

**OPEQUON CREEK PROJECT TEAM, INC.**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**September 1, 2010**

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

**Present:** Bill Zinner, Mary & Peter Palmer, Sandra Bernardi,  
Lou Scavnicky, George Snider, Mary Beth Bennett,  
Herb Peddicord, Donn Marshall

**Meeting Opened** at 6:15 p.m. by Vice President, Lou Scavnicky

### **Backyard Forestry Workshop**

A two-day workshop is being hosted by the West Virginia Division of Forestry for landowners. The workshop is called the Woods in Your Backyard and was developed by extension educators in Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. It is designed ideally for landowners of 1 to 10 acres who want to improve the health of their woodlands or convert their mowed lawns into natural areas.

The workshop is in two sessions, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Faith Christian Academy. The cost of the workshop is \$20 for an individual or family, with registration due by September 16<sup>th</sup>. For more information contact: Craig Highfield at 410-267-5723 or email: [chighfield@chesapeakebay.net](mailto:chighfield@chesapeakebay.net).

### **Riparian Buffer Planting**

Herb Peddicord, Chesapeake Bay Watershed Forester, suggested potential locations for two fall buffer plantings. One location is the Bob Funkhouser property near the Sylvan Run headwaters. This project consists of hand augering the holes and planting around 300 trees and shrubs. OCPT members suggested we use the left over Buffer in a Bag (BIAB) trees that are currently in storage. The team set a work date of November 10, 2010 to install the buffer.

A second riparian buffer is to be sponsored and funded by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and will be much larger. Two possible locations were discussed. One is the Grantham property in Jefferson County which consists of installing a buffer of 1200 feet along both sides on the Opequon Creek. The second location is the Hunter Wilson property on the northern section of Opequon Creek. Lou Scavnicky volunteered to contact Mr. Wilson and discuss having a riparian buffer installed on his agricultural crop land that borders the Creek. A work date was set of October 30, 2010 for whichever property is chosen.

Herb Peddicord stated the Chesapeake Bay Foundation has a goal of planting 5 miles of buffer every two years.

## **2011 Election of Officers**

The President, Bill Zinner, reported a slate of candidates has been prepared for 2011 Officers and Board of Director members, but nominations are open to all interested parties. The election of Officers and Board of Director members will be held in November 2010, with the term of office beginning January 1, 2011.

The proposed slate of Officers currently includes the following:

President: Lou Scavnicky  
Vice President: Mary Palmer  
Treasurer: Diane Sylvester  
Secretary: Sandra Bernardi

The proposed slate of Board of Directors currently includes the following:

Lou Scavnicky  
Mary Palmer  
Diane Sylvester  
Sandra Bernardi  
George Snider  
Peter Palmer  
Gary Sylvester  
Bill Zinner

## **Litter Control Ordinance**

The president reported there was good attendance by OCPT members at the Berkeley County Commission hearing on the proposed Litter Control Ordinance for a clean and safe county on August 25th. Many citizens supported the Ordinance, including OCPT member, Ron Gunderson and Bill Zinner, who gave excellent speeches. The Ordinance was passed by the Commission on August 26, 2010.

## **Macro-invertebrate Stream Sampling**

The president reported a stream sampling program will be started by sampling Mill Creek at the Conley property and at one location on the Opequon Creek, probably at the George Snider property. The sampling will be done in April and September each year. OCPT will not sample the Conley property this September, but intends to sample the Opequon Creek.

## **Youth Project, Stream Sampling**

Mary Palmer reported Robert Richards requested assistance with his sons, Tyler and Ryan, fall 2010 school science projects. One son intends to sample upstream and downstream of a Sulpher Springs Road sewer treatment plant to discover any effects the treatment plant's outflow may have in the Opequon Creek. The second son wants to

repeat sampling the same 4 locations on the Opequon that he sampled last fall to show any difference in the stream that may be found one year later. OCPT will supply the boys with water sample bottles, Coliscan gel and test plates; supplies left over from the OCPT water sampling project.

### **Upcoming Events:**

- 09/08/2010 7:00 p.m., author Ned Tillman will present “The Chesapeake Watershed: A Sense of Place and a Call to Action” in the Byrd Auditorium at the the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown.
- 09/14/2010 Day of Caring, trash cleanup event by boat from Rt. 45 to the Snider property. Meet at 9:00 a.m. For more information contact: George Snider at 304-263-3572
- 09/15-09/17 8:00-4:00 p.m., Karst Conference, NCTC, Lou Scavnicky to attend and give comments at the October OCPT general meeting.
- 09/18/2010 Fun Float, Stonebridge to the Snider property. For more information Contact Sandra Bernardi at 304-267-6657 or George Snider:304-263-3572
- 09/23 & 9/30 Woods in Your Backyard workshop
- 10/06/2010 6:30 p.m., OCPT general meeting, guest speaker, Curtis Keller, P.S.S.D. Director
- 10/18/2010 9:00 – 4:00 p.m. Watershed Workshop at the Berkeley 2000 Recreation Center, Lambert Park, 273 Woodbury Avenue, Martinsburg
- 10/30/2010 Riparian Buffer Planting, more information to follow
- 11/03/2010 6:30 p.m. OCPT general meeting
- 11/10/2010 Riparian Buffer Planting, more information to follow
- 11/11-11/14 2010 Chesapeake Watershed Forum, NCTC

### **Guest Speaker**

Craig Snider, USGS, Research Ecologist, gave an interesting presentation on a study he helped complete in 1995 (under-going recent updates) of the Opequon Creek watershed on the influences of upland and riparian land use patterns on stream biotic integrity. The study evaluated the relative effects of urban and agricultural land use on biotic integrity in a ridge and valley watershed. Craig reported results of the study showed urban development, in areas with or without a riparian buffer, increased channel width and storm flow and decreased base flow of the Opequon Creek. A riparian buffer reach was shown of benefit, especially in agricultural areas, by decreasing undercut banks, pool depths and sedimentation.

Minutes of the Meeting Prepared by Mary Palmer, Secretary

