

# Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee

## Whippany River Watershed Management Group

### Minutes of the March 24, 2005 Meeting

#### Attendance:

- ART VESPIGNANI--PARSIPPANY
- HANK SAWOSKI—MORRIS PLAINS
- AMY DiBARTOLO—EAST HANOVER
- CHRIS MANAK—EAST HANOVER
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM
- SAM MANTONE—MADISON
- PEGGY ADAMS—MORRIS TWP
- BRAIN MARSHALL—MOUNTAIN LAKES
- GEORGE VANORDEN—HANOVER TWP
- FAITH TEEPLE—MORRISTOWN
- JAN WOTOWICZ—MORRIS TWP
- WILLIAM DEBUVITZ—MENDHAM BOROUGH
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TWP
- LOUISE JENSEN—FACILITATOR
- DEBORAH MCCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR
- PAT RECTOR—NJDEP
- HERBERT BERMAN—TROUT UNLIMITED HACKLEBARNEY CHAPTER
- JEFF KURT—TROUT UNLIMITED
- RAY WITWICK—EAST HANOVER
- ERIC DAMMEYER—MSTWSP
- JASON TEEPLE—MORRISTOWN

*Art Vespignani, Vice-Chair*, convened the **WMG meeting** at 6:03pm. He noted that the Troy Brook project is doing very well. WMG meeting was opened to the public with no comment. Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

#### **WRWAC meeting convened at 6:06pm.**

#### **Facilitator Report—*Louise Jensen, Facilitator***

- Bruce Barbour, Rutgers Environmental Programs Director, will finish removal of invasives with the help of volunteers this spring; planting work days will start Fall 2005 and finish in Spring 2006.
- Both Atno projects have been closed, but we can use remaining funds to purchase a sign asking that people not destroy or remove plantings/fencing at buffer sites; WRWAC may partner with Burnham Park Association to clean-up the Atno area this spring.

#### **Ordinance Project—*George VanOrden, Project Coordinator***

- George handed out the final report and disks containing all ordinances in Word documents to each municipality rep.
  - We will be returning \$10,000 in funds, which were set aside for but not used by towns to review and adopt ordinances.
  - Towns can use this document towards adoption of a stormwater ordinance due to NJDEP by Oct 2005.
  - George was put in charge of a number of projects early in the career of WRWAC; only one is left—*Lakes Study*—which requires more data collection this spring; he will issue the final report in Nov 2005.
  - Art acknowledged George for all of the excellent work he has done for the Action Committee.
  - Louise noted that the kind of data found in the Ordinance report is what the NJDEP is looking for as a basis for 319 grant proposals.
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## **WRWAC STRATEGIC PLANNING**—*Louise Jensen*

The Exec Comm and several other members from the Action Comm attended a meeting on Feb 24, 2005, to look at goals and strategies over the next two years.

**Chart of Strategic Plan**—handed out to all members with headings of *Challenges*, *Successes*, *Objectives* (one year), *Vision* (2-years) and *Mission*.

**Mission Statement**—based on the group discussion, the By-Laws and WRWAC Action Now statement, Brian Marshall proposed a new Mission Statement which Louise will email to the Action Committee for review and comment. Brian's proposed mission statement reads:

**“As stewards of the Whippany River Watershed, the Action Committee’s purpose is to preserve, protect, and maintain the land and water resources of the watershed. This is accomplished through broad-based community action, implementation of projects, on-going assessment and promotion of resource conservation.”**

**Challenges**—greater member participation, broader visibility, maintenance/stewardship of finished projects, overcoming DEP-dependency with alternative funding sources, establishing an ongoing pipeline of projects.

**Successes**—great reputation, workshops, county and town funding and commitment, regular DEP-acceptance of proposals.

**Three Goals** —Identify projects, market WRWAC projects and activities, motivate members.

**Three Consolidated Committees**—each committee should meet on own and work up a plan to present to the Exec Comm in June 2005.

- **Program (Chair George VanOrden)**—projects and funding, volunteer groups, stewardships
  - Brian Marshall, Art Vespignani, Sal Iannaccone, Ralph Rhodes, Hank Sawoski, Faith Teeple, Jan Wotowicz
- **Outreach (Co-Chairs Amy DiBartolo and Louise Jensen)**—a speaking team, meetings with groups within each municipality, press, brochures, workshops, website
  - Sal Iannaccone, Faith Teeple, Ted Largman, Peg Adams, Robert Kelly (*need to confirm Bob*)
- **Membership—Executive Committee, chaired by Sal Iannaccone**, will handle this objective to motivate members and increase involvement.

### **Committees Needs**

- Other members are encouraged to join either or both of the Program or Outreach committees, especially given the new state stormwater regulation requirements and their impact on each and every municipality.
- Most members prefer to meet early in the morning.
- Debbie McComber and Louise Jensen are available to meet with and assist with committees.
- Debbie will send a roster and email list to all committee members.
- Debbie will put together a Directory of Volunteers for Program Committee.
- Amy DiBartolo put together a list of funding sources which will be emailed to the Program Committee.
- Louise is obtaining towns' preliminary stormwater reports (submitted to County by April 2005) from Ray Zabihach for identification of problem areas for project focus.

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### **NJDEP 319 PROGRAM GUIDELINES**—*Pat Rector, Division of Watershed Management, NJDEP*

- Pat praised WRWAC for always being at the forefront of watershed protection.
- DEP wants to know OVERALL impact on WHOLE watershed as result of a project.
- DEP will prioritize based on quantitative assessment capabilities. Look at your preexisting data.
- Must already be part of a plan available to DEP, do not try to “fit” a pre-existing plan to the guidelines.
- Restoration and protection are key.

- Should be Category 1 and/or have TMDLs determined already and/or be on Sublist 5 (impaired waters).
- The guidelines give nine elements that MUST be addressed as milestones CLEARLY.
- “Intent to Apply” must be submitted by April 29, no exceptions. DEP is flexible on changes to Intent in actual proposal.
- Please contact Pat with any questions.
- “319 is the tool, not the goal.”

**Final Comments—*Art Vespignani***

- Packets to members include minutes and treasurer’s report which we will discuss at next month’s meeting.
- Jeff Kurt from *Trout Unlimited* will be speaking at the next meeting.

**Next meeting is April 12, 2005**

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm

Deborah McComber  
Administrator