THE FIRST ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE

Beaver Creek Wetlands Association

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 1989,

at

Bergamo - Roncalli Center, Assembly Hall
4400 Shakertown Road, Beavercreek, Ohio.

7:30 PM - PRELIMINARIES

All Members & Guests - Please sign in.

Members - please check that your proxy has been received, or get a ballot.

Have a look at the
Wetlands Display and Table Top Slide Show
- also -
Meet the present Trustees and Nominees.

7:45 PM - BUSINESS

Call to Order - by Bill Hagenbuch, Pres.
Report of Proxy Committee - by Richard Wead, Co-Chr.
Report on Organization Meeting, May 31, 1988 - by Dave Nolin, Interim Pres.

Trustees Nomination/Election

Explanation of Election Procedure- by Dr Jim Amon, Secty.
Report of Nominating Committee - C. Graff / J. Klein / R. Wylam
Nominations from the Floor.
Election of Trustees.

Amending BCWA Code of Regulations

Explanation of Proposed Amendments- by Lee Schatzley.
Discussion
Vote

Other Items, if any

Review of BCWA's First Year

by Dane Mutter, Executive Director.

Adjourn

8:15 PM - PROGRAM

Introduction - by Dane Mutter, Exec. Dir.

JOSEPH J. SOMMER
DIRECTOR
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
on
OHIO'S WETLANDS
The vital link among Land, Water and Life.

Refreshments

Immediately after the program, the Trustees will meet briefly to elect officers.

Original

BEAVER CREEK WETLANDS ASSOCIATION

DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ANNUAL -- MAY 1988 - 1989

Most annual reports, frankly, are pretty stuffy. This one may well qualify for that category but I will try to reach a little higher notch on the interest scale. Our story is more of a brief history of the BEAVER CREEK WETLANDS ASSOCIATION and the energetic program this group of local environmental activists has generated to save the BEAVER CREEK WETLANDS.

What is an ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST??, you say, isn't that one of those kooks that lies in front of the bulldozer, to disrupt the highway, shopping mall, or dam? No, it's you and me working for a worthwhile environmental cause. And how do you know the cause is worthwhile? One, it is a project that has a lot of positive local support and, two, it is the kind of project that you know your great grandchildren will enthusiastically endorse.

On Thursday May 5, 1988 at Bob and Jane Henry's dining room table the Preliminary Organizational Meeting of the BEAVER CREEK WETLANDS ASSOCIATION was held. Goals were discussed, trustees, advisors and possible officers were discussed, membership requirements and standing committees were hammered out -- it was a long long meeting but a great deal was accomplished.

Some significant events had taken place before this meeting. Millions of years ago, erosive forces cut deep valleys into the flat solid limestone layers that underlie southwestern Ohio. After these ancient bedrock valleys were cut, a million years of glacial action filled them full of sand, gravel, boulders, silt and clay thus creating the magnificient

acquifer system in our corner of the state and a once ~~impressive~~ extensive area of wetlands. Unfortunately 90% of this valuable and productive habitat was drained and lost.

Scientists tell us that glaciers occur with some regularity about every 24,000 years. So that puts us a little over half way through the interval from the massive Wisconsin glacier which melted away from here some 12 to 15,000 years ago.

A lot has happened during this interval. Human beings appeared on the scene to occupy the land between the Miamis. First the red-skinned native Americans were here followed by the white European settlers, who are still here. Those Europeans -- surveyed the land, cut it up into small parcels, sold it or gave it away, and the owners, then, proceeded to cut the trees, drain the swamps and marshes thus allowing rich productive farmlands to take their place.

One significant remnant of the earlier wilderness has survived, a jewel called the BEAVER CREEK WETLANDS, intact after 185 years of intensive agriculture.

In 1917-18 residents had tried to drain the wetlands to gain more productive farmland. Big Beaver Creek was channelized, almost its entire length, but to no avail, over time, the saturated soil of the wetlands persisted because, as it was later to be determined, the water saturating the wetlands soils is simply the surface of the massive aquifer that lies below the wetlands.

For the next 70 years the wetlands went virtually un-noticed until a guy named David Nolan, who had grown up in Fairborn and roamed as a boy through much of this mysterious wetland, had acquired a curiosity as an adult. Dave is a specialist in the management of natural lands and his

curiosity led him to the Ohio State Historical Society to get copies of the original survey notes recorded by Israel Ludlow who laid out the original section lines in most of the land between the Miamis.

Ludlow was an excellent naturalist and accurately described the plants and soils he encountered as he pushed through the wilderness. With Ludlow's notes, Nolin outlined on a current U.S.G.S. topographic map the 1802 existance of the wetlands along the corridor of Big Beaver Creek.

Field checking these areas Nolin found most of the wetland described by Ludlow to be still intact after 185 years of intense agriculture and development.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, and back to the annual report, on February 17, 1988, the first meeting of the BEAVER CREEK WETLANDS COMMITTEE was held at the Aullwood Audubon Center.

On February 27, 1988, an article appeared in the Dayton Daily News, written by Paul Knoop, who writes the nature column "Our Natural World". It was headlined, "Beaver Creek Wetlands Threatened", and discussed the possibility of serious ground water contamination and a plan to develop a golf course in the immediate vicinity of the wetlands.

March 20, 1988 Ann Malone representing the TRUST FOR PUBLIC LANDS spoke to the second meeting of the BEAVER CREEK WETLANDS COMMITTEE, described how a land trust could be organized and stressed the participation of local citizens as the key ingredient to success.

Articles of Incorportion had been filed and the BEAVER CREEK WETLANDS ASSOCIATION was officially approved as a non-profit, tax exempt Land Trust, complete with the proper interim officers, on April 13, 1988.

From May 1988 to May 1989, the BEAVER CREEK WETLAND ASSOCIATION accomplished the following to try and save a remnant of this precious natural wetland that still exists some 10,000 years after it was formed.

* Organizational meeting of the BEAVER CREEK WETLANDS ASSOCIATION held May 31, 1988. Permanent officers were elected, committees appointed and the business of saving a wetland began.

* MEMBERSHIP AND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE -- Nancy Bain, Chairperson, Produced two slide presentations and a video production. The slide shows were presented to local and area-wide garden clubs, service clubs, schools, youth and senior citizens and the video will be seen on two access channels and may be obtained for home viewing.

* We now have 212 members.

* In addition Nancy was successful in securing grants for operations from the Dayton Foundation and Iddings Foundation. And a generous $5000.00 contributuion was received from the Beavercreek JayCees.

* The BCWA display was developed and presented at the Beavercreek Popcorn Festival, Library, Miami Valley Lawn and Garden Show, Aullwood Audubon Center Spring Festival. In addition the BCWA operated the food booth at the Knollwood Garden Center.

* Two issues of the "Spotted Turtle" BCWA'S newsletter, were produced thanks to Editor John Wilson and a new general brochure is in the making and should be complete by mid June.

* POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE -- Lee Schatzley, Chairperson,,

* Completed a working PLAN FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE BEAVER CREEK WETLAND, revised and amended the Code of Regulations.

* LAND ACQUISITION AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE -- David Nolan,

Chairperson,

* Contacted landowners within the wetland corridor to explain the project.
* Worked closely with The Nature Conservancy, The Ohio Division of Wildlife and the Greene County Park District to encourage their participation and committment in acquiring and manageing the Wetlands.
* Secured mini-grants for research in the wetlands. A vegetation study was completed last summer and currently studies are being completed on the fishes and on the nesting birds of the wetlands
* ADMINISTRATIVE -- William Hagenbuch, President, BCWA and Dane Mutter, Executive Director.
* Organizing Trustee meetings, working with committees, securing literature, attending conferences and workshops, tying up the phone lines at the Hagenbuch residence, networking with other agencies, budgets, the list is long and hundreds of hours have gone in to the first year of operation. PRESENTATION TO BILL!