

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
December 11, 2007

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

Present: Sandra Bernardi, Mary Beth Bennett, George Snider, Jason Lucey, Bill Zinner, Gary Sylvester, Diane Sylvester, Mike O'Donnell, Jim Lawrence, Todd Funkhauser, Janeta Giles, John Hilleary, Ed Winant, Kristin Mielcarek, Rhonda Webber, David Webber, John Brown, Sara Wuertenberg, Mary Palmer

**6:10 Introductions**, Meeting opened by Alana Hartman

**Financial Report:** The treasurer stated there are no changes to the OCPT account to report.

**Minutes of the Meeting:** Sandra Bernardi stated a correction needed to be made to the November 13, 2007 minutes under Old Business, item number 2 to read, "The team discussed OCPT's potential liability of participant injury in trash clean up events and other projects with public participation held by OCPT and the need for OCPT to be insured for any such injury claim." Bill Zinner made a motion to approve and accept the minutes with the correction, Sandra Bernardi seconded the motion and all present voted to pass the motion.

**Upcoming Events:**

12/12/07	Potomac Watershed Partnership meeting, Frederick, MD
01/09/08	<b>Wednesday</b> -Regular meeting- possibly to be held in the <b>Inwood area</b> . Members meet at 5:30 pm
01/16/08	Mill Creek Watershed TMDL overview, Is the sediment load realistic? Kristin Mielcarek and Ed Winant (CVI) Dave Montali (WVDEP) and Tetra Tech
02/12//08	Regular meeting

**New Business:**

1. The team discussed the need for OCPT to have Liability insurance coverage for any potential public injury claim at participation at events sponsored by OCPT. It was decided to determine the cost of a blanket policy with an event rider to be discussed at a future meeting.
2. A discussion was held concerning OCPT membership fees and contributions. George Snider made a motion to raise the membership fee to \$20 per year. Mike O'Donnell seconded the motion. There were two ayes and no no's to approve and accept the motion. This did not represent a majority of voters. A team member questioned what happens if a member does not pay since the team does not want to exclude membership by requiring the fee to be paid. It was stated that non-payment does not

exclude any one from attending the meetings and participating in events and projects. It was also mentioned that members and non-members could make tax-deductible contributions to OCPT. George Snider then reported that Peter Smith from PVAS has successful fundraising rules such as keep the fund raising request message clear and personal, specify what the funds are for and how they will be used and make sure there is a personal thank you for donations. George Snider then requested ideas from the group for requesting contributions and possible fund raising activities. Todd Funkhauser reminded the team that volunteer hours equals Federal matched funds. It was generally discussed that fund raising activities should be creek related. Everyone think about fund-raising strategy and come to future meetings with ideas. Some folks voiced this time: (1) One-on-one probably works best in this area, i.e. go to folks and ask. (2) Get on the lottery system to have OCPT host a “safety break” at the I81 rest stop, which is along Sylvan Run. Especially lucrative if someone donates the coffee and donuts/hot dogs. (3) Consider an event at Route 11 park at Mill Creek.

3. Alana Hartman reported that a meeting on 12/11/07 with herself and Diana Giverra from the Berkeley County Health Department, Bill Stubblefield – Berkeley County Commissioner, Jim Barnhart – Berkeley County Health Department, Curtis Keller – Berkeley County PSSD, Sandra Bernardi, and George Snider was held to discuss public warning of a watershed health issue, particularly waste water sewer treatment plant leaks of harmful contaminants. Alana reported that the Health Department officials tried to make this a PSSD responsibility or DEP and/or vice-versa. Currently these different agencies are not required to report a potential health problem to each other. OCPT wants the public warned of sewer spills/pollutants or any other watershed health problem. Alana reported as a result of the meeting that PSSD would research and write a letter to the DEP. George Snider then reviewed and handed out a copy of ‘Memorandum For The Record’ to the OCPT Board Members and OCPT project team that regarded the duty to warn the public of any WWTP discharged pollutants into the Opequon and listed the history of many violations of the Clean Water Act by the county PSSD. He condensed the information found on the Potomac River Keepers web site about the violations and consent order under which PSSD has been ordered by the state to correct problems by May 2008.
4. There was team discussion and agreement to modify the OCPT mission statement to read,  
“ Our purpose is to act **as an advocate and steward of the Opequon watershed and** to undertake projects that will lead to reduction in pollutants (primarily nutrients, sediment, fecal coliform bacteria, and trash) entering the Opequon Creek and its tributaries in Berkeley and Jefferson Counties. “  
George Snider made a motion to accept and approve the statement to be changed, Bill Zinner seconded the motion and all members voted to pass the motion.
5. The team discussed OCPT’s spring clean up event to coincide with Alice Ferguson’s, ‘make it shine’, (between April 4 and April 13, 2008), and set a date for April 12,

2008. The team agreed to determine a qualified/needed location on the Mill Creek watershed.

### **Old Business:**

1. Alana Hartman reviewed the Water Quality Workshop held in Inwood on November 13, 2007 for the Mill Creek watershed. At that meeting septic areas in the watershed were identified and a low cost loan program to improve, correct or repair a failing septic system was introduced. As part of the TMDL for the watershed, CVI is helping to identify and prioritize failing septic systems. Both Ed Winant and Kristen Mielcarek spoke to the team regarding failing systems and outreach to septic system owners. Ed also discussed waste water treatment plants have surface discharge limits and report testing results to DEP. He stated most are in violation for not turning in these inspection reports and recommended a stick and carrot approach to the owners of these systems to help them correct problems. Kristin also suggested OCPT team to write a 'wish list' of goals, including, buffers, fencing, repairs of failing septic, etc. of priorities to help establish section 319 funding for the total TMDL once accepted by EPA.
2. Jim Lawrence stated TOW has volunteered to help OCPT with water monitoring of Mill Creek watershed.
3. Dr. Mary Beth Bennett reported the last section of the Judicial Center rain garden has been approved and Master Gardener grant funds of \$700 should pay for plants to be installed by July 31, 2008.
4. Sandra Bernardi and Gary Sylvester reported \$40.00 rain barrel raffle tickets were sold at the Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival and that the OCPT exhibit was well done and received by the public.
5. Alana Hartman reported the Torytown Run meeting held at Cold Spring Farm involved discussion concerning source water contamination at the head water spring area and possible efforts to clean and filter the water at the source with buffer planting, livestock fencing, etc. Also ideas were discussed to coordinate Morgan Morgan cabin events and educational programs with OCPT efforts to help clean the Mill Creek watershed.
6. Alana Hartman reported that the EWVCF Conservation Convening will be a venue to share ideas of how to solve watershed problems on a quarterly basis.
7. Sandra Bernardi presented an amendment to the OCPT's bylaws, Article VI – Elections and after discussion, the team agreed elections will be held at the annual meeting each year in December and officers and Board of Directors shall take office effective the following January 1. A slate of nominations shall be presented at the November meeting and nominations shall also be taken from the floor at the December meeting. No nomination will be accepted without the candidate's consent.

Sandra made a motion to approve and accept the change to the bylaws, Mary Palmer seconded the motion and all members voted to pass the motion.

**Project Updates:**

1. Sandra Bernardi reported the new proposed rain garden \$20,000 funds have been approved and requested US Conservation District to manage the funds for OCPT. Sara Wuertenberg stated their might be a 2% charge to administer the funds.
2. Alana Hartman stated a Shepherd University student intern might be available to assemble information collected by OCPT and help put together the Mill Creek watershed based plan during the end of the year holidays for a cost of \$1,000, as budgeted.
3. The team discussed scheduling a workday, location and ordering the trees for OCPT's 2008 riparian buffer tree planting project. It was agreed 04/19 and 04/26 were the best dates to do the work. Several possible locations on Mill Creek were noted and which one will be determined at a future meeting.
4. Bill Zinner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, David Webber seconded the motion and all members voted to pass the motion to adjourn.

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

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

**Minutes posted at: [http: www.opequoncreek.org](http://www.opequoncreek.org)**