

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
November 13, 2007

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

Present: Bonnie Stubblefield, Sandra Bernardi, Ron Gunderson, Mary Palmer, Mary Beth Bennett, George Snider, John Jacko, Jason Lucey, Sharon Lee, Mike Kanehl, Chris Butcher, Bill Zinner

**6:00 Introductions**, Meeting opened by Alana Hartman

**Financial Report:** The treasurer sent a report to the meeting stating the balance in the bank on 09/28/07 was \$5,652.70. The treasurer requested OCPT to decide if a rain barrel could be sold without the hardware. After team discussion, Bonnie Stubblefield made a motion for the treasurer to sell a rain barrel without the hardware, on a case-by-case basis, for \$50.00 each. Ron Gunderson seconded the motion and all present voted to pass the motion.

**Minutes of the Meeting:** Alana Hartman stated several corrections were found to be necessary to the October 09, 2007 Minutes of the Meeting. Mary Palmer noted the date of the TMDL workshop in Inwood would be 11/14/2007, the tax-exempt status is retroactive to the date of incorporation, (March 23, 2007) and Land Trust will closing on the first easement on the Opequon. With these corrections, Bonnie Stubblefield made a motion to accept the October 09, 2007 Minutes of the Meeting and George Snider seconded the motion. All team members present voted to pass the motion.

**Upcoming Events:**

12/11/07	Regular meeting
11/14/07	Mill Creek Watershed Water Quality Improvement Workshop
12/03/07	EWVCF Conservation Convening, NCTC
01/08/08	Regular meeting

**New Business:**

1. The Nominating Committee presented a Slate of Candidates for Office for the 2008 term and Board Members for the 2008-2010 term for OCPT membership vote as follows:

President	George Snider
Vice President	Ron Gunderson
Secretary	Mary Palmer
Treasurer	Gary Sylvester
Board of Director	Ron Gunderson
Board of Director	John Jacko
Board of Director	Sharon Lee

Board of Director	Mary Palmer
Board of Director	George Snider
Board of Director	Bonnie Stubblefield
Board of Director	Gary Sylvester
Board of Director	Bill Zinner
Board of Director	Sandra Bernardi

Bill Zinner made a motion to accept the slate as presented and John Jacko seconded the motion. All members present voted to pass the motion. It was determined an addendum would be presented for vote at the December meeting to change the bylaws to state voting for officers and board members would be done in the month of November, term of office to end on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

2. Mill Creek Watershed Based Plan. There will be a workshop on November 14, 2007 in Inwood from 9-4 to discuss failing septic systems in the Mill Creek Watershed area. Concerns voiced here that should be answered during the workshop or subsequently:
  - a. Is there a record of farms receiving septage or sludge?
  - b. How does the poultry litter transfer program work?
  - c. If we pursue trying to upgrade peoples failing septic, would this cause them to be required to upgrade by a short deadline? Would such a program result in aggressive enforcement throughout the whole sub-watershed?
  - d. If we pursue WBR's on sub-watersheds like Mill Creek, when would we get to the mainstream? (this led to a discussion about building constituencies for all 13 subwatersheds of Opequon Creek)
  - e. Who can we ask to change the policy of mowing down all trees for a wide right-of-way when sewer lines are installed beside a creek?
  - f. What other name can we give this Mill Creek process to reflect that it is a pilot project and part of the whole Opequon Creek effort?
  
3. Alana Hartman stated the team should look closely at the Stream Partners grant tasks/funds, and outline next steps for buffer planting, GIS analysis. Sandra Bernardi reported it was time to order trees. The team discussed doing two plantings at locations in the Mill Creek watershed area. Alana stated a need to hire an assistant to work on watershed data and suggested a mini workshop on TMDL's with CVI.

### **Old Business:**

1. Alana reported discussion at the Torytown Run Meeting held at Cold Spring Farm and Morgan Morgan Cabin involved possibly planting a buffer to help filter fecal bacteria caused by cattle & livestock in Torytown Run and the spring. It was also brought to the participating group's attention that truck loads of fresh poultry manure is spread on property in the Mill Creek watershed area that may need to be addressed.

2. The team discussed OCPT's insurance liability of participant injury in clean up projects such as the Alice Ferguson Foundation Trash Tour and Opequon Creek boat clean up events. A team member suggested participants sign a personal injury release waiver. Another suggestion was to have OCPT clean up events to be held under the auspices of an insured group such as Berkeley County Community Pride.
3. Mike Kanehl reported that Berkeley County is under a court consent order, from a lawsuit, to repair the sewer treatment plant leak that has been leaking contaminants into the Opequon Creek.

### **Project Updates**

1. OCPT was given a Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding performance and contribution to Rain Garden – Urban Retrofit at the Dedication of the Berkeley County Judicial Center rain garden on November 2, 2007 by the WV Department of Environmental Protection.
2. Team volunteers have completed the Mill Creek physical assessment.
3. At the Watershed Celebration Day in Morgantown, Volunteer Appreciation, OCPT was presented with the WV Watershed Network 2007 award for "Urban Work", for the Judicial Center rain garden and rain barrel workshops. Team members, Sandra Bernardi gave a presentation on rain gardens and Gary Sylvester gave a presentation on rain barrels during the event.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm.**

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

**Minutes posted at: <http://www.opequoncreek.org>**