

Minutes
Warm Springs Watershed Association
May 25, 2016

Attendance: **Board Members** included Michael Brooks, Norman Dean, Betty Harmison, Kate Lehman, Bob Wurster, Andy Swaim; **guests** included Frank Rodgers, Ben Smith. Excused absences were granted to Jeff Iliff, Larry Lower, Rebecca MacLeod and Tim Rowland.

Secretary's Report: Betty moved/ Mike seconded to accept the March minutes as written; the vote to do so was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: At the Annual Meeting, which is when we last met, there was \$13,863.81 in the CNB account. Since that time there have been six debits to the account, all of which were pre-approved for payment:

- \$89.92 reimbursement to Michael for work on the website;
- \$59.74 reimbursement to Michael for books to be raffled off at the Plant Fair;
- \$15.00 to Morgan Messenger for ad for annual meeting;
- \$10 for business license to sell t-shirts at Plant Fair;
- \$6.69 reimbursement to Kate for purchase of water for the Make-it-Shine program;
- \$10.80 reimbursement to Kate for drinks provided at the Annual Meeting.

There were two credits to the account:

- \$160 in dues and donations from people attending the Annual Meeting;
- \$100 in dues and donations since the annual meeting.

As of May 25, 2016, there is \$13931.66 in the CNB account.

The Treasurer's Report was filed to audit.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee: Andy presented three bills for payment:

- \$73.00 to the Morgan Messenger for newsletters and fliers;
- \$28.58 reimbursement to Kerry Jackson of the Tree Board for food provided at recent tree planting;
- \$25.00 to reimbursement to Kate for filing fee with WV Secretary of State.

Bob moved/Mike seconded that those bills be paid; the vote was unanimous.

Andy reported that the Town of Bath awarded WSWA \$500.00 to be paid from 2016-17Hotel/Motel Tax Funds, to be paid in quarterly installments.

Membership: Michael reported that all 33 members are alive and well and paid in full.

Publicity: Kate noted that we did a lot of publicity for the annual meeting, and that attendance was as high as it had ever been.

Stream Monitoring: Norman noted that the unusually wet weather as of late has prevented us from doing anything so far.

Web Master: Michael reported that by forgoing the option of seeing where people who look at our website are from, we save \$60.

Unfinished Business

The **2015 Stream Partners** grant has been closed.

Liam Glenn, who was recommended by Leslie Milbourne, is the recipient of our scholarship to the **Cacapon Institute Summer Program for Youth**.

We were rained out of the **Master Gardener Plant Fair** on Friday and did not have a sufficient number of volunteers for Saturday.

Nick Millet, of WV Fish and Wildlife, will deliver the purple loosestrife-eating beetles in mid-June. Norman suggested that we note changes by setting up a one-meter square to monitor activity in the area.

Frank Rodgers was present to discuss the rain garden in Greenway Cemetery, our project for the **2016 Stream Partners grant**. It is anticipated that work will begin in late August-early September.

New Business

We will **weed the wetlands path** on Tuesday, May 31 at 9:00.

Bob moved/Mike seconded that we enter into an agreement with Ben Smith, who will be our **summer intern**. The Cacapon Institute has agreed to supervise Ben. This agreement means that CI personnel will supervise Ben; also his mileage while working will be paid by CI.

Nick Millet of the US Fish and Wildlife Service recommends that we dig up the small patch of **knotweed on the banks of the Run by the track**, trying to get out as much of the root as possible. Ongoing vigilance will be necessary for the next 4-5 years. The school has given us permission to act, as long as "there is no cost to them." We will dig up the knotweed on Tuesday, May 31.

Norman reports that he has yet to see many wildflowers in the wetlands. While he has not seen any of the plants on the list of seeds sown in the area, he has seen exotics such as dandelions. Norman also noted that there were some invasive plants in the seed mix.

Nick Millet has asked if WSWA is willing to be a **“host family” to our purple loosestrife-eating beetles**, which means we would, with detailed instructions from DNR, winter the beetles over and make them available to other groups in the area that request them come next summer. There was consensus to take on this project.

There was consensus about working with the Berkeley Club Bottling Company to establish a riparian buffer.

It was decided that the safest way to dispose of purple loosestrife plants is to take them to the dump in sealed bags.

Two items were tabled until the next meeting: Adopt a Highway and Long-Term Goal Planning Dates need to be set for a Rail Trail Hike and a Flower Walk

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 22, at 6:00PM at the Extension Office.

Summer Intern Information

Ben wrote:

I am a Junior at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, Majoring in Geo-Environmental Studies. I am interested in Wildlife/Habitat Management, and Habitat Restoration. I have field experience in water quality monitoring with my local Conservation District. I have basic GIS skills, including experience through classroom and fieldwork. Last summer, I took a Marine Biology course at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station. This class was equal parts classroom and field work. I have been an active member with my local Quality Deer Management Association for the past five years. Personally, I am an active outdoorsman, and have a strong connection to Sleepy Creek and the Potomac River areas. I appreciate the importance of this project and its benefits locally and to the watershed in general. I am confident in my ability to identify local, as well as invasive, plant and animal species.

I am available beginning June 6th, which is the Monday after my summer class concludes. While I live in Adams County Pennsylvania, I do have housing available in the Berkley Springs Area, and my own transportation.

I look forward to hearing from you and working with you.

Details:

Ben has indicated that he is willing to volunteer for this position, although he would also be happy to be paid.

The issue of liability was raised, and a suggestion was made that Ben be sponsored by Cacapon Institute so as to be covered by their insurance. Frank Rodgers indicated CI would be willing to have Ben classified as an intern for them. CI would be willing to pay for Ben's transportation.

Ben and Kate worked out a job description, which was sent to Board members. However, the job description is still open, if board members think adjustments should be made. The job description works well without CI's requirements for interns.

Kate recommends that we give Ben a "bonus" or "gift" at the end of the summer if we are satisfied with his work. This money would come out of our budget, not from the funds we will receive from RC&D to hire an Americorps Vista person.