

Dec. 12, 2006 Opequon Project Team meeting notes 6:00-8:00 p.m. Action items in RED

James Rumsey Technical Institute's Assembly Room

(Times noted are approximate)

Facilitator: Alana Hartman, WV Department of Environmental Protection

Also present: Sandra Bernardi, Dr. Alan Collins, Jim Giraytys, Ron Gunderson, Steve Knipe, Rebekah Knipe, Jim Lawrence, Sharon Lee, Jon Ludwig (TetraTech), Dave Montali (WVDEP's TMDL section), Mary Palmer, Diane & Gary Sylvester

6:10 –Introductions

6:15 –financial report as stated in agenda; no ideas yet as to how to redirect the \$100. **Someone will have to attend another EPCD meeting** to ask for the funds to be redirected.

6:20 - Upcoming activities: reviewed these as printed in agenda; next meetings had misprint...Feb meeting is actually Tues. the 13th.

New business:

1. This summer, George and Sandra retrieved tree tubes from failed planting at Kernstown battlefield in VA. Boy Scouts removed more that now need to be picked up on a first-come, first-served basis. **We need to get contact information and go pick them up. [Alana sent e-mail to Kernstown Battlefield Association 12/13/06. Picked up ~200 tubes a few days later. There are many more!]**

2. Dr. Alan Collins: involving WVU in watershed survey 2007. Group seemed to favor Mill Creek streamside residents for this multi-page survey idea. Notes from brainstorming:

- 1) long-term goal for property, 2) optional "name" section 3) Mill Creek: interested in participating in restoration projects? 4) what landowners think the problem is 5) helpful tone, e.g. willing to utilize the help available to you?
- 2) Note: realtor books have the addresses.
- 3) Cover letter can advertise OCPT.
- 4) Winchester Star and Martinsburg Journal publicity surrounding the survey.
- 5) WVU can still fund a Jefferson Co. mainstem Opequon mailing if we need help with that, too.

3. Stone Bridge and RR trestle debris – Alana introduced the situation: debris has piled up under CSX trestle downstream of Stone Bridge, and CSX began to remove it at the request of landowner across Opequon. Discovered beavers live there so stopped work. Might resume in a few months. Mr. Hess (landowner) might attend in February and present his ideas for bank stabilization. **Maybe we could work with a historical society and/or DOH to fund bank restoration (to protect bridge)? Should probably put in bank pins now to document soil loss rate. [learned that this bridge is already considered to be a future "job" for DOH. A new bridge with a single span across creek will be built 2009 or 2010. Downstream, west bank is already acknowledged as needing work.]**

~6:45 4. Potomac Direct Drains TMDL, draft, presented by Dave Montali and Jon Ludwig.

Dave and Jon presented the map layers and spreadsheet column headings that will be available when TMDL is finalized (which should be soon, early 2007). **We will all be able to have a copy of a CD-Rom that has its own software for showing maps and information (ArcExplorer).** Some highlights:

- the (i) tool is very helpful – use it to click on places in the map and information will come up. Alana pointed out this is the essence of a GIS (Geographic Information System)– a map linked to information.

- To generate data for TMDL modeling by TetraTech, DEP monitored many streams in watershed once per month for a year. Not every stream in watershed was sampled, though.
- Jim G. wondered if the modeling will need to be updated, and if so, how often. Speakers said it has already needed an update because of dramatic increase in # of stormwater and construction permits. Once finalized, though, TMDL stands indefinitely, and it is up to other groups like this one to follow up with watershed based plan and project implementation. Monitoring that goes along with that should reveal whether subwatersheds have been cleaned up sufficiently to warrant DEP coming in again to intensively monitor and potentially take stream off impaired waters list.
- This TMDL is for “Potmac Direct Drains, which includes Sleepy Creek, Harlan Run, and others, not just Opequon Creek. Opequon is impaired for fecal coliform and biological score. The failing biological (macroinvertebrates) score is linked to sediment pollution. It does not deal with the excess nitrogen and phosphorus that the Ches. Bay program is concerned with.
- Jim G. noted that this presentation shows need to reach out to all watershed residents in, for example, Mill Creek watershed. Not just streamside landowners as we proposed earlier in meeting.
- Ron G. asked if a list of acronyms and definitions would be available for the layperson when TMDL is presented formally? Yes, there is a section in TMDL document that spells out the acronyms. Feel free to ask Alana or others if other questions as we go along (even after tonight’s meeting)
- TMDL results will be presented in graphs by subwatershed. The tables will have numbers in them that could show us where the most reductions are needed per square mile, for example. You can choose these subwatersheds in the table, then go back to map and see where they are.
- Presenters showed us the source tracker’s data, e.g. agricultural operations coded by potential to contribute bacteria to local stream.
- Discussion about how big of a problem wildlife is for bacteria contamination. Deer in unforested suburban areas may be significant problem, but in forested watersheds, streams are not bacteria impaired. DEP has even done storm sampling in forests to examine this question.
- Showed septic failure information. Public sewer areas are known, package plants areas are known, so houses outside these assumed to be on septic tanks. Loaded the model with certain failure rates based on the “zones.” Zones were based on Berkeley County Infrared project, plus knowledge of sanitarian. One use of this information would be to show where public sewer should be extended.
- Our group could decide to work in a subwatershed where there is a concentration of different issues, as revealed by the TMDL model.

7:25 TMDL presentation, cont’d

- looked at the spreadsheets that will be available on the TMDL Cd-Rom
- 2nd tab = load allocations for nonpoint sources (= sources that do not discharge directly into a stream via a pipe), which is what this group is concerned with.
- Every column is “filterable,” which means you can ask the spreadsheet to only show entries for certain ranges of numbers, or for certain subwatersheds, etc. **Endless possibilities and the imagination of people in this group will be needed!**
- E.g. for bacteria, you can see land use categories, acreage, the baseline condition, the desired (TMDL) condition, and the % reduction needed.
- All failing septic systems are shown as needing to be reduced to zero contribution of bacteria to streams.

- Talked about how Virginia's documented impairments upstream of WV are dealt with in the model.
- Noted that Berkeley County and City of Martinsburg are MS4 communities (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems), so they will receive an overall wasteload allocation, but it will be broken down for "operable amount written into their permit," and also "breakdown for nonpoint source implementation purposes." The latter will be useful for this group. Private ag lands are separated out as part of nonpoint sources. Alana and others explained that other MS4 communities have acted already by forming a utility that collects fees and therefore has revenue to deal with stormwater issues. Steve Knipe mentioned there is a possible plan on the table for City to impose a fee on impervious areas. Alana mentioned these MS4 entities are natural partners for this type of watershed group, because we can help them and vice-versa.
- The spreadsheet numbers might be useful also as measures of success if we can't actually measure the incremental improvement in a stream due to a project being done.

7:55 Old business:

1. Rain Barrel workshop – late March is preferred time to hold the event. Steve says two locations owned by City are possibilities. Gary offered to house and possibly transport some barrels if we need to purchase them soon but delay the workshop.
2. logo/brochure/tabletop display: ran out of time to offer ideas for places to display these in 2007
3. Judicial Center rain garden – **watering hydrant was installed today (forgot to thank Steve for this at the meeting)**. Also installed 2 reflectors donated by Nancy Rupert. Alana loaned Rebekah the chemical monitoring kit that WVSOS provides to watershed groups for finite periods of time. She might be able to use it to test runoff for pH, DO and nutrients. The group seemed to feel that oils and grease would be the primary pollutants in the runoff that the rain garden could be expected to treat.
4. War Memorial Park – new grass has been damaged by truck tires; need to talk to Steve Catlett about best way to protect it. (12/18/06: 5-6 boulders will be left there to discourage driving on that area, and Alana will work with NRCS to develop a planting plan for spring. Parks dept. can buy the plants.)
5. Opequon Watershed (VA and WV) Targeted Watershed Grant update – Jim Lawrence told us about plans to install monitoring devices at project sites this week (pocket wetland, Cedarmeade). Later, swales. Rain garden at Winchester Park not a good candidate because the runoff wouldn't have high nutrients. Also meeting with the grant lead people from VA Tech later this week (Alana ended up doing the auto tour of Mill Creek watershed and other areas with them on 12/14/06). Will install level spreader to divert flow to monitoring devices. Learned that the Bunker Hill development done by Greenway Engineers, which had been a possibility to monitor other BMPs, was not a good place to do that, after all (just has traditional stormwater pond instead of wetland plants they had proposed).
6. Monitoring: fecal coliform monthly monitoring has begun, Coliscan supplies have been ordered by ICPRB and should be ready to deliver to us in January or February. After the meeting, the monitors met to discuss timing of sampling, etc.

=Adjourn ~8:15