

# Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee

## Whippany River Watershed Management Group

### Minutes of the December 12, 2007 Meeting

#### Attendance:

- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- SAL IANNACCONO—CHAIR WRWAC, HANOVER
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TWP
- LOUISE JENSEN—MORRIS TWP, VICE-CHAIR WRWAC
- BOB STRECHAY—PARSIPPANY
- DEBORAH MCCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- PEGGY ADAMS—FREEHOLDERS OF MORRIS COUNTY
- JEFF KURT—HACKLEBARNEY, TROUT UNLIMITED
- BRIAN MARSHALL—SECRETARY, WRWAC, MOUNTAIN LAKES
- HANK SAWOSKI—MORRIS PLAINS
- KELLI O'CONNOR—MORRIS CADB
- MICHELLE BURKE—MCMUA
- KEN SICKNICK—MCSCD
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TOWNSHIP
- STAN WITCZAK—MENDHAM BORO
- RICH TAUBALD—HANOVER
- DONNA BANGIOLA—MORRISTOWN
- ART CATALUSCI—MORRIS COUNTY STORMWATER PROGRAM MANAGER

#### Absent Municipalities:

- FLORHAM PARK
- DENVILLE
- MADISON
- EAST HANOVER

The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 6:15pm by Sal Iannaccone, Chair. There was no discussion, no public input. The meeting was closed at 6:16pm.

#### **Sal opened the Action Committee meeting at 6:16pm**

#### **Minutes of November 7, 2007 meeting—*Deborah McComber, Administrator***

- Minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report—*Sal Iannaccone for Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer***

- Nothing new to report.
- The budget for 2008 includes seed money for \$10,000 for additional water quality sampling at the lakes covered in the Lakes Study in order to determine the ongoing health of the Whippany River.
- An additional \$3000 is budgeted specifically for data collection at Speedwell Lake as a follow-up to the Speedwell Lake grant.
- The 2008 budget was approved unanimously.

#### **Executive Committee Report—*Art Vespignani***

- To be covered by the facilitator's report.

#### **Facilitator's Report—*Art Vespignani***

- **Western Avenue**—we are waiting for Morris Twp data; the Twp has funding for preliminary work.
- **Speedwell Lake**—\$1400 will be spent for a spring clean-up day to mulch and fix the steps.
- **Sanitary Survey**—grant request is in the hands of the NJDEP. We are planning a Visual Assessment Seminar for the end of March. If led by NJDEP, it must be held on a weekday. A survey will be sent to WRWAC members asking for preferences of weekday versus weekend.

- **Black Brook**—Laura Newgard, EcoScience, will be leading a walk through the wetlands surrounding the Morristown Airport. If interested in attending, please contact Deborah McComber. The latest environmental assessment proposal connected to the plan to expand the airport was rejected by NJDEP; it will be appealed on January 12. Sal provided a history of the Black Brook proposal and its connection to the airport expansion project.
- **Troy Brook**—Rutgers sent a follow-up notice to NJDEP requesting the adoption of the plan.

**Program Committee**—*Art Vespignani*

- There was a meeting on November 20 where projects were prioritized by town based on the **Troy Brook Regional Management Plan**.
- A **Mt. Lakes project** was identified for which we will apply for a 319 grant in the next cycle.
- A meeting will be set up between the Action Committee and Parsippany concerning **projects in Parsippany**.
- A meeting will be set up between Hanover and Rutgers concerning a **project in Hanover**.

**Outreach Committee**—*Amy DiBartolo*

- Art Catalusci turned in **signage forms**; other members were encouraged to identify where signs are located that identify an intersection between a street and the Whippany River. We plan to map them out and establish where additional signs should be located.
- **Speakers Bureau**—Rich Taubald plans to speak at the Morristown Charter School after the holidays.

**Membership**—*Deborah McComber*

- Please review the latest membership list; government officials leaving office are noted as are AC members who cannot serve in 2008.
- A letter to towns asking for 2008 dues and members will be sent out later this month.

**Nominating Committee**—*Brian Marshall*

- Hank Sawoski has resigned from the Executive Committee but will remain as an AC member.
- Donna Bangiola plans to remain as a Morristown rep but is no longer an employee of the town. She also plans to remain on the Executive Committee.
- Peg Adams was nominated to serve on the Executive Committee.
- Other nominations were requested; none were forthcoming.
- One slate of officers and EC members was proposed—Sal Iannaccone, Chair; Louise Jensen, Vice-Chair; Brian Marshall, Secretary; Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer; Peg Adams, EC member at large; Donna Bangiola, EC member at large. The slate was approved unanimously.

**Old Business**—*Sal Iannaccone*

- Ted Largman asked about a proposed change in Morristown zoning under the new Morristown Master Plan which asks that certain areas be redefined as part of the Highlands plan. The WRWAC EC decided to see what the Morristown Environmental Committee determines.

**WaterBucks Awards Celebration**—*Louise Jensen*

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.**

**The next AC meeting is February 6, 2008.**

**The next Executive Committee meeting is January 16, 2008.**

*Deborah McComber*