

Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee

Whippany River Watershed Management Group

Minutes of the March 1, 2006 Meeting

Attendance:

- BRIAN MARSHALL—MOUNTAIN LAKES
- ART VESPIGNANI—PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS
- AMY DiBARTOLO—EAST HANOVER
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TOWNSHIP
- VINCE NOVAK—MORRIS PLAINS
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TWP
- GARY ECK—PFIZER
- TOM KENNY—MORRIS TWP
- BOB STRECHAY—PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS
- DONNA BANGIOLA—MORRISTOWN
- FAITH TEEPLE—MORRISTOWN
- JANIS SLUTSKY—MENDHAM BORO
- LOUISE JENSEN—FACILITATOR
- DEBORAH McCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR
- JEANNETTE STEIN—INTERN
- JOHN WRIGHT—HACKLEBARNEY CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED

Absent Municipalities:

- DENVILLE
- FLORHAM PARK
- MADISON
- HANOVER

Art Vespignani, Vice-Chair, convened Whippany Watershed Management Group meeting at 6:04pm.

- On March 8, 2006, at 10am, there will be a stakeholders meeting on the Troy Brook project at the Parsippany Municipal Building, Council Chambers. Milestone 2 will be reviewed and Milestone 3 next steps discussed. Please be sure all "Troy Brook" towns are represented so they can provide input into Milestone 3.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:06pm.

Whippany River Watershed Action Committee meeting was opened at 6:07pm.

Art Vespignani welcomed Bob Strechay, the new rep from Parsippany-Troy Hills.

Minutes of February 1, 2006 meeting—Deborah McComber.

- Ted Largman noted that follow-up concerning WRWAC participation in the Morristown Fall Festival should be with Joe Garifo at the County, not the Partnership.
- The minutes were approved with one correction.

Nominating Committee—Art Vespignani

- Tom Kenny has agreed to nomination as Secretary and, therefore, a member of the Executive Committee on a trial basis for 2006. His nomination was approved unanimously. Deb McComber, was instructed, as acting Secretary to submit a unanimous vote for Tom as Secretary.

Treasurer's Report—Amy DiBartolo

- Amy presented the February 2006 Financial report.
- We have received dues from E. Hanover, Morris Twp and Mendham Boro; and vouchers from Morristown, Madison and Mendham Twp. Parsippany sent an email stating that the dues would be forthcoming.
- The County sent a voucher for \$17,500.
- Speedwell payments are up to date except for last quarter ending Dec06 (quarterly report attached).
- Atno is closed and we have received the last payment from NJDEP for \$6000.
- We have \$42,719 (plus \$6000 from Atno) available for spending.
- Amy recommends that we purchase Bank of America CDs for 9 months which allow for 3 withdrawals, but she is checking with the accountant to seek his approval.
- The budget was adopted unanimously.

Executive Committee Meeting February 22, 2006—Deborah McComber

- Dues and membership reminders for 2006 were sent to Whippany Watershed towns.
- We approved invoices for payments to staff.

Facilitator & Program Report—Louise Jensen

- **Speedwell**—Louise consulted with Pat Rector, NJDEP, about the \$18,000 still available for consultants. Pat will consider the request to put the money towards a Phase 2 at Speedwell based on the Lakes Management Study's results. She will consult with NJDEP staff. The Program Committee met with Kirk Barrett from the Passaic River Institute about partnering on such a project. We also have funds provided by the Friends of the Whippany to improve Patriot's Path at Speedwell. We will be finishing up at Speedwell this spring with a clean-up day which will involve decreasing the grade down to the lake, adding a step to three fishing platforms and planting native shrubs.
- **Western Avenue**—Jim Slate, Engineer for Morris Twp, has asked Princeton Hydro for a project proposal to improve the site of the breached dam. When there is a defined project we will consider sources of funding available for this project.
- **Black Brook**—Louise is talking with Pat Rector about ways to improve our project proposal for reapplying to NJDEP for RFP19 funding in 2006. Pat received approval to work with us but now is concerned that NJDEP is shifting a percent of funds toward implementation projects based on approved plans. Pat recommended re-looking at our Sanitary Survey report as a basis for requesting a grant to develop implementation/restoration plans for reduction of fecal TMDL watershed-wide.
- Discussion followed concerning project priorities; it was decided that we should put together several projects with alternative sources of funding in mind. Dodge and Stony Brook/Millstone as Dodge's regrating agency may offer funding possibilities. We will need to consider more than one consultant for technological input. One new group recommended by Jack Schrier is GSE. Louise will set up a meeting with GSE and the Program Committee.
- Louise, Amy and Jeanette are attending the 10th Annual Land Conservation Rally on March 25. Others are welcome; call Louise if you are interested. Everyone will be paying their own way. Registration is \$70 before 3/10 and \$40 for students.

Outreach Committee Report—Amy DiBartolo

- John Madden took a test canoe trip on the route of the Whippany River that WRWAC had planned for an April 2006 trip; he recommended against this challenging route but suggested an alternate stretch further south. Louise will speak with him to confirm a date and get a flyer out to members soon.
- Donna Bangiola volunteered to help with the canoe trip.

- Amy thanked Louise for making the subcommittees happen. They are really doing productive work. She asked that someone else take over chairing Outreach in the future.
- The Water Bucks Incentive Program is finalized. We will kick it off at our April meeting. Rewards will be handed out at this year's Anniversary Water Festival. We are seeking donations for rewards. Members were asked to consider reward possibilities, such as gift certificates and speak with Amy or Louise. Please be sure to sign attendance sheets at all meetings and events to qualify for Water Bucks!
- Jason Teeple is finalizing the website. Rosenet is set up to host it. We will be sending out notices to members soon asking them to visit the website, review it and provide comments.
- Jeanette Stein discussed the Power Point presentation to be given to nonprofit groups interested in hearing about our organization. We need a team of members trained to do the presentations, estimated at about 12 per year. A team of 6 would mean that each person would only need to make 1 to 2 presentations during the year...suggested team members include: Art Vespignani, Hank Sawaski, Brian Marshall, Amy DiBartola, Louise Jensen...other Action Committee members are encouraged to consider participating as a presenter. Please contact Amy or Louise.

Membership—*Deborah McComber*

- In addition to other towns noted last month, Florham Park and Parsippany have sent emails listing members for 2006.

Old Business—*Art Vespignani*

- Ted Largman noted in the Speedwell quarterly report handed out today that we are dealing with invasives. Does this include geese and deer and how are we dealing with this problem? In answer, Louise noted that "invasives" are plants, but we have addressed geese and deer in workshops and as part of the Atno projects. In fact, we need to make sure someone addles the eggs at Burnham Park this year. The County is provided a training session on addling. Donna Bangiola said she would volunteer to help.

New Business

- John Wright from The Hacklebarney Chapter of Trout Unlimited is proposing a Clean-Up day on the Whippany River in late April or early May and wants to partner with WRWAC. An area of concern is behind Acorn Hall at Frelinghuysen Arboretum. It was recommend that TU contact Morris Land Conservancy and the Parks Commission. A SLAP crew may be needed ahead of time. Louise will meet with TU and help with the planning. We can provide our trailer with equipment.
- There is a 7:30pm Board of Adjustment meeting in Morristown tonight concerning the Willow Hall proposed development near Speedwell Lake.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting is April 5, 2006. Speakers from Geraldine Dodge Foundation and Gensler will discuss plans for a Sustainable Communities/Green Building project in Morristown.

Deborah McComber, Administrator