

Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee

Whippany River Watershed Management Group

Minutes of the April 4, 2007 Meeting

Attendance:

- BRIAN MARSHALL—SECRETARY, WRWAC; MT. LAKES
- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- AMY DiBARTOLO—TREASURER, WRWAC; EAST HANOVER
- CHRIS MANAK—EAST HANOVER
- BOB STRECHAY—PARSIPPANY
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER
- DONNA BANGIOLA—MORRISTOWN
- RICH TAUBALD—HANOVER
- DEBORAH McCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- JON WRIGHT—TROUT UNLIMITED
- MICHELLE BURKE—MCMUA
- VINCE NOVAK—MORRIS PLAINS
- NANCY COLEMAN—PARSIPPANY EAC
- LOUISE JENSEN—VICE-CHAIR, WRWAC; MORRIS TOWNSHIP
- PAT RECTOR, NJDEP DIVISION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Absent Municipalities:

- DENVILLE
- FLORHAM PARK
- MADISON
- MENDHAM BORO
- MENDHAM TWP

The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 6:21pm by Louise Jensen, Vice-Chair. There was a Troy Brook stakeholders meeting at Hanover Town Hall on March 20. Follow up response to this meeting will be presented by today's speaker, Pat Rector. Discussion and comment by the public is welcome at that time. The meeting ended at 6:22pm.

Louise opened the WRWAC meeting at 6:22pm.

Minutes of March 7, 2007 meeting—Deborah McComber, Administrator

- Minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report—Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer

- We have received \$8500 in dues from member towns; all 12 towns have sent in dues or vouchers except Hanover.
- The freeholders provided \$17,500, same as last year. Debbie McComber will send a thank you letter to the freeholders.
- The March 2007 Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Executive Committee Report—Louise Jensen

- See the minutes from the last two meetings in February and March 2007.

Louise introduced today's speaker, Pat Rector, NJDEP Division of Watershed Management.

- Pat discussed the Troy Brook Regional Stormwater Management Plan status and the next steps; this regional plan is the furthest along of any in the state. It can be accessed at www.wrwap.org.
- By now, towns should have stormwater management plans in place and ordinances adopted; current plans (in the Troy Brook region) will need amending after NJDEP approval of this regional plan.

- Plan A is the part of the regional plan with terms that must be adopted by towns in the region.
- Plan B is recommendations for the region, things that could be funded by future grants, the basis for future projects.
- Plan A is being revised by Rutgers based on comments from stakeholders. The final RSWMP will be reviewed by NJDEP TRC in June, and again in September, if needed.
- Next, WMG must integrate NJDEP comments into the plan (need to discuss with Rutgers how this will be done, what technical expertise may be needed).
- Then NJDEP takes ownership, holds public hearings.
- By the June meeting, WMG is asked to obtain statements of authority from towns in the region (Art Vespignani is working on a draft, now); we should schedule meetings with those towns that have not been actively participating in the Troy Brook project to keep them up to speed on what is happening and what is expected from them; it should be made clear to the towns what changes to current rules will be required once this plan is adopted by NJDEP.
- WMG needs to provide NJDEP with a resolution of commitment.

Facilitator's Report—*Art Vespignani*

- **Speedwell Lake**—Kirk Barret and Hank Sawoski recently met to measure sedimentation.
- Steve Sousa, Princeton Hydro, is in contact with Pat Rector, NJDEP, concerning our plans for a **Sanitary Survey follow-up project**. Sousa is finalizing a proposal. Pat feels we can obtain funding from NJDEP sources other than the usual 319.
- **Western Avenue**—Steve Sousa is talking with Jim Slate at Morris Twp. about finalizing proposals and obtaining funding from a number of different sources.
- Proposed **Native Plant Nursery** in prior SLAPP location off Mendham Road in Morris Twp by Morris County Soil Conservation District—The Executive Committee met with Jon Wright from Trout Unlimited and Joe Dunn from MCSCD. The Executive Board voted unanimously to send a Letter of Support for the project.
- After last summer's great success, another **Hackensack River boat trip** is set for Friday, July 20, 2007. We have reserved two boats and invite the public. It will be a fundraiser.
- We are planning a **hike** for June 16/17 or 23/24 with Joe Macasek who will provide historic commentary on the Patriots Path site.

Outreach Committee—*Amy DiBartolo*

- Debbie is sending out more letters to civic groups asking if they would like a **Speaker's Bureau** presentation by WRWAC.
- Rich Taubald is making a **presentation** this spring to Randolph High School **science classes**. He is also contacting Jerry Hollander at Hanover Park High School to offer a presentation, and waiting for the rep from Unity Charter School to book a presentation.
- The **canoe trip** will be on April 28, starting at Speedwell Lake. John Madden has scoped out the route.
- The **watershed-wide clean up day** is April 21. There are already articles about two of the clean ups in the News Bee. Trout Unlimited needs more volunteers at their clean up at Community Gardens. Louise and Debbie will put together press releases.
- **Earth Day** is on April 22 from 12 to 4pm at Sunrise Lake. We are offering Watershed Jeopardy and need volunteers to take hour slots to run the game. Donna Bangiola and Art will take 12 to 1pm. Debbie will help set up, and put together displays, handouts, etc. Debbie will email members about Earth Day and Clean-Up Day.
- Our **website** is up and running at www.wrwac.org. Thank you to Jason Teeple and Bill DiBartolo for setting it up. Pat Rector asked that we send her the information necessary to link it to NJDEP.
- There is a workshop on "navigating the stormwater rules" planned by the Raritan Basin Watershed Alliance on May 31. Contact Connie Deetz at 908-735-0733 for information.

Program Committee—*Brian Marshall*

- There will be a meeting in May or June.

Membership—*Deborah McComber*

- Please contact the co-chairs of the Outreach Committee (Amy DiBartolo or Louise Jensen) or Program Committee (George VanOrden) if you are interested in joining. These two committees do much of the planning for our group.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

The next meeting is May 2, 2007, with Watershed Jeopardy.

The next Executive Committee meeting is April 18, 2007.

Deborah McComber