

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
March 04, 2009

Meeting Held At: P.S.S.D. Conference Room, District Way, Martinsburg, WV

Present: Ron Gunderson, Bill Zinner, Mary Palmer, Bonnie Stubblefield, Diane and Gary Sylvester, Sandra Bernardi, Mary Beth Bennett, Sharon Lee, Philip VanDongen, Matthew VanDongen, Jamie Weist, Flint Holbrook, Alana Hartman, Janita Giles, Kierstyn Bivans, Bobby Nosno, Frank Rodgers, Joe D. Michael, Kathryn Murphy, Jerry Cooperman, Carl F. Bell, Sara Wuertenberg, Barbie Elliott, James R. Michael, Floyd Kursey

Meeting Opened at 5:30pm by President, Bill Zinner

Introduction: Matthew VanDongen was introduced to the members. Matt is trying to achieve his Eagle Scout rank with Boy Scouts of America by completing a worthy project. He is interested in designing and building a rain garden. If approved as a project, OCPT may mentor his activities at a site in South Berkeley county this spring.

Reports:

Financial: The treasurer reported a total account balance (as of 03/04/09) of \$7,997.75. He requested the remaining balances in the 2007-2008 Stream Partners and Carl Freeman grant funds be moved to the general fund and those two accounts are closed. Mary Palmer made a motion to move the .09 cents in the Stream Partners fund and the \$70.96 in the Freeman fund to the OCPT general fund account. Ron Gunderson seconded the motion, there was no discussion, and the motion was accepted and approved by all members.

Other: The president questioned if there was a need to have a point source for contact between Jim Lawrence and OCPT water monitors. Several members responded that was not necessary.

The president reported in a conversation with Curtis Keller, (Director of Berkeley County P.S.S.D.), Curtis said he would share event logs with OCPT. These are reports filed with WV Department of Environmental Protection when a problem has occurred at a sewer treatment plant and the maximum allocated fecal discharge has been exceeded.

319 Grant: OCPT is still looking for a grant to fund the proposed rain garden project(s). Sandra Bernardi reported that OCPT is still in the running for the 319 grant, but would probably be given 106 funds in lieu of

that grant. The 106 funds are contingent on having everything (garden installation and all reporting requirements) completed by Sept. 2009.

Upcoming Events:

- 03/14/2009 Berkeley Community Pride Paper Drive, Drop off at Quad Graphics
- 03/21/2009 Master Well Owners Workshop has been postponed until 05/16/2009
- 03/21/2009 9:00-12:00 noon, Giles property cleanup for rain garden area
- 03/28/2009 "Go Green" at the Falling Waters I-81 Rest Stop. Rain Barrel demonstration for travelers.
- 04/04/2009 8:00am Scout Troop 23 cleanup beach area at Harrison's Landing, South Branch, Potomac River, contact Alana Hartman, 304-822-7266
- 04/04/2009 8:00am, public cleanup beach area at Wapamoco Campground, South Branch, Potomac River, contact Alana Hartman, 304-822-7266
- 04/11/2009 9:00-12:00 noon, Roadway/parking area cleanup at Stonebridge, Contact Sandra Bernardi, 304-267-6657
- 04/18/2009 Eastern Panhandle Conversation District annual tree sale, Berkeley County Youth Fair Grounds
- 04/18/2009 10:00am and 2:00pm, Rain Barrel demonstration and workshop(s) at War Memorial Park, Martinsburg, Contact Gary Sylvester 304-264-6449
- 04/25/2009 9:00am, Buffer Planting at Vila/Robertson property on the Opequon Creek, Contact Sandra Bernardi 304-267-6657

Next Meetings:

- 04/01/2009 5:30pm Regular Meeting, 6:30pm Guest Speaker, Brett Billings, NCTC
- 05/06/2009 5:30pm Regular Meeting, 6:30pm Guest Speaker, Mandy Duvall, WV Department of Agriculture, Environmental Specialist

Old Business:

1. Rain Gardens

OCPT will install a rain garden at the Giles property on Giles Mill Rd., Bunker Hill. Proposed installation May/June 2009.

OCPT will mentor Boy Scout, Matthew VanDongen, on a rain garden installation at the Strites property on Rt. 51 west, Inwood.

2. Inwood storm water control project – Woolpert Engineering

Jamie Weist and Flint Holbrook, Woolpert Engineers, presented maps showing locations of sinkholes, rain gauges, drainage areas and monitoring wells in the Inwood area. Woolpert has been hired to analyze the flooding problem that has occurred in storm events in and around Inwood for some time. The study is funded by EPA (\$625,000)

and administered by P.S.S.D. The study is incorporating a one-year monitoring system, historical data and future development projections. Suggestions by Woolpert to remedy the flooding problem will also consider any effects of possible improvement projects on water quality.

3. Monitoring:

OCPT is to receive \$1,000 from RC & D for costs of water testing supplies, (Coliscan test kits), that will be needed to participate in Jim Lawrence's "Snapshot" sampling project. This project will involve taking 80-100 water samples on the same day in the Mill Creek watershed. This is to be done once in the spring, once in the fall and possibly once after a storm event. Shepherd students, OCPT water monitors and Jim's crew will work together on this project.

Bonnie Stubblefield reported that Jim Lawrence stated the spring sampling would establish a "base flow" for the watershed. According to Bonnie, there is value in the spring sampling, but base flow is established in the fall, after a typical period of summer drought. And other considerations would have to be taken into account such as the area's extended drought conditions in any analysis of data collected.

4. Musselman High School Partnership:

Kierstyn Bivans, Musselman High School student gave a presentation, "Apples Get Wet". Frank Rodgers, (Cacapon Valley Institute), and Deb Stevens, (Musselman High School Science Teacher), have been assisting students conduct a watershed survey of the school grounds as part of a Creative Chemistry class project. Kierstyn reported on the efforts the students have made to determine water quality issues and discussed some planned work events for 2009. For more information, google Musselman's web site or Cacapon Valley Institute's, "Musselman Watershed Survey".

5. Baltimore Street Rain Garden:

Alana Hartman reported a balance remains in the AGO grant fund that was used to install the Baltimore Street rain garden in 2008. There was discussion to find out if there is enough left in the account to pay for a rain garden sign and landscape ties to surround the perimeter. Alana is to follow up and let OCPT know the balance. Faith Christian Academy students are to help install the sign and ties on their "Labor of Love" community service project day, May 1st. Bill Zinner has designed a sign and is getting a price to make it. Mary Palmer is pricing the ties at Lowe's in hopes of getting a non-profit organization discount price.

6. Communitree:

Ron Gunderson attended the WV Project Communitree (WV Division Of Forestry) meeting on February 26, 2009. He reported the meeting was held to establish the organization and recruit members, especially board members and partners. This organization will be involved in urban conservation projects and is an opportunity for small conservation and environmentally interested groups to work together. The group has chosen a park in Jefferson County as their first project and is looking for volunteers. Ron has agreed to attend some of their meetings to keep OCPT informed. For more information contact Jennifer Hammer with the WV Division of Forestry at 304-822-4512.

7. 2009 Mountaineer Treeways Application:

A public land site has not been found to install a riparian buffer using the WV Forestry's Mountaineer Treeways 300 free trees.

8. Lab Costs:

Bill Zinner is to send a letter to Peter Vila addressing the costs of using the lab at Shepherd University for water testing and the availability (and interest) of student help this year in water "snapshot" sampling and macro invertebrate analysis. The letter to Peter Vila was attached to the meeting agenda email.

9. Tim Craddock, WV Department of Environmental Protection, Citizen's Monitoring Coordinator, (WV Save Our Streams Program).

Bill Zinner reported Tim gave OCPT more supplies to use for macro invertebrate sampling.

10. Stream Partners Grant:

Sandra Bernardi reported a mid term report was due for the Stream Partners Grant. She also reminded members that \$1,400 remains in the fund to purchase watershed road signs. Sandra passed around a flyer showing various types of signs and asked for comments.

New Business:

1. Membership Classification and Dues:

A bylaw amendment is needed to clarify membership classification. All event participants will be considered associate members. Full membership, with voting rights, will be those members paying annual

dues. A second bylaw amendment will state dues will be assessed each year without stating an amount. Members will vote each year on the amount of dues for the upcoming year.

2. Waiver:

A copy of OCPT's event waiver was attached to the agenda email. The waiver begins by addressing the membership issue and then moves to address OCPT has no liability in the event of an injury.

Guest Speakers:

Representatives from the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD) spoke briefly about EPCD conservation efforts in the tri-county area. Barbie Elliott, WV Conservation Agency, reported on Sleepy Creek Watershed group efforts and farmer's livestock/watershed programs. Joe Michael, EPCD Chairman, and James Michael, EPCD Watershed Committee Chairman, invited OCPT members to attend their meetings and expressed an interest in OCPT watershed projects.

Meeting Adjourn:

Ron Gunderson moved to adjourn the meeting, Gary Sylvester seconded the motion, all members voted to accept and approve the motion.

Minutes of the Meeting Prepared by Mary Palmer, Secretary

Minutes are posted at: www.opequoncreek.org