

Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association

Minutes from Membership/Directors Meeting, Monday, February 8, 2010

Cole Residence, Friar's View Drive, Lehigh Township, Northampton County

The membership/directors meeting was called to order at 7:13pm, with the following directors, members & guests in attendance: Chris Amato, Gary Birks, Martin Boksenbaum, Louise Bugbee, Juanita Carra-Budzek, Bev Cole, Bud Cole, Deb Miller, Rick Ritter, Jim Wilson & Kathy Woodley.

Introduction of Guests

Chris welcomed everyone & asked all present to introduce themselves.

Additions to Agenda

Jim added BHCWA's to-be-developed position paper on the Marcellus Shale Play to Old Business & the 2010 Great American Cleanup of PA opportunity to New Business.

Acceptance of Minutes

The January 11, 2010 minutes were accepted as presented.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Correspondence

- A. Chris reported that he received an electronic survey from the Foundation for PA Watersheds to be completed for BHCWA.
- B. Jim reported that he received email notice from the Coldwater Heritage Partnership indicating they will award NCCD's application for funding the study & preparation of a Coldwater Conservation Plan for the Hokendauqua Creek Watershed.
- C. Jim reported that he received an email message from a Catasauqua High School 9th grade earth science teacher expressing interest in partnering with BHCWA on future projects/programs in the Catasauqua Creek Watershed.
- D. Chris received a DCNR authored article on sustainable stormwater from Plainfield Township Supervisor Matt Glennon, which Jim photocopied & handed out to all in attendance.

Old Business

- A. Chris reported that the BHCWA bylaws are still under the review of an attorney friend of Jason's.
- B. Jim reported that, due to work & family situations, Colin has not yet been able to follow up with directions from the SCORE counselor assigned to BHCWA to assist the Association in executing the necessary paperwork to register with the IRS & Commonwealth as a nonprofit & charitable organization. Chris volunteered to assist Colin with this task after the first week of March.
- C. Jim reported that he has not yet initiated the Watershed-based Surface Water Quality Assessments, which NCCD & BHCWA will perform for DEP on targeted waterways in the BHC Region this year. And he did not develop for handout, a project scope of work to share with the board at the meeting; he will attempt to accomplish this for the March meeting. The project end date is February 2011.
- D. Jim reported that he has made no further progress developing outstanding sections of a partial draft BHCWA Strategic Plan. Martin suggested that this task should be a democratic process & that time should be dedicated during the March meeting to continue the plan development process. Rick added that the strategic planning process is lengthy by nature & that time should be allotted at each future meeting to accomplish this task until it's completed. The partial draft plan framework—including Overview, Programs & Operations, & Goals—have been completed. Objectives & Activities for each Goal must now be drafted. Jim will email the partial draft plan, along with earlier plan suggestions from Martin & Bob, to regular meeting attendees to review in preparation for further development at the March meeting. All BHCWA members are welcome to attend & participate in the strategic planning process during regular monthly meetings.
- E. Due to his work schedule, Bob was unable to attend the meeting or present a draft position paper on the Marcellus Shale Play for consideration by BHCWA, as was discussed & agreed to at the January meeting. Martin will follow up with Bob on this issue.

(Over)

New Business

- A. 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 is scheduled for 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 Mauser will lead the workshop with assistance from Jim & from Jeff Sabo, Waterways Conservation Officer with PFBC. Rick will send out a workshop notice to the BHCWA membership.
- B. Bob secured permission from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for BHCWA to host an interpretive public program on the grounds of the Mary Immaculate Seminary along Indian Creek in Lehigh Township on 02/27/10. Colin, Bob & Rick developed a press release, flyer & registration form for the program, titled "Winter Wonderland Nature Walk at the Mary Immaculate Center." Rick reported that he emailed the press release to local papers & has received about 20 registrations for the program & Jason has posted the press release on the BHCWA website. It was decided to close program registration at 45 registrants, which would allow for three groups of 15 people to be guided by one of three tour guides; Bob, Bud & possibly Brad Kreider (local Wildlife Conservation Officer with PGC) or Jim. Jim will contact Brad about his possible involvement with the program. Jim will coordinate with Bob a recon walkabout for tour guides prior to the program.
- C. Continued discussions were briefly had from last month's meeting about a grant opportunity with the Water Resources Education Network (WREN) to apply for funding to develop a tabletop exhibit & literature about BHCWA. Jim will apply for funding accordingly through NCCD on behalf of BHCWA.
- D. Jim reported that the Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) will award NCCD \$6,000 in funding to develop a Coldwater Conservation Plan for the Hokendauqua Creek Watershed, which was requested in a CHP Grant Application that was completed & submitted to CHP by NCCD last month. Formal grant announcements will be made at the Keystone Coldwater Conference in State College on 02/27/10, after which time contracts & project implementation directions will be sent to grantees.
- E. Chris received an electronic survey link from the Foundation for PA Watersheds to be completed on behalf of BHCWA in order for the Foundation to develop a snapshot of PA's 300-plus community watershed organizations & the work they do & to provide further motivation for a Growing Greener III initiative. Jim will assist Chris in completing the electronic survey.
- F. Jim reported an opportunity for BHCWA to participate in the "Great American Cleanup of PA," a statewide effort coordinated between DEP, PennDOT, PA Cleanways & others to remove litter & trash from PA's roadways, parks, forest, riverbanks, neighborhoods & open spaces between March 1 & May 31, 2010. Project partners will supply resources & supplies free-of-charge to registered participants. Chris volunteered to serve as coordinator & register BHCWA coordinator for this year's program. Jim provided Chris with program contact information. Potential project sites are numerous throughout the BHC Region; specific project site(s) will be identified at future meetings.

News & Announcements

- A. Martin announced that community watershed organizations & other environmental/conservation organizations are encouraged to register their organizations free-of-charge in The Alliance for Sustainable Communities 2010 Directory & to register their Earth Day programs on the Alliance's Earth Day Calendar.
- B. The Natural Resource Inventory Workshop scheduled from 10am-3pm, 02/10/10 at the Lower Saucon Township Government Center has been rescheduled for the same time & place on 03/10/10 due to the impending snowstorm.
- C. Jim handed out mailers to everyone in attendance for the Source Water Protection Workshop scheduled from 1pm-4:45pm, 03/09/10 at Northampton Community College.
- D. The Foundation for PA Watersheds is hosting its 2010 Watershed Summit: A Conference for Watershed Associations & Their Allies on 05/01/10 at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in State College.

The day after the meeting, Louise Bugbee coordinated with the Allen Township Manager so that the next meeting of the Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, March 8, 2010 at the Allen Township Municipal Building, 4714 Indian Trail Road, Northampton (Allen Township).

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

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