

Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy (FOLC)

Board of Directors Meeting No. 3

July 20, 2006

The meeting, held at the home of Hal Gardner and Cheryl Pauli, was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ed Franco, President.

In attendance:

Ed Franco
Hal Gardner
Wayne DeMoss
Steve Fealtman
Craig Houston

Cindy Criswell
Gary Criswell
John Alden
Ruben Lao

Guests: Dale Bentz, Gleim Environmental Group
Cheryl Pauli
Bryce Gardner
Isabel Houston

Absent: Eric Melder
Craig Boyer
Mary Franco
Steve Kuhn
Jan Ruby
Karen Finkenbinder

General Discussion

A. Gleim Environmental Group

Dale Bentz of Gleim Environmental Group, an affiliate of John W. Gleim Jr. Excavating, attended the meeting to express Gleim's support of the Opossum Lake project and to determine how Gleim could help with reconstruction of the dam.

He stated that FOLC (as a 501c3 organization) could take on management of the rebuilding of the dam and act as the construction manager for the project. In this case, the project would not need to be competitively bid and the prevailing wage laws would not apply. Cindy Criswell noted that if the Department of General Services (DGS) becomes involved, there will be no choice in contractors selected and the bureaucracy of DGS will run the project. If FOLC runs the project, FOLC would select a general contractor who in turn

would select subcontractors. Partnering with local businesses would then be possible for services and supplies.

Dale Bentz expressed Gleim's strong interest in being a part of the project.

It was decided to keep this option open for future discussion.

B. Funding Report

Ed Franco reported that he will be sending thank you letters to the Lower Frankford Township Commissioners, the Cumberland County Commissioners, and the PA Fish & Boat Commission for their commitment of funds to the project. The funds committed to date include:

\$775,000	PA Fish & Boat Commission (2005 Growing Greener Fund)
\$500,000	Cumberland County Commissioners (Growing Greener II)
<u>\$100,000</u>	Lower Frankford Township
\$1,375,000	Total committed to date

It should be noted that Cumberland County Commissioners have not committed tax dollars – the funds are from the Growing Greener II bond money from the state to the county (bond issue).

The funds must be “used” by June 2007 – all parts of the project must fall into place by that time or the funds will no longer be available.

Any funds that might be available from the Department of Environmental Services require a 15% match.

C. House Bill 2317

House Bill 2317 was discussed. Steve Fealtman and Cindy Criswell will review this bill and report at the next Board meeting. Is there a line item for Opossum Lake and is it linked to a bond issue? We need to clarify if a bond issue will be involved before moving forward.

D. PA Fish & Boat Commission

Jim Hetzel, Mark Mitchell, and Tom Shervinskies (Fisheries Biologist) of the PA F&BC are willing to meet with FOLC and the Township supervisors on August 4, 2006 at 1:00 PM at the Township building. Ed Franco urged as many Board members as possible to attend this meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to review the Land Partnership Grant (\$8,075) and review the specifications for equipment, benches, picnic tables, etc. FOLC will enter into a lease with the PA F&BC to maintain the access trail. PA F&BC must apply for a G7 permit from DEP for the required stream crossings along the trail.

E. Giftworks Computer Program

Steve Fealtman reported that he has reviewed this program; however, he believes that FOLC presently does not need to use the program.

Committee Reports

A. Treasurer's Report

Wayne DeMoss noted income and expenditures for the month. There is a balance of \$2,235 in the account.

B. Membership Committee

Cindy Criswell reported that membership is now over 100 with the additions this evening.

A new name for the newsletter was discussed and a list of suggestions was reviewed. The Board voted to make " 'Possum Watch" the new name for the newsletter. After the vote, it was revealed that Hal Gardner submitted the winning entry.

C. Grants/Legislative Committee

Craig Houston reported on the C2P2 (Community Conservation Preservation Program) grant process. Lower Frankford Township is seeking space to develop a small township park and plans to apply through the C2P2 application process for funds. Applicants can receive a maximum of \$60,000 with a \$12,000 match necessary. The Township is presently developing a site plan with the Township engineer for a small park on the Opossum Lake property. The Township must guarantee public access to the property. A 25-year lease is possible with the PA Fish & Boat Commission for a small area.

D. Media/Public Relations Committee

John Alden will be distributing a media release next week. He will also be contacting the media concerning their coverage of the work day in September.

John will soon begin contacting corporations concerning donations to FOLC. He suggested that any company that donates \$1,000 or more be listed on the web site as Sustaining Members. They could also be listed in the next newsletter.

E. Projects/Adopt An Access Committee

The Board scheduled a combined work day and trash pick-up day for September 16, 2006. It was noted that we will need to have the contract with the County signed before any work is done. Stephanie Williams should have the contract ready for signature at the August Board of Directors meeting. FOLC will receive half of the grant when the contract is signed and the other half when the project is completed.

The day will begin at 9:00 AM at the large parking area at Opossum Lake. FOLC must conduct the safety training instruction with all attendees before any work is started.

Following the safety training, an informal informational session will be held to disseminate information to attendees about where FOLC stands as far as fundraising, etc. It was decided not to have a formal membership meeting, but to use this informal method of distributing information to interested parties.

Work will include trash pick-up around the lake, trail construction, and removing a large area of poison ivy from the northwest corner of the lake.

John Alden suggested having a "ground-breaking" ceremony for the project and inviting the media to attend.

Ruben Lao will contact the PA F&BC Waterways Conservation Officer to inform him that we will be holding this event.

Ruben will also check on the availability of a porta-potty for the work day.

Cindy Criswell will develop a one page announcement (using information from John Alden's press release) to be sent to FOLC members, our mailing list, and local media. This will be sent approximately the third week in August as a "reminder" about the event.

The Board of Directors would like to meet briefly sometime during this event. Details will be decided during the August Board of Directors meeting.

F. Fundraising Committee

Eric Melder and Karen Finkenbinder were not in attendance; therefore, details of future fundraising events were not discussed.

Jan Ruby sent a proposed design for a bookmark for the Board's review. After some wording changes on the bookmark, it was approved. Steve Fealtman will check with local printers on producing the bookmarks. We would like to have the bookmarks ready for distribution at the September 16th work day.

G. Volunteer Tracking

No report.

H. Next Meeting of the Board of Directors (and any interested members)

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, August 17, 2006 at 7:00 pm at the home of Ed and Mary Franco.

I. Corrections and Additions

The above summation is our interpretation of the items discussed and the agreed decisions at the time of this meeting. Any person desiring to add to or modify these minutes is advised to submit comments in writing to the attention of the Secretary no later than five (5) days after receipt; otherwise, these minutes will remain as issued.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia E. Criswell
Secretary