

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
AUGUST 14, 2007

Meeting held at: James Rumsey Technical Institute
Facilitator: Alana Hartman, Potomac Basin Coord., WV Dept. of Environmental Protection

Present: Bonnie Stubblefield, Sandra Bernardi, Bill Zinner, Ron Gunderson, Mary Palmer, Sharon Lee, Diane Sylvester, George Snider, Sara Wuertenberg, Jason Lucey, Jerry Cooperman, Kathryn Murphy, Richard Demoske, Frank Rodgers

Note: Prior to the start of the regular membership meeting, several board members arrived at 5:30 to review the Stream Partners 2007-08 grant guidelines and sign the agreement. This will enable them to receive the Stream Partners grant check as soon as possible after Gary returns and signs the agreement (as treasurer).

6:00 Introductions, Meeting opened by Alana Hartman

Financial Report: It was noted that two bank account check signers needed to sign a check to reimburse the treasurer for rain barrel workshop purchases bought with personal funds.

Minutes of the Meeting Ron Gunderson made a motion to accept the July 10, 2007 Minutes as Emailed to all members and corrected in red ink and George Snider seconded the motion. All team members present voted to pass the motion.

Upcoming Events: 08/23/07 Bedington UMC youth float trip and watershed presentation
09/12/07 Regular meeting ** For more information see New Business
09/29/07 Fall Opequon Creek clean up
10/09/07 Regular meeting

New Business:

1. The next regular scheduled team meeting day of September 11 is the Day of Caring and since so many team members are volunteering in day long scheduled activities the team decided to change the OCPT meeting to the next evening, Wednesday, 09/12/07, 6:00 pm at James Rumsey Technical School. Several volunteer opportunities were discussed including helping Berkeley Community Pride with road side clean up efforts along the creek.
2. Stream Partners Grant. Alana reported OCPT has been awarded the \$5,000 it applied for and should receive the funds on 09/22/07. A short review and discussion followed this announcement about specific items OCPT had included in \$5,000 budget.
3. The president read an OCPT Bylaw Amendment that allows, in an emergency time-dated situation only, an email vote made by the Board of Directors to be

valid. Bill Zinner made a motion to accept and add this amendment to the Bylaws, Ron Gunderson seconded and George Snider 3rd the motion. All team members present voted yes to accept the motion.

4. Chesapeake Watershed Forum, "Sharing Strategies to Manage Growth and Protect our Waters," will be held on October 12-15, 2007, at NCTC and costs \$150 per person. OCPT members discussed the importance of pertinent and valuable information to be given at this forum to the team and it was decided to send a member to the forum. George Snider made a motion for OCPT to pay \$150 for Sandra Benardi to attend the forum and Mary Palmer seconded the motion. The motion was amended to say that Sandra would apply for a scholarship. All team members present voted to pass the motion.
5. Announced Grant Opportunity (AGO). Alana reported that this grant is from \$10,000-\$15,000, 319 funds available for rain garden installation expense offset, and that there is a 40%, (funds or in-kind), match required. OCPT team members discussed the possibilities of rain garden locations. Location ideas suggested included private homeowner rain gardens, Spring Mills Walmart storm water management area, Liberty Street-Martinsburg town spring, LeFevre Spring, Berkeley County Youth fairgrounds and a school. Several members volunteered to research these possibilities further and report back 09/12/07. It was decided to make the application for the grant while we explored location sites.
6. Team members decided the Fall stream cleanup will be Saturday, 09/29/07, 9:00 am, from Rt. 9 campground by the bridge to Flaggs Crossing Stonebridge. This will be a boat trip and it was noted that flat bottomed boats to hold the trash collected will be needed. Alana agreed to contact the campground owner for permission to start the trip at this facility. Team members then discussed the need to have a committee to handle contacting volunteers, advertising and other logistics of projects. George Snider agreed to create a checklist for committee use. Bill Zinner made a motion to form a project committee and Bonnie seconded the motion. All team members voted yes to pass the motion
7. It was noted that Olde Berkeley Garden Club partnership on a new rain garden project in the LeFevre Spring vicinity has been temporarily tabled.
8. Mill Creek "Watershed Based Plan" assessment is in progress. It was noted by team members that repair and restoration funds seem to be allocated to projects on creeks that have a watershed based plan and that Opequon Creek does not have such a watershed plan. Alana stated this would be a massive project and not within her realm of undertaking, although she would try to find out if one part of a watershed based plan, specifically a sedimentation plan, would qualify for grant funds for the mainstream of the Opequon without a complete watershed plan in existence.

9. Flow Grant-Future Leaders of Watersheds. Alana reported that Potomac Audubon is using funds from this grant for a children's rain garden and has requested help. She also reported there is an environmental service training session on August 20-22. There is an opening for a team member to attend, expense paid. Bill Zinner indicated he may attend.
10. Richard Demoske requested members to collect unusual mussel or clam shells found in creek beds in an effort to help a group interested in a restoration program.

Old Business:

1. Watershed Celebration Day is Saturday, 11/03/07 at Lakeview Resort in Morgantown. Gary Sylvester and George Snider will be giving rain garden and rain barrel presentations. All members are encouraged to attend.
2. Potomac Headwaters RC&D has funded OCPT federal tax filing fee of \$350.
3. Sandra Bernardi reported the OCPT web site is up and running with minor corrections to be made. The team discussed posting the minutes on the site and a team calendar.
4. The team discussed the June 21, 2007 stream cleanups (Tuscarora and Opequon) and reviewed the projects in general as well as the amount of trash collected. Alana noted there was 1.55 tons of trash on the first trailer load and 27 tires. There was an additional 26 tires collected during the next 2 days by team members for a total of 53 tires from the Opequon Creek Stonebridge location to the Snider property.
5. State of the watershed report. It was discussed that an annual review of what the team accomplishes and the current state of the creek needs to be written and made public. This report would be posted on the OCPT web site and sent to newspapers.
6. Mary Palmer reminded OCPT members the first annual dues would be due January 1, 2008.

Project Updates

1. Mill Creek Assessment is ongoing as discussed under new business, as part of Stream Partners grant 2007-08.
2. Water monitoring: It was reported that more Coliscan sample materials will be ordered and that funds for these materials are provided in the Stream Partners Grant.

3. Rain Barrel update: Diane Sylvester reported 2 more barrels have been sold since the last workshop.
4. Buffers: Status: It was reported a fence has been erected at the Tuscarora buffer site and its location may have increased the buffer area. The team then discussed changing to a different type of chemical to kill Ailan thus trees growing in the buffer area.
5. Rain Garden: Alana reported the Judicial center rain garden addition has been approved by the Berkeley County Commission.
6. Booth/tabletop display: The team discussed possibilities for displays at the Apple Harvest Festival, Chesapeake Watershed Forum and Watershed Celebration Day. It was agreed that more public awareness is beneficial in appropriate venues to OCPT. It was suggested that OCPT try and secure an exhibit booth at the Apple Harvest Festival in October , possibly in partnership with other watershed groups, but if unable to do so, share booth space with the Berkeley/Jefferson County master gardeners.
7. It was reported that the annual cost of OCPT post office box was \$40. Alana made a motion to use \$18 left from the 2006 Stream Partners Grant and \$22 from OCPT general funds to pay this cost and Bonnie Stubblefield seconded the motion. All team members present voted yes to pass the motion.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes of the Meeting prepared by Mary Palmer, Secretary, OCPT, Inc.

Minutes posted at: www.wvnet.org/wvts_imp.htm