

October 13, 2005 Opequon Project Team meeting notes 5:45-8:00 p.m.

(times noted are approximate)

Present: Mary Beth Bennett, Richard Demoske, Jim Giraytys, Alana Hartman, Scott Rodeheaver, George Snider, Bonnie Stubblefield

6:00 Began with introductions, and this led to two unscheduled discussions:

- 1) Jim Giraytys representing T.O.W. (and possibly other groups) and assured us that partnering with them would be desirable for both parties. They invited us to some events (see below).
- 2) Scott Rhodeheaver helped us understand the connection between surface water pollution reduction efforts and his work with the WVBPH and the “WV Sourcewater Assessment and Protection Program” (currently still focused on groundwater only). He helped us understand two maps Alana received during previous stakeholder meetings. E.g. groundwater under the influence means “of surface water” – would have to comply with surface water requirements. Jim G. also had background on a regional effort to analyze groundwater QUANTITY issues – ICPRB was involved.

-We learned that Big Spring (a deep shaft well into an abandoned mine, leads to City of Martinsburg water plant) is the main water source for Martinsburg and some of Berkeley Co., and other springs such as Kilmer Spring (a City of Martinsburg water plant), Spring St. Spring, and LeFevre Spring near Bunker Hill, are important for local drinking water supplies. Also, Berkeley Co. SWAP effort began with the 2002 drought.

3) Berkeley Co. Comprehensive Plan is a related effort because would deal with: “where do we want infrastructure to go in the future to avoid a bunch of new community wells?”

Dates of interest we posted on the flipchart throughout meeting:

- * 10/15/05 Opequon clean-up, 10 am-3? Start at Snider’s property
- * 10/15/05 T.O.W. booth at Old Town (Winchester) as part of heritage festival – welcome to stop by
- * 10/22/05 T.O.W. clean-up on Town Run (a tributary of Abrams Creek) – contact Jim Lawrence if interested: jiml@crosslink.net
- * 10/29/05 10 am- 3? SOS training/certification at Snider’s property on the Opequon (later canceled)
- * 3/2-3/3/2006 “Upper Potomac Roundtable”, a 1 ½ day workshop at which one of the breakout sessions will be “how watershed groups are helping to implement Tributary Strategy” – this project team will probably be featured (but Alana will be on maternity leave and unable to attend)
- *(agenda items not discussed under updates heading: next VA Opequon TMDL meeting)

Progress on Projects:

Project idea #6 Landowner mailing Part 1 (Berkeley Co.) – we discussed the draft letter, made suggestions for some changes, and discussed what the return address should be (Opequon Creek Project Team c/o Alana, etc.)

Project idea #10 monitoring – looked at sourcewater maps, big topo maps, began plotting known monitoring points were groups monitor already

-Alana will send Scott the lat/long files of known sampling points and maybe his GIS dept can map them all on one map of the watershed

Project idea #5 – spending \$5000 on an on-the-ground project

Some ideas from Sept meeting were raised by people who aren’t here tonight, so Alana will have to follow up with them to get the proposals in by Oct. 31 deadline. (Creekside Anglers, also the Stone Bridge site)

-Other ideas might include improving a stream access point’s erosion, e.g. Tuscarora Creek Bridge

- Alana will be meeting with Clint Hogbin to tour the Solid Waste Authority's site
- perhaps ask Roger about sites that had been identified for the Greenway – could address them now?
- Jefferson Co. Schools have asked Mary Beth how to cut down on mowing – could also pursue schools with known contacts interested in water quality, e.g. Eagle School and others
- Stormwater management demo (rain garden) in War Memorial Park
- Stormwater management demo to go along with planned trail at Shenandoah Valley clinic, 99 Tavern Road

adjourned about 8:15 pm