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Lake Authority hears about river sojourn

Thursday, February 09, 2012

By **Dianne Byers** Staff Writer

At yesterday's meeting, Curwensville Lake Authority heard details on two upcoming events that could help attract additional visitors to Curwensville Lake. Kelly Williams, watershed specialist for the Clearfield County Conservation District, said Curwensville's Irvin Park will be the starting point for the 2012 West Branch River Sojourn, May 20-24. The paddle trip will conclude in Renovo. The five-day, four-night event, sponsored by the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, is designed to connect people to the natural environment, educate them and raise awareness about the river's natural and cultural resources according to marketing information for the 2011 trip.

Williams said the CCCD, the SGP and the Clearfield County Recreation and Tourism Authority are working together to plan the trip's schedule and details, adding the groups hope to showcase much of Clearfield County's assets and natural beauty.

Williams also said she hopes county residents, even those not participating in the trip, will support the effort by coming to Irvin Park or situating themselves along the river to wave as they launch their boats or float by. More details will be announced once they are finalized, Williams said. She said the SGP expects about 60 people to participate. The lake authority approved offering discounted tent site camping to those who want to stay overnight at Curwensville Lake Recreation Area prior to the start of the sojourn. Susan Reed, authority member, said she hoped the event would introduce people to the lake and what it has to offer.

Scott Brubaker of Grampian attended yesterday's meeting and, speaking on behalf of CCRTA, explained details of the agency's geo-trail and requested permission to place a geocache somewhere on the lake's property.

He said the trail is a five-year project and has a different theme each year. In 2012 the theme is parks and recreation. Geocaches will be placed at various sites around the county including local and state parks, state forests and other areas used for outdoor recreation.

Currently there are already two geocaches at Curwensville Lake that have been placed by private individuals and families. Brubaker said CCRTA's would be the third one at the lake. He said global positioning system coordinates for CCRTA's caches would be available at <http://www.geocaching.com/>.

The authority granted permission to Brubaker and CCRTA to place the cache.

In other business, the authority:

- announced the project to construct and sink fish habitats at Curwensville Lake is scheduled for June 2.

The authority thanked Swisher Concrete Products Inc. for donating cement blocks for the project and said they are hoping other companies would consider donating supplies including lumber to construct the cribs.

The project will be supervised by representatives of the state Fish and Boat Commission.

- approved reconfiguring the road at the entrance to the lake and moving the booth to ensure that everyone coming into the lake is paying the entrance fee and enacting a \$1 per person fee for visitors to the lake's campground.
- set a \$3 fee for a shower. The fee does not apply to those camping in the campground but to those visiting the lake or staying in one of the campground overflow areas.

Members said both visitor and shower fees will help to defray the cost of water,

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wastewater disposal, supplies, maintenance and cleaning of the shower and restroom facilities.

- noted it is looking for campground hosts for the 2012 season. Anyone interested should contact the lake office at 236-2320.
- authorized the purchase of a time clock and supplies for lake employees from Batcho Office Systems, Clearfield, at a cost not to exceed \$300.
- held an executive session for personnel matters.
- approved two members of the maintenance staff returning to full-time employment April 9 to prepare for opening season on May 1.

The authority's next meeting is March 14 at 3 p.m. at the CCCD's conference room located at 511 Spruce St., Clearfield.

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