Swatara Watershed Association Meeting Minutes
2013


December 4, 2013

In attendance: Dick & June Blouch, Tom Embich, Ann Lasky, Jo Ellen Litz & Ben Miller.

Business:

Bordner Cabin:

Old State Road: Open 2nd Friday & Saturday monthly; & the 4th Friday & Saturday March, April, September, & October. To all Volunteer Stewards, thank you!

Labor & Industry plan approved per Mike Willeman. Seeking a DEP permit to complete under porch repairs. Need a cost estimate. Can start building repairs.

Conservancy: Dick Blouch.

Conservation Districts: Stephanie Harmon –

Donations and Bequests & Financial:

Eagle Scouts: Chuck Cravotta

Floods, Droughts: 245 parcels along the Swatara in Lebanon County

Little Swatara: Fred Folmer

MS4 (storm water): Meetings continue to be held. Municipalities are being asked to adopt an MOU.


Quittie Creek and Park Report: Ann Lasky

Swatara Sojourn: Start planning in January.

Swatara State Park: Old State Road open—see Bordner Cabin.
**Swatara Watershed Park**: Our ‘mortgage’ stands at $29,566.43.

**Boat Launch**: Plan a work date for spring to utilize NL Rotary $1200 grant for us to make improvements to help control erosion with a stacking block retaining wall similar to the old Conservation Corps walls that are still visible along the Swatara.

**Land Acquisition**: Permission granted to proceed with a grant. Will ask Pam Tricamo to complete the application.

**Projects**: Re-Fasten rubber peak on roof.

**Swatara Water Trail**:


Tom will prepare a request for proposal to seek bids from all PA outfitters for 12 canoes.

**Other**:

**Next Meeting**: January 8, 9:30AM
November 6, 2013

The meeting was called to order by T. Embich, at the Annville Town Hall.

In attendance: R. Blouch, J. Blouch, T. Embich, F. Folmer, A. Lasky, B. Miller, J. Stouffer.

Guest speaker: Mike Willeman who presented the plans of the Bordner Cabin with regards to the scope of work that will be needed to bring the facility up to L & I specifications.

The repair of the foundation under the porch at stream edge will take additional engineering study; the status of the building has changed by L&I and requires that the floor be reinforced with additional beams and maybe some trusses, the fireplace needs to be lined to be safe, the open railing on the second floor will need a Plexiglas or similar reinforcement to meet opening specifications, also, the window openings will need partial closures or bars to prevent children from tumbling out. The Board asked if a “punch-list” of items that need to be done could be prepared with some estimates of cost. Mr. Willeman agreed to make a best attempt at such a list and that some future meetings with an engineer or hydraulic engineer will produce some estimates for the foundation work.

Business:

Bordner Cabin:

- Old State Road: Open 2nd Friday & Saturday monthly; & the 4th Friday & Saturday March, April, September, & October.
- Environmentally friendly coating on the roof to retard the growth of moss - status
- Labor & Industry plan approved. Cost estimates need to be developed with M. Willeman.
- Suggestions were made to start a “Porch Fund” and “Fireplace & Flue Fund”, since these appear to be large cost items to bring the cabin up to standard.

Conservancy: Dick Blouch. No quorum at the 11/05 meeting; annual appeal is going well however.

Appraisals for acquisition regarding easements for farms in the system are proceeding.

Donations and Bequests & Financial:

- Ann Lasky - Friendly’s fundraiser; Ann reported that Friendly’s fundraiser netted $109.43; Fundraiser at Kool Zone in Jonestown fell through due to a change in owner; a future event in 2014 will be attempted.

Floods, Droughts: Nothing new to report.

Little Swatara: Fred Folmer – reported on additional grants workshop information and a proposal to do stream studies on the Little Swatara with test kits and school program.

Marcellus: No report.

MS4 (storm water): No report.


Quittie Creek and Park Report: Ann Lasky - QWS grant approval status; nothing new.

The
October 2, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Tom Embich. Also in attendance were F Folmer, A Lasky, J Litz, B Miller, and J Stouffer.

Business:

Bordner Cabin: Mike Willemans will attend the November meeting to report on the renovation plan and process.

Financial: A $60 donation was received.

October 10, scheduled is a Friendly’s fundraiser on Route 72S. The Kool Zone was tentatively scheduled for October 22; information forthcoming.

Little Swatara: Fred Folmer attended a grant writing workshop, and presented a brochure from WREN. Other possible sources for grants include Keep PA Beautiful, Cora Brooks Foundation, Growing Greener. A good contact is Doug Goodlander 772.5642, dgoodlander@pa.gov.

A motion to consult Pam Tricamo, who has been writing grants was passed.

Marcellus: A possible pipeline will run through Lebanon County; keep alert to information, please.

MS4 (storm water): North Lebanon is scheduling a meeting; time and date were not available.

Quittie Park by Ann Lasky: A pumpkin walk will be held on October 25. QWS is awaiting grant approval; Growing Greener grant is $400,000 for bank work.

Swatara Sojourn: A notice regarding reimbursement should be forthcoming.

Swatara Watershed Park: A proposal to look into the purchase of a narrow strip of land currently owned by Unger(s) was discussed. Chairman Litz proposed a walk-about with L. Yeigh, DCNR on 10.31 at 11:30AM. By consensus, the Board approved the walk and an appraisal needed to proceed.

Next Meeting: November 6, 2013 at 9:30AM.

Other: JE Litz commented on a report about Swatara State Park regarding horse manure on the new bridge across the Swatara.

Reported by Tom Embich.

September 4, 2013
The meeting was called to order by president Litz. **In attendance:** Dick and June Blouch, Tom Embich, Fred Folmer, Ann Lasky, Jo Ellen Litz, Ben Miller, and Jack Stouffer.

**Business:**

**Bordner Cabin:**

- **Old State Road:** Open 2\textsuperscript{nd} Friday & Saturday monthly; & the 4\textsuperscript{th} Friday & Saturday March, April, September, & October. To all Volunteer Stewards, thank you!

- **Jim Packer** sprayed an environmentally friendly coating on the roof to retard the growth of moss.

- **Labor & Industry** plan approved.

- **Mike Willeman** is seeking a DEP permit to complete under porch repairs. Need a cost estimate. Invite Mike to speak at a future meeting.

**Conservancy:** **Dick Blouch.** A park is being planned across from Lebanon Catholic.

**Donations and Bequests & Financial:**

- Ann chose October 10 for a **Friendly’s** fundraiser.

- On motion by Jack Stouffer seconded by Fred Folmer, a fundraiser will also be organized by June at Kool Zone in Jonestown.

**Floods, Droughts:** 245 parcels along the Swatara in Lebanon County.

**Little Swatara:** Fred Folmer

- A 260’ tower was given a green light by supervisors after a zoning change to accommodate public safety. The Bethel Environmental Council raised concerns because of the Bird Flyway. Berks County’s EMA needed to provide 911 service to residents of the area on the Kittatiny Ridge.

- Hosted by the Audubon Society and Conservancy, a networking session will take place. Speakers will include DCNR and the Conservation District.

**Marcellus:** Tenaska is making a presentation at the Chamber of Commerce on September 5. Seating is full.

**MS4 (storm water):** Meetings continue to be held.

**Quittie Creek and Park Report: Ann Lasky**

- In the fall, Students will help to clean up behind Wendy’s to Lebanon.
- A pumpkin walk will be held.
- QWS is waiting on a grant approval.

**Swatara Sojourn.** POWR approved grant.

**Swatara State Park: Old State Road open**

**Swatara Watershed Park:** Our ‘mortgage’ stands at $30,436.31.

**Boat Launch:** Final approval received for the NL Rotary $1200 grant for us to make improvements to help control erosion with a stacking block retaining wall similar to the old Conservation Corps walls that are still visible along the Swatara. Tom asked if anyone knows a civil engineer who can make recommendations concerning placement of the retaining wall. PA Fish and Boat’s permit will be used for the work.

**Grounds:** Wasp nests in the ground were roped off. These are unusual large wasps that eat locusts. Their job is done, and they are no longer active. Therefore, this section of land will be mowed again.

**Land Acquisition:** As a first step toward acquisition, after a lengthy discussion, a motion by Ben Miller seconded by Jack Stouffer passed unanimously to seek the parameters of a needed appraisal for a strip of land adjoining Swatara Watershed Park. A meeting will also be arranged with DCNRs Lori Yeich to show her the project.

**Car Show:** Because of numerous projects on tap, the Board did not want to pursue a car show this year. Since October 19 was reserved, providing an ad can appear in the car show news, Jo Ellen Litz asked if she could coordinate Cruise to the Swatara as a personal fundraiser, and donate 10% of net profits to SWA. A motion by Dick Blouch seconded by Fred Folmer approved the request.

**Projects:**

- **September 13** – From 9AM-3PM, PA American Water volunteers will be cleaning life vests and clearing brush.

- **September 18** – From 1-4PM, Volunteers are needed to help remove the old pavilion roof, and ready for a new roof. A dumpster is needed. Hershey Company may send community volunteers. Ben, Fred, Bob and Tom will be on hand from SWA. Dale Kreider made recommendations on the process.

- **September 19** – Another brush trimming day is scheduled. Hershey Company volunteers may also assist this date.

**Swatara Water Trail:**
Do you canoe the Swatara? Receive a text for the water level at Harper Tavern when the water hits .3’ (too low) or 5.5’ (too high).  

SWA received a disc with GIS layers of the Swatara Water Trail for editing.

Next Meeting: October 2, 9:30AM

August 28, 2013 Minutes

Attendees: Bob Arnold, Dick & June Blouch, Fred Folmer, Ann Lasky, Tom Embich, Acting Chairman.

1. Launch improvement project(s) – Based on information provided by PA Fish & Boat Commission Area Maintenance Supervisor, Tom Kocher, and a visit to the Yellow Breeches PA Fish & Boat launch which is reinforced with Georunner plastic mesh, the Board discussed the possibilities of using the material for the launch at Swatara Watershed Park. The product has a good life expectancy, but may be difficult to anchor at the current site. Mr. Kocher suggested that camp site #35 might offer a better location, but this would constitute a new launch ramp and the attendant PA DEP permits to cut the bank and stabilize it with the installation of the ramp. We agreed to continue to examine the possibilities at the current site for this season.

We briefly discussed the Waterworks launch site and the vandalism of some of the trees. Mr. Kocher agreed to have the regional patrolmen keep an eye on it and his staff will watch the river birch that has been girdled, in case it needs to be removed for safety. This next year is bringing a lower maintenance budget and volunteer mowing at Water Works may be needed.

Supplemental to the launch areas, Gary Witmeyer, PA American Water Co., has instructed their grounds contractor to maintain a cut portage trail on the south side of the Swatara to portage around the Hershey Dam. This is the same path we have used for sojourns in alternate years. A thank you letter was sent to Mr. Witmeyer on the SWA’s behalf.

2. Land along Blacks Bridge Road – The communications with Lori Yeich via President Litz was discussed. The item was tabled until September.

3. SWP July report and August prospects – Mr. Embich opened the floor for questions regarding the July SWP report, and briefly discussed several prospects for August and early September.

4. Timber cutting project(s) – Future planning: Mr. Embich pointed out several fallen trees during this season, and the need to cut a couple that present a major safety risk. For future reference, we should work with the “electric company” maintenance staff who cover the runs through the park. Some of the currently small trees of potentially large species may be prime for removal and sale before they become problems. Seasonal brush and invasive species control also needs to be mapped out with the aid of a forester.
5. Hershey Company September projects: Hershey Co. has joined with Dauphin County United Way to do “Good to Give back Week” in September. We have two projects (1 to 4 PM each day) in the program.

   Pavilion Roof project: Slated for initial roof removal on Sept. 18th; At the September Board meeting we need to determine what large scaffold or scissors lift equipment we can afford and get in place to do the job safely.

   Brush trimming project(s) at SW Park - Slated for Sept. 19, this will be clearing of multiflora rose, poison ivy, and other invasive species along the roadways and walking path, and possibly along the fringe of the over-flow parking area.

BILLS PAYABLE REQUEST: Tom Embich requested that he be reimbursed for incidental purchases, mainly fuel for the mower, light bulbs for the pavilion, purchase of drive rivets for Waterworks’ map-box, etc. for the beginning of the SWP season amounting to $123.34. Copies of the receipts were provided for review and the board approved payment by motion.

Respectfully submitted, T. Embich

June 5, 2013 Minutes

In attendance: June and Dick Blouch, Tom Embich, Fred Folmer, Ann Lasky, Jo Ellen Litz, Ben Miller, Jack Stouffer

Business:

Bordner Cabin: Lead a hike for the Northern Lebanon Recreation Association this past Sunday. Suzanne Guirate organized and advertised the event. Some first-timers went along. Videos posted to YouTube.

Interviews:

1. Marsha Spitler - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWyRffix-3FI
3. Gerry Boltz - Gerry Boltz at 94 remembers the Bordner Cabin

Labor & Industry plan finally approved. Invite Mike Willeman to speak at the August meeting.

Donations and Bequests & Financial:

➢ Friendly’s fundraisers will be scheduled for late summer.

Eagle Scouts: Per Chuck Cravotta, scouts will be working on more picnic tables.


Floods, Droughts: 245 parcels along the Swatara in Lebanon County
Land Donation: Jo Ellen will obtain drawings.

Little Swatara: Fred Folmer Monitoring heavy animal use on Crosskill Creek. Erosion and mud are issues. Commonwealth pipeline is on hold.

MS4 (storm water): Meetings continue to be held.


Quittie Creek and Park Report: Ann Lasky Swatara Sojourn. Old Annville Day June 8 from 9-2. Received a grant to plant trees in the Park.

Swatara State Park: If on schedule, Old State Road will be open

Swatara Watershed Park: Our ‘mortgage’ stands at $31,023.05 on 7.3.13.

NL Rotary obtained a $1200 grant for us to improve our boat launch with a stacking block retaining wall to help control erosion. They are willing to provide volunteers to place the interlocking block. However, we need to apply for a DEP permit first. Tom volunteered to help fill in this paperwork. Forward permit information to Tom.

Tom questioned the pitch and weight load on the pavilion roof. June recommended Dale Kreider to evaluate both questions.

A neighbor heard gunshots, but Tom says that the shooting is coming from the south side of the Swatara.

Tom’s allergies are preventing him from mowing. With a 42” cut, it takes 5-6 hours to mow. He is asking for someone to work with him as a backup for mowing and to process canoe use. Tom will write a checklist of procedures for these tasks.

Tom reported that someone violated Park policy by cutting down two live trees. He also noticed 4-wheeler tracks.

Noss was given permission to cut up a fallen box elder to clear the lower trail.

Swatara Water Trail: Sojourn Debrief. Vote for the Swatara at Keep PA Beautiful https://www.facebook.com/pages/Keep-Pennsylvania-Beautiful/126911964023550. With you’re your help, for our clean water projects, SWA could win $300 for first place, or $150 for either 2nd or 3rd place.

Videos http://youtu.be/vtn9E0-STw and http://youtu.be/s0po1e0m-as. Tons of pictures on our Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/pages/Swatara-Water-
Thank you letters sent to businesses. Will also send to municipalities for their proclamations. Must still file final report with POWR.

**Other:** Congratulations to Ben Miller for a featured article in the Cen Penn Business Journal! Ben had his open house at Boat House Road Park. He had live music, zumba, demonstrations like fly fishing, a model airplane…. Kayak rides netted 60-15 minute. He collected $83.53, which was turned over to the Swatara Watershed.

June 28th Metamorphosis Butterfly Garden opening a butterfly house at Dreamscapes Watergardens in Lebanon is on State Route 343. Filled with Pennsylvania native butterflies and plants. Guests can visit the butterfly as well as learn about the life cycle of the butterfly and the importance of native plants.

Hershey Nursery closed to the public.

No one was able to make the April 29 public meeting at Northern Lebanon High School.

**Next Meeting:** July 3, 9:30AM Watermelon at the Waterworks where we pick-up litter, hold a brief meeting along the Swatara, and eat watermelon.

**May 1, 2013**

In attendance were: Bob Arnold, Dick and June Blouch, Tom Embich, Fred Folmer, Ann Lasky, Jo Ellen Litz, Ben Miller, Jack Stouffer, and Larry Taylor.

Details for the Swatara Sojourn were ironed out. If you have a walkie talkie, you may want to bring it along. On the first segment on Saturday, when we go through the pass in Swatara Gap, often times, cell phones don’t work. Ron Boyer will help us to pick an appropriate channel so that, if need be, we can communicate through the pass. If you receive an urgent communication, please pass it along. With the bends, communication between the lead and sweep canoe may need your assist. Thank you.

- Tom Embich, Dave Wentling, and Ben Miller will be driving shuttle vans.
- Dick Blouch will drive a truck towing a trailer with canoes.
- Fred Folmer and Jack Stouffer will drive the equipment van and trailer and mark our exits.
- Dave Ravegum will drive a Gator to transport our food to the Bordner Cabin.
- Laurie Andrews will lead registration, and is my “Girl Friday.”
- Spencer Grogan will assist me with the safety briefings. Then, our safety team of advanced scouts will provide instructions concerning single file points on the first segment.
- Fred and John Slotterbach will assist me with Lead Canoe.
- Andy and Elizabeth Ramsey will be Sweep Canoe.
- Various individuals are trained in first aid, CPR, and rescue.

Members were asked to think about the offer of a donated parcel along the Little Swatara Creek.
April 3, 2013

In attendance: June and Dick Blouch, Michelle Brummer, Tom Embich, Fred Folmer, Ann Lasky, Jo Ellen Litz, Ben Miller, and Jack Stouffer.

Speaker: Michelle Brummer, Gannet Flemming, sought information on a recreation survey for the Northern Lebanon School District municipalities—Bethel, East Hanover, Jonestown, Swatara, and Union. April 29, there will be a public meeting at Northern Lebanon High School. Tom Embich will update our priority list from our Rivers Conservation Plan. Projects identified were the Bordner Cabin porch, fence, and window rails; the Swatara Watershed Park boat launch, security gate and cameras; a phone ap and maps for the Swatara Water Trail….

Business:

Bordner Cabin: Road is Closed. Mike Willeham responded that he is contacting DEP and L&I.

United Way Day of Caring Saturday, April, 20th, 2013: Bring what you can carry on a hike--gloves, brooms, dust pans, garbage bags, hand tools. You must park on the new lot just south of Twin Grove Park. Turn east off of 72 at our Water Trail sign. The lot is back the lane about ½ mile. Follow the trail towards Lebanon about 300 yards. Turn left, and cross the Swatara on the new bridge. At Old State Road, turn left and walk about 1/3 mile to the Cabin driveway.

Conservancy: Dick Blouch reported that a news conference will be held to announce the Conservancy’s largest preservation project, the Henry property. Also, on April 25 there will be a thank you for all annual appeal donors at the Downtown Lounge from 5-7PM.

Donations and Bequests & Financial:

- **Friendly’s** fundraisers will be scheduled for late summer.

- **Bob Arnold** arranged for a $250 donation from Hershey.

- **Jack Stouffer** became a lifetime member.

Eagle Scouts: Per Chuck Cravotta, scouts will be working on more picnic tables.

**FIG:** Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited is conducting a Conservation Plan on the Manada Creek.

**Floods, Droughts:** 245 parcels along the Swatara in Lebanon County

**Land Donation:** We were approached about donation of a parcel along the Little Swatara. There are no buildings on it. The information was lost when my computer crashed.
**Little Swatara:** Fred Folmer promoted a Junk Fair at Bethel Elementary to create art projects from discarded materials. The Bethel EAC provided $180 for the Fair.

**Marcellus:** Monday’s Lebanon Daily News ran an article on Texas Eastern extending a 36” pipe through Dauphin, Lebanon, and Berks Counties.
Texas Eastern Transmissions plans gas pipeline improvements in Lebanon County

By JOHN LATIMER, Lebanon Daily News

One of the nation's largest natural-gas-transmission companies is making plans to expand a pipeline that passes through the Lebanon Valley.

Houston-based Texas Eastern Transmission, a division of Spectra Energy Corp., is seeking federal regulatory approval to install 33.6 miles of new, 36-inch diameter pipeline and other related above-ground facilities in Lebanon, Dauphin, Berks, Fayette and Perry counties. The underground pipeline carries the natural gas produced in the western part of Pennsylvania and distributes it throughout the country.

The work is a small part of Texas Eastern's massive $520 million Texas Eastern Appalachia to Market Expansion, or TEAM 2014 Project, which also includes installations and upgrades in several other states to meet customer demand, said Marylee Hanley, director of stakeholder outreach for Spectra Energy.
"We have two segments of pipeline in Lebanon county for a total of 6.4 miles of new pipeline in the existing right-of-way," she said. "Our customers require additional capacity on the system, and we are what is considered an open-access pipeline, so we are required to provide the service. We are just meeting the demand of our customers."

The company hopes to begin the work in November 2014. It is currently in the regulatory approval phase of the project and recently filed a notification with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The company's notice stated that "the TEAM 2014 Project will efficiently and cost-effectively expand the Texas Eastern system to accommodate increased natural gas production from the Appalachian region and deliver these critically needed natural gas supplies to diverse markets in the Northeast, Midwest, Southeast and Gulf Coast."

The portion of the project involving Lebanon County would add approximately 2.5 miles of natural gas pipeline adjacent to its existing pipeline in North Annville and East Hanover townships and another 3.8 miles of pipeline along its existing pipeline in Swatara, North Lebanon, Bethel, and Jackson townships, according to Texas Eastern's recent legal advertisement.

The pipeline was originally installed in 1954, and a portion of it runs underneath Keith Oellig's 120-acre steer and crop farm in East Hanover Township, Dauphin County, just west of the Lebanon County line near Route 81.

Oellig said the pipeline was installed while his father farmed the land and has since been replaced at least once.

He said he was not aware of the upcoming project but noted that representatives of the company visited his land last fall to do some test drilling.

The location of the pipelines on his land are recognizable only by the bright-orange markers indicating them, but Oellig pointed out that its path can be detected in early spring because it warms the soil, making it green up faster, and also when it snows.

"You could tell how much gas is moving by how fast the snow melts," he said.

The company is required to contact property owners and the townships that are impacted so that they have the opportunity to file comments with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Hanley said.

"FERC will then review all of the comments and respond to them and then begin the review process," she said.

Hanley said she could not predict how long that process will take.

"It is up to FERC. It is their timeline," she said. "Our next step is to hope for FERC approval."
Texas Eastern Transmission’s filing and instructions for submitting a comment on the project can be found at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission website, ferc.gov. The comment deadline is April 5. They can be sent electronically by linking to the website or by sending them to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., NE, Washington D.C. 20426.

johnlatimer@ldnews.com; 717-272-5611, ext. 149

**MS4 (storm water):** Meetings continue to be held.


**Quittie Creek and Park Report:** Ann Lasky reported that for United Way Day of Caring on Saturday, April 20th, 2013, 50 students from Palmyra and Annville will help to much, pull out invasive plants, and pick up trash.

**Swatara Sojourn.** May 4 & 5.

4 municipal resolutions received to date: Jonestown, North Lebanon, North Londonderry, and West Lebanon.

**Swatara State Park:** Tuesday’s Lebanon Daily News article:

[Image of Lebanon Daily News article]

**Swatara Watershed Park:** Our ‘mortgage’ stands at $31,891.08.

1 Seasonal Camper donation received to date

United Way Day of Caring, Saturday, April 20th, 2013: 1929 Black’s Bridge Road, Annville. Bring gloves and garbage bags, Pick up garbage and fallen limbs.

SWP is grandfathered from East Hanover’s new ordinance on trailer parks and campgrounds.

A team will begin repairs to the pavilion roof.

**Other:**
April 6, Youth Fishing Day from 8AM-Noon for youth up to age 17 at the Tulpehocken Creek and Fish Dam in Myerstown Park on the corner of S College St and W Richland Avenue.

While underway or at anchor on boats less than 16' in length or any canoe or kayak, new Fish and Boat Regulation states that life jackets must be worn between November 1 and April 30.

New Amish Farmer’s Market update at exit 85 off of Route 81. Holdup is the need for a gas line and either public sewer or a municipal authority to operate a sewage plant in perpetuity. DEP is requiring a plant be built to accommodate the commercially zoned land adjoining the Amish market. Owner is willing to pay for development, and be reimbursed over 10 years. All total, this is a $12million project.

Sinkhole meeting this afternoon with residents of Windsor Crossing, Palmyra.

Next Saturday, April 13 is a cleanup on the Quittie Creek behind Harold’s.

Next Meeting: May 1, 9:30AM

March 6, 2013

In attendance: Bob Arnold, Dick and June Blouch, Tom Embich, Fred Folmer, Ann Lasky, Jo Ellen Litz, Ben Miller, Corey Snyder, & Jack Stouffer.

Guest Speaker Corey Snyder, Swatara State Park Manager reported that Old State Road was renamed Bear Hole Trail. Corey also said that because Kinsley Construction was asked to install more culverts to avoid wash-outs, the road won’t reopen until summer. Further, the regional office put a bid out for a composting toilet to be installed at the Trout Run Trailhead. New electronic maps showing Park improvements will be available online in early summer. Hard copies won’t be distributed until 2014. He further stated that all amenities are within a 1.5 mile walking distance. Once the Park is open, anyone with a disability may call the Park office 865.6470 for arrangements to visit sites within the Park. There is a free ap called Pocket Ranger that displays all PA Trails. Current fulltime staff includes 1 DCNR ranger and 1 ranger 1. Part-time rangers will start soon. Corey will make a Kabota available for SWA to transport food and drinks to the Bordner cabin during the Sojourn. Finally, Corey asked about our progress receiving Labor and Industry approval for Cabin repairs. Jo Ellen will follow-up with Mike Willemzan.

Business:

Bordner Cabin: Road is Closed. No response on Labor and Industry permit approval.

- Ann quote from LV Chimney sweep; Dombrosky in Mt. Gretna.

- April 20 at 9AM, United Way Day of Caring cleanup project to ready for Sojourn.
**Conservancy:** Dick reported on the Middlecreek Initiative and Walking Tours of Annville, Jonestown, Lebanon & Palmyra. Maps are available online and will be available at Willow Suites.

**Donations and Bequests & Financial:** $20 Annual Dues; $200 individual lifetime; or $500 corporate memberships available.

**Envirothon:** Up to 15 volunteers needed for the Elementary Envirothon. Jack Stouffer volunteered. Event dates: High School at Middle Creek, May 2; Middle School at Levitz Park, May 7; Elementary at Coleman Park, May 17. To volunteer, please email litz@mbcomp.com

**Floods, Droughts:** 245 parcels along the Swatara in Lebanon County

**Little Swatara:** Fred Folmer suggested reading two issues of the National Geographic—December 2012 on Methane and March 2013 on Gas Drilling.

**Northern Swatara Watershed and Sweet Arrow Lake Report:** Denise Donmoyer—events at www.SweetArrowLakePark.com

**Quittie Creek and Park Report:** Ann Lasky - April 20 at 9AM, United Way Day of Caring project on the 11 new acres at Quittie Creek Nature Park to create trails and harvest garlic mustard, an invasive species.

**Swatara Sojourn.** 25th Annual Float -- Saturday and Sunday May 4 & 5, 2013; Itinerary: Paddle from Route 645 S of Pine Grove, through Swatara State Park, lunch at the Bordner Cabin where we’ll hear from Conrad Weiser (aka Bob Morris) who first brought German farmers up the Swatara to settle the Lebanon Valley; then camp at Lickdale Campgrounds where we'll have a Cinco de Mayo Party. Sunday morning, we'll put in at the Jonestown Boat Launch, lunch at the Water Works where we'll hear from Railroad Engineer Jack Stouffer who operates a steam engine, and will summarize the M&H and L&T Railroads; and end at 1929 Black's Bridge Road, Annville. Meals are included with $30 adult or $5 child registrations found at http://www.mbcomp.com/swatara/canoe/18thcanoe.htm . 25th Anniversary Official Gear available-- www.mlspe.com/swatarawatershed .

Requested proclamations from municipalities. Stopped with Weidle/Monroe Sanitation; Reserved UHaul Trailer; Completed POWR ap; GLRA ap completed and approved. Registered for Great PA Cleanup. Registered with PA Fish and Boat Commission. Sponsor requests mailed. Brochures corrected. Website updated. Tom reserved vans, which can be picked up the Friday before the Sojourn at 3PM. Drivers must submit a current drivers license to Mease Motors. Dick talked to Ann Boltz at Lickdale Campground to arrange for tent camping and broasted chicken Saturday night. Successful
booth at Bicentennial Celebration. Thanks to Jack, Ben, and Bob for manning the booth and promoting the Sojourn. The Sojourn was submitted to be added to the Bicentennial Events calendar. Per Corey Snyder, we will not be able to drive the vans and trailers to Bordner Cabin this year. Because Old State Road/Bear Hole Run will be closed, Paddlers need to use the toilet and remove trash from their canoes at Swopes Valley Road. After passing through the rough water before the Appalachian Trail Bridge, they can resume trash cleanup.

**Swatara Watershed Park**: Our ‘mortgage’ stands at **$32,190.28**. Monthly payments are $430.69.

Tom Embich will coordinate an April 20 United Way Day of Caring cleanup at 9AM.

- **Pavilion Roof** - Bob and Tom worked up a materials list to obtain an estimate from Lowe’s. Bob will be writing another grant request to help fund pavilion roof replacement.

- **Intern** - Tom will check into an upcoming opportunity to acquire a HACC intern.

- **Canoes for Sale**: $300 each.

**Forest management plan** - On an Embich/Folmer motion the following Forest Management Plan was adopted. The wooded areas of Swatara Watershed Park, 1929 Blacks Bridge Road, Annville, PA, East Hanover Township, Lebanon County, offer thriving ecological systems consisting of a variety of plants and wildlife and should be protected and enhanced through effective planning and management.

Woodlands are significant in their ability to reduce surface erosion and slow rainwater runoff, to provide retention for wetland protection, help maintain groundwater supply, and along the Swatara Creek, and its tributaries, to provide a riparian buffer which cools the stream and enhances aquatic habitat. Woodlands also provide physical benefits such as screening of winds, unwelcome noise, wind-transported elements such as air pollutants and snow; visual barriers to unsightly areas; and wildlife habitat and bird nesting areas. Woodlands enhance and define recreation and scenic areas and often provide increased property values. The ecological values of woodlands are maximized when fragmentation and forest edge is minimized and larger blocks of woodlands are preserved.

The woodlands of SWP are to be protected to add to the scenic beauty and recreation opportunities of the Swatara watershed in addition to the ecologic benefits. By this management policy the Swatara Watershed Association and all park users are obligated to protect the woodlands by limiting tree removal to dead trees that have fallen and create a safety hazard, those in the right-of-way of the transecting power lines on the property, and others designated for management due to safety or hazard risk to users of the park or for control of invasive plant species. In addition, provision will be made to support reforestation via native species, riparian buffer plantings, trail construction, and wildlife habitat improvement. **Vegetative buffers along streams are to be managed only by SWP staff in a manner which provides maximum stream quality protection and nominal hindrance to park users. NO clear cutting or**
extensive tree or shrub removal shall occur unless directed by park management due to previously listed safety issues or for control of invasive species. NO invasive or non-native species of plant shall be deliberately planted within the park.

As partners with Swatara Watershed Association, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Service Foresters, PA Fish & Boat Commission or other professional woodland foresters may be requested to assist with planning to conserve natural resources and open space. Foresters can develop plans for management of forested land commensurate with their use as recreational areas, educational areas, riparian buffers, and wildlife habitat areas.

- Litz will prepare and mail 2013 Season camper letters to include a policy of not transporting firewood from outside of a 50-mile radius. Further, any firewood brought onto the site must be used within one month.

**Other:**

- **Swatara Logo registration** - Tom—On a Stouffer/Lasky motion, a Logo Use policy was adopted, and Cocoa Kayak was granted permission to include the TM logo on their website.

The logo of the Swatara Watershed Association, Inc. is a bi-branched stream, with 2 fir trees to its right, all circumscribed in a semi-circle, with eleven (11) horizontal lines evenly spaced vertically within the semi-circle from baseline to outer edge of the semi-circle. Beneath the semi-circle in two lines is “SWATARA (top-line) WATERSHED ASSOCIATION” in a “bold Arial” type font such that the word “SWATARA” is the same width as “WATERSHED ASSOCIATION” (bottom line). The logo may be represented in all black on a white background; or variations of green and blue on a white background (excepting when the background is provided by a colored product, i.e. on a shirt or cap).

Use of the logo is restricted to those deemed appropriate by the Swatara Watershed Association, Inc. Board of Directors (Board), but generally only for current paid-up members of the Association, and only for those purposes that are reviewed and approved by the Board, as in keeping with the purpose and goals of the Swatara Watershed Association, Inc.

Permission for use of the SWA logo is hereby granted for the specifically described, reviewed and approved use, described in the attached letter of intent provided by the individual or organization herein named. The individual or chief officer by affixing
Tom shared a picture from the current issue of Pennsylvania Magazine of the Rausch Gap shelter, which Ray Swingholm helped to construct.

February 6, 2013

In attendance: Dick and June Blouch, Fred Folmer, Tom Embich, Jo Ellen Litz, Ben Miller and Jack Stouffer.

Business:

Bordner Cabin: Road is Closed. No response on Labor and Industry permit approval.

- Ann quote from LV Chimney sweep; Dombrosky in Mt. Gretna.

- John Bates donated original blue prints of the Bordner Cabin to SWA.

Bridges: Karen Light asked if the Inwood Iron bridge will be discussed at the next MPO meeting.

Tom shared an article on the Hershey Covered Bridge that appears in Heritage magazine winter 2013
**Conservancy:** Dick, will co-coordinate with SWA on a joint meeting with County Conservation groups.

The Henry farm has been added to easements donated to the Conservancy, which brings the total to approximately 500 acres of preserved land.

**Conservation Districts:** Stephanie Harmon

**Donations and Bequests & Financial:** $20 Annual Dues are Due

**Envirotthon:** Gina Mason, coordinator. Conservation District is back on board to act as a conduit for grant funds and provide liability insurance. However, no full-time staff person is available. **Event dates:** High School at Middle Creek, May 2; Middle School at Levitz Park, May 7; Elementary at Coleman Park, May 17. To volunteer, please email litz@mbcomp.com

**Floods, Droughts:** 245 parcels along the Swatara in Lebanon County
Little Swatara: Fred Folmer.

MS4 (storm water): 8 Devil Ducks were found by Mike Schroeder with the Quittapahilla Garbage Museum. 5 ducks are still on the loose.

Municipalities are requested to provide a proclamation for our 25th Anniversary of Floating our Boats on the Swatara.

Northern Swatara Watershed and Sweet Arrow Lake Report: Denise Donmoyer—events at www.SweetArrowLakePark.com

Quittle Creek and Park Report: Ann Lasky - Kyle Smith’s sale was finalized with monies from DCNR, Lebanon County Commissioners, and a fund drive. 11 acres were added to Quittle Park. The walking trail along the Creek was increased by .7 of a mile. On a sad note, last week’s wind storm caused a large Black Oak tree to fall. The approximately 200-year old tree, may have been the oldest of its kind in Lebanon County. Annville Township will conduct a cleanup of the debris this Saturday 2.9 at 9AM. Volunteers welcome to assist.

River of the Year: Congratulations to the Monongahela, 2013 River of the Year! On 1.12, Swatara had 697 votes. Among 25,450 ballots cast, the Monongahela River received 8,156 votes; Schuylkill River 8,010; Lackawanna River 5,286; Kiskiminetas River 2,310; Swatara Creek 1,213; Juniata River 475.

Swatara Sojourn: 25th Anniversary Official Gear-- www.mlspe.com/swatarawatershed. Registered for Great PA Cleanup. Registered with PA Fish and Boat Commission. Sponsor requests mailed. Brochures ready. An additional 100 color brochures will be printed for distribution at the County Bicentennial. Website updated. Tom reserved vans, which can be picked up the Friday before the Sojourn at 3PM. Drivers must submit a current drivers license to Mease Motors. Dick talked to Ann Boltz at Lickdale Campground to arrange for tent camping and broasted chicken Saturday night.

Swatara State Park: Park Manager Corey Snyder will be our March speaker. New footbridge across the Swatara is completed; replacement bridge on rail-trail near Swope’s Valley Road is also complete. GLRA will assist with tires again this year. Citizens have been asking about opening Old State Road for vehicular traffic. An October 23, 2007 Swatara Township MOU provides for the following
Swatara Watershed Park: Our ‘mortgage’ stands at $32,474.16. Monthly payments are $430.69. Tom Embich

- Pavilion Roof - Members present signed a thank you letter for ELK. Shingles are stored in Fred Folmer’s warehouse. Tom will ask Bill Potters if he would act as job foreman to replace the roof after the Sojourn. Donations of plywood, roofing nails, tar paper, and drip edge are needed.

- HACC Intern - “Spring Ahead” Job Fair to be held Thursday, March 21, 2013 - 3:30-6:30.

- Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences internship job board. Kristen Kyler at klk343@psu.edu.

3 Canoes Sold: 2 for Bea Brown, 1 for Robert Baker. A few canoes remain: Rugged, durable 1989 Michi-Craft 17’ commercial grade aluminum canoes, 770 pound capacity, 5 people weight 675 lbs., with a 36” wide beam for stability. Made from hardened air craft aluminum. $300 each. Call 717.644.4698 or email litz@mbcomp.com (Placement on Craig’s List, Facebook and an email blast is netting inquiries.) Chris Holladay, president, Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg also advertised our canoes.

- Tom is working on a Forest management plan. Converging easements between Fish and Boat, DCNR, and MetEd must be considered. MetEd keeps two easements clear of trees between campsites 3 & 4 and linear to the Swatara along the road between sites 35 to the wet area.

Other:

Two new Board members were approved.

On a motion by Fred Folmer, seconded by Dick Blouch, Ben Miller was elected to the Board of SWA.
On a motion by Ben Miller, seconded by Fred Folmer, Jack Stouffer was elected to the Board of SWA.

Welcome, gentlemen.

- Barry Hair was presented with the SwaTARa STAR award for his cleanup efforts.

- Swatara Logo registration - Tom—Artist Ken Kreiser Design, 101 E High St., Annville created the Swatara logo, and is updating the design. The radius of the arch must be defined. Tom and Ben will work together with Lois at Hershey to review the legal work that needs completed to register our logo. In the interim, SWA will use a TM in a circle.

- Please spread the word to view a commercial on line: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMpZ0TGjWfE  Super Bowl commercial honoring the American Farmer that aired during the fourth quarter of the telecast. RAM will contribute up to $1,000,000 to the National FFA Foundation based on the views of the video and activity on the website. Supporting this positive messaging about the American Farmer will raise awareness of the National FFA Organization within the general public while providing significant support to a major FFA initiative.

**GRANT SOURCES**

- PA Sea Grant (not currently open) - http://www.paseagrant.org/research-categories/funding-opportunities/
- Delaware Estuary Grants (not currently open) - http://www.nfwf.org/Pages/chesapeake/home1.aspx

**Calendar of Events: Swatara Creek**

- February 11 Jo Ellen will meet with DEP.

- **February 16, 2013 - 200th Anniversary of Lebanon County** at the Expo, 11AM-5PM. Swatara Watershed Association will have a booth. Dress in period costume (coon skin caps and Daniel Boone fringed leather shirt and pants...) and volunteer to man the booth, or stop by and learn how you can get involved in Swatara activities. Conrad Weiser and the Germans who settled the Tulpehocken came up the Swatara in 1723 and 1729 to reach their new home, so the Swatara was very important even back then! The Milk and Honey and Lebanon to Tremont railroads ran along the Swatara. Jack Stouffer and Bob Morris will man the booth in period costumes. Other volunteers are most welcome. Please provide the time(s) you are available.
- **February 28, 2013** - Deadline to submit Swatara Creek and tributary pictures for the **Swatara Photo Contest**. Voting will occur on Facebook. An album will be created. The pictures with the most likes will receive a Swatara t-shirt, EELS book, a certificate, and one-year complimentary membership.

- **May 4-5, 2013** - **Swatara Sojourn: 25th Annual Float** will begin below Pine Grove, Schuylkill County, float through Swatara State Park, lunch at the Bordner Cabin on Saturday, camp at Lickdale Campgrounds, then lunch at the Water Works on Sunday, and end at Swatara Watershed Park in East Hanover Township, Lebanon County. Registration required. [http://www.mbcomp.com/swatara/canoe/18thcanoe.htm](http://www.mbcomp.com/swatara/canoe/18thcanoe.htm)

- **March 6, 9:30AM** **Next Meeting** Guest speaker, Corey Snyder, Swatara State Park manager.

- **April 13**, Quittapahilla from noon to 3 pm, Clean Up The Woods behind Harold's Furniture.

- **October 19**, **Cruise to the Swatara (car show)**

**January 2, 2013**

In attendance: Bob Arnold, Dick and June Blouch, Tom Embich, Fred Folmer. Ann Lasky, Jo Ellen Litz, Ben and Deb Miller

**Business:**

On an Arnold/Miller motion, 2012 minutes were approved.

**Bordner Cabin:** Road is Closed. No response on Labor and Industry permit approval.

- Ann quote from LV Chimney sweep; Dombrosky in Mt. Gretna.

- Report from Dave Ravegum

**Conservancy:** Interim President Dick Blouch reports the Conservancy is conducting their annual appeal. He will also try to arrange a joint meeting between the Conservancy and SWA.

**Donations and Bequests & Financial:** $20 Annual Dues are Due

**Envirothon:** Gina Mason, coordinator--Meet **TUESDAY, JANUARY 8th - 4:00 PM @ PALMYRA AREA MS, room 215**. The main office, in the front of the school will be open until 4. You can park in the front. Room 215 is on the second floor.

**Floods, Droughts:** 245 parcels along the Swatara in Lebanon County

**Northern Swatara Watershed and Sweet Arrow Lake Report:** Denise Donmoyer—events at [www.SweetArrowLakePark.com](http://www.SweetArrowLakePark.com)
**Quittie Creek and Park Report:** Ann Lasky – A permit to work on both sides of the Quittie was obtained from the little bridge to route 934. The work will be done with a WIP grant. On another note, the purchase of an extension is on hold waiting on a mortgage firm to clear the transaction for Smith.


**Swatara Sojourn.** Planning. Major League Printing will set up a web page to help us offer a variety of 25th anniversary items for sale—shirts, hats, bags. They will collect the money, and donate any profits to SWA. We would not have to stock anything. An anniversary logo was approved to read Float the Swatara, 2013, 25th anniversary, Swatara Watershed Association.

**Photo Contest ends February 28.** Submit your favorite photos of the Swatara today. Greta Rank has submitted a series of historic photos, which are posted on the Swatara Water Trail Facebook Page. Samples follow:

![Sample photos](image-url)

To follow the picture contest, like us on Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Swatara-Water-Trail/86311524094](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Swatara-Water-Trail/86311524094)

**Swatara Sojourn Planning May 4-5, 2013:**

- File a float plan with PA Fish and Boat - Jo Ellen
- Create brochure and update web site; create an event on Facebook - Jo Ellen
- Create and mail Sponsor forms - Jo Ellen
- Sign up for Great PA Cleanup. - Jo Ellen
- Arrange for toilets - Jo Ellen
- POWR grant application. - Jo Ellen
- Shore support: Laurie Andrews, Jack Stauffer, high school senior community project volunteers,...others.
- Vans: Tom make arrangements with Mease Motors. Friday Jo Ellen pick up Van, and make Trailer arrangements; Tom pick up second Van. Ben Miller is also offering a passenger van to transport paddlers.
Hitches and moving the canoes for people who use our canoes: Dick Blouch, Tom Embich, Fred Folmer, Dave Wentling.

Food:
- June Blouch breakfast both days,
- Betty and George pick up Seaman’s Subs for lunch Saturday at Bordner Cabin,
- Swiss drinks from Wengert’s for Saturday lunch
- Ann and David Lasky pick up pizza and soda for Sunday lunch at Water Works,
- PA American Water cases of water.

George Conner and Hector Colon photographers.

Weidle dumpster - Jo Ellen

Programs - See if Denise is available. In the past--wild animals, artists, Swatara songs, water safety, Union Canal and other history (perhaps Francis Ditzler would provide a program?)

Brian Kettering or Larry Taylor at GLRA tires. - Jo Ellen

Campground at Lickdale Saturday night plus broasted chicken and ice cream dinner. See Tammy Boltz. - Dick

Swatara State Park: Park Manager Corey Snyder was unable to attend. Embich provided documentation that the Swatara is a warm water fishery up to Swope’s Valley Road near the County line.

Swatara Watershed Park: Our ‘mortgage’ stands at $32,756.96. Monthly payments are $430.69. Tom Embich

- Pavilion Roof – Arnold penned a letter to ELK/GAF, attention Mr. Martin Grohman, requesting a donation of 1400 square feet of shingles.

- HACC Intern - four leads, but all wanted paid. Since we are all volunteers, and college credit is given, we are looking for volunteer interns.

- Canoes for Sale: Rugged, durable 1989 Michi-Craft 17’commercial grade aluminum canoes, 720 pound capacity, wide beam for stability. Made from hardened aircraft aluminum. $300 each. Call 717.644.4698 or email litz@mbcomp.com (Placed on Craig’s List, Facebook and email blast is netting inquiries.)
- On a Lasky/D Blouch motion, Embich will work with a forester to create a forest management plan for the Swatara Watershed Park.

**Other:**

Swatara Logo registration - Tom suggested we check with our artist (Marta?) who donated the logo art to obtain a statement that we have rights to the intellectual property.

**On a D Blouch and Folmer motion, the meeting was adjourned.**

Calendar of Events: [Swatara Creek - River of the Year Calendar.pdf](#)

- **JANUARY 8th, 2013** - Envirothon Planning session, 4:00 PM @ PALMYRA AREA MS, room 215.
- **January 18, 2013** - Deadline to vote for the Swatara as River of the Year at [http://pawatersheds.org/vote/](http://pawatersheds.org/vote/)
- **February 6, 9:30AM** Next Meeting:
  - **February 16, 2013** - 200th Anniversary of Lebanon County at the Expo. Swatara Watershed Association will have a booth. Dress in period costume (coon skin caps and Daniel Boone fringed leather shirt and pants...) and volunteer to man the booth, or stop by and learn how you can get involved in Swatara activities.
  - **February 28, 2013** - Deadline to submit Swatara Creek and tributary pictures for the [Swatara Photo Contest](#). Voting will occur online.
  - **May 4-5, 2015** – 25th Annual Swatara Sojourn will begin below Pine Grove, Schuylkill County, float through Swatara State Park, lunch at the Bordner Cabin on Saturday, camp at Lickdale Campgrounds, then lunch at the Water Works on Sunday, and end at Swatara Watershed Park in East Hanover Township, Lebanon County. Watch [SwataraWatershed.com](http://SwataraWatershed.com) for registration information.