

# Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee

## Whippany River Watershed Management Group

### Minutes of the February 6, 2008 Meeting

#### Attendance:

- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TWP
- LOUISE JENSEN—MORRIS TWP, VICE-CHAIR WRWAC
- DEBORAH MCCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- PEGGY ADAMS—FREEHOLDERS OF MORRIS COUNTY
- JEFF KURT—HACKLEBARNEY, TROUT UNLIMITED
- HANK SAWOSKI—MORRIS PLAINS
- KELLI O'CONNOR—MORRIS CADB
- ALISON DEEB—MORRISTOWN
- ROBERT CONLEY—MADISON
- MIKE ROMANKIEWICZ—WATERSHED AMBASSADOR
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TOWNSHIP
- JANIS SLUTSKY—MENDHAM BORO
- STAN WITCZAK—MENDHAM BORO
- MARY-ANNA HOLDEN—MADISON
- RICH TAUBALD—HANOVER
- DONNA BANGIOLA—MORRISTOWN
- AMY DiBARTOLO—EAST HANOVER
- DR. DUKE OPHORI—MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

#### Absent Municipalities:

- FLORHAM PARK
- DENVILLE
- MT LAKES
- PARSIPPANY

**Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer, opened the Action Committee meeting at 6:09pm.** She welcomed new members and asked for introductions around the room.

**Amy introduced the speaker,** Dr. Duke Ophori, Professor at Montclair State University, who spoke about the "Effects of Groundwater Pumping in the Passaic River Basin." Dr. Ophori described a simulation model developed and applied to that area.

**The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting** was opened at 7:10pm by Louise Jensen, Vice-Chair. There was no discussion, no public input. The meeting was closed at 7:10pm.

**Louise reopened the Action Committee meeting at 7:11pm.**

**Minutes of December 12, 2007 meeting—Deborah McComber, Administrator**

- Minutes were unanimously approved.

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

- The budget for 2008 was presented for the benefit of anyone who missed the December meeting when it was adopted. It includes seed money for \$10,000 for water quality sampling at the lakes covered in the Lakes Study in order to determine the ongoing health of the Whippany River.
- The January 2008 treasurer's report includes a break down of future projects versus non-grant-based activity. Nothing was billed to specific projects last month.

**Executive Committee Report—Art Vespignani**

- To be covered by the facilitator's report.

### **Facilitator's Report**—*Art Vespignani*

- **Speedwell Lake**—\$1400 will be spent for a spring clean-up day to mulch and fix the steps. Louise is working with a high school student going for his Eagle Scout badge to arrange the clean-up day.
- **Sanitary Survey**—grant request is in the hands of the NJDEP.
- **Black Brook**—Laura Newgard, EcolScience, led a walk with AC members and another with AC members and airport personnel in January and February through the wetlands surrounding the Morristown Airport. WRWAC has determined that the restoration plan proposed by EcolScience is the best of the proposals that have been submitted and hopes to obtain funding for the Black Brook proposal. The plans will actually be “recreating wetlands.”
- **Visual Assessment Workshop**—scheduled for April 5 from 8:30am to 3:00pm. The program will start in the Morris County Cultural Center in Morris Township and break to a flowing water section of the watershed for visual assessment field work. Danielle Donkersloot of NJDEP Watershed Management will teach the program with assistance by Watershed Ambassador, Mike Romankiewicz. The workshop will train volunteers to assess conditions of a stream. One goal is to garner volunteers to do visual assessments as part of future WRWAC projects. A sign-up sheet was passed out at the meeting. The workshop is limited to 35 people.
- **Troy Brook**—the Program Committee met last month and selected potential projects in Parsippany, Mt. Lakes and Hanover based on the Troy Brook Regional Management Plan, Part B, which will be submitted to the NJDEP in the next round of 319 grants.
- **Western Avenue**—Louise Jensen spoke with Jim Slate from Morris Twp. Jim Slate and Steve Souza, Princeton Hydro, are finalizing a budget to present for initial funding from the County.
- **Morris Twp Land Use Classification**—the Morris Twp Environmental Commission met and reviewed the proposed land use reclassification by the Twp relative to the State plan. There were issues in the Washington Valley area with pockets of Planning Area 1's set in the middle of a Planning Area 5. These classifications determine funding from the State. It is important for all towns to look carefully at the State plan and coordinate it with their own maps.
- For the March meeting, Art is arranging for representatives from about three member towns who will **speak on the status of stormwater management**.

### **Outreach Committee**—*Amy DiBartolo*

- **Earth Day**—Saturday, April 19 at Sunrise Lake from 11am to 4pm. WRWAC will be doing Watershed Jeopardy again. A sign-up sheet was sent around the room asking for help with set-up (10am), Jeopardy hosts, and clean-up (4pm).
- **Speakers Bureau**—we have a Power Point presentation about the AC as well as a summary of the project at Speedwell Lake for presentation to civic groups. Please submit names of groups to the Outreach Committee. Debbie McComber will send letters to the mayors of Morristown, Morris Township and Morris Plains asking if they would like to see the Speedwell Lake presentation.
- **Canoe Trip**—Amy spoke with John Madden a teacher at Morristown High School about spearheading our third spring kayak/canoe trip along the Whippany River. He will scout out a route and lead the trip.
- Art Vespignani is talking with the County Parks' historian about rescheduling a **hike with commentary** along Patriots Path in Morristown.
- **Watershed Signage**—forms noting where signs currently exist are being submitted by observant AC members. Amy and Louise will identify locations on an area map with a goal towards identifying where additional signs should be installed, perhaps with funding obtained by area sponsors.
- WRWAC may put together a **spring clean-up day** in partnership with Trout Unlimited.
- Debbie will put together **binders with WRWAC information** for new members.

### **Membership**—*Deborah McComber*

- A list of towns that have sent in their 2008 member selections and/or dues vouchers was handed out. Members were asked to remind those towns that have not yet responded.

**New Business—*Louise Jensen***

- Donna Bangiola brought up an article in the paper which highlighted a Morristown early-stage proposal to generate power from the Whippany River. The Committee will watch for future developments.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm. The Outreach Committee met afterwards to discuss the workshop.**

**The next AC meeting is March 5, 2008.**

**The next Executive Committee meeting is February 20, 2008.**

*Deborah McComber*