

February 15, 2006 Opequon Project Team meeting notes 6:00-8:00 p.m.

James Rumsey Technical Institute Conference Room

(times noted are approximate)

Facilitator: Sherry Wilkins, WV Department of Environmental Protection

Guest Speakers: Bryan Seipp of Potomac Conservancy, Steve Knipe of City of Martinsburg

Also present: Mary Beth Bennett, Nick and Joanie Blanton, Scott Rodeheaver, Frank Rodgers, Bonnie Shawyer, Willis Smallwood, Bonnie Stubblefield

Discussion included:

Berkeley Co. Solid Waste Authority has/had compost bins for sale at a reduced cost.

Berkeley Co. Home Show, Youth Fair, Roundhouse Rail Days, and the Back Alley Tour. These may all be a good venue to have a booth to promote awareness of the Opequon Creek Watershed and the problems that are present.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection...Who can partner with the Team for sponsoring such an event? These are usually expensive. Names brought up included: Waste Management, Inc., County Solid Waste Authorities, Clean Harbours (Baltimore), and others?

Sherry Wilkins talked about the MS4 permit, very briefly. Discussed some possibly BMP's that the city could get involved in. We talked a little about storm drain stenciling and rain barrels. Sherry passed out a flyer about rain barrels.

Steve Knipe talked about The City of Martinsburg's MS4 permit. He touched on how the city's drinking water supply is vulnerable to stormwater contamination. Going from quarterly to monthly billing of water and sewer bill. A big issue is construction stormwater runoff. GIS mapping was done several years ago for the city. They have conducted some stream sampling (Tuscarora). And, the issue of partnering with the group about storm drain stenciling/marketing was brought up again.

Bryan Seipp did an excellent presentation about rain gardens.

At the end of the meeting, Scott Rodeheaver brought up that the Board of Health is going to have a grant program for projects that protect drinking water supplies. He felt that this group might be a good candidate for doing this type of project. He is going to get more information for the group.

Frank Rodgers spoke briefly about the Water Quality Improvement project for Creekside Anglers. This is the project that was decided upon for using the \$5000 of Chesapeake Bay Program funds (through DEP). He had a handout that described the project in more detail (see "Tuscarora Creek handout.doc") It is a riparian buffer planting for which volunteers from this group will be needed.