

**Amended Minutes  
Warm Springs Watershed Association  
Wednesday, January 25, 2017**

Attendance: Michael Brooks, Norman Dean, Jeff Iliff, Kate Lehman, Larry Lower, Rebecca MacLeod, Andy Swaim, Bob Wurster. Excused absence: Betty Harrison. Guest: Alana Hartman

Announcements and Reports: Jeff reported on the December 15th meeting at the Ambrae House sponsored by West Virginia Rivers Coalition. Members of Sleepy Creek and Warm Springs Watershed were provided with an opportunity to engage with State Representative Daryl Cowles. The event, which was well attended, was felt to be very productive.

WV Watershed Celebration Day will be Aug 18-19 at Camp Dawson, Kingwood WV  
The Easter Panhandle Watershed Group gathering will be in May this year in Martinsburg.

Secretary's Report: Jeff moved/Mike seconded that the minutes of the December 14, 2016 meeting be accepted as written; the vote to do so was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Andy reported that at the December 14, 2016 meeting, the balance on hand at CNB was \$8517.00. Since then there have been three debits, all of which were approved at that meeting:

- \$120.00 to the Town of Bath Tree Board to pay for four trees they ordered for us as part of our 2016 Stream Partners project.
- \$24.75 to Kate for reimbursement for replacement stream monitoring supplies.
- \$106 to the educational fund for Carla Hardy's daughters.

Since the last meeting there have been two credits to our account:

- \$23.97 transfer from Pay Pal for dues
- \$320.00 in non-electronically paid dues and contributions.

As of this morning, there is \$8610.22 in our CNB account.

The Treasurer's Report was filed to audit.

Andy raised the need to start the auditing process. Michael, Rebecca, and Norman have agreed to serve on this committee.

**To Do: Kate will ask Bob to serve on the committee.**

### **Committee Reports**

Finance Committee: Andy submitted one bill for approval, the annual fee to rent a Post Office box. The cost of renting a PO box has increased from \$58 to \$62.00. Although this item is listed in our budget, because of the increase Larry moved/Rebecca seconded that we pay the increased amount. The vote to do so was unanimous.

Advocacy Committee: Jeff stressed the importance of urging our national representatives to pay careful attention to the nomination of Scott Pruitt to the EPA. Mr. Pruitt does not have a record that suggests he is fully committed to protecting the environment.

Membership: Michael reported that last month he sent out 105 emails and 18 letters requesting donations from existing members and renewals from lapsed members. On December 31, we had 34 members; on January 1 we had 19 members. So far 6 people have renewed their membership.

Program: Kate reported that The Pines Opportunity Center has rooms available that can be used for our annual meeting. While there is no charge for the room, should we decide to serve refreshments we are obligated to use their food service program.

**To Do: Kate will check out the rooms to see if they are satisfactory for our needs.**

Stream Monitoring: Stream monitoring will resume in April. Norman reported that he saw a caterpillar on the foliage of purple loosestrife at the wetlands. In the next few weeks, he will start looking for salamanders in the wetlands. Kate noted that there is trash in the wetlands that needs to be picked up.

Webmaster: There was discussion on whether it is appropriate to post pictures taken throughout the US just after the EPA was established in order to illustrate what could well happen if the agency is significantly weakened.

### **Unfinished Business**

Kate reported that one of the Middle School science teachers has recommended several students as potential **Stream Scholars**. One of the students is the daughter of Paul and Suzy Allen, who have long been strong environmental advocates. We will approach the Allens to see if Sadie is interested in the program. Rebecca moved/Jeff seconded that we sponsor two Stream Scholars; the vote to do so was unanimous.

It was decided that we will sponsor an in-house **workshop on identifying macro invertebrates** to the family level.

**To Do: Kate will check with Heather Duncan to determine who is leading the Envirothon program at the high school and then check to see if that group is interested in participating in the workshop.**

Kate reported that Gerry Crispino continues to be vigilant in responding to reports of **illegal dump-sites**. Rebecca recommended that we publicize the fact that it is illegal to dump trash, and that something can be done if one observes that it has happened. Offenders can be fined as well as required to clean up their mess. This information can be sent to the *Morgan Messenger* as well as posted on our website.

**To Do: Kate will write a note to Robin Dolly, Gerry's boss, to let him know what a good job Gerry is doing.**

Alana reported that our **2016 Stream Partners Grant** has been closed out.

### New Business

Alana presented the check for our **2017 Stream Partners grant**, (\$4591) and informed us of various regulations and policies associated with the grant. There was discussion about having WV DEP include a general requirement that some of the in-kind hours used for Stream Partners grants reflect maintenance done on past projects. Alana was not certain whether this idea can be instituted into the program, but did suggest that we as a board create an internal policy stating this intention. The CommuniTree program provides a good example of how this requirement is instituted.

**WV Environmental Council E-Day** will take place in Charleston on February 27, the same day as Morgan County Day. **Jeff, Rebecca and Kate** will work with David Lillard to establish some talking points to present to legislators. Also, we will make appointments to meet with key legislators far in advance of our trip to the capital.

**Make-it-Shine** is scheduled to take place between April 1 and 14. Some possible locations are on New Hope Road, the area around Biser Street, and on the section of Myers Road between US Route 522 and Johnson Mill Road. We will hold our Make-it-Shine event at the Myers Road location on Wednesday, April 12, with a rain date of the 13th.

We will participate in at least one day of the **Plant Fair**, which is held on Mother's Day weekend, May 12,13.

Kate reported recently seeing significant amounts of soapsuds in Run in the area behind Skeeters. She noted an illegal discharge pipe that seemed to be the source of the pollution and reported that information to Gerry Crispino.

We received an invitation from Kristin Mielcarek of the Canaan Valley Institute to participate in 2 Warm Springs restoration projects funded through a **Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant**.

**To Do:** Kate will ask Alma who initiated the request to have work done in these locations. Kate will also invite a representative of Canaan Valley Institute to attend a meeting to talk the work WSWA has done to locate and prioritize potential projects.

Larry mentioned that the 2015 Green Infrastructure Book, prepared for the Town of Bath, had details about Warm Springs projects. We will try to obtain a copy.

We will request \$750 from the Town of Bath Hotel/Motel Tax Distribution program. The deadline is February 28.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

The next meeting of the WSWA Board will take place on Wednesday, February 22, starting at 6:00PM at the Extension Office.