

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
May 7, 2008

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

Present: Sandra Bernardi, Sharon Lee, Mary Beth Bennett, George Snider, Mary Palmer, Diane and Gary Sylvester, Ron Gunderson, Jerry Cooperman, Steve Hudock, John Christenson

6:00 Introductions: Meeting opened by Alana Hartman

Financial Report: The treasurer reported as of 05/07/2008 there is \$2,670.22 in the general fund and \$2,423.79 in the grant fund for a total account balance of \$5,094.01.

Minutes of the Meeting: Ron Gunderson made a motion to accept and approve the OCPT April 02, 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:

05/14/08	Public meeting at James Rumsey, North Mountain Shale, LLC quarry, DEP permit application on 246 acres in Gerrardstown.
05/15/08	Public meeting at James Rumsey, Back Creek area, Sandpiper Development, DEP discharge permit application.
06/04/08	Regular meeting

New Business:

1. Steve Hudock discussed his neighboring property owner, Continental Brick plant/North Mountain Shale, LLC, proposed use of 246 acres on the side of North Mountain in Gerrardstown, just off Old Dominion Road. He expressed concern that the silt and chemicals created and discharged from this plant's construction and operations will contaminate Mill Creek and surrounding properties. He also pointed out the scenic view will be lost and passed around photos showing a similar shale mining operation. He urged everyone present to attend the upcoming meeting at James Rumsey Technical Center on May 14, at 6pm in support against DEP issuing a storm water management permit for this business operation.
2. Ron Gunderson gave a brief description of how funds are distributed by United Way to non-profit organizations. He said United Way is using a new process to assess and prioritize needs of an applicant and that programs helping children, families, and elderly are the top recipients. A non-profit organization applies for a United Way grant by submitting a proposal with an application. He also said that United Way keeps 11% of funds designated by a donor for use by a specific non-profit group. In Ron's opinion, United Way is not a good fundraising source for OCPT since the amount of any funds received by OCPT would not be worth the effort of the

application process. He did agree to complete the application if the team requested and suggested OCPT apply for the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) to be an affiliate agency. Sandra Bernardi suggested OCPT attend the United Way annual workshop in January for CFC certification for agency.

3. John Christenson, an 18 year member of Blue Heron, (Back Creek Watershed group), discussed the proposed Sandpiper Development to be built along side Back Creek off Route 7 in Back Creek Valley. He stated the sewage treatment to be utilized by this residential community would be discharging up to 35,000 gallons per day into Back Creek. He stated the property did not perk for standard septic systems and the type of treatment plant being proposed had a history of failure. He also stated the lightweight airplane landing strip would be a public nuisance and environmental contaminate. It was reported during Mr. Christenson's speech that Berkeley County Planning Commission, earlier in the day, requested an H & H report for this Development. He urged all present to attend the May 15, 2008, 6 pm public meeting at James Rumsey to oppose the development's DEP application for sewage discharge into Back Creek.
4. Sandra Bernardi reported the Freeman Grant funded 2008 fall riparian buffer site will be changed from the Wiltshire property to the Conley property on Mill Creek.
5. B-Wet grant. Alana Hartman questioned if there was any OCPT member(s) interest to attend the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's watershed education for teacher's workshop. Gary Sylvester expressed an interest in learning how to write grant applications.
5. Smart Solutions for West Virginia, a workshop specializing in better management of wastewater treatment for communities and watershed groups will be Sept. 18 and 19, 2008, in Morgantown. This workshop is sponsored by DEP National Environmental Services Center.
6. Gary Sylvester filed the OCPT annual IRS tax return on line. It was mentioned grant funds should not have to be administered by the Conservation District now that OCPT has approved non-profit status. Sandra Bernardi reported OCPT is waiting for West Virginia to confirm non-profit status.
7. There was team discussion that the Stream Partners Grant application is scored on a point system with the highest scoring project applications being funded first. Final points, ranked by score, may be revised if money is running out in the fund. Some team members are concerned that the OCPT's 2008-2009 application included a request for funds to cover liability insurance that may lower overall point score.
8. PSSD follow up to recent citizen complaints of foam at Stonebridge (Flags Crossing Road and Blairton Road) exposed a Baker Heights sewage treatment plant spill due to construction upgrades in progress. It was reported the foam has cleared.

George Snider reported PSSD is helping with the Judicial Center Rain Garden (supplied boulders) and Berkeley County is supplying mulch.

Old Business:

1. George Snider reported he had not received a response to the letter he sent Mike Zeto, of WVDEP's Environmental Enforcement Office, requesting that fines collected from citations levied for infractions at sewer treatment plants be used for watershed projects.
2. George Snider reported Jackson/Kelly law firm can't find relevant information for watershed group insurance liability issues. The firm recommends OCPT purchase group and Board of Directors liability insurance coverage.

Project Updates, (OCPT projects in bold print):

- 05/17/08 **Baltimore and Randolph Street Rain Garden** plant installation.
Mill Creek Watershed Based Plan. Alana Hartman reported new faces attended the last workshop held in Inwood and several people volunteered for outreach. Alana also reported the amount of projects proposed in the Watershed Based Plan was too much to do in that amount of time (5 year plan) so we'll be proposing about 2/5ths of that amount of work for phase 1 and the application to DEP would be around \$300,000-\$400,000.
- 08/16/08 Float trip cleanup work-day. It was noted that OCPT needs boats and a site selected.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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

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