

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
June 4, 2008

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

Present: Sandra Bernardi, George Snider (President), Gary Sylvester, Diane Sylvester, Ron Gunderson, Bonnie Stubblefield, David Webber, Mary Beth Bennett, Richard Demoske, Bill Zinner

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Alana Hartman

**Introductions** None

**Financial Report:** The Treasurer reported a balance of **\$3200** in the general fund as of 06/04.08 and a balance of **\$2500 (Freeman) + \$2471 (Stream Partners)** in the grant funds for a total account balance of **\$8171** .

**Previous Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the May meeting. Motion passed.

**Upcoming Events:**

1. OCPT meetings
  - July 2, 2008 @ 6:00 PM – see below for notice of new meeting location
  - August 6, 2008 @ 6:00 PM
2. June 17 PWP Information Exchange 9:30 to 3:00, Edinburgh, VA
3. August 16 Creek cleanup – see below for details
4. August 30 Fun Float – see below for details
5. June 25, noon-4 pm, TNC members will plant trees to replace trees that have died at the Roach buffer planting (2006). This is part of a larger dam removal and habitat improvement project being conducted by a partnership including Creekside Anglers, the Roach family, and USFWS.

**New Business**

1. Watershed Celebration Day Nov. 1. “Travel Scholarships” of \$200 are available. George Snider will compile a list of OCPT accomplishments (from 07/01.07 thru 06/30.08) for submission for the annual watershed association awards. Submittals are due by July 15.

2. Water Quality Monitoring – Ron Gunderson agreed to develop a Study Design or Monitoring Plan for Opequon and Mill Creeks. Tim Craddock’s new website can be referenced for examples and models. It was suggested that a team of technical advisers be assembled to aid in the monitoring plan design and implementation. Richard Demoske suggested that testing for human waste products (bacyllii) be included in the Plan.
3. Mill Creek monitoring program: Volunteers are needed to take over the sampling of 3 to 6 sites presently being done by Jim Lawrence. Volunteers must complete a training course at Shenandoah University.
4. Rain Barrels: Gary Sylvester stated that 7 white barrels and 5 or 6 blue barrels remain in stock. It was agreed that the need for rain barrel workshops has probably passed for this season but that we should continue to promote the sale of kits. We will need to restock our supply of barrels and fittings before embarking on any more workshops.
5. Creek Cleanup scheduled for August 16: will start at George Snider’s property. The takeout point is still to be determined. A minimum of 2 “Jon” boats and 2 large canoes will be needed. Additional details to follow.
6. Fun Float scheduled for August 30: Put in at the Stone Bridge and takeout at George Snider’s property. Additional details to follow.
7. New meeting location: A motion was made and seconded to relocate our OCPT meetings to the new PSSD facilities. Motion passed. George Snider will make the necessary arrangements and notify all members of the time and place of our next meeting.
8. Recycling collection stations for used cooking oil: George learned about this from meeting with PSSD manager Curtis Keller (see below). OCPT wishes to support this program as a positive partnership with PSSD– more specifics are to be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Old Business**

1. Liability Insurance: Jackson Kelly’s involvement with us on these questions is pretty much finished. George will request a CD from a watershed group.
2. (Not on agenda) We discussed the high mortality of the trees and shrubs planted at the War Memorial Park Natural Stream Restoration site earlier this spring. A positive: the grass isn’t being mowed lately, allowing more natural vegetation to hold the bank. A negative: the downstream landowner has apparently recently herbicid-ed his/her riparian area.
3. A letter pertaining to set asides from watershed polluter fines was sent to Mike Zeto, Environmental Enforcement program administrator, DEP, three months ago. No response was forthcoming. Alana Hartman and George Snider are to pursue this matter with Mr. Zeto.

4. George Snider contacted the County Commission regarding a slot on their regular meeting agenda, but received no response. He will continue to pursue this matter.
5. PSSD update: George Snider e-mailed all Board members with a summary of his recent meeting with Curtis Keller. He will continue to pursue this matter. Contact George if you are interested in helping.
6. Remaining Stream Partners Grant money: some will be spent on new coliscan supplies. Travel cost reimbursement of \$200 was allocated for transporting the Mill Creek samples to Shenandoah University Labs.
7. OCPT should extend a special thank you to Mary and Pete Palmer for their work on the rain gardens. Alana will ask her dad to etch 2 more personalized OCPT logo mugs.

### **Project Updates**

Updates were provided for work done on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Judicial Center Rain Garden and on May 17<sup>th</sup> on the Baltimore Street Rain Garden. A dedicated and hard-working crew spent the morning planting the Baltimore Street garden and then continued work at the Judicial Center garden – a long and rewarding day. These two projects should be a source of pride and accomplishment for all participants.

Alana briefly updated the group on the Mill Creek Watershed Based Plan, which is now completed. Pursuant to this, Canaan Valley Institute (with Alana's involvement) is going to complete and submit the first Mill Creek Section 319 grant proposal to DEP very soon.

### **Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn by George Snider, seconded and passed by all attendees. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM