met with Ken Gall from the Hershey Trust on 3/14/05 to explain the assessment work happening in the watershed. They suggested the meadows (along 743) as a project that TCCCA would very much like to take on. There was some positive reception. Due to deed restrictions, Hershey can not enter into any easements which would restrict their use of the land. However, there are no specific plans for that property but they would like to keep their options open. At this time, TCCCA will look over topographical and area maps. Larry Coble suggested putting together a guidance plan for cutting the meadows. The group has decided to follow-up and stay aggressive on this property/opportunity.

VII. Next Meeting

The next TCCCA membership meeting will be held at the Lawn Fire Company, Route 241 (Mt. Gretna Road) on Wednesday, March 30, 2005 from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin McKinne
Secretary

