

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
March 3, 2010

Meeting Held At: P.S.S.D. Conference Room, District Way, Martinsburg, WV

Present: Bill Zinner, Mary & Peter Palmer, Sandra Bernardi, Sara Wuertenberg, Diane & Gary Sylvester, Lou Scavnicky, Alana Hartman

Meeting Opened at 6:00pm by President, Bill Zinner

Meeting Minutes: Gary Sylvester made a motion to accept and approve the February 3, 2010 Minutes of The Meeting, Sandra Bernardi seconded the motion, there was no further discussion, the motion was approved and passed by all members present.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported the OCPT general fund balance was \$2,725.53 and the 2010 Stream Partner's fund balance was \$4,023.96 for a total account balance of \$6,749.49.

Musselman High School science teacher, Deb Steven's, request for OCPT to supply rain barrels for a class paint testing experiment. It was decided OCPT would supply her with rain barrels for the test and request a painted one back to use at OCPT exhibits.

Grant Funds. Alana Hartman reported frustration with finding in-kind match(s) for the CBF \$10,000 grant that is further complicated by the possibility that Canaan Valley Institute might need to use some of the Conley Buffer planting in-kind match (volunteer time, pickup plants and delivery, etc.) on their original stream bank restoration project grant. There was discussion about finding partners and projects that could qualify for this grant. The grant has a deadline of the end of April 2010.

There was discussion about OCPT initiating a capitol fund project.

There was discussion about OCPT membership dues and Mary is to send a dues request notice to the general email list.

Reports:

Conley Stream Improvement Project, Buffer Planting, March 27, 9:00am

There was a discussion about the buffer planting event for the Conley property in March. OCPT volunteers will be needed to plant approximately 600 potted trees and several hundred bare root plants. Alana Hartman reported Herb Peddicord made up the plant order. Gary Sylvester has volunteered to pick up and deliver

the plants from Clear Ridge Nursery. Some additional plants will be arriving in April and a second planting day will be needed.

Alana reported members of the Master Naturalists may help to plant and could sign up by contacting her. Bob Schnabel will give a presentation to the plant volunteers. She also reported the Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) will be involved. Several CBF members will attend the planting. CBF will provide liability waiver forms and have included this buffer planting in a CBF press release and have it advertized on the CBF web site.

Lou Scavnicky has volunteered to auger plant holes sometime during the week prior to March 27. OCPT volunteers with first aid training need to assist Lou.

Tuscarora Creek Watershed Based Plan

Lou reported he was almost finished assembling the data collected for the Tuscarora Creek assessment. This information will be used to help prepare a watershed based plan for the creek.

Buffer in a Bag Project

Sandra reported very few property owners had responded to two ads placed in the Journal for the free Buffer in a Bag project. She has now placed an ad in the Buyer's Guide. Gary suggested information about the project be sent to Deb Stevens at Musselman High School to distribute to her students. Flyers may also be handed out at the Home Show and at the Master Gardener's Gardening 101 seminar. The bundles will be handed out at the Earth Day Festival. Volunteers will be needed to tag and bundle the seedlings on April 16.

Rain Barrels

Gary reported he had not found free rain barrels or purchased any. He is waiting for a response from Frank Rodgers who may know a source for free barrels. Sara Wuertenberg said she may know a source for barrels and will contact the person for more information.

Gary delivered 3 rain barrels to Deb Stevens to be used in a paint test experiment. After the experiment they will be returned to OCPT. It was suggested to have them on exhibit at the Earth Day celebration on April 17.

Mary reported the Master Gardener exhibit area at the upcoming Eastern Panhandle Builder's Association Home Show does not have space for the rain barrel exhibit. She will ask David Harley for permission to put the exhibit somewhere in Martinsburg Mall for the show.

USGS – Leetown Road.

Bill Zinner talked with Craig Snyder , Fish Biologist, with the USGS Leetown facility. Snyderwho may be able to give a presentation on USGS efforts to measure fish population in the Opequon to OCPT at the July general meeting. Bill also said Craig sent a notice of OCPT water quality interest out to USGS general email list.

Communication

Bill questioned communication with all people interested in OCPT and suggested snail mail be sent to those that do not have email addresses. Mary will develop a list of past event attendees who did not provide an email address.

An invitation was received from the Shenandoah-Potomac District Garden Clubs to exhibit at the April 7-8 Daffodil Show. The team decided to decline the offer.

Water Monitoring

Mary Palmer read an email received from Luc Claessens, Virginia Tech, concerning results from the 2009 Mill Creek Snapshot water sampling. Luc reports some interesting facts surfaced from that experiment and he plans to do another sampling later this month. Mary is to invite him to present his findings to OCPT.

Upcoming Events:

- 03/09/2010 10:00am, Judicial Center Rain Garden cleanup workday
- 03/13/2010 9:00-2 pm, Gardening 101, seminar by the Master Gardeners, for more information, call the WV Extension office, 304-264-1936
- 03/12-14 Eastern Panhandle Home Builders Show, Martinsburg Mall
- 03/27/2010 Conley buffer planting, for more information, contact:
Alana.C.Hartman@wv.gov
- 03/25/2010 10:00am, Judicial Center Rain Garden cleanup workday
- 04/02/2010 Morgan County, Sleepy Creek Watershed Association meeting, for more Information, contact: Alana.C.Hartman@wv.gov
- 04/10/2010 Spring Clean up event, Van Metre Stonebridge on Flaggs Crossing Road at Blairton Rd., 9:00-12:00am, meet at the public access parking lot
- 04/15/2010 Eastern Panhandle Conservation District bundle tree orders, Berkeley County Youth Fairgrounds. More details to follow
- 04/16/2010 Buffer in a Bag bundling workday, for more information, call Sandra Bernardi at 304-267-6657
- 04/17/2010 Earth Day Festival, War Memorial Park, more details to follow
- 04/24/2010 Creekside Fly Fishing Youth Camp, 10-15 years old, for more Information, contact Bill Zinner: ZinnMaster@hughes.net

Eastern Panhandle Conservation District

Sara Wuertenberg spoke about a mid-May 2010 panhandle wide Watershed Workshop now in the planning stage. Sara said speakers lined up for this event include herself, Brent Walls, Carla Hardy, Barbie Elloit, Herb Peddicord, Alana Hartman and others. There was some discussion about the workshop location. It is desired to have this workshop near water so participants can see macro-invertebrates. Some suggestions were Cacapon State Park, the Ag building in Inwood and Poor House Farm Park.

The Eastern Panhandle Conservation District Tree sale is in progress. An order form may be downloaded from their website. Volunteers will be needed on April 15 to help bundle the trees into individual orders. Pizza will be provided for the workers.

Roach Property, Installation of Vernal Pond(s)

Due to the amount of snowfall, the ground is too saturated for this project to begin.

Bill Zinner reported he spoke with the Tuscarora Springs Homeowner's Association members and was encouraged by their positive response to his lawn care, pesticide use, etc. presentation. Thank you – Bill - for doing this on behalf of OCPT.

Upcoming Guest Speakers:

Kristin Mielcarek, Canaan Valley Institute, April
West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, May
John Young, USGS, June
Craig Snider, USGS Fish Biologist, July

Meeting Adjourned 8:00pm

March 5, 2010, Minutes of the Meeting Prepared by Mary Palmer, Secretary

Minutes are posted at: www.opequoncreek.org