

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
February 06, 2008

Meeting held at: James Rumsey Technical Institute, Hedgesville, WV

Facilitator: Alana Hartman, Potomac Basin Coord., WV, DEP

Present: Sandra Bernardi, George Snider, Gary Sylvester, Diane Sylvester, Kristin Mielcarek, Mary Palmer, Richard Demoske, Bonnie Stubblefield, Cindy Gunderson, Ron Gunderson, Bill Zinner, Jerry Cooperman, Steve Knipe, Jason Lucey, Jon DiMarino, Susan DiMarino, Mike Kanehl

6:00 Meeting opened by Alana Hartman

Financial Report: The treasurer reported he is keeping records for OCPT general fund (balance \$810.05) and the Stream Partners Grant funds (balance \$4,500.) separated in his files but they share one bank account. Stream Partners Grant funds are earmarked for specific projects. It was reported that instead of \$700 OCPT is to receive \$900 for plants & materials to be used in the Judicial Center Rain Garden final phase.

Minutes of the Meeting:

Alana reported there was a spelling error in a participants name and a name was missing for the January 09, 2008 meeting. Ron Gunderson made a motion to accept and approve the Minutes with these two changes, Bill Zinner seconded the motion; all members present voted to pass the motion.

Upcoming Events:

03/05/08: Regular meeting, PSSD wastewater treatment plant duty to notify.
04/02/08: Regular meeting
03/01/08: Baltimore and Randolph Street Rain Garden construction begins.
04/05/08: Rain Barrel Workshop, Kilmer Springs Water Plant, 10:00 am.
04/12/08: WV Make It Shine Campaign, Clean up at Stonebridge public access parking lot, 9:00 am – finished.
04/13/08: Berkeley County Community Pride collection day.
04/17/08: War Memorial Park Tree Plant
04/18-04/19/08: Volunteers needed by Eastern Panhandle Conservation District office to help with tree sales at Berkeley County Youth Fair Grounds
04/19/08: Mill Creek buffer planting at Webber property, Dominion Rd.
04/22/08: Earth Day
04/26/08: Mill Creek buffer planting at Webber property, Dominion Rd.
05/03/08: Jefferson County area buffer planting, volunteers needed.

New Business:

1. Steve Knipe reported that a different location has been decided for the rain garden at the Baltimore and Randolph Street city facility that is between the gravel parking lot and the street at the entrance gate. He said the engineers, VIEW, had experience with rain gardens in the Washington area and the site and were submitting a cost proposal for the new location. This location will drain the storm water from the parking lot and be about 8' x 150'. Steve said the city would monitor and test the site, including heavy metals.
2. Mike Kanehl from the WV DEP enforcement division discussed inspections of wastewater treatment plants and citations issued for infractions. He stated a violation was anything found that violates the Clean Water Act and that there is some discretion allowed in the severity of a citation or penalty. He inspects larger plants once a year or more often if a persistent problem has been found. He takes no water samples, (PSSD obligation). He is checking what the plant permit and records dictate such as; correct process, filtering, de-chlorination, amount of effluent in and out. He reported that private septic system pump companies also dump into the wastewater treatment plants and may be a factor in a temporary overload. Monetary penalties and criminal charges may be lodged against an owner in certain circumstances. Note: Mike also said the Fish Hatchery had a treatment plant and that storm water goes to a stream, not to a plant.
3. Gary Sylvester reported a Rain Barrel Workshop is scheduled for April 05, 2008 at the Kilmer Springs Water Plant (same location as last fall) at 10:00 am. He needs several volunteers to assist. He said OCPT has 55-60 barrels and equipment and OCPT should not have to purchase anything for this workshop so the income will be profit. He also said he plans a second workshop for sometime in May.
4. OCPT membership fee is \$10 and is due for 2008. Contributions are appreciated as well.
5. Spring clean up. It was decided that OCPT volunteers are to meet at Stonebridge public access parking lot at 9:00 on April 12, 2008. This clean up will be a part of the "Make It Shine".
6. Bill Zinner reported that the sign is up at the Tuscarora tree-planting site, east end, near Horizon Way at War Memorial Park.

New Business:

1. Alana reviewed the Mill Creek Water Quality Workshop held on January 9, 2008 and listed concerns the public had that attended the meeting. She handed out a copy of the meeting notes and asked for OCPT members to comment by March 5, 2008.
2. A discussion was held concerning liability insurance for OCPT and its Board

Members. The president reported that according to Arndt McBee Insurance Company it would cost \$502 per year for \$1,000,000 for OCPT. It would cost an additional \$950 a year for Board of Directors to be covered for liability. After some discussion, it was decided that members of the board would contact their own homeowners insurance to see if they are covered for volunteer organizational activity liability. Alana agreed to forward information to George about free legal counsel available to WV nonprofits; this would be used to learn about any Good Samaritan type protection that board members of nonprofits might expect.

3. OCPT has become aware of 2 other grant opportunities: The application for The Freeman Foundation's community grant has been prepared and will be dropped off at their headquarters tomorrow. It was largely drafted from a previous application we made to EWVCF for a \$1000 buffer planting. The other grant, Ches. Bay Small Watershed Grants, would have been due Feb 29 and we have run out of time to seriously consider making an application for it, but might be in a position to do so next winter if/when it is offered again. It is up to \$200,000 with 25% nonfederal match required.

Old Business:

1. WVDEP non-point source grant (\$20,000) has been approved for installation of a rain garden at Baltimore and Randolph Street, Martinsburg. EPCD will manage funds and ground breaking is expected around March 1, 2008.
2. Alana asked for OCPT members to read the Mill Creek Watershed Based Plan that she handed out and, if possible, help with Section E, especially #3. She requested members to review the plan and return comments/contributions by March 3, 2008. Alana also handed out a copy of an excerpt from Sleepy Creek's Watershed Based Plan and The Education and Outreach section of the Upper Guyandotte Watershed Based Plan for OCPT members to see the types of concepts that are typically included .
3. The intern OCPT hired has provided a first draft map of the Mill Creek watershed Assessment that shows color- coded problem areas. There was discussion that the map needs to be topographical and a request will be made for the intern to do this for the second draft. It was noted that hi-resolution aerial maps would be available for Berkeley County soon.
4. Alana noted that Jim Lawrence has been busy meeting with various government Officials and private developers in an effort to determine how watershed groups can partner with them and that he has started water monitoring at three sites on Mill Creek.
5. The Mill Creek buffer planting will be on Rhonda and Dave Webber's property on April 19 and 26. Sandra Bernardi reported there would be a contract between OCPT and the Webbers stating the Webbers will maintain the plants.

6. Sandra Bernardi reported a water test kit was delivered to Cool Spring Farm on January 8, 2008.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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

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