

OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
January 6, 2010

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

Present: Ron Gunderson, Mary Palmer, Bonnie Stubblefield,
Diane & Gary Sylvester, Mary Beth Bennett, Sandra Bernardi,
Alana Hartman, George Snider, Lou Scavnicky, Bill Zinner,
Herb Peddicord, Robert Richards, Tyler Richards

Guest Presentation Tyler Richards shared his South Martinsburg Middle School Science Fair water quality project with the team. In November & December, 2009, Tyler worked with a team member, Mary Palmer, and his family on this project with sampling supplies from OCPT. His testing confirmed 4 water sample locations on the Opequon Creek were found to have higher levels of E.Coli after a storm event. Tyler used the coliscan gel test method and presented his findings in an informative exhibit that included plates, water samples and spread sheets showing the results. Well done Tyler!

Meeting Opened at 6:35pm by President, Bill Zinner

Reports:

Conley Stream Improvement Project

Herb Peddicord from the WV Dept. of Forestry, stated approximately 3 acres of trees needed to be planted in the spring of 2010 to help stabilize and complete the stream restoration project Canaan Valley Institute installed in 2009 at the Conley property in Mill Creek. He believes around 1200 trees will be needed to establish a buffer in this area. He will ask Chesapeake Bay Foundation members to help with the planting. March 27th was determined to be the planting date with April 24th listed as an alternate.

\$3,000 will be used from OCPT's Stream Partnership grant to purchase the trees and supplies. As this amount probably will not cover the purchase cost of 1200 trees and supplies, Alana stated she is trying to determine if additional funds can be used from a different grant.

PSSD Rain Garden

It was determined that divisions from the Judicial Center Rain Garden perennials will be transplanted to the PSSD rain garden in April 2010. Mary Beth Bennett is to advise OCPT if Master Gardeners may receive volunteer hour credits for planting the divisions.

There was discussion if funds remained in the 319 AGO grant that was used to install the PSSD rain garden. If the funds exist, Bill Zinner is to purchase a wood

rain garden sign similar to the one installed at the Baltimore Street rain garden. Gary Sylvester suggested OCPT install an educational sign as well. Lou Scavnicky reminded the team that PSSD said they would purchase a sign. Lou is to verify this with Curtis Keller.

Sandra Bernardi made a motion to reimburse Lou Scavnicky fifty cents per mile for ~~fuel-travel~~ expenses incurred in purchasing plants at Clear Ridge Nursery and traveling to ~~Inwood~~Keameysville, for the ~~Prospect Hall buffer planting~~PSSD Rain Garden; George Snider seconded the motion, there was no further discussion, all members voted to approve and accept the motion; motion passed.

Comment [SMB1]: Mary, I don't know if it matters, the motion I made was to reimburse Lou for travel expenses—didn't state a price per mile. Discussion followed to check the IRS website for current reimbursement.

Educational Presentations

Mary Palmer reported no further work had been done on preparing topics for public education. She said she would begin work on the presentations and develop a plan to implement an OCPT educational program. Lou stated he would be giving a presentation to the Greystone on the Opequon Home Owners Association Meeting in April, 2010, on lawn care and the use of pesticides and herbicides.

Stream Sampling

A lengthy discussion was held on the subject of OCPT water monitoring. In an effort to establish contamination levels and possibly pin point sources, OCPT volunteer water monitors sampld water at 4 sites on the Opequon for laboratory analysis of fecal coliform and followed the coliscan gel test method to collect samples and test E.Coli and general coliform levels at 20 sites once a month in the Opequon Creek watershed for 2 years and 8 months. In October of 2009, the team decided to halt testing for several reasons, including: the coliscan gel test method is not lab certified, OCPT was not able to adequately analyze ~~zesis~~ test results, results were predictable, other certified labs were performing more comprehensive testing at some of the sample locations on a routine basis and macro invertebrate sampling may be a better indicator of the general health of the stream.

After discussion, it was felt that OCPT should periodically perform E.Coli and fecal bacteria sampling, possibly every 5-10 years, and compare test results to existing records.

Many questions were brought up concerning water monitoring and sampling. What is the ultimate goal? Who will be involved? How long will OCPT do this sampling? What will help the community as a whole?

Bill Zinner will contact Tim Craddock from WV Save Our Streams Program for help and advice to implement macro invertebrate sampling. The team will establish a project goal, implementation procedures and with Tim's help, two locations to start sampling in spring of 2010.

Alana Hartman

Alana discussed existing grant funds and possible uses for them. There is \$9500 in the Bay grant which needs to be spent by April 30, 2010 and needs to be matched 1:1. There was a plan to use these funds to install a non-tidal wetland area on the Roach property alongside Tuscarora Creek, but some of the funds may be needed to supplement the \$3000 assigned from the OCPT Stream Partners Grant fund to purchase trees and supplies for the Conley property buffer planting.

The Eastern Panhandle Conservation District (EPCD) recently pledged a \$2000 match that can be used for the wetland installation and it was suggested Bill find out if Fish and Wildlife will help fund this project.

The 319 AGO grant that funded the Baltimore Street Rain Garden and part of the PSSD Rain Garden may have funds left, but OCPT records do not match EPCD records, so it is unclear how much is left to spend in this account. Funds in this grant need to be spent by September 30, 2010.

Comment [SMB2]: Mary, I can't remember where the money came from for the plants. We should ask Gary as I don't think it was 319.

Alana reported the Mill Creek Septic Installers meeting is scheduled for January 25, 2010. This is an effort to educate the public to have their septic systems checked for proper working order and have their tank pumped out. If they do have their tank pumped, their expenses will be partially reimbursed (\$150) by DEP.

Alana also mentioned a report from Kieran O'Malley from WVDNR who shared a mussel study done by Rita Vilella which stated they could find no live fresh water mussels in their test area. A CD of this study is available; contact Alana.

Upcoming Events:

- 01/13/2010 Tuscarora Creek non-tidal wetland project tour. Contact Bill Zinner for more information: zinnmaster@hughes.net
- 01/25/2010 Mill Creek property owners Septic Installers meeting.
Contact Alana Hartman @ Alana.C.Hartman@wv.gov
- 02/03/2010 6:00 pm, OCPT regular meeting
- 03/03/2010 6:00 pm, OCPT regular meeting
- 03/24/2010 Conley buffer planting, for more information, contact Sandra Sandra Bernardi -@ 304-267-6657
- 04/10/2010 Spring Clean up event, more details to follow
- ~~04/17/2010 Earth Day Festival, War Memorial Park~~

Meeting Adjourned 8:30pm

Minutes of the Meeting Prepared by Mary Palmer, Secretary

Minutes are posted at: www.opequoncreek.org