

Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee

Whippany River Watershed Management Group

Minutes of the April 12, 2005 Meeting

Attendance:

- SAL IANNACCONE—HANOVER
- ART VESPIGNANI—PARSIPPANY
- HANK SAWOSKI—MORRIS PLAINS
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TWP
- PEGGY ADAMS—MORRIS TWP, FREEHOLDER REP
- BRIAN MARSHALL—MOUNTAIN LAKES
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TWP
- LOUISE JENSEN—FACILITATOR
- DEBORAH MCCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR
- HERBERT BERMAN—TROUT UNLIMITED HACKLEBARNEY CHAPTER
- KEN SICKNICK—MCSCD
- JEFF KURT—TROUT UNLIMITED HACKLEBARNEY CHAPTER
- MIKE DAIGLE—DAILY RECORD

Absent Municipalities:

- EAST HANOVER
- DENVILLE
- FLORHAM PARK
- MENDHAM BOROUGH
- MORRISTOWN

Sal Iannaccone, Chair, convened the **WMG meeting** at 6:10 pm. WMG meeting was opened to the public with no comment. Meeting adjourned at 6:11pm.

Speaker—Jeff Kurt, Membership Chairman, Hacklebarney Chapter of Trout Unlimited, “Trout Fishing in the Whippany Watershed”

- Whippany River is a trout river, both wild and stocked
- Only native trout to NJ are Brook Trout; trout like cold, clean waters
- Trout Unlimited offers their services to WRWAC
- Conservation leads to good trout fishing; sedimentation smothers rocks, insects and trout cannot lay eggs
- TU offers Adopt-a-Trail program, trout stream tours—toured Patriots Path—fishing trips, clean-ups

Secretary’s Report—*Deborah McComber, Administrator*

- March 24 minutes approved unanimously
- February 28 minutes approved unanimously

Treasurer’s Report—*Brian Marshall for Treasurer, Amy DiBartolo*

- Morris County approved \$17,500 grant to WRWAC for 2005, but we have not received a check to date
- Parsippany has submitted a voucher for dues
- Financial statement for February and March were approved unanimously
- Louise will present a financial breakdown of grants next meeting

Executive Committee Meeting (March 31, 2005) Report—*Deborah McComber and Louise Jensen, Facilitator*

- WRWAC will join Arbor Day clean-up on May 7th with Burnham Park Association and install two signs for Atno Brook (using NJDEP grant money for Atno I); volunteers welcome
- The signs for Atno Brook are estimated to cost under \$250; a motion was made to use left-over ATNO 1 grant funds to pay for the signs and to put remaining funds (about \$250) towards tree/plantings for Arbor Day; motion was approved unanimously
- Speedwell clean-up and removal of invasives set for May 15th at 1pm; will include MHS Outdoor and Environmental Club volunteers and Trout Unlimited fishing presentation
- Troy Brook—draft report planned for next meeting June 2005
- Ken Sicknick noted that the Soil Conservation District is selling seedlings through April 22
- Reps from WRWAC are meeting with Morris Tomorrow and other regional watershed groups on April 25th

Membership Committee will have first meeting at Morris Twp town hall at 8am on April 19th

Program Committee—*Sal Iannaccone*

- Met earlier today
- Discussed potential proposals for NJDEP grants this year; Letter of Intent due April 29; three potential projects were identified: Pine Brook, behind YMCA, Black Brook
- The Committee is asking for Stormwater Management Plans from 12 member towns by April 22; specific members were asked to get plans and contact names (persons at town who are in charge of stormwater regulations), and provide to George Van Orden's office by April 22; Debbie will contact members from Mendham Borough, Florham Park, Morristown, East Hanover and Denville
- Herb Berman noted a training session for water quality monitors is at the Mo. Co. Environmental Center Sat. June 11; perhaps WRWAC could send volunteers, particularly from TAC; Debbie and Louise will look into it; TU could do water monitoring in cold water areas for us when needed

Facilitator Report—*Louise Jensen*

- Pat Rector is reviewing **Black Brook** proposal submitted last year for NJDEP grant to see if feasible for this year
- We have OMNI's plan drawings to serve as foundation for design of plantings in the fall at **Speedwell**
- We should ask **Morristown** for the minutes of the meeting discussing the **new project of townhouses** planned near Speedwell
- **2005 Anniversary Event** planned for September 13th or 20th depending on Veterans Park availability
- A **workshop** on stormwater planning and mitigation plans is planned for October 2005
- The three committees should present **Strategic Planning** ideas at June 14th meeting of Action Committee

Green Table—Next meeting is May 12, 2005 at Frelinghuysen Arboretum at noon on geese and deer control

New Business—*Sal Iannaccone*

- New Mission Statement, put together by Brian Marshall, was approved unanimously
- Brian Marshall will look into a Vision Statement
- As part of Outreach and Program Committee goals, we hope to reach out to mayors of member municipalities with presentation on purpose and activity of WRWAC
- Peg Adams asked that we review damage at Bryant's Stream since project was closed; she and Louise will walk the site; ongoing project stewardship should be discussed at next Program Committee meeting
- Steve Rice of Morris County Planning Department created a map of the watershed for display at Action Committee meetings; group made comments and he will finalize for next meeting

Next meeting is May 10, 2005

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm

Deborah McComber
Administrator