

**Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association**  
**Minutes from Membership/Directors Meeting, Monday, January 11, 2010**  
**Murphy Residence, 519 Mulberry Drive, Lehigh Township, Northampton County**

The membership/directors meeting was called to order at about 7:25pm, with the following directors & members in attendance: Chris Amato, Martin Boksenbaum, Bev Cole, Bud Cole, Bob Hosking, Deb Miller, Colin Murphy, Tiffany Murphy, Rick Ritter & Jim Wilson.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

The December 14, 2009 minutes were accepted as presented.

**Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report**

- A. The Treasurer's Report, which is presently managed by the County of Northampton, was accepted as presented.
- B. Because grant funding held for BHCWA by Northampton County cannot be used to reimburse Bev the \$45 registration fee she paid to attend the Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference on 10/09/09, Chris indicated that she will be reimbursed through private funds.

**Correspondence**

- A. Jim reported that ten (10) new members joined BHCWA from the Hokendauqua Chapter of Trout Unlimited as a result of a BHCWA presentation at their monthly meeting on 12/16/09. Rick added these new members' names, email addresses and phone numbers into the BHCWA database.
- B. Rick reported that two new members have joined BHCWA via mail-in membership applications, which he has added to the membership database.
- C. Jim reported that he received a postcard from the Coldwater Heritage Partnership confirming their receipt of the NCCD-BHCWA completed Coldwater Conservation Grant Proposal to develop a coldwater conservation plan for the Hokendauqua Creek Watershed. Grant recipients will be acknowledged on 02/20/10.

**Old Business**

- A. Jim reported that the Coldwater Conservation Grant Proposal to develop a Hokendauqua Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan was completed & mailed to the Coldwater Heritage Partnership on 12/17/09. Grant awards will be announced on 02/20/10.
- B. Chris reported that the BHCWA bylaws are currently under the review of an attorney friend of Jason's & will most likely be made available for final approval & adoption at BHCWA's February 2010 meeting. Jason will next review the Association's charter for any necessary revisions before final BHCWA acceptance & approval & adoption following legal review.
- C. Jim reported that DEP has finally released funding to conduct its Watershed-based Surface Water Quality Assessments, which NCCD & BHCWA will perform for DEP on targeted waterways in the BHC Region this year. Jim will provide a project scope to the board at next month's meeting. The project end date is February 2011.
- D. Bob revised the BHCWA membership application form to include the Association's website. He then emailed Word & PDF files of the form to all board members for their records.
- E. Jim reported that he has developed a BHCWA program attendance/membership registration form for use in recording BHCWA program attendance figures & subscribing new members during programs. Forms should be sent to Rick after programs for him to enter new members into the BHCWA database.
- F. Colin reported that he has made contact with Julian Lewis, Pro Bono Counselor with Lehigh Valley SCORE, to work with BHCWA to execute necessary paperwork to register the Association with the IRS & Commonwealth of PA as a nonprofit & charitable organization. Julian provided Colin with "first step directions" & Colin will continue to work with Julian to accomplish these registration tasks.
- G. Jim reported that he has made no further progress in drafting outstanding sections of BHCWA's Strategic Plan. He hopes to do so in time for next month's meeting.

**-Over-**

## New Business

- A. During a motion to reorganize BHCWA for 2010, the board unanimously approved keeping the slate of elected officers from 2009.
- B. Jim reported that John Mauser has provided a summary of the "Streambank Restoration 101" workshop that BHCWA will sponsor in partnership with the Hokendauqua Chapter of Trout Unlimited for members of both organizations at the Northampton Middle School at 6:30pm on 02/24/10. The workshop will feature a PowerPoint presentation on all aspects of streambank stabilization, including landowner contacts, permitting, PNDI searches, partners, financing & deal making. John will lead the workshop with assistance from Jim & from Jeff Sabo, Waterways Conservation Officer with PFBC. Final confirmation with HCTU for use of the middle school is pending. Once confirmed, a workshop notice will be posted on the BHCWA website & emailed to the membership.
- C. Jim reported that a grant opportunity is currently open with the Water Resources Education Network (WREN) to apply for funding to develop water- & watershed-related educational programs or projects. All agreed that an introductory tabletop exhibit for & literature about BHCWA are appropriate elements for a WREN Grant Project. Discussions were had about partnering with the Northampton &/or Catasauqua School Districts for additional educational elements for a potential WREN Grant Project. Jim will prepare a draft project scope for review & discussion at next month's meeting. The WREN Grant Application deadline is 03/26/10.
- D. Discussions were had about developing and offering BHCWA Community Education & Outreach Programs this winter. Potential program topics included eagle watching along the Upper Delaware River, winter wildlife tracking & a field tour of the Mary Immaculate Seminary on Indian Creek. All agreed that an interpretive field tour of the seminary would be a most appropriate wintertime activity. A tentative time & date was scheduled for 12-2pm, 02/27/10. Bob will contact the Archdiocese in Philadelphia for confirmation, after which time a program flyer & press release will be developed, posted & distributed to the BHCWA membership & to the local press. Bob & Bud will develop & co-lead the program.
- E. Martin broached the subject of BHCWA taking a position on the Marcellus Shale Play that's happening to the north & west of the Lehigh Valley. He asked Bob to draft a position paper for BHCWA to consider, which Bob agreed to do in time for next month's meeting.

## News & Announcements

- A. Announcements were again made about two upcoming workshops: A Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Workshop from 10am-3pm, 02/10/10 at the Lower Saucon Township Government Center & a Source Water Protection (SWP) Workshop from 1pm-4:45pm, 03/09/10 at Northampton Community College. Jim will send the NRI workshop flyer to Jason to post on the BHCWA website. When published, the SWP workshop flyer will also be sent to Jason for posting on the BHCWA website. Jim will also send both flyers to the board members for their records.

The next meeting of the Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association was scheduled for 7pm, Monday, February 8, 2010 at the home of Bev & Bud Cole, Friar's View Drive, Walnutport (Lehigh Township).

The meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

*Submitted by Jim Wilson, Northampton County CDWS & Acting Secretary of BHCWA*