

Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association

Minutes from Membership/Directors Meeting, Monday, April 12, 2010

Pennsville Hotel, 3750 Lehigh Drive, Northampton (Lehigh Township)

The membership/directors meeting was called to order at 7:17pm, with the following directors & members in attendance: Chris Amato, Martin Boksenbaum, Juanita Carra-Budzek, Bob Hosking, Louise Bugbee, Bev Cole, Bud Cole, Colin Murphy & Jim Wilson.

Introduction of Guests

None present.

Additions to Agenda

None

Acceptance of Minutes

The March 8, 2010 minutes were accepted as presented.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Correspondence

No correspondence was received to report.

Old Business

- A. Bylaws & Charter – Following a brief discussion, it was agreed by all that the bylaws & charter were both ready to be voted on & that any need for amendments or revisions to either document can be addressed in the future. Chris made a motion to accept both documents, which was seconded by Bud & the motion carried.
- B. Nonprofit & Charitable Organization Registration Update – Jim reported that he met with Bethlehem attorney Joe Yanuzzi, who has agreed to file the Association's Articles of Incorporation with the Commonwealth & to coordinate the publication of the filing with The Morning Call newspaper & The Northampton County Reporter legal journal for a total of \$700—\$125 filing fee to the Commonwealth, \$150 publication fee to the Morning Call, \$75 publication fee to the Northampton County Reporter & \$350 legal fee to the attorney. Mr. Yanuzzi will provide some guidance to the Association to file its Federal Tax Exempt, 501©(3) paperwork with the IRS, which is a separate process & may require the formal assistance of an accountant.
- C. Marcellus Shale Play Position Paper – Bob continues to research issues with the Marcellus Shale Play in order to develop a succinct, one-page position paper for consideration by BHCWA. He will send an electronic draft to the steering committee for review within the next two weeks.
- D. Foundation for PA Watersheds Survey – Chris reported that he successfully completed an electronic survey from the Foundation for PA Watersheds, which will enable the Foundation to develop a snapshot of PA's 300 community watershed organizations & the work they do & provide further motivation to DEP for a Growing Greener III initiative.

New Business

- A. April 24 BHCWA-HCTU Partnership Cleanup – Bud announced the need for Association volunteers to help with the cleanup scheduled for 04/24/10 with the Hokey Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Northampton Borough. Bud, Bev & Bob were the only Association members who indicated they were available that day for certain. Juanita suggested incorporating "plastics education" (photodegradation vs. biodegradation) for volunteers during this program.

New Business (Continued)

- B. Summer Community Education & Outreach Programming – Discussions were had about scheduling late spring & summer outreach programs. Bob will coordinate with the Mary Immaculate Center to schedule a late May wildflower walk & Colin will begin to coordinate scheduling a mid-July Lehigh River paddle program. Colin broached the idea of charging for certain programs this year, like the paddle program, for which he suggested \$10 per family & \$5 per individual. Other summer & late year program venues were mentioned, including the Lehigh Township Fair, the Allen Township Covered Bridge Festival & the Walnutport Canal Festival.
- C. Summer Bacteria Sampling Project – The Association agreed to participate in the DEP bacteria sampling project this summer on Bertsch Creek & Indian Creek, for the purpose of assessing these streams for recreational use based on fecal coliforms. DEP will determine sampling locations, but at least two sites on each stream need to be sampled. The frequency of collection will be once a week for ten weeks between May 1 & September 30. Samples will then need to be delivered to a local lab within six hours of collection for analysis. DEP will provide all equipment, lab analysis costs & training. Jim will coordinate the project & training with DEP on behalf of BHCWA.
- D. Annual Report – Jim reported that he's in the process of developing a 2009 Annual Report for BHCWA members & supporters that will demonstrate the Association's activities & accomplishments during its foundational year. He hopes to have a draft ready for review by the next monthly meeting.

Program, Activity & Committee Reports

- A. March 27 BHCWA-HCTU Partnership Cleanup Report– Bud & Chris reported that the partnership streamside cleanup with the Hokey Chapter of Trout Unlimited at the skate park along the Hokendauqua Creek in the Borough of Northampton was a great success. Twenty-four members from both organizations collected over 40 bags of garbage. PennDOT provided garbage bags & gloves & Northampton Borough provided a dump truck & driver.
- B. Strategic Planning Committee Report – An ad hoc committee was established at the Association's March meeting to continue developing the BHCWA Strategic Plan. Bud & Bob volunteered to develop draft Objectives & Activities for the Strategic Plan's Education & Outreach Goals, Jim volunteered to develop drafts for the Planning & Programming Goals & Martin volunteered to develop drafts for the Policy & Advocacy Goals for review & discussion at the April meeting. Committee members reported that they had made no progress to date.

Grant Project Reports

- A. Surface Water Quality Assessments Project Report – Jim reported that he will be trained in the assessment protocol on 04/13/10 & he will report back to the Association after that. NCCD was approved \$15,339 by DEP to conduct surface water assessments on the Hokendauqua, Indian & Catasauqua Creeks. The project deadline is February 2011.
- B. Coldwater Conservation Planning Project Report – NCCD was approved \$6,000 by the Coldwater Conservation Heritage Partnership to develop a coldwater conservation plan for the Hokendauqua Creek Watershed. Jim reported that the contract & project directions are pending. The project deadline is early 2012.
- C. WREN Grant Project Report – Jim reported that he was advised against including funding to develop a tabletop exhibit & introductory literature for BHCWA in a Water Resources Education Network (WREN) Grant proposal he submitted for a project in northeastern Northampton County on 03/26/10. He will seek other funding sources for the Association's exhibit & literature.
- D. Newspaper Project Report – Jim reported that DCNR & the D&L Heritage Corridor will fund the publication of a newspaper insert on nonpoint source pollution, watersheds & community watershed organizations in Northampton County for insertion in either The Express-Times or The Morning Call. Jim has received RFPs from both newspapers & will meet with the D&L Corridor to discuss both proposals.

News & Announcements

- A. The Foundation for PA Watersheds is hosting a 2010 Watershed Summit: A Conference for Watershed Associations & Their Allies on 05/01/10 at the Ramada Inn Conference Center in State College.
- B. The PA Water Resources Research Center & PA DEP are cosponsoring the 2010 Pennsylvania Water Symposium on 05/05/10 & 05/06/10 at the Penn State Conference Center in State College.

The next meeting of the Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, May 10, 2010 at the Pennsville Hotel, 3750, Lehigh Drive (PA 248), Northampton (Lehigh Township).

The meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.

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