

Friends of Opossum Lake Conservancy (FOLC)

Board of Directors Meeting No. 15

August 22, 2007

The meeting, held at the home of Mort and Thelma Fegley, was called to order at 7:00 pm by Ed Franco, President.

In attendance:

Ed Franco
Tim Barrick
Craig Houston
Ruben Lao
Cheryl Pauli
Hal Gardner

Mort Fegley
Steve Fealtman
Cindy Criswell
Mary Franco
Allen Shank

Absent: Jan Ruby
Eric Klinedinst
Wayne DeMoss
Gary Criswell

(The July 25, 2007 minutes have been amended to include Gary Criswell as an attendee of the meeting.)

General Discussion

A. Agreements

Ed Franco reported that the cooperative agreement (including the statement on pre-engineering costs) is not finalized yet. The cooperative agreement must be in place before FOLC can receive the planned \$11,000 from the PA Fish & Boat Commission. The lease agreement between the PAF&BC and Lower Frankford Township is being signed by all parties and should be in place shortly. Mort Fegley reported that no maintenance will be done by the Township at the lake until the agreement is in place.

B. US Fish & Wildlife Funds

Ed Franco reported that the PAF&BC checked into the availability of funds from the US Fish & Wildlife funding. There is no money available from this source.

C. Follow-Up Meeting Planned

Ed Franco is planning a follow-up meeting to the spring pre-engineering meeting with the PAF&BC, DEP and others. It will be another informal meeting. Gerry Woomer will have a general outline of alternative design plans for the spillway. He has already presented these options to the PAF&BC. Alternative design plans involve a longer spillway, labyrinth design, a possible lower lake level, and a possible parapet wall on the dam breast.

DEP is willing to meet at the end of September with all parties including FOLC's executive committee. Once the design is decided, a public meeting can be planned.

D. Combat Engineers

The Combat Engineers unit from New Cumberland has offered their services to FOLC. They are looking for a project on "public lands for the public good" to be completed in July of 2008. Potential projects could include dredging the upper end of the lake and excavating material from the dam towards the road. This will be discussed at a future Board meeting so planning can begin.

E. Political Contacts

Ed Franco has been in contact with Will Gabig and Pat Vance to discuss possible funding sources and whether money is available. A source entitled "Other Park Project Money" may be a possibility. It appears that DCNR will not lose Hazardous Clean-up Money as had been threatened. Therefore, DCNR should be able to fund programs this year at the same level as last year. FOLC has applied to DCNR for a \$700,000 grant.

FOLC should wait to begin a write-in campaign to Gov. Rendell until we have more definite dollars amounts that are needed.

CDEC money may also be available. Possible uses could include a handicapped walkway, improvements to the boat launch, etc.

F. Treasurer's Report

Craig Houston presented a very detailed breakdown of FOLC finances by fund (general fund, Repair the Dam Fund, and Anglers Access Trail funds). This information will be used in a letter to be sent to Stephanie Williams to request additional funds to be added to the grant money already received and that still due FOLC.

If the additional money is received, up to \$8,300 will be given to the Township towards the purchase of a diesel mower. \$5,000 has been offered from Will Gabig's office. The Township requested a diesel mower be purchased, which will increase the price to \$12,000.

G. Dam Monitoring / Piezometer Installation

Tim Barrick reported that monitoring of the piezometers is continuing. The lake is currently approximately 4 feet under normal pond level due to the rain received this week. He is getting assistance from Bill Franz from DEP in monitoring and reported that monitoring will increase to 3 times per week beginning next week. So far the foundation of the dam and embankment appear to be good. It appears that the drains previously installed do not work properly and could be clogged. Tim and Bill will meet at the lake to discuss monitoring the drains.

Permitting for dredging of the lake by the COE Combat Engineers should not be a problem.

H. Fundraising

Allen Shank reported that the costs for the trail brochures were less than anticipated. Printing costs were covered by Carlisle Health and Wellness. They require that FOLC monitor the use of the trail. A trail book could be placed by one of the mile marker signs for hikers to sign. Cheryl Pauli will coordinate and keep track of trail usage.

Cindy Criswell will email members and advise them that they can pick up copies of the trail brochure at any of the 3 kiosks at the lake or by contacting a Board member.

Allen reported that he applied on line for \$15,000 from the Hamburger Helper – Hometown Helper grant program. A decision will be made the end of September. Allen will check and see if email support from members could help FOLC's cause.

Allen prepared a spreadsheet to track donations/requests for funding to date. He requested updates from Board members.

Steve Fealtman will contact Brandon Weary to discuss a photo op at the lake with a large cardboard check for the Land O Lakes donation recently received. A thank you letter has been sent to the Land O Lakes corporate office. Steve ordered and received a plaque to be presented to Land O Lakes. A press release will be prepared and coverage will be arranged by either or both The Sentinel and the Patriot News. It was noted that it would be nice to do the presentation when the lake is near normal level.

The Fundraising Committee reported that they will be meeting soon to reorganize.

I. Anglers Access Trail

Allen Shank picked up the just printed trail maps and distributed copies to all present. An error was found in the location of mile marker posts. It was decided to correct this in future printings. Mary Franco will place maps at the kiosks for public use. Board members will distribute maps to various agencies and locations.

Hal Gardner prepared six signs that were placed on posts on the Anglers Access Trail denoting various natural areas.

Hal reported that the Appalachian Trail group has scheduled a hike on the Anglers Access Trail on September 30, 2007. Participants are to meet at Gardners' home at 10:00 AM.

Discussion of a FOLC-sponsored event tied into this hike were discussed. It was decided to use this hike as a means to announce the trail completion and the filling of the lake to normal level. FOLC will have an information table at the main parking lot. Mary Franco will prepare a press release.

J. Projects and Trail Committee

At the last work day on August 18, 2007, all mile markers and sign posts were installed around the trail. General brush cutting and trash pick-up was also done. A number of new volunteers assisted at the work day.

The following individuals have keys to the FOLC shed at the Township building: Ed Franco, Ruben Lao, Hal Gardner/Cheryl Pauli, Mort Fegley, Craig Houston.

Ruben Lao reported that the Tressler group is available for Saturday work if a FOLC member can be present to direct them to work tasks. Ruben will prepare an email to be sent to all FOLC members asking for volunteers. Times can be from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM or 3:00 PM. Ruben will forward the email to Cindy Criswell for emailing to all FOLC members.

K. Eagle Scout Projects

Steve Fealtman reported that several Boy Scouts are interested in doing Eagle Scout projects at the lake. The suggested project was researching, building and installing bird houses around the lake property. It was noted that Ron Freed, a FOLC member, could possibly assist the scout in determining nesting information

for the area. When the Eagle Scout project is finished, the Board looks forward to a presentation at a future meeting.

Steve Fealtman will coordinate with the scouts.

L. Volunteer Hours

Mary Franco reported the total trail hours for 2006 and 2007.

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u> (to date)
Trail Hours	450.5	522.5
Work Hours	783	703
People	111	63

Total for both years (to date): 973 trail hours, 1487 work hours, 174 people

M. Memorials

Mary Franco reported that the large bronze plaques for the Shank and Ritter memorials have been ordered and should arrive in October. They are 2" x 6". Locations will need to be determined.

N. Newsletter

Cindy Criswell reported that the next newsletter should be published by the end of October. Possible items to include: completion of the Anglers Access Trail, trail hike/event on 9/30/07, new dam design information if available, volunteers needed to work Saturdays with Tressler groups, funding/members needed.

If any Board member would like to submit a short article for inclusion in the newsletter, they are welcome to do so.

O. Next Meeting of Board of Directors

The next Board of Directors meetings will be held as follows:

September 5, 2007	Home of Steve Fealtman
October 3, 2007	Home of Craig Houston
November 7, 2007	Home of Jan Ruby & Ruben Lao

All meetings will begin at 7:00 PM.

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