

**Whippany River Watershed Action Committee Meeting Minutes
Whippany River Watershed Management Group**

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

***LOCATION: Morris County Library: 1st Floor—Large Conference Room
30 East Hanover Avenue, Whippany (across from Frelinghuysen Arboretum)***

5:45 pm: Pizza and beverages

6:00 pm: Call to Order

- Open comment/question period
- Motion to approve June 2018 Action Committee meeting minutes
- Minutes approved.

6:10 pm (approx.): Featured Speaker

- Dr. Daniel Van Abs – Rutgers University and Passaic River Coalition
 - “One Water” approach to watershed management
 - Robust presentation about The One Water Concept
 - One Water envisions managing all water in an integrated, inclusive and sustainable manner to secure a bright prosperous future for our children, our communities and our country.
 - Treat all water the same. It’s all the same water.
 - Too much water except when there is too little
 - Too often polluted
 - Water Infrastructure in place for single purposes operating independently
 - Water Supply Control Act
 - Water Quality Act
 - Land use
 - Storm water Management
 - Waste Water
 - Divided System when it comes to sewage, drinking water and storm water
 - Problem is that we have all of these issues and infrastructure is aging in cities, suburbs, etc.
 - City systems over 100 years old and falling apart
 - Suburbs – built in 1950-1970 has expected lifespan of 50-100 years – increased losses of water.
 - Can we do it better – US Water Alliance has been coordinating large group of large organizations around the concept.
 - US Water Alliance Mission: “Managing all water in an integrated, inclusive and sustainable manner to secure a bright prosperous future for our children.”
 - Put a value on Storm water – don’t just throw it away. It has value.
 - Review of population growth and how this concept can alleviate problems and coordinate effort moving forward.
 - The only difference between all of this water is time, where it is at the time.
 - We want economic, social and environmental benefits to society.
 - Goal is to work holistically.
 - Form partnerships.
 - Systems approach.

- Reviewed the water system and how it works now.
- Green Infrastructure

Reduce local flooding by retaining local storm water, reduce water pollution, increase ground water levels, increase stream base flow, community beautification

- Water Infrastructure Improvements:

Reduce water losses (which decreases treatment and pumping costs), reduce breaks causing community disruption, reduce lifecycle costs, reduce stress on water supplies, reduce water movement into and out of sewers.

- Green Roofs, Rain Barrels, etc.
- Resource: www.livingwithwater.org
- Better Design for communities
- Whippany/Rockaway Rivers
 - Reaching out to: WRWAC, Passaic River Coalition, Rockaway River Cabinet, Morris County Office of Planning & Preservation
- Proposals to Pisces Foundation
- USEPA school and public environmental education, Highly competitive not successful this year - Possible funding source
- According to Daniel is that projects need to have an objective
- Murphy administration is interested in One Water
- New commissioner of DEP was a Region II EPA executive and understands the concepts.
- Folks on staff of DEP have wanted to do this for years.
- Storm water permits are going to tighten up - Legislature will authorize storm water utilities on a fee-based program
- Chris Marian interested from Morris County perspective
- Objective: Things happen when you decide what you want to accomplish
 - Set objectives and then decide what it actually takes to do it
 - Broaden the scale and integrate
 - State what the benefits of the project are
 - Why are we doing what we do?
 - Broaden the scale and integrate
 - State what the benefits of the project are
 - Why are we doing what we do?
- Jim – One Water approach is to help broaden the scale of say WRWAC and other organizations.
 - Our decision is to decide where we fit into this concept.
- Watershed Institute is the organizer of the One Water concept.

- Sal – suggests that we have to get the state to pass legislation that says the utility is responsible.
 - Get funding to hire someone in each town to police people – police homeowners and their wells, disposal of clippings and leaves, etc.
 - Charge more money for water, so the citizens will care and be motivated
- Storm water system maintenance: Franklin township has program where township engineer has to inspect each homeowner system on an annual basis to be sure they are being maintained properly. Institutes a fine if not.
- Jim – WRWAC must come together and discuss how to take part.
- John/Madison asks who would own this: Daniel says would be a collaborative effort. Need instigators, backbone of staff and then people to facilitate it.

Daniel Van Abs Contact info:

732.991-4926. Email: vanabs@sebs.rutgers.edu (Best way to reach him)

7:00 pm (approx.): Executive and Other Committee Reports

Facilitator's Report

- Summary of Executive Committee meeting (minutes/notes)
- 2018 Celebration Dinner – October 17
 - To recognize Dr. George Van Orden's contributions to the watershed and WRWAC
 - SMCUA – Purchasing a table for \$1000 – can use for folks from the movie
 - Tracking responses, and ticket sales
 - Working on tricky tray donations, etc.
- Upcoming events and Projects
 - Hanover Library rain garden (Watershed Institute grant, Morris County grant)
 - Add sign acknowledging the site and contributors
 - Educational sessions on 9/18 and Whippanong Library
 - 6-7 HS age students
 - 7-8 for adults
 - Others later in fall to be scheduled
 - Hanover Township Day (September 8)
 - Need more volunteers
 - Andrew Herrera steps up to volunteer and join Action Committee
 - Jen bringing Watershed Jeopardy & banner @ 11
 - Table & chairs provided
 - Parsippany Days (September 30)
 - Need volunteers for this
 - Bottle Hill Day – Madison (October 6)
 - Need volunteers
- Future Projects
 - Still looking at Rain Gardens – partial funding for RG at Bethel AME Church
 - Call out to members if you have projects interested in pursuing please bring to Sergios attention.

Executive Committee Report

- Jim demonstrates Kahoot.it – Interactive App to replace Watershed Jeopardy to attract younger generation
- Perhaps present at dinner
- Have continued to receive donations for Tricky Tray at dinner

Treasurer's Report

- P&L submitted by Libby through end of July submitted for approval.

- Gross profit - \$21,702.14
- Expenses - \$8,882.16
- Income - \$12,832.80
- Jen received checks from Township of Hanover and Township of Morris for membership.
- Motion to accept.
- Accepted.

Next Action Committee Meeting:

- October 3, 2018 – Morris County Library, 6:00pm

Drafted by Jenifer O'Neill October 1, 2018