

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
April 01, 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, Alana Hartman, Sara Wuertenberg, George Snider, Lou Scavnicky, Brett Billings, Karlee Copeland, Lewis McIntrye, Judith McIntrye

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

Introduction: Lou Scavnicky stated he was returning to OCPT meetings after retiring (again).

Reports:

Financial: The treasurer, Gary Sylvester, will give a quarterly report in June 2009. Gary did report that the purchase cost of the rain barrels and supplies was \$2,499.74 (under the \$2500.00 allotted amount).

Other: Alana Hartman reported OCPT would be receiving 106 grant funds to install the Giles property rain garden.

Alana Hartman reported the rain barrel exhibit held on March 28, 2009 at the I81 north rest stop was successful. She said there were around 10 visitors per hour at the exhibit. Thanks to Alana and Sandra Bernardi for handling this exhibit.

President, Bill Zinner, reported he had an upcoming meeting with Frank Rodgers and Deb Stevens to discuss the Musselman High School Science class project watershed activities and possible OPCT partnership.

Ron Gunderson reported Initially Yours at Eagle Plaza Shopping Center on Rt. 9 just west of Hedgesville High School has the OCPT logo. Members may stop in and order clothing with the logo embroidered on.

The president reported Mary Palmer has agreed to be the liaison between Jim Lawrence and OCPT water monitors.

Previous Meeting Minutes

There was discussion that a name was corrected in the March 2009 Minutes of the Meeting, member Jerry Cooperman (not Ted Cooperman)

was present and a phone number was added for Gary Sylvester that was missing (304-264-6449). Ron Gunderson made a motion to accept and approve the minutes with those corrections; Bonnie Stubblefield seconded the motion, all members present voted to pass the motion.

Ron Gunderson made a motion to accept and approve the February 2009 Minutes of the Meeting, Bonnie Stubblefield seconded the motion, there was no discussion, and all members present voted to pass the motion.

Upcoming Events:

- 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
- 04/04/2009 9:00am-1:00pm, Beaver Creek Stream Buffer Planting, Boonsboro, Md. Contact Bill Zinner @ 304-754-7183.
- 04/10/2009 6:00pm, Water Monitors meeting, Martins Cafe, Foxcroft Ave.
- 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
- 05/01/2009 8:30am, Baltimore Street Rain Garden workday. Contact Mary Palmer @ 304-754-5123 or Sandra Bernardi @ 304-267-6657
- 05/16/2009 Master Well Owner Workshop, Contact Mary Beth Bennett @ 304-264-1936
- 05/23 and 05/30/2009 9:00am-1:00 pm. Giles property rain garden installation. Contact Mary Palmer @ 304-754-5123 or Sandra Bernardi @ 304-267-6657

Next Meetings:

- 05/06/2009 5:30pm Regular Meeting, 6:30pm Guest Speaker, Mandy Duvall, WV Department of Agriculture, Environmental Specialist
- 06/03/2009 5:30pm Regular Meeting, 6:30pm Guest Speaker, Curtis Keller, Director, P.S.S.D.
- ***** Please note there will not be regular meetings held in July & August.
- 09/02/2009 5:30pm Regular Meeting, 6:30pm Guest Speaker on Karsts geology.

Old Business:

1. Rain Gardens

OCPT will install a rain garden at the Giles property on Giles Mill Rd., Bunker Hill. OCPT members, with Janita Giles help, have cleared the site. Alana Hartman stated funds for the materials and plants will come from the 106 grant and not the 319 grant.

Sandra reported Janita has agreed to become an OCPT Board Member, Emeritus.

Sandra also reported a Shepherd student is available to film and produce a DVD of the rain garden installation for a fee of \$10 per hour. Sandra is to contact the student and state that OCPT will pay up to \$500 for this project.

Mary Palmer reported that Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts would be helping install the garden to receive their conservation and community service merit badges.

Sandra reminded members to keep track of their mileage and work hours for in kind credit on the grant funds.

The Strite property rain garden is to be done as an Eagle Scout rank project by Boy Scout, Matt VanDongen. OCPT will mentor his activities. Matt is in the application process for project approval by the Boy Scout Council.

The Baltimore Street rain garden is scheduled for a workday on May 1st, at 8:30am. Rain date is May 8th. Faith Christian Academy students will be helping OCPT members install a perimeter border, new plants and a street sign. This is part of the school's community service day, "Labors of Love". Mary Palmer questioned if pre-cast 2" stone blocks could be used instead of pressured treated lumber for the perimeter. Alana said she would ask Steve Knipe (City of Martinsburg) if he had a preference.

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

Alana reported Tim is available to train stream monitors in macro invertebrate sampling in non-rifle water flow areas using the dip netting method. She will send available training dates to monitors by email.

3. Roadside Signs

Sandra reported Randy Sigley from Department of Highways stated he would prefer only 6 24”x24” roadside signs be installed that say, “Entering the Opequon Watershed”. After discussion, OCPT team members agreed to have 14 signs made. Alana is to provide Sandra with a topo map showing roadways so that optimum locations can be chosen.

4. Tuscarora Creek Survey

Alana reported WVU is to prepare a survey (questionnaire) of Tuscarora Creek property owners to determine their interest in the watershed. It will be same type of survey that was used to query Mill Creek property owners several years ago.

New Business:

1. Bylaw Amendment - Membership Classification and Dues:

A proposed bylaw amendment, (the fifth amendment made to the OCPT bylaws), of Article III is to clarify membership classification and the amount of membership dues. All event participants will be considered associate members. Full membership, with voting rights, will be those members paying annual dues. The amount of membership dues will be determined each year by membership vote. Gary Sylvester made a motion to adopt a Bylaw Amendment to Article III:

Article III – Membership, Voting, and Fee

Section 1.:Members. There are two classes of membership: Regular Members and Associate Members.

- A. Regular Members: Regular Members shall be volunteer citizens residing in, or owning land in, or doing business in, or individuals having an interest in, the watershed. They shall have voting privileges as described in Section 2 of this Article.
- B. Associate Members: Associate Members shall be non-voting members, government agency employees, and volunteers participating in OCPT sponsored events. They shall have the same standing as Regular Members with the exception that they are not allowed to vote and are not required to pay a Membership Fee.

Section 2: Voting. All Regular Members of the organization shall have one vote provided they have attended or participated in a minimum of three meetings and/or activities within the last year.

Section 3: Membership Fee. A membership fee is to be established at the last meeting of each year and shall be due in the first quarter of the following year from each Regular Member.

Sharon Lee seconded the motion. There was no discussion, all members present voted to pass the motion to adopt the bylaw amendment.

2. Web Host – opequoncreek.org

Sandra reported the contract with the OCPT web site host, CustomTek Solutions, expires in June. CustomTek has offered a lower price for signing up for a two-year period instead of a one-year period. Bonnie Stubblefield made a motion to pay \$415.00 to the Web Host for a two-year service agreement. Sharon Lee seconded the motion, all members present voted to accept the motion.

Meeting Adjourned

Bonnie Stubblefield made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sharon seconded the motion, all members voted to pass the motion.

Guest Speakers:

Brett Billings - a US Fish and Wildlife videographer, fly fisherman, entomologist and fly-tyer gave a power point presentation on aquatic entomology. Topics included organisms that live in streams, their micro-habits and their value to the quality of the food chain and anglers. He invited members to join in fly-tie night at Martins Cafe, Foxcroft Avenue, 5:00pm on the second Wednesday night of each month. Brett brought many preserved samples of macro invertebrates for members to view.

Minutes of the Meeting Prepared by Mary Palmer, Secretary

Minutes are posted at: www.opequoncreek.org