

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
November 5, 2008

Meeting held at: P.S.S.D. Conference Room, Edwin Miller Blvd., Martinsburg, WV

Facilitator: Alana Hartman, Potomac Basin Coord., WV Dept. of Environmental Protection

Present: Sandra Bernardi, George Snider, Mary Palmer, Ron Gunderson, Peter Yates, Richard Demoske, Bill Zinner, Sharon Lee, Bonnie Stubblefield, Gary and Diane Sylvester, Curtis Keller (PSSD General Manager), Herb Peddicord (Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forester)

6:00pm: Meeting opened by Alana Hartman

Financial Report: The treasurer reported a balance of \$3,551.70 in the General Fund, 9 cents in the 2007-2008 Stream Partners Fund, \$163.11 in the Freeman Grant and \$4,750.00 in the 2008-2009 Stream Partners Fund for an account balance of \$8,464.90. Bill Zinner made a motion to approve and accept the treasurer's report, Sandra Bernardi seconded the motion, and all members voted to pass the motion.

Minutes of the Meeting: Ron Gunderson made a motion to accept and approve the OCPT October 01, 2008 Minutes of the Meeting as emailed to members. Bill Zinner seconded the motion and all members voted to pass the motion.

Upcoming Events:

Next regular meetings:

12/03/2008

01/07/2009

11/7-11/8 Save Our Streams Level II training at PSSD & Bunker Hill

11/08/2008 Berkeley Community Pride, Quad Graphics recycling, 9am-1pm

12/03/2008 WV Watershed Network meeting: Riparian Areas Resources & Strategies

04/25 & 05/08/2009 Possible buffer plantings (likely involving CBF)

Opequon Targeted Watershed (OTW) Meeting, October 31, 2008, Report:

George Snider reported that several OCPT team members attended the OTW grant-project partners meeting led by Jim Lawrence. At the meeting, the head of Frederick-Winchester Service Authority, Jesse Moffett, stated that sludge (from the waste treatment plant) in that county is treated with lime, and then hauled to the landfill. Sludge is not spread on fields. Curtis Keller states that sludge in Berkeley County is not treated, but utilizes a biological treatment process, then spread on fields. He states this is an acceptable treatment method that meets regulations, although fecal coliforms are not killed in this process. He said the cost is too high to further treat and haul the sludge to the landfill and sludge would also take

up more landfill space. PSSD is permitted to spread on fields and does follow restrictions such as how often it can be spread on an area, and how far away from a stream, rock outcropping, sink hole, well, etc. the sludge can be spread. Curtis said there are no requirements for the ground water in the field to be monitored, but soil samples are required to meet heavy metals limits and the sludge is tested for nutrients and fecal coliforms. Curtis said PSSD is currently looking for more fields to accept the sludge. He also said there are restrictions on crops that can be grown on the sludge fields. Jesse Moffett reported grants funded part of the improvements to the Virginia plant, but Curtis stated PSSD had no grant funds to help offset the expense of improvements.

Peter Yates questioned Curtis about the status of the new North County/Scrabble road treatment plant since citizens complain of a rank smell from the outlet at the Opequon Creek. Curtis said there are some issues with the plant and system design and PSSD is working on the process of capturing odor, possibly doing a chemical addition upgrade upstream. Curtis said PSSD is negotiating with the contractor and working to solve the odor issue.

Alana Hartman reported she would be attending the Ranson City, Jefferson County planning workshop, "Emerging Trends in Stormwater Management", on Nov. 6, 2008, and team members are welcome to attend.

New Business:

1. The new rain garden video was played just prior to the meeting starting and team members agreed it was successful for the intended purpose of showing the installation of a commercial rain garden. However, the team would now like to have a video of a rain garden installed in a home yard and everyone was encouraged to help locate a suitable family for a spring installation event. It was suggested that the home also incorporate a rain barrel so the video may include both as a solution to help the watershed.
2. Team members, Mary & Peter Palmer, rented an auger bit (\$21.00) to fit a skid loader to drill the holes for the installation of the Conley property riparian buffer planting. Sharon Lee made a motion that in lieu of reimbursing the Palmers, the team would pay the Palmers' 2009 membership dues out of OCPT's general fund account. Gary Sylvester seconded the motion, all members voted in favor and the motion was passed.
3. George Snider reported he and Sandra Bernardi met with attorney, Lucian Lewin, after Mr. Lewin had agreed to offer advice pro-bono. OCPT specifically wanted help with the general liability issue for the team and officers. Mr. Lewin suggested OCPT continue to seek coverage and stated OCPT should use the OCPT entity, **Inc.** on all of its paperwork, web site and brochures to advertise OCPT is incorporated. After team discussion, it was decided that the **Inc.** could be used more often, and certainly on the event participant liability waiver, but not necessarily on every piece of literature.

4. PSSD surcharge. Mary Palmer questioned whether there could be a surcharge on PSSD client's bills of a minor amount of money such as 50 cents that could be given to OCPT to help finance projects that clean the watershed. Curtis said the Public Service Commission sets the user rates and an application for a surcharge would have to begin there. The issue was tabled for discussion at a later date.
5. Public Outreach Procedures. Richard Demoske stated he had met with Holly Romaine at Faith Christian Academy to discuss the school's role in the watershed.

In an effort to limit liability issues, OCPT president reminded all team members to make sure they have the support and approval of OCPT prior to outreach or using the OCPT name in correspondence, discussions and emails.

6. Litter camera. Clint Hogbin advised he had extra ground hog signs and reserved some for OCPT to install. Team members were asked to think about locations.
7. Partnering with PVAS. There was team discussion about the possibility of OCPT operating under the auspices of PVAS instead of as an independent organization. Several members stated they were not ready to give up OCPT autonomy, but it was agreed that PVAS was an effective and beneficial organization to be under if OCPT needed to operate under an 'umbrella'. Other members stated that it seems as if the core OCPT group has not grown and working under PVAS might be an answer to the administrative duties of OCPT. It was agreed more research was needed and team discussion would resume on a later date.
8. Election of Officers. A slate of officers for the 2009 term and Board Members for the 2009-2011 term was presented for vote. George Snider made a motion to accept and approve the slate as proposed; Sharon Lee seconded the motion. Team discussion followed that no one has volunteered to accept the president position. In absence of a president, the vice president typically assumes the president's duties and Ron Gunderson is not volunteering to do so. Bonnie Stubblefield suggested OCPT's December 2008 meeting should be a discussion of this issue and develop a strategy for attracting new members. The motion was called for a vote and all members voted to pass the motion and the following slate as proposed:

Office	Candidate
President	
Vice President	Ron Gunderson
Secretary	Mary Palmer
Treasurer	Gary Sylvester
Board of Director No. 1	Ron Gunderson
Board of Director No. 3	Sharon Lee
Board of Director No. 5	George Snider
Board of Director No. 7	Gary Sylvester
Board of Director No. 9	Sandra Bernardi

9. Alana reported Sally Anderson from south Berkeley County was interested in having OCPT kayakers work in the Opequon Watershed to organize a float trip that TOW could attend. The idea of floating on the Opequon is not as common in Virginia, and might help attract members for both groups.

Updates:

1. Alana reported the "319 AGO grant report is not in yet and Sandra agreed to review the draft as the team representative.
2. Alana advised members to watch their email for an upcoming Mill Creek monitoring meeting by Jim Lawrence.
3. Mill Creek Septic Pumping program update. Alana reported 25 homes in the watershed would qualify for the program and homeowners should be designated by the end of April 2009. She also stated there would be an outreach meeting on November 20, 2008, at the Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church from 6:30-7:30 and OCPT members were encouraged to attend.
4. Conley Tree Planting. The team thanked Sandra Bernardi for heading up this successful project and for all the hard work she did. She reported there were 43 shrubs left over because Mr. Conley removed a row of proposed plants and these would be used in the future downstream restoration project.

Old Business:

1. Chesapeake Watershed Forum. Alana attended the meeting and said there was a trend to use google maps.
2. Mountain State Apple Harvest Festival. Sandra Bernardi and Gary Sylvester reported the OCPT exhibit produced sign ups for the rain barrel workshop and many interested citizen questions. It was also suggested that an exhibit at NCTC open house in October might be beneficial in reaching concerned watershed citizens.
3. Eastern Coalfield Watershed Training Series. Bill Zinner and George Snider attended the Oct. 27-29 training in Canaan Valley, WV. George reported that the West Virginia Development Office has a Neighborhood Investment Program that will match funds and allow the donor to deduct 50% of the donation directly off their West Virginia income tax. Bill Zinner reported that a Vista America (similar to Peace Corp.) volunteer worker could be used by OCPT for a project or to perform an administrative duty and be paid by America. Both reported it was a useful workshop and was not all about coalfields and acid mining. Expanding and retaining membership was also discussed and both members agreed to present some of these ideas at OCPT December meeting.

The 2008 West Virginia Watershed Network Award (Solid Waste) was presented to George Snider on behalf of OCPT.

Bill Zinner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Gary Sylvester seconded the motion; all present voted to accept the motion and meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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

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