

Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee
Whippany River Watershed Management Group
Minutes of the April 1, 2009 Meeting

Attendance:

- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- BRIAN MARSHALL—MT. LAKES, SECRETARY WRWAC
- DEBORAH MCCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER, VICE-CHAIR WRWAC
- HANK SAWOSKI—MORRIS PLAINS
- DONNA BANGIOLA—MORRISTOWN
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TWP
- BOB STRECHAY—PARSIPPANY
- AMY DiBARTOLO—EAST HANOVER, TREASURER WRWAC
- PEG ADAMS—MORRIS COUNTY FREEHOLDERS
- ALISON DEEB—MORRISTOWN
- DOUGLAS VOROLIEFF—MORRISTOWN
- ART CATALUSCI—MORRIS COUNTY DPW
- LEN CIPKINS—PARSIPPANY
- RICH TAUBALD—HANOVER
- ANDRE JENSEN—MORRIS PLAINS
- EUGENE REYNOLDS—PASSAIC RIVER COALITION

Absent Municipalities:

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

The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 6:10pm by Jim Baranski, Vice Chair. There was no discussion, no public input. The meeting was closed at 6:10pm.

Jim Baranski opened the Action Committee meeting at 6:10pm.

Jim introduced the speaker, Eugene Reynolds, Passaic River Coalition, who talked on the topic, "The Passaic River: Still Waters Run Deep". The coalition is moving into Willow Hall in Morristown and will be offering environmental outreach from that facility.

Minutes—Deborah McComber, Administrator

- Minutes of the March 4, 2009 meeting were provided in the handouts. There were no corrections.

Treasurer's Report—Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer

- We have \$3600.48 in revenue.
- We received dues or vouchers from three more municipalities.
- The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Facilitator's Report—Art Vespignani, Facilitator

- **Troy Brook RSMP**—Art gave the name to Chris Obropta of a landscaper interested in working on rain gardens. Chris will get in touch with Brian Marshall to discuss potential projects in Mt. Lakes. Earlier this week, Art, Chris Obropta, Sandy Goodrow and Bob Strechay met with the mayor, business administrator, public works director and municipal engineer of Parsippany, to report on the status of projects in Parsippany.
- **NPS Implementation Grant**—we are waiting for QAPP approval although we have received a request for revision which Princeton Hydro responded to immediately; we would like QAPP approval ASAP so we can move forward with volunteer assessments this spring. Chris Altomari from Princeton Hydro has issued a form for volunteers to do geese assessments on ponds/lakes in the watershed. Debbie will forward the forms to members. Anyone can do an assessment at any

location without pre-approval. Chris A. also sent emails to public works officials asking for suggestions for implementation projects as part of this grant or for future related grants. Art and Chris are visiting Burnham Park and Bee Meadow to assess the results of projects conducted there to control the geese population.

- **Western Ave**—Jim Slate at Morris Township will not reapply for an ANJEC grant.
- The next **Program Committee meeting** is April 30.
- Art met on March 19 with reps from **Morris County watershed groups**. They decided to send a letter to NJDEP requesting a faster permitting process for non-profits in the business of improving the watersheds.
- Amy will invite Jeff Knapp from the Morris County Park Commission to speak at the next EC meeting about the **potential for installing (and maintaining) native plants as part of a clean up project**.
- Alison Deeb clarified Morristown's plans to *study* the need for **dredging Speedwell Lake**. The \$80,000 study will be conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers. It is not part of any comprehensive plan. Brian Marshall noted that the Action Committee has already done an analysis at Speedwell Lake which should be reviewed before further study by Morristown. Based on our own analysis, we are planning to resubmit a grant request to NJDEP this year which looks at how to deal with sediment accumulation at Speedwell Lake.

Outreach—*Jim Baranski*

- **Speakers Bureau**—members should notify Outreach of **organizations in your community** that would be interested in receiving a presentation by Rich Taubald. Rich is in contact with Parsippany Hills and Parsippany high School about presentations. Rich is obtaining contact information from students interested in helping out with clean ups and attending special events.
- **Watershed Signage**—Rich and Jim will travel to sites and establish the exact location where signs can be installed. We know where to obtain signs, their cost and how to install them.
- George VanOrden has finished the draft for the presentation, "**Where Our Drinking Water Comes From**." Debbie has the CD and will make copies for Outreach and EC; we will review the CD at the next EC meeting.
- Amy has scheduled a spring **canoe trip** for April 25 with guide, John Madden. Douglas Vorolieff was able to obtain eight canoes courtesy of the Morris Co. Park Commission; he will need two people to help with driving, unloading the canoes and reloading them. A sign up sheet and flyer has been distributed. The location and route will be announced closer to the date of the event.
- We are planning a **spring clean-up with Trout Unlimited** at Central Park in Hanover on May 2. A flyer will be distributed soon.
- The **10th Anniversary planning committee** will have its first planning meeting after this AC meeting.
- We are participating in **Earth Day** at Sunrise Lake on April 18 with a Watershed Jeopardy game. Debbie sent around a sign-up sheet for volunteers.
- Bob Strechay has volunteered **storage space** at the Parsippany DPW for archival files of the Action Committee. Debbie and Bob are coordinating.
- The two **Geese Peace goose management classes** coordinated by Douglas Violieff went well. Volunteer teams have been created to oil eggs at various locations around Morristown. Rich Taubald and Donna Bangiola are helping with that program.

Old Business—*Jim Baranski*

- Rutgers does not have any more **rain garden manuals**, but they may be obtainable from the Native Plant Society website.
- Check out the Action Committee **website** which has a new professional server and webmaster.

New Business—*Jim Baranski*

- Alison Deeb invited everyone to a dog park clean up event at Lewis Morris Park this Sunday at 3pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

The next AC meeting is May 6, 2009.

The next Executive Committee meeting is April 15, 2009.

Deborah McComber