

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

Meeting held at: P.S.S.D. Building, District Way, Martinsburg

Present: Bonnie Stubblefield, Sandra Bernardi, Bill Zinner, Mary Palmer, Ted Cooperman, Kathryn Murphy, Diane Sylvester, Gary Sylvester, Lewis McIntyre, Sara Wuertenberg, Alana Hartman (DEP Potomac Basin Coordinator)

5:35 pm Introductions, Meeting opened by President, Bill Zinner

Financial Report: The treasurer stated no report was due.

Minutes of the Meeting:

Bill reported, as noted as an action item, on page 2 of the January 2009 minutes, he sent a letter to Whitmore homes requesting partnership with OCPT in the Tuscarora Creek area. No response has been received yet.

Alana Hartman reported an intern may be available to help OCPT prepare the Tuscarora Creek Watershed Based Plan this summer provided by the WV Conservation Agency. The intern would be shared by the Sleepy Creek Watershed group and be available for the three summer months.

Sandra Bernardi made a motion to accept and approve the minutes; Gary Sylvester seconded the motion. All members present voted to Pass the motion.

Lewis McIntyre stated New Business, Line 11, should read his name, not Paul Gavin.

Upcoming Events:

- 02/10/09 Master Gardeners, Backyard Beekeeping, WV Fruit Tree Research Center, Rt. 9, Kearneysville, 7:00pm
- 02/19/09 Water Monitors meeting, 6:00pm, PSSD building
- 02/27-03/01 Home Show (Rain Barrel & Flyers on Exhibit)
- 03/14/09 Berkeley Community Pride Paper Drive, Quad Graphics parking lot
- 03/21/09 Master Well Owners Workshop, Berkeley County Youth Fair Grounds, 9-4pm, call Stephanie Clemens, 814-865-2250 or mwon@psu.edu to Register
- 04/11/09 Make it Shine clean up day, Opequon Creek at Stonebridge on Flagg's Crossing Road.
- 04/16-04/18 Eastern Panhandle Conservation District

	Annual Tree Sale
04/20/09	Jefferson County Water Advisory Committee Summit
04/18/09	Earth Day Festival at War Memorial Park
04/25/09	Riparian Buffer Planting, Peter Vila property

Next Meetings:

03/04/09	OCPT regular meeting
04/01/09	OCPT regular meeting

Old Business:

1. Sandra Bernardi reported there are two Mill Creek area property owners, Mr. and Mrs. Strite on Rt. 51 West and Sonja Jones in Gerrardstown, interested in having a rain garden. Several team members and Alana Hartman will meet with them to discuss OCPT rain garden installations and homeowner responsibilities in February. There was team discussion about where the funds were to come from to install the garden(s). Discussion is to be continued at the next Executive Board meeting or the next regular meeting. Bill Zinner suggested OCPT mentor a Boy Scout on one rain garden for his Eagle Scout project.
2. Bill reported he had spoken to Deb Stevens, Musselman High School Science teacher, and confirmed an upcoming appointment to meet with her, Frank Rodgers of Cacapon Institute, and Sara Wuertenberg of the Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD), to discuss Ms. Stevens' class room projects and objectives. OCPT is interested in offering help with her watershed activities and in developing a working partnership.
3. There was team discussion concerning the Baltimore Street/Kilmer Springs rain garden. Bill reported he had spoken to Steve Knipe, City of Martinsburg, about placing a sign on Baltimore Street that states it is a rain garden and OCPT installing a landscaping tie border around the perimeter. Steve had no problems with either item. Bill will contact Sensel Signs for a bid on making the sign, OCPT volunteers will install the sign on 8"x 8" posts. Mary Palmer is getting a bid to purchase the ties from Lowe's at a discount price. Alana suggested OCPT contact Faith Christian Academy and request students help install the ties on their "Labor of Love" community service day, May 1st.
4. There will be a water monitors meeting on Feb. 19, 2009 to discuss OCPT current water sampling, locations, volunteers and results. Jim Lawrence, watershed coordinator for Virginia Tech's Opequon Creek Targeted Watershed project, will be invited to attend and discuss the comprehensive plan for Mill Creek and OCPT volunteer help.
Alana reported Amanda (Mandy) Duvall, WV Department of Agriculture, Environment Specialist, is adding bacteria testing to their Opequon Creek (main stem) monitoring program. Mary is to invite her to speak with OCPT at an upcoming meeting.

New Business:

1. Art Berkeley is sponsoring an Earth Day Festival at War Memorial Park, Tennessee Ave., Martinsburg, on April 18th and invited OCPT to participate. It was determined that OCPT will hold a rain barrel workshop in the morning and one in the afternoon, in addition to an OCPT exhibit that will be set up for the day. Gary Sylvester is to order the barrels and determine whether he or Frank Rodgers will give the workshops. Volunteers will be needed to help with the workshops and the exhibit for the day. There will be a \$15.00 fee for the vendor workshop space and the Sylvester's have offered to pay it from their personal funds. Thank you Gary and Diane!
2. There has been some interest for OCPT to install a riparian buffer at Poor House Farm Park on the Tuscarora Creek to help with an existing sedimentation problem. OCPT may qualify to receive free 300 trees in April, which must be planted on public land, from the WV Forestry program, Mountaineer Treeways. Bill is to meet with Steve Catlett and the Parks and Rec Board members on 02/04, to determine the potential for such project.
3. Sara Wuertenberg, reported the EPCD's annual tree sale would be April 18th. Volunteers will be needed on April 16 and 17th to help sort and pack the orders and on the 18th for orders to be picked up.
4. The Jefferson County Water Advisory Committee Summit is an outreach opportunity for OCPT to meet with other watershed and community groups in Jefferson and Berkeley counties interested in watershed quality and management. Bill will attend this meeting on 04/20 and give a brief presentation of OCPT projects and goals.
5. Alana Hartman stated water monitors may want to get vaccinations for Hepatitis A and B and Tetanus. Bill reminded team members to wash their boots and water equipment in a Bleach or salt water solution when moving from creek to creek to protect against spreading the invasive algae Didymo (rock snot).
6. Handouts were given for the Best Management Practices for Private Water Systems along with announcements of the private well owner workshop to be held on March 21, 2009. Registration required.
7. Diane and Gary Sylvester are donating a water pump to OCPT. Thank You!

Program/Guest Speaker:

Kristen Alexander of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) shared two demonstrations with the team that PVAS uses for their Watershed Education Initiative program with local elementary students. One demonstration used an "enviroscape" - a plastic tabletop model of a watershed that helps show point and

non-point source pollution issues from runoff. Team members participated (as students would) by placing manure, disturbed soil, pesticides, industry chemicals, vehicle chemicals, septage, etc. on the enviroscape and then watched what happens when it rains. Remedies were then discussed to help the watershed. The second demonstration used a groundwater model – a soil cutaway (similar to an ant farm) that helps see how water travels underground and how pollutants can travel with it. Both demonstrations were informative and helpful to visualize pollution in a watershed. PVAS may loan the equipment to OCPT for future demonstrations.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 pm.

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

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