

Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee

Whippany River Watershed Management Group

Minutes of the March 7, 2007 Meeting

Attendance:

- BRIAN MARSHALL—SECRETARY, WRWAC; MT. LAKES
- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TWP
- AMY DiBARTOLO—TREASURER, WRWAC; EAST HANOVER
- CHRIS MANAK—EAST HANOVER
- BOB STRECHAY—PARSIPPANY
- BOB CONLEY—MADISON
- JANIS SLUTSKY—MENDHAM BORO
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TOWNSHIP
- DONNA BANGIOLA—MORRISTOWN
- RICH TAUBALD—HANOVER
- PEGGY ADAMS—FREEHOLDERS
- DEBORAH McCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- JON WRIGHT—TROUT UNLIMITED
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER
- VINCE NOVAK—MORRIS PLAINS
- STAN WITCZAK—MENDHAM BORO
- RAY ZABIHACH—MORRIS CO. PLANNING BOARD
- LOUISE JENSEN—VICE-CHAIR, WRWAC; MORRIS TOWNSHIP
- KEN SICKNICK—MORRIS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION
- CAPTAIN BILL SHEEHAN—HACKENSACK RIVERKEEPER

Absent Municipalities:

- DENVILLE
- FLORHAM PARK

The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 6:05pm by Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer. There is a Troy Brook stakeholders meeting at Hanover Town Hall on March 20 at 10am. Towns are encouraged to send a rep to the meeting. Chris Obropta, Project Manager, will present Milestone 4. There was no public comment. The meeting ended at 6:06pm.

Amy opened the WRWAC meeting at 6:06pm. She introduced today's speaker, Cap't Bill Sheehan, Hackensack Riverkeeper.

- Brochures were handed out. See website hackensackriverkeeper.org.
- Capt Sheehan described the purpose of a riverkeeper and reviewed their very successful efforts to preserve and protect the Hackensack area wetlands and river.
- The Hackensack Riverkeeper is an incorporated nonprofit organization with five full-time employees and five seasonal employees, 11 trustees and 6 advisors. They have a 10,000 person mailing list and operate with a budget of \$400-500,000 per year.
- They deal with pollution through action and lobbying, offer workshops, provide recreational facilities and activities, oversee land use issues and establish protected open space and park land.
- They are in the process of building a 17 mile river front pedestrian walk; they offer paddle boats, eco-cruises and eco-walks.

Minutes of February 7, 2007 meeting—Deborah McComber

- Minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report—Amy DiBartolo

- A list of towns that have submitted vouchers for dues was handed out and members were encouraged to remind their towns to pay dues for 2007 if they have not done so.
- The February 2007 Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Facilitator's Report—Art Vespignani

- A proposal to the Victoria Foundation for the **Black Brook** project was submitted on Feb 1.
- Steve Sousa, Princeton Hydro, is in contact with Pat Rector, NJDEP, concerning our plans for a **Sanitary Survey follow-up project**. After their discussion, Sousa will finalize a proposal and Pat will look into funding from NJDEP from sources other than the usual 319.
- **Western Avenue**—Steve Sousa is talking with Jim Slate, Morris Twp, about finalizing proposals and obtaining funding from a number of different sources.
- Proposed **Native Plant Nursery** in prior SLAPP location off Mendham Road in Morris Twp by Morris County Soil Conservation District—Jon Wright, Amy DiBartolo, Art Vespignani and Donna Bangiola inspected the area with Joe Dunn from MCSCD and went over plans for plantings along stream bank. A motion was made and unanimously approved for the Executive Board to make a decision on this proposal after further review at the next meeting on March 21. A representative from Morris County Soil Conservation will attend the next EC meeting.
- **Hanover Airport Expansion**—WRWAC sent a letter to the NJDEP opposing the expansion.
- The **next EC meeting** is at 7pm at Hanover Town Hall on March 21. All are welcome.
- Art announced that **Louise Jensen received a student scholarship** from the Morris Land Conservancy.
- Rob Agree, a rep from **Unity Charter School**, near Speedwell Lake, says his school is very interested in partnering with our organization.

Outreach—Amy DiBartolo

- Rich Taubald is planning a presentation about WRWAC to high school science classes, starting with Randolph High School. Amy recommended he approach Hanover High and Unity Charter School next.
- Five clean-ups are currently planned for Spring Clean Up Day on April 21. If we sign up on their website, American Rivers Inc. will provide support and coffee. Debbie will email members contact info on "How to Plan a Clean Up" provided by this organization.
- All towns are welcome to join the clean up day. Contact Amy. Ralph Rhodes thought Mendham Twp might be planning something that day.
- Earth Day is April 22. The Morris Co. Park Commission is sponsoring a program at Sunrise Lake. WRWAC will take part with a booth and an interactive display. Louise Jensen suggested teaming up with MCSCD for a streamside restoration show. Donna Bangiola volunteered to help with the booth.
- Ray Zabihach will provide Amy with the names of the stormwater regulations coordinators for the towns in the watershed.
- There is an all day seminar on how to enforce the stormwater regulations at construction sites offered by MCSCD on March 16 for \$35. Town reps are encouraged to attend.
- Art asked for a volunteer to locate addresses of local businesses that may be contacted for support for our activities. Name and addresses can be obtained through a web search.

Program—Brian Marshall

- See Facilitator's Report.

Membership—Deborah McComber

- Please contact the chair of the Outreach Committee (Amy DiBartolo or Louise Jensen) or Program Committee (George VanOrden) if you are interested in joining. These two committees do much of the planning for our group.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

**The next meeting is April 4, 2007, with speaker, Joseph Mattle, NJDEP Water Supply.
The next Executive Committee meeting is March 21, 2007.**

Deborah McComber