

# Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee

## Whippany River Watershed Management Group

### Minutes of the September 12, 2007 Meeting

#### Attendance:

- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- AMY DiBARTOLO—TREASURER, WRWAC; EAST HANOVER
- SAL IANNACCONE—CHAIR WRWAC, HANOVER
- BOB STRECHAY—PARSIPPANY
- RICH TAUBALD—HANOVER
- DEBORAH McCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- PEGGY ADAMS—FREEHOLDERS OF MORRIS COUNTY
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TOWNSHIP
- JANIS SLUTSKY MENDHAM BORO
- CARY LLOYD—MORRISTOWN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER
- VINCE NOVAK—MORRIS PLAINS
- PAT RECTOR—NJDEP
- CHRIS MANAK—EAST HANOVER
- JEFF KURT—HACKLEBARNEY, TROUT UNLIMITED
- KIRK BARRETT—PASSAIC RIVER INSTITUTE

#### Absent Municipalities:

- DENVILLE
- FLORHAM PARK
- MADISON
- MORRIS PLAINS

The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 6:20pm by Sal Iannaccone, Chair. There was no discussion, no public input. The meeting was closed at 6:22pm.

**Sal opened the WRWAC meeting at 6:22pm. He introduced the speaker, Dr. Kirk Barrett, from the Passaic River Institute.** Mr. Barrett discussed the recently completed Speedwell Lake Sedimentation Project. The project was broken down into two parts: an investigation of the scour hole and a look at the sources and amount of phosphorus being brought into the lake. It was recommended that Morristown continue to clean out the scour hole at least once a year. Pat Rector, NJDEP, indicated that she will be writing a “success story” for this project and posting it on the NJDEP website.

**Minutes of June 6, 2007 meeting—Deborah McComber, Administrator**

- Minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer’s Report—Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer**

- The treasurer’s reports for June, July, August and September will be presented for a vote at the October meeting.

**Executive Committee Report—Art Vespignani**

- To be covered during this meeting.

**Facilitator’s Report—Art Vespignani**

- **Western Avenue**—Art has been in contact with Jim Slate, Morris Twp, who is putting together cost estimates for a proposal on this project.
- **Sanitary Survey**—in the hands of the NJDEP. We could not arrange for a location for a fall Visual Assessment Workshop; plan to arrange in the spring. Pat Rector, NJDEP, noted that they could provide training in the spring. Please let Deborah McComber know if you are interested in being trained—it is likely that we will need volunteers to do visual assessment as part of a sanitary survey project, if approved.

- **Black Brook**—planning to search for alternative funding sources, since this project was not accepted by the Victoria Foundation.
- **Troy Brook**—there will be a Program Committee meeting on September 18 to prioritize projects recommended by the plan. The next step is to meet with town mayors for their input. Anyone interested in attending this meeting and/or joining the committee is welcome. Pat Rector highlighted the success of this project; in particular, NJDEP is pleased with WRWAC's garnering of support from the towns involved.

**Outreach Committee**—*Amy DiBartolo*

- **Speakers Bureau**—Amy has updated the presentation. Rich Taubald is our main presenter and is contacting high schools. Amy asked members to recommend groups who may wish to receive this presentation.
- The **mapping** of the watershed signs is moving forward.
- Amy, Ralph Rhodes and Brian Marshall have put together a Speedwell Lake PP presentation to show towns interested in knowing about the results of this project. Cary Lloyd from the Morristown Environmental Committee said he would recommend the presentation to his group.
- A **hike** along Patriots Path from Speedwell Lake, Morristown, to Central Park, Hanover is planned for October 13 at 9:30am. Contact Deborah McComber if you plan to attend. Friends are welcome.
- Posting on the **website** is temporarily on hold while Madison changes servers.
- There is a gypsy moth presentation at this month's **Green Table** meeting on Sept. 25 at 8am.

**Phosphorus TMDLs**—Art noted that this new standard issued by the NJDEP remains on the agenda because of its importance to towns as it affects their treatment plants.

**Membership**—*Deborah McComber*

- Please consider joining one of our subcommittees, Outreach or Program.

**Old Business**—*Art Vespignani*

- Amy noted that we have \$1400 provided by the Whippany River Association to be spent at Speedwell Lake. Louise Jensen took a look at the site and identified a clean up project along Patriots Path that could be conducted in the spring using volunteers from Morris Land Conservancy.
- Jeff Kurt, Trout Unlimited, noted that TU's measure of invertebrates at Sunrise Lake was the best ever. WRWAC will post the data on its website.
- Art will be purchasing a computer for use for presentations that is compatible with our projector.
- Pat Rector noted that Americorp has selected a new ambassador whom Pat hopes to bring to the WRWAC November meeting. Pat recommends partnering with her/him with educational plans.
- Amy recommended that we again participate in the Sunrise Lake Earth Day event which has been planned for next April.
- Cary Lloyd noted that Morristown has an Open Space referendum on the ballot this year.
- A macro-invertebrate assessment training program on October 24 and a volunteering monitoring summit in November are both planned by NJDEP. Go to their website for details.
- There is a Rapid Bioassessment Protocol training workshop planned by the Watershed Watch Network on October 23 and 24. Debbie will forward the flier to members.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.**

**The next AC meeting is October 3, 2007.**

**The next Executive Committee meeting is September 19, 2007.**

*Deborah McComber*