

**OCPT meeting 10/7/09 Attendees: Bill Zinner, Sandra Bernardi, Lou Scavnicky, Diane Sylvester, Gary Sylvester, Lew McIntyre, Brent Walls, Mike Ball, Alana Hartman**

We basically followed the 9/21 meeting minutes as a rough agenda for tonight's 5:30 meeting.

**PSSD RG** – Sandra and Lou picked up plants from Clear Ridge today. Lou and George met with Curtis in mid-September and told him we plan to plant the RG on Oct. 15, and backing up from that date, we need to have the bio-filter soil delivered, which requires 5-6 business days notice, and PSSD has to do the excavation and gravel prior to that. Lou will wait until end of week then follow up with Curtis.

**Giles RG**– someone should tell Janita we'll wait until spring to re-evaluate. Alana asked who will handle the final reporting of the 106 grant to Jennifer Pauer; Gary now has everything he needs to do the final reporting –had been waiting for final \$250 payment to clear but it has now been paid.

**Strite RG** - Matt VanDongen told Bill he has been finishing other merit badges so hasn't made as much progress as he would have liked. Mary should stay in touch with him.

**Brent Walls** Upper Potomac Manager with Potomac RiverKeeper will be presenter at Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. They also employ the Shenandoah Riverkeeper, Jeff Kelbe. They advocate for the River. Next month he'll present their philosophy, and Bill asked him to let us know how we can recruit.

**Rain Barrel artistic additions** – Bill asked Deb Stevens at Musselman if students could paint a barrel...she will contact art teacher.

**drug takeback program /pharmaceuticals in water** - Sandra talked to Lew McIntyre about this; he was ok with leading an effort to address this topic; Lew's research showed that Park City, UT has a water filtration plant that cost 3x as much as a regular filtration plant. Last stage that takes pharmaceuticals out has to be perfectly clear. Lew spoke to Vicki Blazer from Leetown fisheries lab (the scientist group who found the males with egg precursors), and she said if the fish are that affected, humans must be being affected too. Bill asked Lew whatever he could report to OCPT on a regular basis would be appreciated, and if he comes across someone who is making progress, let us know. Get the name and manufacturer of the equipment they use – is it one of a kind, how much is it, etc.

**Tuscarora walking assessment:** Mary will bring tax maps for Lou to copy, laminate, and tape together. Lou will drive the creek and contact some landowners for entrance/exit; Alana will deliver the CVI Tuscarora maps and ftp: site to Lou and Bill, also.

**Potomac Watershed Partnership** meeting; Lou attended & really enjoyed it. Everytime he attends one of these meetings he learns much more. Deer exclusion fencing presented by Cacapon Institute to protect buffer plantings; Lou has to check on the cost of solar charger. 5000 Volts plus are needed to repel the deer, so weeds under the wire have to be kept clear.

**Buffer in a Bag** program was inspiring – possible able to be replicated here. See Maryland Forestry's information (Sandra found online and printed brochure). People sign up for free seedlings which they show up on a Sat. morning to pick up in a bag with root moistening chemical added. Attendees suggested the program should provide a stamped postcard for folks to provide feedback. 30% repeat applications, and they do a mailing to prior participants. 10% waste out of the seedlings. Took 5 people 2 ½ days to assemble. \$2577 cost of the whole program.

Lou will make the PWP link available so all can see the presentations.

**Chesapeake Watershed Forum:** Bill, Lou, and Alana will attend this weekend in Shepherdstown.

**Slate of officers** is set.

**Tour:** Bill will make contact with Opequon Water Reclamation Facility in Winchester-Berryville, VA.

**Nat. Stream Restoration:** Bill also wants to coordinate with Floyd Kursey about us visiting the NSR site at his property in Back Creek that is currently being constructed. It is very large.

**Conley planting and viewing Nat. Stream Restoration:** Alana will coordinate a visit of OCPT members to Conley NSR site. Diane – is it time to replant the spring area that was rototilled? Yes – and Sandra has wetland seed leftover from Giles project. Need to do this soon.

**WVDA monitoring:** Mary's correspondence with Mandy Duvall seemed to result in the response that WVDA cannot do any additional sites, but there is also the mention that if OCPT can justify the additional sites specifically, they might consider it, if some sites can be dropped. We'd like Mary to fill us in on what this might mean for us.

**Press:** Bill, Alana, and Kristin met with Jenni Vincent today regarding publicizing Mill Creek project that brings \$448,000 and totals ~\$700,000 including the local match. This is a really good opportunity to spread this good news about Opequon work.

Jenni also remains open to printing a periodic feature about water issues, which George had brainstormed in writing for us recently. Needs to be temporarily re-assigned since George will be away for a while. The Journal seems to have only a few reporters for local news lately, so this is a good opportunity.

#### **Upcoming events:**

Ches. WS Forum Oct. 9-11

Apple Harvest Festival Oct. 17-18, where OCPT will be next to Master Gardeners and show RB demo

Buffer planting Oct.17 on Vila property

Buffer planting Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> on Prospect Hall

Oct. 31 10-noon; septic system tour at High Pointe subdivision off Runnymede Rd. in Bunker Hill

Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Musselman students will sample macroinvertebrates at Route 11 bridge over Mill Creek

Alana Hartman got award for Cooperative Agency at Eastern Panhandle Conservation District banquet last week

**Bill asked for other items from the group:**

Lew enjoyed the trash cleanup; over a ton removed from creek; Peter recycled large equipment tire; Lew called Hagerstown police about the badge #10, and the person answering said if they were interested, they'd call him back. Clint Hogbin followed up on the Waste Management bin we marked in the creek, and is unsure whether their equipment can pull it out. Alana said Mike Park might be able to follow up with that using a contracted crew someday when other jobs are lined up in the area.

**Presentation:**

Mike Ball from Region 9 Air Quality program spoke about his work as Project Program Coordinator, working on comprehensive plans and other environmental things in addition to air quality issues. He remembers original meetings in Bunker Hill regarding Mill Creek grant preparation 2 yrs ago – he congratulated us on getting the money finally.

The take home messages included:

If you'll be stopped in car longer than 10 seconds, shut off car instead of idling.

Mow lawn on non-ozone alert days.

Baby-steps: everyone's "small" contributions really add up and make a difference. Drive throughs are one culprit. However, everyone has "necessary" situations that pollute, e.g. driving to this meeting.

(notes taken by Alana Hartman, WVDEP Potomac Basin Coordinator)