

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OCTOBER 09, 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, Cindy Gunderson, Mary Palmer, Mary Beth Bennett, Steve Knipe, Jerry Cooperman, Diane Sylvester, Gary Sylvester, George Snider, John Jacko, Ellen Murphy, Richard Demoske, Frank Rodgers

6:00 Introductions, Meeting opened by Alana Hartman

Financial Report: The treasurer reported the Stream Partners grant fund of \$5,000 was deposited into the OCPT bank account.

Minutes of the Meeting: Bonnie Stubblefield made a motion to accept the last meeting of August 14, 2007 Minutes of the Meeting as Emailed to all members and Bill Zinner seconded the motion. All team members present voted to pass the motion.

Upcoming Events:

11/13/07	Regular meeting
10/12-13/07	EPA region III Volunteer Monitoring, Shenandoah University
10/12-13/07	Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forum, NCTC
10/15-16/07	Science Symposium, Shenandoah University
10/17/07	Smart Growth Conference
10/19-21/07	Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival, Martinsburg
10/19, 2007	Opequon Targeted Watershed project, Partners meeting, Winchester, 10:30 am, (Jim Lawrence)
10/26/07	Monitoring Stream Restoration Projects meeting, UMBC, (University of Maryland)
10/28, 29 and 30,	Educational Conference, Litter Control & Solid Waste, Wheeling, WV
11/02/07	Judical Center Rain Garden Dedication, 1:00 pm
11/03/07	Watershed Celebration Day, Morgantown, Volunteer Appreciation
11/07/07	Beltsville Agricultural Center Field Trip
11/10/07	WV Master Well Owner Volunteer Training Workshop, Jane Lew, WV

New Business:

1. FLOW, (Future Leaders of Watersheds). Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Institute, reported deer over population was the number one problem to forests and reminded us that forests protect watersheds. He reported the state funded

programs that Cacapon Institute and Potomac Audubon Society will use to educate students in best management practices for watersheds. He asked OCPT members to be help as mentors. He also reported that information about Cacapon Institute educational program aimed at 6th –9th graders is available on their website: www.cacaponinstitute.org/PHLOW.htm .

Ellen Murphy from PVAS stated their program is currently active for 4th graders at several schools in Jefferson, Morgan, and Berkeley Counties and Washington County, Md. PVAS would like to expand this program into more schools and into the 5th grade as well. This program is hands-on education in the classroom that includes topics such as water quality, native plants and the web of life. Student field trips to watersheds include instruction in stream bank assessments and erosion control methods, effects of sewer plant discharges and fishing and wildlife habitat.

Bill Zinner reported he had an opportunity to attend the FLOW environmental service training session conference held on August 20-22 in Canaan Valley where he met the most dedicated watershed volunteers. He stressed OCPT's role should be to partner with these groups and aid with help as possible.

2. Alana displayed a slide presentation of Coliscan Water Test E.coli results for review by members. A general discussion of the results to date was held, but it was pointed out by the monitors not all test results were on the charts. Discussion by the members led to the question of how or what do we do with the results? The team decided to review the results again at the one-year anniversary of testing so that we may see a full season of testing. The team also requested a member of the DEP enforcement division to attend a OCPT meeting to discuss how we can use OCPT tests and assessments to help clean and protect the watersheds.
3. Announced Grant Opportunity (AGO) includes a budget (must be matched with like kind funds) for a rain garden project and there was general discussion of the best location. After several different sites were discussed, Steve Knipe suggested the corner of Baltimore and Randolph Streets in Martinsburg at the Tuscarora BIO Retention Facility. Gary Sylvester made a motion to accept this location as the next site for OCPT to install a rain garden with the AGO funds and Bonnie seconded the motion. All members present voted to accept the motion and it passed.
4. Alana reported the November workshop to create timeline of priority areas for watershed based plan, TMDL's, using septic information would be on 11/13* from 9-3 pm in Inwood. This meeting will focus on the Mill Creek Watershed area of South Berkeley County.
5. OCPT group members discussed the Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival Exhibit to be on Oct. 20-21st. Gary Sylvester stated he would help staff the exhibit and bring a rain barrel and set up a display showing how it is put

together and installed on a typical downspout. A raffle ticket is to be sold for \$1.00 for a barrel kit. Sandra Bernardi volunteered to bring OCPT general information and help set up and staff the exhibit.

6. Frank Rodgers reported that his students working at the Hedgesville Tree Nursery are ready to sell Pine, Oak and Sycamore seedlings at the vo-ag building by James Rumsey.
7. The group discussed the need to have new executive officers by Jan. 01, 2008. Ron Gunderson made a motion for a nominating committee comprised of Sandra Bernardi, Bonnie Stubblefield and Mary Palmer to prepare a slate of officers by the November meeting for membership vote. Bonnie seconded the motion and all members present voted to accept and pass the motion.
8. Bonnie Stubblefield reported Land Trust will purchase the first easement on Opequon Creek, "Fiddlers Bottom", on 11/05/2007.

Old Business:

1. The meeting minutes for August 14, 2007 authorized the redistribution of remaining SPP grant monies to be used for P.O. Box, but the \$18.00 was used to pay part of an outstanding Reliance Lab bill for fecal water test sampling.
2. Sandra Bernardi reported that because OCPT gross annual operating income is over \$10,000, the IRS tax exempt application fee is higher than expected. OCPT will be requesting Potomac Headwaters to cover the additional fee. Sandra reported that OCPT tax exempt status is retroactive to date of application** and has been approved subject to receiving the additional fees.

Project Updates

1. Sandra Bernardi and Mary Palmer reported the Mill Creek Assessment is ongoing and should be finished by the November 2007 meeting. Both team members shared discussions with property owners they met while doing the assessment and some general impressions of the watershed area they had covered to date. Photos at www.opequoncreek.org
2. Water monitoring: It was reported that more Coliscan sample materials had arrived and the treasurer would reimburse Mary Palmer for their cost. Two new monitors are actively participating, Cooper and Murphy at locations near their farm property. E. coli test results to date are incomplete, but possibly are beginning to show a pattern that storm water run off elevates the bacteria and tests taken downstream from sewer outlets are much higher than upstream. It was also reported that Sylvan Run is completely dry.

3. Buffers: Status: John Jacko reports there is about an 80/20 survival rate at the 2007 spring buffer planting by OCPT.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm.

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

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

* in reality the meeting date is Nov. 14 - -noted by Potomac Basin Coordinator Alana Hartman

** tax exempt status is actually retroactive to date of incorporation (March 23, 2007) - - noted by Potomac Basin Coordinator Alana Hartman