

**OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**September 7, 2011**

- Meeting Held At:** P.S.S.D. Conference Room, District Way, Martinsburg, WV
- Present:** Mary Beth Bennett, Sandra Bernardi, Martin Elliott, Alana Hartman, Lewis McIntyre, Mary and Peter Palmer, Herb Peddicord, Lou Scavnicky, George Snider, Gary Sylvester, Cam Trowbridge
- Meeting Opened** Lou Scavnicky called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm.
- Financial Report** In Diane's absence, Gary Sylvester gave the financial report. Bank account balance is \$9,039.68, with \$5,000 in the SPG 2010-2011 account and \$4,039.68 in the General Fund. Gary stated that we still have all of the 2011 Stream Partners Grant monies. All of those monies, less the insurance premium, will be spent on the Roach buffer.
- Meeting Minutes** Sandra mentioned there were no minutes from the June meeting. Gary and Mary will send their notes from that meeting to Sandra to have them incorporated into the record at the October meeting.
- Vernal Pond** Lou acknowledged the efforts of the Palmers regarding the installation of a vernal pond on the Roach property. The property owner (Stan Roach) asked them to also install culverts which were not part of the original plan and therefore the budget will be increased for materials for that part of the project. Because it is a habitat pond, designed to hold 18 inches of water, Mary would like us to plant one red oak (to be added to the Roach buffer order) at the edge of the pond. We will seed and straw on Saturday, September 10, weather permitting and the Palmers will send a notice to Project Team members for their assistance on that part of the project. Cattle will be put back on the property at a future date. Project pictures are on the website.
- Up Coming Events** Watershed Celebration Day – Lou was planning to attend, but has a schedule conflict and asked some one else to take his place at this event. Lou did nominate OCPT for an award.
- Day of Caring – Lew McIntyre listed a number of documented incidences where raw sewage was released into the Opequon and suggested we may want to stay out of the water. Martin Elliott and Lou Scavnicky mentioned the DNR sign at Route 9 advising of unsafe water for recreation. Martin thought that sign was posted during the highway construction and should have been removed by now.

Logistics for the Day of Caring was discussed. Lou Scavnicky and Sandra Bernardi will be at George Snider's at 8:00 AM to transport the flat bottom boats and canoes to Stonebridge. Martin Elliot will have his canoe if we need an extra boat. Gary Sylvester will attend the breakfast kick off at War Memorial Park and will bring any other volunteers with him to Stone Bridge. Sandra mentioned the food drive being conducted in conjunction with Day of Caring and Gary said he would bring canned goods to the breakfast.

Fun Float – Sandra stated she would not be at the Fun Float this year on October 8. Gary will cook. Lou will continue to find an outlet for additional kayaks. Sandra will put together a flyer for email distribution and a press release for the Journal. The cutoff for registration will be October 5 and we will encourage attendees to drop their boats @ Stone Bridge where an OCPT volunteer will watch them and then drive to George's to drop their cars. We will then transport participants back to Stone Bridge.

Roach Buffer Planting – Ben from Herb's office will join us on October 6 to help identify the trees at the buffer. We will also weed whack on that date. Gary Sylvester will return to bush hog on October 10 and to auger the planting holes on October 19, 20, or 21. Lou will remind Stan to select tree species. Mary mentioned that Stan would prefer those trees that have naturalized. There are walnuts, crab apples, cypress and box elder. The decision was made to leave all viable trees on both sides of the creek. Planting day is October 22.

#### **CAST**

Alana introduced the Chesapeake Assessment and Scenario Tool (CAST) to those in attendance and discussed its advantages in developing the Watershed Implementation Plan and in prioritizing projects going forward. Lou suggested, once all the bugs are worked out of the program and it goes live, that we have Alana present it to the public at a future OCPT meeting.

#### **St. Joseph's Rain Garden**

Gary announced that he was involved in the installation of a rain garden at St. Joseph's school in Martinsburg. Potomac Valley Audubon Society financed this project and "Through the Garden," Harpers Ferry, WV designed and helped install it. The installer mentioned that his company would like to help install rain gardens throughout the area. There was a discussion on how to track these BMPs.

#### **Torytown Run Buffer**

Herb enlisted OCPT's help on a buffer planting on Phinneus Dorsey's property—a hay field. Mr. Dorsey has stopped mowing along the creek bank and has a good grass buffer. We will plant approximately 200 trees and shrubs (600 feet) on Wednesday and Thursday,

November 9 and 10. Herb will send out a flyer announcing this project and it will include OCPT, Trout Unlimited, Mountain Institute and Musselman High School.

**Hollis Oak Fund  
Raiser**

Herb announced a suggested fund raising event for OCPT which would be to sell 25, 4-foot red oaks that he gathered from Jeff Hollis's backyard four years ago as 1-foot seedlings. The mother oak is 20 years old and 16 inches DBH (diameter breast height) and the offspring can be sold for a profit of \$625 less cost of cage material. Herb will refine the flyer and advertise these trees for installation November and December. We will limit the planting area to Berkeley and Jefferson counties and Alana suggested we have an outreach package (including septic program, lawn care, etc.) prepared to deliver to those who participate. First come, first serve until they are gone.

**Change in Fire Law**

Herb announced the change in West Virginia's fire law and passed out a few announcements of that change. See the website for the entire law at <http://www.wvforestry.com/firelaws.cfm?menucall=fire>

**Stream Partners  
Grant**

Lou announced the SPG program has moved to a calendar year. 2012 applications are due on October 17. Discussion ensued as to whether we should apply for this grant.

There was discussion of potential purchase of a Trimble GPS system (~\$5000). Lou will purchase the Garmin GPS/camera approved for the current SPG monies and will bring it to the Day of Caring. Gary suggested we purchase a floating collar for it.

Mary will research her suggestion that we place Waste Management dumpsters at public access areas and use SPG funds to pay the fees.

Alana confirmed that we have an extension of our current SPG until November 30, after the Roach buffer planting.

**Meeting Adjourned**

At 8:30 p.m.

Minutes of the meeting prepared by Sandra Bernardi, Secretary