

Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association

Minutes from Membership/Directors Meeting, Monday, May 10, 2010

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

The membership/directors meeting was called to order at 7:20pm, with the following directors & members in attendance: Chris Amato, Gary Birks, Martin Boksenbaum, Bob Hosking, Bev Cole, Bud Cole, Debbie Miller, Colin Murphy & Jim Wilson.

Introduction of Guests

None present.

Additions to Agenda

Jim added two items to News & Announcements: PIX press release & Lehigh Township's Emergency Permit for the repair of the Indian Creek Bridge on Indian Trail Road.

Acceptance of Minutes

The April 12, 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. 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.
- B. Annual Report – Jim indicated that he has made no further progress on the 2009 Annual Report for BHCWA members & supporters that will demonstrate the Association's activities & accomplishments during its foundational year. He has drafted a partial report & will strive to complete a full draft for review by the July meeting.
- C. Summer 2010 Bacteria Sampling Project – Jim reported that DEP has contracted with Benchmark Analytical in Center Valley, PA for lab analysis of water samples, which BHCWA volunteers will need to transport there during sampling this summer. BHCWA agreed to transport water samples to Benchmark Analytical. DEP has offered training for BHCWA volunteers at NCCD HQ the weeks of May 17 or May 24. The majority of BHCWA volunteers preferred May 25 & indicated May 17, 18, 26 & 27 as alternative dates, if DEP is not available on May 25. Jim will coordinate & confirm a training date with DEP & BHCWA.

New Business

- A. Atlas Dam Removal – Jim reported that the US Army Corps of Engineers has received an application to breach the Atlas Dam on Hokendauqua Creek in the Borough of Northampton. The application was very incomplete, with many issues yet to be resolved. Jim will keep BHCWA apprised of the application process as updates come through the CD.
- B. Lehigh University Economics Project – Jim reported that professors & graduate students from Lehigh's Economics Program may be interested in partnering with BHCWA on a Fall 2010 economics project to help the Association develop a strategy for building financial resources. Lehigh will contact Jim in August to confirm & provide more information at that time.

New Business (Continued)

- C. Hokendauqua Creek Streambank Stabilization Project – Jim reported that a meeting was recently held with the PA Fish & Boat Commission, HCTU & John & Wasyl Mauser to stabilize a 120-foot stretch of streambank just upstream of the Kreidersville Covered Bridge on municipal property in Allen Township & that PFBC has developed project plans & a materials list for the construction of a modified mud sill crib as the stabilizing practice. These plans were attached to a May 3 email from John Mauser, which Jim recently forwarded to BHCWA directors & committee members. The aforementioned project partners have requested BHCWA to join the project partnership & support the project. Bob raised concerns about the use of mud sill cribs for streambank stabilization & voiced his opposition to the project as planned. Chris asked for more information about project particulars & Jim will invite John Mauser to attend the July BHCWA meeting to further explain the project.

Program, Activity & Committee Reports

- A. April 24 BHCWA-HCTU Partnership Cleanup Report – Bud 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 another success on the heels of the partnership cleanup at the same site in March. Fifteen members from both organizations & some Boy Scouts & their parents filled one dump truck with debris. Northampton Borough provided a dump truck & driver. Other cleanup sites will be targeted in the future.
- A. Summer Community Education & Outreach Programming – Instead of planning a late May/early June wildflower walk at MIC, Bob will coordinate with the planning committee of the Kreidersville Covered Bridge Festival to incorporate BHCWA macroinvertebrate programming into the festival on Saturday, June 5 in Allen Township. Colin will coordinate scheduling a July Lehigh River paddle program. Bud mentioned that other summer & late year program venues to keep in mind & to plan for include the Lehigh Township Fair in July & the Walnutport Canal Festival in October.
- B. Strategic Planning Committee Report – Committee members Martin, Bob, Bud & Jim from the ad hoc committee that was established at the March meeting to continue developing the BHCWA Strategic Plan, which Jim has drafted an outline for, reported that they had made no further progress on the plan to date. The committee will meet at 5pm, June 14 at Bob's house to discuss & continue developing the Strategic Plan.

Grant Project Reports

- A. Surface Water Quality Assessments Project Report – Jim reported that he overextended the number of assessment sites the CD has funding for & that regrettably he had to delete the Hokendauqua, Indian & Catasauqua Creeks from the project. However, there is funding available through the Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant the CD has for developing the Hokendauqua Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan. Therefore, water quality testing on the Hokey & Indian creeks will be performed in the future & paid for from this funding.
- B. Coldwater Conservation Planning Project Report – Jim reported that he attended a coldwater conservation plan public meeting in Dauphin County last month, which will be required of BHCWA & the CD in presenting its partnership public meeting to announce the Hokendauqua Creek Coldwater Conservation Plan initiative. Jim also reported that he recently received the fully executed Coldwater Heritage Partnership Grant contract & that he will provide an outline of the planning project scope & time table at the July meeting. The project deadline is 2012.
- C. 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 & is waiting on the D&L Corridor for confirmation on which RFP to accept. The project will likely be developed this summer.

News & Announcements

- A. The Pretreatment Information Exchange (PIX) will host a professional educational outreach program in the form of a 10-mile, Lehigh River canoe trip from Allentown to Freemansburg on Friday, June 4. PIX is a nonprofit watershed organization established by pretreatment personnel from the Allentown, Bethlehem, Catasauqua & Easton wastewater treatment plants to bring municipalities, discharging businesses, regulators, environmental organizations & concerned citizens together to better protect our watersheds in a synergistic, coordinated group to leverage resources & promote information sharing, networking & mentoring.
- B. Lehigh Township has received an Emergency Permit from DEP to repair the Indian Trail Road Bridge over Indian Creek. Construction should begin sometime this summer.

The next meeting of the Bertsch-Hokendauqua-Catasauqua Watershed Association is scheduled for 7pm, Monday, June 14, 2010 at the Pennsville Hotel, 3750, Lehigh Drive (PA 248), Northampton (Lehigh Township).

The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

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