

Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee

Whippany River Watershed Management Group

Minutes of the May 2, 2007 Meeting

Attendance:

- BRIAN MARSHALL—SECRETARY, WRWAC; MT. LAKES
- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- AMY DiBARTOLO—TREASURER, WRWAC; EAST HANOVER
- SAL IANNAACONE—CHAIR WRWAC, HANOVER
- BOB STRECHAY—PARSIPPANY
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER
- DONNA BANGIOLA—MORRISTOWN
- RICH TAUBALD—HANOVER
- DEBORAH McCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- MICHELLE BURKE—MCMUA
- PEGGY ADAMS—FREEHOLDERS OF MORRIS COUNTY
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TOWNSHIP
- STAN WITCZAK—MENDHAM BORO
- LOUISE JENSEN—VICE-CHAIR, WRWAC; MORRIS TOWNSHIP
- BOB CONLEY—MADISON
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TOWNSHIP
- JANET BONE—MORRIS PLAINS RESIDENT
- ART CATALUSCI—MORRIS COUNTY STORMWATER PROGRAM MANAGER
- HANK SAWOSKI—MORRIS PLAINS
- KEN SICKNICK—MCSCD

Absent Municipalities:

- DENVILLE
- FLORHAM PARK

The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 6:07pm by Sal Iannaccone, Chair. Art Vespignani handed out a resolution which commits the WMG to following through with the Troy Brook Regional Management Plan project until completion, which is really adoption by NJDEP. Brian Marshall presented concerns about available funding to cover WMG efforts; Art noted that Rutgers assures us we are covered; at any rate, WMG is not obligated in this resolution to commit any funding to the project. Art noted that Brian Marshall should be commended for his comprehensive review and comments on Part A. The board approved unanimously to adopt the resolution. The meeting was closed at 6:15pm.

Sal opened the WRWAC meeting at 6:15pm.

Minutes of April 4, 2007 meeting—Deborah McComber, Administrator

- Minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report—Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer

- As of April 30, WRWAC has \$11,335.13 in available funds and over \$40,000 in CD.
- All member towns have sent in vouchers or checks for 2007 dues.
- The April 2007 Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Calendar 2007-2008—Deborah McComber

- The calendar of meeting dates for Sept 2007 through June 2008 was handed out for review.
- The next meeting is June 6. We do not meet in July or August.

Executive Committee Report—Sal Iannaccone

- To be covered during this meeting.

Facilitator's Report—*Art Vespignani*

- **Speedwell Lake**—Art talked with Kirk Barrett, Passaic River Institute, about the sediment in the basin. The basin is catching about 17% of the sediment, but it was not really set up to catch all of the sediment, it is really a scouring hole. A likely recommendation at the end of this phase in June 2007 is to install more basins. Currently Morristown DPW cleans it out regularly. A final report on Speedwell will be issued by Barrett in July 2007. We still have \$1400 in funds from an environmental group that disbanded and gave the money to the Speedwell project for upgrading Patriots Path.
- **Sanitary Survey**—Steve Sousa, Princeton Hydro, is in contact with Pat Rector, NJDEP, who is waiting for his final proposal based on her recent comments. He promises a final proposal this week. Pat feels we can obtain funding from NJDEP sources other than the usual 319. Art notes that volunteers can help with this project, if approved, by doing visual assessments of the waterways. To this end, there is a Visual Assessment Seminar on May 11 for which WRWAC will cover the \$35 fee for anyone willing to attend. Please contact Art if you can attend and/or wish to carpool. WRWAC may also be doing some sampling for which volunteers would be trained by Steve Souza.
- **Western Avenue**—Steve Sousa is working with Jim Slate at Morris Twp. on cost estimates. Art is trying to reach Jim Slate for an update.
- **Troy Brook**—Part B will be ready within a few days. Part A has been sent to towns for comment. Art is presenting the plan to the Parsippany Town Council on May 15. Brian is presenting the draft to Mt. Lakes. Both Art and Brian are willing to present the draft to other stakeholder towns, like Hanover.
- 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.

Outreach Committee—*Amy DiBartolo*

- Rich Taubald made a **presentation** to Randolph High School **science classes**. He is trying to reach Jerry Hollander at Hanover Park High School to offer a presentation, and waiting for the rep from Unity Charter School to book a presentation. He figures those presentations will be scheduled for the fall. He bought a flash drive for easy transfer of the presentation from source to delivery point and recommends WRWAC purchase a few more flash drives for use by other presenters since disks seem to lead to technical problems. Rich asked about liability issues and official forms required if unchaperoned high school students volunteer as a result of these presentations; this issue will be discussed at the next EC meeting.
- **Clean ups** were conducted by Hanover Twp Environmental Committee, Mendham Township, Trout Unlimited and Morristown. East Hanover and the Hanover Rotary Club rescheduled for May 5 and May 12, respectively, due to flooding issues. Note the very helpful Clean-Up Guide on the WRWAC website, www.wrwac.org.
- **Earth Day** had about 2000 attendees. Art did a great job with Watershed Jeopardy. Amy thanked the volunteers: Donna Bangiola, Ted Largman, Hank Sawoski and Ralph Rhodes.
- The **canoe trip** was a great success. Louise Jensen supplied a terrific lunch. There were about 12 kayakers and some people canoeing around Speedwell Lake with John Madden before departure.
- The **hike** has been rescheduled for September or October.
- The **Hackensack River trip** is on July 20. We will carpool from East Hanover at 4:30pm. The trip itself will run from 6-8:00pm. Please register with Debbie McComber at wrwac@optonline.net or 973-267-1224. Friends, nonmembers are welcome. We can take about 30 people.
- Art Catalusci, Stormwater Program Manager for Morris County, discussed **county efforts towards public outreach**. He noted a gap in NJDEP regulations in addressing small business. Art handed out a brochure targeting small business and asked for comments from members. Please request a brochure and/or send comments to him at acatalusci@co.morris.nj.us.

Program Committee—*Brian Marshall*

- There will be a meeting in June or July.

- Sal talked to George VanOrden about a site on the list of potential projects, Whippany River at Pine Brook. George said it should be removed from consideration.
- NJDEP has issued a report “for comments” on the levels of phosphorous that should be reduced in rivers. This draft report recommends a reduction of 60% which would require further efforts by treatment plants.

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. Debbie will provide a list of current committee members at the next meeting.

New Business—*Sal Iannaccone*

- Flyers for a workshop were handed out by Michelle Burke on “navigating the stormwater rules” planned by the Raritan Basin Watershed Alliance on May 31. Contact Connie Deetz at 908-735-0733 for information. Attendees are eligible for continuing education units. The workshop still needs sponsors.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm for the Watershed Jeopardy game.

**The next AC meeting is June 6, 2007, with speaker, Joseph Mattle, NJDEP Water Supply.
The next Executive Committee meeting is May 16, 2007.**

Deborah McComber