

Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee

Whippany River Watershed Management Group

Minutes of the November 2, 2005 Meeting

Attendance:

- SAL IANNACCONO—HANOVER TOWNSHIP
- HANK SAWOSKI—MORRIS PLAINS
- BRIAN MARSHALL—MOUNTAIN LAKES
- ART VESPIGNANI—PARSIPPANY
- TOM KENNY—MORRIS TOWNSHIP
- GEORGE VANORDEN, HANOVER TOWNSHIP, MADISON
- AMY DIBARTOLO—EAST HANOVER
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TOWNSHIP
- VINCE NOVAK—MORRIS PLAINS
- FAITH TEEPLE—MORRISTOWN
- LOUISE JENSEN—FACILITATOR
- DEBORAH MCCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR

Absent Municipalities:

- DENVILLE
- MENDHAM BORO
- MENDHAM TWP
- FLORHAM PARK

Sal Iannaccone, Chair, convened WRWAC meeting at 6:06pm.

Opening Activities

- Welcome to Vince Novak, new member from Morris Plains.
- We have a visitor from Morris Twp interested in learning about the Action Committee.
- Sal Iannaccone awarded George VanOrden with a pin marking five years of membership with WRWAC.

Meeting of the Whippany River Watershed Action Committee was closed in order to call to order the Whippany River Management Group at 6:14 pm.

- Sal Iannaccone called for any business. Given that there was no business and no public discussion, the Management Group meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm.

Whippany River Watershed Action Committee meeting was re-opened at 6:15pm.

Minutes of October 2005 meeting—Deborah McComber. Minutes were unanimously approved with one correction: in reference to the financial report, "income" should read "account balance."

Treasurer's Report—Amy DiBartolo

- The financial statement has not changed since last month's meeting.
- Brian Marshall will present a proposed budget at next month's meeting; subcommittees need to submit budget needs to Budget Committee; example, the Project Committee may need seed money to investigate alternative sources for grants and establish ground work.

Nominating Committee—Art Vespignani

- Jack Schrier cannot be on the Executive Committee next year.

- All others—Amy, Brian, Sal and Art—are renominated to the Executive Committee. This slate was approved unanimously.
- We are looking to appoint a Secretary and require another at-large member to replace Jack. Executive Committee members need to be available to attend monthly meetings at noon.
- Committee members are encouraged to make nominations before the next meeting, at which time elections will be held.

Executive Committee Report—*Deborah McComber*

- The meeting last month was held on Oct 27, 2005 after the Workshop.
- Deborah is putting together dues and membership letters to send out to towns in the Whippany watershed in December 2005.

Facilitators Report—*Louise Jensen*

- Two engineering firms have shown an interest in providing **technical support** for projects and their proposals; there may be some fees involved; the Program Committee will talk with these firms.
- **Speedwell Lake** project is nearly finished except for spring work in 2006.
- The **Schumman Fund**, which supports environmental issues, might be interested in Black Brook. An initial letter will be sent based on phone conversation.
- Proposals for grants by the **Dodge Foundation** are due in spring 2006. Dodge has a new environmental program director; and based on their sustainability focus for Morristown, they would most likely be interested in the second phase of our strategic plan—restoration plan for the Watnong/Whippany sub-watershed in Morris Plains and Morristown.
- **Website**—ready to go but waiting for input from Louise; Debbie will check PO box to see if we have been assigned a spot on Madison's Rosenet server yet.
- The AC has a new overview **brochure**, designed and written by Deb McComber. Everyone was asked to pick up a copy. Louise highlighted Deb's great job
- **Workshop**—While there was a low turnout, partially due to NJDEP not sending out their notices to non-Morris County people, 40 attendees with ten out of 12 member towns represented participated. It was an excellent workshop; the Lambertville presentation noted the importance of towns sharing information with one another, and within their own government offices, boards and committees. Stormwater regulations touch upon everyone; there is no One-Size-Fits-All plan although Sandy Blick, NJDEP, is working on a guidance document to help towns plan; WRWAC will make sure members receive the document when ready; all NJ towns need to pass a stormwater ordinance by April 2006.

Hike—10am at Fosterfields; Louise will bring snacks and water.

Upcoming Meetings—*Louise Jensen*

- The Mosquito Commission will speak at the December meeting.
- George VanOrden will make a presentation on the final results of the Lakes Study, also in December; he plans to offer a half-day seminar on the study in the spring of 2006.
- Ken Nelson, Morristown Planning, or the Willow Hall developer may speak in January 2006 concerning the proposed project in Morristown.
- Jim Slate, township engineer, and Steven Sousa, of Princeton Hydro, will speak on the proposed project at the reservoir on Western Avenue in Morristown Twp.
- Warnock Ford may speak concerning the expansion of its facility on Route 10.
- Louise will consult the Dodge Foundation about their new "green" facility being built in Morristown and a possible presentation.

Committee Reports

- **Membership**-- letters are going out in December 2005.
- **Outreach**—Jason Teeple is working on the website per above; brochure is completed along with the Storm Water Mitigation Workshop...stay tuned!
- **Program**—The committee will meet to address the two possible partner firms and next steps.

New Business

- Jeanette Stein will work for WRWAC as an intern from December 2005 through May 2006; she attended the workshop; the Exec. Committee approved plans for Jeanette to assist the Outreach Committee in establishing the AC's speakers bureau—where members go out to community groups to talk about the river and watershed and help organize the spring canoe trip; the Membership Committee in setting up a database for members/media/etc

Lakes Study—*George VanOrden*

- George discussed preliminary results on the Lakes Study.
- His 150 page report will be completed in 3-4 days and available by the December meeting
- Only two lakes have serious concerns—Speedwell and Bee Meadow.
- Speedwell is very shallow except near the dam due to sedimentation, a major cause of poor water quality and is showing a high phosphorous level
- The report will be posted on the website.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Deborah McComber, Administrator