

Lebanon County Clean Water Alliance Meeting
North Cornwall Township Office
Thursday, April 12, 2012
2:00 pm

Minutes

- I. Welcome/Introductions** – Present: Mike Booth, Steph Harmon, Jeff Whalen, John Poff, Kris Troup, Robin Getz, Renee Lehman, Bill Ames, Phylis Dryden, Gordon Kirkessner, Sheila Wartluft

- II. Meeting Minutes** – A **motion** was made by Booth/Getz to approve the January 24, 2012 meeting minutes as distributed. Motion carried.

- III.** Commissioner Ames asked if there is a formal structure to the LCCWA or a memo of understanding between the members of the group. Getz and Troup responded that this has been a topic of considerable discussion since the group's inception in January 2011. At this point, the LCCWA remains a loose-knit group of organizations/municipalities focused around the topic of the MS4 requirements. There is no formal structure or memo of understanding between the participants. Kirkessner mentioned how much stronger we are collectively than we are working as individual entities. Kirkessner also led a discussion on sharing of equipment and other resources.

- IV. Joanne Throwe Presentation** – There was considerable discussion about Ms. Throwe's presentation. Poff was contacted last week by Ms. Throwe. She is hoping to see a technical assistance grant application from the LCCWA. Joanne will be the review agent for all of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) grant applications. She is working with a group of municipalities in Lancaster County, and she will have an intern in Lancaster on a periodic basis to assist with their project. Being able to work with our group in Lebanon would piggyback nicely with her Lancaster project. There are two types of stormwater grants presently being offered through NFWF: 1. a Technical Assistance Grant, for which a match is not required 2. A project grant of \$20,000 to \$200,000, which requires 25% matching funds.

The Technical Assistance Grant would basically provide an evaluation of our individual municipal MS4 programs, as well as a review of the LCCWA, and would result in a series of recommendations on the next steps to improve and focus the organization. The evaluation would also suggest financing options to support the recommendations. A **motion** was made by Harmon/Poff to submit a Technical Assistance Grant application for the LCCWA. Motion carried. Troup volunteered to assemble the grant application. If the County Commissioners approve, Troup (the County) will submit the NFWF grant application on behalf of the LCCWA. Troup will request assistance from the LCCWA members with preparation of the document.

- V. PSATS MS4 Workshops** – The Pennsylvania Association of Township Supervisors held a series of MS4 workshops. Troup, Getz and Wartluft attended the workshop in

Lancaster in February and Kirkessner and Poff attended the January workshop in Berks County. The workshops confirmed that EPA and PADEP still appear to disagree on many aspects of the regulations. <FTP://FTP.state.pa.us/pub/dep/SWM/> is the link where PAG-13 permit applications can be obtained. Reminder – September 14, 2012 is the deadline to submit your application for renewal of MS4 permits.

VI. Education/Outreach Campaign – www.Thetoolbox.com – a discussion of this topic was tabled until after the potential technical assistant grant is completed.

VII. Senate Bill 1261 – Getz and Troup mentioned PA Senate Bill 1261, which would facilitate the establishment of stormwater authorities to provide for financing of stormwater management and planning projects. The Bill has passed the Senate and is presently in the PA House Local Government Committee.

- a. Jonestown Borough has proposed the implementation of a stormwater fee to pay for needed stormwater improvements in the borough. The proposed fee for single family residences would be \$15 per quarter, while the fee for all other parcels would be based upon the amount of impervious surface on the property. Lehman, who is a resident of Jonestown Borough, indicated that non-profit agencies, including churches, schools, cemeteries, etc..., would **not** be excluded from paying the stormwater fee.
- b. AMEC is arranging a stormwater financing workshop for May 14th. The target audience will be Lancaster, Lebanon, Dauphin, Cumberland and York Counties. The day-long workshop will be free. When a location is confirmed and other details become available, Troup will forward this information to the LCCWA.

VIII. Other Business – Commissioner Ames commented that the unfunded mandates from the state and federal government must stop, and that we must relay the message to our legislators that they must be a partner in the solution of these issues, rather than just funneling all of the mandates to the local level for resolution.

IX. Next Meeting – A doodle survey will be sent to the group to schedule the next meeting, which will likely be in mid-to-late May. The next meeting will again be held at the North Cornwall Township Building.

X. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:20 pm.