

Opequon Creek Project Team, Inc.
Minutes of the Meeting
April 07, 2010

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

Present: Bill Zinner, Lou Scavnicky, Alana Hartman, Gary Sylvester, Mary and Peter Palmer, George Snider, Mary Beth Bennett, Kristen Mielcarek

Meeting Opened: 6:40 p.m. by President, Bill Zinner

Treasurer's Report: Gary Sylvester distributed a report of the Stream Partner Grant Fund (\$1874.96) and General Fund (\$2,791.03) account balances as of April 07, 2010. Gary also reported he and Sandra Bernardi had completed and submitted the Stream Partner mid-term report.

Bill Zinner reminded members that annual dues are now due.

Reports:

Spring Clean Up Event 4/10

There was discussion about the 4/10 trash clean up event to be held at Stonebridge. Members reported the roadside has recently been cleaned by work crews and the March flood cleared most of the trash from the stream bank. It was agreed, at the event, youth groups should pick up trash from inside the wooded area, adults should go along the stream bank and a third group should go further upstream on the Tuscarora, possibly to the Oak Street Park area on East John Street.

Stream Sampling

Bill reported he is working on selecting dates and sites for micro-invertebrate sampling with Tim Craddock of WV Save Our Streams.

Buffer in a Bag Program

A workday is scheduled for 4/16 at Sandra Bernardi's barn to assemble tree seedlings into packages of 25 to distribute at Earth Day Celebration at War Memorial Park on 4/17.

Rain Barrels

Gary reported that Lou and Peter will go with him on 4/11 to pick up 50 barrels. These barrels are \$10 each.

Gary said Deb Stevens has been invited to display her class paint experiment barrels at the Earth Day Celebration event.

Lou has volunteered to attend Earth Day Celebration at Musselman High School to discuss rain barrels with attendees on 4/23.

Tuscarora Creek Watershed Based Plan

Alana, Kristen and Lou reported they had visited erosion sites on the Tuscarora Creek searching for needy locations for stream bank restoration projects. Kristin reported Canaan Valley Institute (CVI) will submit a 319 Grant project proposal of about half the cost of Mill Creek's Conley property restoration project, for a project on Tuscarora Creek with a goal of fall completion.

Bill and Lou reported they had a date of 4/12 to assess the last location on Tuscarora Creek needed to complete the watershed assessment.

Conley Buffer Planting

Thanks to the help of Chesapeake Bay Foundation members, (CBF) Master Naturists and OCPT team members, the buffer planting on 3/27/10 went very well. A final planting of bare root shrubs and trees will be scheduled for later in April, probably April 20, 21 or 22.

Gary reported he personally paid for the left over mulch that had been donated for the Conley planting and will use it at his home.

Know Your Streams

Bill reported he attended the Sleepy Creek Watershed Association sponsored presentation on 4/2 given by Patrick Campbell and Dave Montelli from WV DEP on measuring and reporting on water quality in the state's watersheds and streams. He said they did a good job of explaining Best Management Practices and TMDL's.

EPA Chesapeake Bay TMDL

Bill and Lou attended a meeting given by CBF members, Terry Cummings and Rob Schnabel that addressed TMDL impact on local citizens. CBF is seeking input and support for Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act, SB1816 and HB 3852 legislation from local groups. After the morning meeting, they visited S. M. Capito's office seeking support for the legislation. The two bills will establish and allocate funds for education and non-point source water quality improvement projects.

Rain Gardens

The Judicial Center rain garden next work day is 4/13 at 9:00am. Rain Garden workdays are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Thursday of each month through October.

The City of Martinsburg has removed most of the debris left from snow plowing operations and mulched the Baltimore Street rain garden.

Alana is to follow up with James Dillon on his wedding present -future rain garden- to find out if a location has been selected.

Mary agreed to determine if Faith Christian Academy students could weed and clean the Giles rain garden as their community service project on their *Labor of Love* work day event on 5/7.

There was discussion concerning an OCPT donation to Faith Christian Academy for the students help at last year's Baltimore Street workday and their help again this year. In 2009 the team discussed making a donation to the school, but for some reason never did. George Snider made a motion for Opequon Creek Project Team, Inc. to donate \$100 to Faith Christian Academy after the 2010 Labor of Love workday. Gary Sylvester seconded the motion, there was no further discussion and the motion, all members voted to accept and approve the motion.

Prospect Hall

Alana reported an electric deer fence is being installed and a buffer planting event is being scheduled for Prospect Hall in April. More details of the event will follow.

Stream Cleanup by Boat and Fun Float Trip

Discussion was held concerning these annual events. Where and when to have each? Members agreed to do some field research to select sites and schedule these events at the next OCPT meeting.

Guest Speaker

Kristen Mielcarek gave a power point presentation on the Canaan Valley Institute (CVI) organization and reviewed some of CVI's projects. Great pictures were shown of the Mill Creek Conley property stream bank restoration. Kristin also shared some other CVI efforts to improve water quality in the large area they service, including local Mill Creek septic tank pumping assistance and additional plans to reduce sediment and bacteria in the Opequon Creek Watershed. Great presentation - thank you Kristin!

Upcoming Events:

- 04/10/10 Spring Clean Up, Stonebridge, 9:00am
- 04/14/10 Public Hearing, Continental Brick Open Pit Mine, 7:00pm, Mountain Ridge Intermediate School, 2691 Gerrardstown, Road.
- 04/15/10 Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, 8:00am, Tree Sale Workday, Berkeley County Youth Fair Grounds
- 04/16/10 Buffer in a Bag Workday, For more information call Sandra Bernardi, 304-267-6657.
- 04/17/10 Earth Day Celebration, War Memorial Park
- 04/23/10 Earth Day Celebration, Musselman High School
- 04/24/10 Creekside Fly Fishing Youth Camp, 6:00-9:00pm, Poor House Farm Park
- 05/05/10 Spring Meeting, WV Watershed Network, Wardensville, WV, 9:00am-5:00pm, registration at wrc@wvca.us or call 304-558-0382
- 05/05/10 Opequon Creek Project Team general meeting, 6:00pm, Guest Speaker from Department of Natural Resources
- 06/02/10 Opequon Creek Project Team general meeting, 6:00pm, Guest Speaker, John Young, from Leetown Road, USGS

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00pm

Minutes of the Meeting prepared by Mary Palmer, Secretary, 04/08/10

Minutes are posted at: www.opequoncreek.org