

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
April 02, 2008

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, John Jacko, Bonnie Stubblefield, Mary Palmer, Diane and Gary Sylvester, Timothy LeMaster, Richard Demoske

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

**Financial Report:** The treasurer reported as of 04/02/2008 there is \$2,282.70 in the general fund and \$3,536.76 in the grant fund for a total account balance of \$5,819.46.

**Minutes of the Meeting:** Bonnie Stubblefield made a motion to accept and approve the March 08, 2008 Minutes of the Meeting as emailed to members for review. George Snider seconded the motion and all members voted to pass the motion.

**Upcoming Events:**

05/07/08	Regular meeting
06/04/08	Regular meeting

**New Business:**

1. It was reported the Stream Partners Grant application is due 04/15/2008. There was some discussion about which OCPT projects would be included in the application. In addition to funds to cover the water bacteria monitoring costs, George Snider suggested including the cost of purchasing "Entering Opequon Creek" boundary marker signs to be placed along major roads leading to the creek. Bonnie Stubblefield suggested signs that could be placed near OCPT riparian buffer planting areas. Alana Hartman stated that she thought the grant funds could not be used to help defray expenses of fundraising events, but she would verify that information. It was determined to allot \$400 for Coliscan gel supplies. It was also reported that Sandra Bernardi and Gary Sylvester completed the mid-term report due 03/31/08 on the status of the funds we received from the grant last year. There was discussion that Alana would ask WVU to pay the cost of bacterial sample costs. (4 samples @ \$150 = \$600 per month x 12 = \$7,200). Gary Sylvester suggested OCPT ask for funds to cover the cost of liability insurance, (\$550 for OCPT and \$800 for OCPT Board of Directors coverage = approximately \$1350 per year).
2. There was discussion about two summer Opequon Creek float trips. It was decided that 08/16/08 would be a clean up by boat event and 08/30/08 would be a fun float trip.

3. Several OCPT members, led by Sandra Bernardi, shared OCPT and watershed information with homeowners of Greystone on the Opequon at their HOA meeting. The information was well received and it was suggested to find more opportunities to outreach to community groups.
4. Mary Palmer reported she gave the Berkeley County Chamber of Commerce, 'Welcome to Neighborhood' program the first 100 OCPT brochures to distribute to new county residents. The brochure included the spring 2008 OCPT activity flyer that was produced by Sandra Bernardi and emailed previously to OCPT members.
5. There was general discussion about OCPT outreach and exhibit opportunities. Mary Palmer agreed to secure a booth for OCPT at the Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival in October. Other locations and events were discussed, including placing a rain barrel on permanent display at the Berkeley County Youth Fair Grounds. It was decided that Gary Sylvester will speak with the grounds maintenance manager and determine if and where a barrel could be placed on the grounds.

#### **Old Business:**

1. In an effort to follow up on the Berkeley County PSSD presentation to OCPT by Curtis Keller, George Snider sent Curtis a list of unanswered questions. George said Curtis was quick to respond to his request and will try to answer ASAP. Alana reported PSSD might provide rocks to protect the rain garden border.
2. George Snider reported he sent Mike Zeto, of WVDEP's Environmental Enforcement Office, a letter requesting that fines collected from citations levied for infractions at sewer treatment plants be used for watershed projects.
3. It was reported that Doug Chambers will discuss bacterial water monitoring on April 15, 2008, 6:45 pm, at James Rumsey Technical Center. All interested are welcome to attend.
4. A bylaw amendment to Article VIII – Policy, Section 6, was discussed and voted on that states, **“OCPT will not sell or exchange its donor list (contributions) with any other organization”**. Bonnie Stubblefield made a motion to accept and approve the amendment to the bylaws, George seconded the motion and all members voted to pass the motion.
5. George Snider reported that Jackson/Kelly law firm has agreed to help OCPT, pro bono, on the issue of OCPT event liability and insurance questions. The law firm stated the 'Good Samaritan' law does not apply to OCPT. George has expanded his list of questions for the law firm and is awaiting answers.
6. George Snider reported work at the Baltimore/Randolph Street rain garden was started on Monday, April 6, 2008. Bill Zinner is the official OCPT photographer. It

was noted that DOH did not donate screen cloth but maybe they could be asked to help fund a sign for the project.

7. Alana Hartman reported the Mill Creek Watershed Based Plan is in the final draft stage and she would still appreciate comments and input on several sections:
  - a. Section B/C
  - b. Page 29, rain barrels
  - c. Section E, outreach
  - d. Section F, 10 year plan
  - e. Section G, water monitoring
  - f. Acknowledgment sectionShe stated the report would be submitted to EPA in two weeks and that she would like to have another workshop with Mill Creek area residents sometime around the end of April or the first of May to discuss the plan and project proposal that will follow.
8. There was team discussion about fund raising opportunities and grant applications. The Carl M. Freeman grant will provide funds for a single riparian buffer planting that needs to be done by November 1, 2008. The team discussed the possibility of applying to United Way for funds to cover a watershed project. It was determined that a discussion with United Way president, Jan Callen, would be appropriate as a first step in communicating with this organization.
9. George Snider reported he sent the “State of the Opequon” letters to the governor, senators, legislators, etc. and is awaiting responses.
10. Gary Sylvester reported the spring rain barrel workshop is scheduled for Saturday and that he would need several volunteers to help.

**Project Updates, (OCPT projects in bold print):**

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|-----------------|--|
| 04/05/08        | 10:00am, <b>Rain Barrel Workshop</b> , Kilmer Springs Water Treatment Plant, Baltimore Street, OCPT volunteers needed.   |
| 04/12/08        | 9:00am, <b>Opequon at Stone Bridge Cleanup</b> – PVAS (FLOW program 4 <sup>th</sup> graders) and Boy Scout Troop 137 to participate. OCPT volunteers needed. Lunch and water provided. This is also a part of Alice Ferguson’s annual Potomac Clean Up and WV’s “Make it Shine” program. |
| 04/17-04/18     | Eastern Panhandle Conservation District Tree Sale, Berkeley County Youth Fairgrounds, Volunteers needed to help sort and pack.   |
| 04/19/08        | Berkeley Community Pride Roadside Cleanup. Volunteers needed.  |
| 04/19 and 04/26 | <b>Mill Creek Buffer Planting</b> – 8:30-2:00pm, both days at Dave & Rhonda Webber’s property, Dominion Dr., Gerrardstown, OCPT volunteers needed.   |
| 05/03/08        | <b>Judicial Center Rain Garden</b> , section 2, native plant installation.   |
| 05/17/08        | <b>Baltimore and Randolph Street Rain Garden</b> plant installation.   |

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.**

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

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