

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
June 03, 2009

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

Present: Bill Zinner, Mary Palmer, Bonnie Stubblefield, Sandra Bernardi, Alana Hartman, Lou Scavnicky, Judith & Lewis McIntrye, Jerry Cooperman, Kathryn Murphy, Curtis Keller, Mary Beth Bennett, Tracie Welch, Jessica Baczuk, Stephen Howell, Janita Giles, Thomas Cluely, Peter Yates

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

Previous Meeting Minutes

There were no corrections or additions to the previous Meeting Minutes as sent by email to members. Bonnie Stubblefield made a motion to accept and approve the May 06, 2009 Minutes of the Meeting, Bill Zinner seconded the motion, there was no discussion, and all members present voted to pass the motion.

Treasurer's Report There was no treasurer's report

Belleview Drive Homeowner, Tracie Welch, reported a storm water runoff problem existed on her lot in a community off Eagle School Road, Martinsburg, and requested assistance with weed control and marsh conditions . Alana will follow up.

Upcoming Events:

- 07/01/2009 Tuscarora Creek Watershed Based Plan public meetings at 1:00pm on the second floor of the Judicial Center building, and 6:00pm at the PSSD building on District Way. Contact Alana Hartman for more information at 304-822-7266
- 07/11/2009 Hillbilly Daylilies annual festival, Giles Mill Road, Bunker Hill. OCPT will have an exhibit and Gary Sylvester will conduct a rain barrel workshop at 11:00am. Rain barrels will also be for sale.
- 08/08/2009 Opequon Creek Fun Float and Bar-be-cue. Contact Gary or Diane Sylvester for more information @ 304-263-6449
- 09/19/2009 Creek clean up –by boat-day. Contact Sandra Bernardi for more information @ 304-267-6657
- 11/13 & 11/14/2009 Watershed Celebration Day, (WV Watershed Network), Blackwater Falls. For more information contact Alana Hartman at 304-822-7266

Next Meetings:

***** Please note there will be no regular meetings held in July & August .

09/02/2009 5:30pm Regular Meeting, 6:30pm Guest Speaker on Karst geology.

Old Business:

1. Rain Gardens

OCPT team members, with the help of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and the homeowner, installed a rain garden and a shrub riparian buffer at the Giles property on Giles Mill Rd., Bunker Hill on May 23 and May 30, 2009. OCPT donated a sprinkler for the garden. Mary Palmer will write a thank you letter to the scouts for participating. The activity was filmed by a Shepherd University intern to make a home rain garden installation DVD.

A workday was held at the Baltimore Street rain garden. Weeds were pulled, missing plants were replaced and the perimeter stone border was finished. Later, Bill Zinner completed the 'Rain Garden' sign installation.

Two workdays were held at the Judicial Center garden. OCPT members and Master Gardeners pulled weeds, spread mulch, planted perennials and removed trash.

Installation of a demonstration rain garden at PSSD was discussed. Alana reported there is \$1,700-\$1,800 left in the AGO grant that was used for the Baltimore Street rain garden and might be used for pipe (culvert) and concrete at Baltimore Street to extend the storm water runoff ditch to the rain garden or to install another rain garden such as at PSSD. Team members, George Snider and Lou Scavnicky, will pursue the rain garden project. Sandra Bernardi will obtain the basic maintenance agreement and Bill Zinner will amend it to fit the PSSD rain garden.

2. WV Save Our Streams Program

Alana Hartman reported the dip net method for sampling macro invertebrates in a non rifle flow area training class was held on May 22, 2009 at the Connelly property on Old Dominion Road. She said the training by Tim Craddock was successful and participants gained useful information and skills. She also reported that according to the sampling test results, Mill Creek was healthy at that location.

3. Snap Shot Water Sampling

Mary Palmer reported Luc Claessens 's second snapshot sampling would be on June 4. Approximately 30 sites on Mill Creek and a few sites on Opequon Creek will be tested to show water quality variability on a given day. OCPT will provide sample bottles, ice , cooler and plate the samples for E.Coli and general Coliforms.

4. Well Owners Workshop

Bill Zinner reported a well owners workshop was held on May 16, coordinated by Mary Beth Bennett. He said the workshop gave good information about how wells function and routine maintenance requirements.

5. Stonebridge Dumpsite

Bill Zinner reported he is continuing OCPT efforts to clean up this illegal dump site by writing a letter to WV Department of Natural Resources, (DNR), the record property owner, and requesting their attention to this issue. The letter urges acknowledgement of a dumpsite by DNR, requests the site be cleaned up and future access restricted. The letter also suggests a meeting with OCPT representatives to set a course of action.

6. Sewer Plant Incidents

Alana Hartman reported she is working to correlate sewer plant incident reports (WVDEP Mike Kanehl's office) with E.Coli test results.

New Business

1. Tuscarora Creek

WVU will send a survey to Tuscarora Creek property owners similar to the survey sent to Mill Creek property owners questioning their interest in the creek or specifying any concerns about the creek's health.

Alana reported she will be holding two public meetings this summer to begin the Tuscarora Watershed Based Plan.

2. Watershed Celebration Day

The Watershed Celebration Day will be held 11/13 and 11/14, 2009, at

Blackwater Falls, Davis, WV. Tours and workshops are held at this event and awards are given to watershed groups that have excelled in their efforts during the year.

George Snider will write a report to submit of OCPT activities .

3. **OCPT Banner**

A discussion was held to purchase an “*OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM*” banner to be used at OCPT events and exhibits. It will cost \$100.00. Mary Palmer made a motion to purchase the banner, Sandra Bernardi seconded the motion, there was no further discussion and all members present voted to pass the motion.

7. **Nominations of Officers**

It was discussed that a slate of officers will be needed for the upcoming year, (2010). Further discussion will be held in September.

Guest Speaker:

Curtis Keller, PSSD Director, reported on sewer treatment and package plants in Berkeley County. Curtis said there have been ongoing repairs, upgrading and retro fitting old equipment at 6 or so package plants and at the Inwood and Baker Heights treatment plants. He reported work at the Paynes Ford Road plant is almost done and a new plant will be constructed (starting next year) to replace the Opequon/Hedgesville plant on Eagle School Road, although some parts of the old system still working correctly will still be used . He said all of the plants experience good days and bad days due to storm events, overloads, equipment malfunction and operator errors. Also, Curtis stated that consumer water conservation efforts have strengthened the effluent arriving at the plants. PSSD is working towards standardizing plant operations by training operators in correct procedures, efficient plant operations and recognizing deficiencies. Curtis also reported that due to the economy, PSSD has had cutbacks in funding.

Curtis reported PSSD has a 93.1% compliance record for 2009 (according to event log violations recorded when the bacterial level discharged exceeds W.V. Department of Environment permitted limits). Curtis said PSSD caught one septic tank pumping hauler illegally dumping into PSSD lines and now has a civil action against him . He also said PSSD is converting on the old Spring Mills treatment plant to be a septic tank pumping hauler receiving station and may be open by July 2009 .

Curtis reported South Berkeley storm water management projects may qualify for Federal stimulus funds to help control flooding in the Inwood area.

A question and answer period followed Curtis’s presentation and some suggestions were made by members for OCPT to help educate the public on proper waste disposal issues.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30pm

Minutes of the Meeting prepared by Mary Palmer, Secretary

Minutes are posted at: www.opequoncreek.org

