

Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee
Whippany River Watershed Management Group
Minutes of the May 6, 2009 Meeting

Attendance:

- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- DEBORAH MCCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER, VICE-CHAIR WRWAC
- HANK SAWOSKI—MORRIS PLAINS
- SAL IANNACCONE—HANOVER
- 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
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TWP
- ANDRE JENSEN—MORRIS PLAINS
- DICK KITCHELL—WHIPPANY
- PAT DELA FUENTE—PARSIPPANY
- JEFF KURT—TROUT UNLIMITED
- JON WRIGHT—TROUT UNLIMITED
- DONALD KIDDOO—SPEAKER

Absent Municipalities:

- FLORHAM PARK
- MADISON
- DENVILLE
- MENDHAM BORO

The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 6:11pm by Sal Iannaccone, Chair. There was no discussion, no public input. The meeting was closed at 6:11pm.

Sal Iannaccone opened the Action Committee meeting at 6:12pm.

Sal introduced the speaker, Donald Kiddoo, Passaic River Coalition, an expert on the history of the Whippany River. Rich Taubald set out some books on the subject for people to peruse.

Minutes—Deborah McComber, Administrator

- Minutes of the April 1, 2009 meeting were provided in the handouts. There were no additions or corrections. They were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report—Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer

- We received the second payment from NJDEP for the NPS Implementation grant-\$14,852.
- We received dues from Madison. Debbie is in contact with Morristown's mayor's office about dues and membership. Art will contact Denville. Jim Baranski will contact Hanover. We are missing dues/membership from Florham Park for the second year in a row.
- We received \$7500 in funding from Morris Co. freeholders, half of what we requested, half of what was provided last year. Art is working on a presentation that will encourage the freeholders to give more next year, given what we provide in return.
- Amy reminded members to submit their in-kind hours for work done in connection with the NPS Implementation grant. Amy will post the in-kind form on the website. Debbie will email a copy to members and bring forms to meetings and events.
- The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Facilitator's Report—*Art Vespignani, Facilitator*

- **Troy Brook RSMP**—the mayor of Parsippany received a commitment from SJP properties for a bio-retention basin. Pat Rector, NJDEP, will be visiting project sites on May 26. Mt. Lakes is interested in a project. Rainbow Lakes and Lake Parsippany property associations are interested in raingardens. Rutgers wants the names of nearby nurseries to contact for plantings.
- **Black Brook**—Art met with airport reps about Stimulus Package money they were allotted for rebuilding airport runways; they can only put the funds towards already existing plans, but they are very interested in wetlands restoration. Art will ask Sal Iannaccone to follow up.
- **NPS Implementation Grant**—we are close to receiving QAPP approval. Princeton Hydro has issued an updated water sampling manual. A private property owner is willing to allow us to do assessments on his property on Ridgedale Avenue in East Hanover, the area in which we were lacking an specific assessment site. Donna Bangiola, Ralph Rhodes and Andre Jensen conducted several geese assessments; Donna felt that the form is too complicated and Art asked Chris Altomari to simplify the form. When the QAPP is approved, we will hold a kick-off event to promote the start of field work for the grant.
- **Western Ave**—in the hands of Jim Slate, engineer at Morris Twp.
- **Speedwell Lake**—contact George VanOrden if you can assist with sampling at Speedwell Lake on May 19 at 9am (assuming it has not rained much in the previous week).
- The next **Program Committee meeting** has been rescheduled for May 28.
- Several **Morris County watershed groups** met with NJDEP to request a faster permitting process for non-profits and government organizations; i.e., organizations that are requesting permits for projects supported by the State. The DEP asked for examples of problems we have faced in the past. The EC will consider this issue at their next meeting.

Outreach—*Jim Baranski*

- **Speakers Bureau**—members, please notify Outreach of **organizations in your community** that would be interested in receiving a presentation. Rich Taubald will reach out to schools again in the fall. Peg Adams suggested contacting town recreation departments. Amy DiBartolo noted that as part of the new stormwater regulations, towns need to accumulate educational points, and we should promote our ability to help them in this area. Art Catalusci said he could forward us the names/emails for stormwater coordinators for member municipalities.
- **Watershed Signage**—Rich, Art and Jim traveled to sites where signs can be installed. Six sites have been approved for 12 signs. We have a vendor, just need to establish exact text on the signs. The EC will discuss at their next meeting to which Rich Taubald was invited. Art noted that the Morristown Airport is willing to sponsor a sign.
- **Earth Day** was a great success thanks to the volunteers who participated. Over 3000 people attended; next year's Earth Day is April 17.
- We had 36 people in 27 boats participate on the **canoe trip**. Thank you to Douglas Vorolieff and the Morris County Park Dep't for supplying 8 canoes at no cost. Thanks also to Amy and Debbie for organizing the event. They will put together a canoe trip expense report.
- There was an **Outreach Committee meeting** on April 28.
- Outreach reviewed the presentation, "**Where Our Drinking Water Comes From**", put together by George VanOrden. Jim Baranski will forward recommendations to George.
- At the **spring clean-up sponsored by Trout Unlimited**, 9 people removed 4 tons of garbage including 75 lbs. of scrap metal. John Wright will email Art Catalusci and Jim Baranski a report. TU decided not to apply for a Clean Communities grant.
- The **10th Anniversary planning committee**, chaired by Len Cipkins and Alison Deeb, will have another planning meeting after this AC meeting. The event will take place on September 16 at Willow Hall. The theme is "10." Amy is putting together a PowerPoint presentation of our ten-year history with music and photos. The budget is about \$1000. Debbie put together a member history and will order a 10-year anniversary banner for display at future meetings and events.
- Upcoming **AC meeting speakers**: In June, Geoff Knapp from Morris Co. Parks will speak briefly on Native Plant Clusters followed by Watershed Jeopardy. Art recommended that we summarize the status of the NPS Implementation grant in October. In November, George VanOrden will give the "Where Our Drinking Water Comes From" presentation.

- Amy DiBartolo is speaking about community involvement at the **ANJEC seminar** on May 18. She asked that people talk to her after the meeting about why they are active in the Action Committee.
- Outreach plans to put together a **reading list for display at the County Library** perhaps in the fall.
- **Egg Addling**—The Morristown program will wrap up in mid-May. Volunteers are addling about 75 nests. Douglas Vorolief will give a brief report on the program at the June AC meeting.
- Debbie will bring a stack of **Annual Reports** to the next meeting for people to distribute around their communities.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

The next AC meeting is June 3, 2009.

The next Executive Committee meeting is May 20, 2009.

Deborah McComber