

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
January 07, 2009

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

Present: Sandra Bernardi, Mary Beth Bennett, Mary Palmer, Alana Hartman, Gary and Diane Sylvester, Richard Demoske, Bonnie Stubblefield, Lewis McIntyre, Scott Everhart, Carl Bell, Erienne Greene, Paul K. Gavin

6:00pm: Meeting opened by President, Bill Zinner

Financial Report: The treasurer reported as of January 7, 2009, a balance of \$8,339.90. Sandra Bernardi made a motion to accept the treasurer's report; Bonnie Stubblefield seconded the motion, all members present voted to pass the motion.

Gary Sylvester stated he was speaking at the Potomac Valley Audubon Society membership at 7:00pm and would be requesting a representative to attend an OCPT meeting to discuss their educational programs, including their "FLOW" program. It was suggested that he invite them to attend the February OCPT meeting, if possible.

It was decided that there would be an OCPT executive meeting at 5:30pm on 02/04/09 to allow time for business prior to the Audubon presentation.

Gary also stated he would like to add the purchase of rain barrels and a proposed rain barrel workshop to OCPT February meeting agenda.

Introductions: Introductions were made by all present, including first-time attendees.

Minutes of the Meeting:

There was discussion by members to make a change to the December 2008 Minutes. Under new business, Item 4, Line 4, the minutes should read, "*A motion was made by a member to have the OCPT president conduct a quarterly review of the financial records*".

Upcoming Events: Next regular meetings:
02/04/2009 5:30pm Executive Business Meeting, 6:00pm Regular Meeting
03/04/2009 6:00pm
01/22/09 Septic Installers Workshop, Morgan County, Best Western, Berkeley Springs, 9:00am. Contact Barbie Elliot at 304.263.4376 or Kristin Mielcarek at 304.678.3446.
01/15/09 WV Equine Specialist, Berkeley County Youth Fair Grounds, 6:30pm. Contact Mary Beth Bennett at 304.264.1936
03/21/09 Master Well Owners Workshop, Martinsburg

New Business:

1. Future OCPT guest speakers:
 - a. Frank Rodgers, Cacapon Valley Institute, and a teacher from Musselman High School, Betty Stevens, have been working on a class room project identifying areas around Musselman High School having erosion or other environmental problems that need to be addressed. They have developed a target project list for students to rectify. OCPT members indicated an interest to support their efforts and have them discuss their projects (and needs) at an upcoming OCPT meeting.

Alana Hartman demonstrated GoogleEarth capabilities and suggested OCPT incorporate a link on the Web Site and use this program or GoogleMaps to show locations of OCPT projects, past and future.
 - b. Another 'guest speaker' suggestion was to have a representative from the Northern Shenandoah Water Quality & Policy discuss their group's efforts and goals.
 - c. There was a question of whether OCPT could pay a guest speaker and members decided to address this question at a future meeting.
 - d. Mary Beth Bennett reported March 21, 2009 would be the Master Well Owners workshop in the Martinsburg area. OCPT members will be needed to support this public training involving private wells, maintenance, water protection, water conservation, well head maintenance and water treatment. There will be a follow up day for water testing that will be done at a local private lab.
 - e. It was also suggested that Sara Wuertenburg, USDA Conservation Agency, Ginny DiFrancesco, WVDEP, (recycling & cleanups) and a local fisherman that demonstrates how to make (or tie) flies, (macro invertebrates), would all be excellent guest speakers at future OCPT meetings.
2. Sandra Bernardi reported that Sara Wuertenburg stated that acquiring a Vista employee was paper-work labor intensive, OCPT would have to submit a concept plan for the employee, then make an application to hire the employee. If successful, OCPT administrators would also have to manage the employee. After team discussion, it was decided not to pursue hiring a Vista employee.
3. Chesapeake Bay State Implementation Grant. Alana Hartman suggested OCPT consider applicable projects that would fit the specifications of this \$10,000 grant and find the required matching funds. She said the grant was basically for a grass roots type of project, buffer planting, etc. to reduce sediment loads. Team members questioned if the matching funds need be project specific and suggested that the parameters of the Grant be placed on the Web Site for review.

4. Chesapeake Bay Foundation riparian buffer planting spring 2009 (Vila II) and fall 2009. Alana reported the Vila planting would be on April 25, 2009 and she also believed the Rocky Marsh Run project would be funded. The team discussed a possible OCPT fall buffer planting in the Mill Creek watershed. Alana said she has spoken to two landowners about a possible buffer planting. One is a property owner on Mill Creek that was informed about OCPT during the 2007 creek assessment and the other is Steve Bauserman of The Opequon Watershed, Inc., in Hidden Acres, with land adjoining the Opequon Creek that has a conservation easement.
The team agreed to follow up with these choices. Bill Zinner also suggested he contact Whitmore Homes about a possible partnership project on Tuscarora Creek.
5. Timeline for possible writing of Tuscarora Creek Watershed Based Plan. Alana stated, for various reasons, this plan would not be fast-tracked, as was the Mill Creek Watershed Based Plan. She stated she and OCPT should start with a landowner search, WVU-sponsored landowner survey, and a watershed assessment with the goal of plan submission in 2010.
6. Kilmer Springs rain garden. There was discussion concerning the overall look of the rain garden and two things were determined. One, a sign on the main road would help the public identify the garden and two, landscape ties placed around the perimeter of the garden would help define and dress the garden edges. Mary Palmer will price landscape ties at Lowe's (possible cost reduction/donation) and report back to OCPT for consideration and possible spring project.
7. Sandra Bernardi reported the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation is requesting a nomination (by February 17, 2009) for a person or a couple that give outstanding community service. The recipient(s) of this award would then name their favorite charity or educational cause as a beneficiary of a \$5,000 charitable endowment fund. Bernardi will find out if a nominated OCPT member could then name OCPT as a beneficiary.
8. There was team discussion concerning participating in the West Virginia "Make It Shine" program this spring (April) by participating and sponsoring a creek side clean up event. Members suggested several locations and we will submit Sylvan Run at Quarry Road (provided property owner grants permission) and Opequon Creek at Stonebridge as our cleanup sites.
9. Cacapon Institute is requesting contributions from OCPT members. Donations can be mailed to Cacapon Institute, P.O. Box 68, High View, WV 26808-0068.
10. Richard Demoske suggested OCPT consider a rain garden project site or a rain barrel workshop to be held at Bunker Hill Antique Mall, owned by Bill and Monica Bowens. These property owners have indicated an interest in helping OCPT.

11. Paul K. Gavin spoke of his environmental concerns resulting from an improperly working Hedgesville/North Berkeley Sewer Treatment Plant at Eagle Run. Team members related information from PSSD that corrective work is in progress to rectify the problems.
12. Alana reported that Barbie Elliot, USDA Conservation Agency, is expecting to have a summer intern part time in 2009 that will help with agriculture conservation efforts, including livestock fencing and alternative water source programs.

Mary Beth Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sandra Bernardi seconded the motion; all present voted to accept the motion and meeting was adjourned.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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

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