

# Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee

## Whippany River Watershed Management Group

### Minutes of the June 4, 2008 Meeting

#### Attendance:

- SAL IANNACONE—HANOVER, CHAIR WRWAC
- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- RICH TAUBALD—HANOVER
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TWP
- BRIAN MARSHALL—MT. LAKES, SECRETARY WRWAC
- PAT DELA FUENTE—PARSIPPANY
- ART CATALUSCI—MORRIS COUNTY
- LEN CIPKINS—PARSIPPANY
- BRIAN JACOBUS—MCMUA
- DEBORAH McCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- PEGGY ADAMS—FREEHOLDERS OF MORRIS COUNTY
- BOB CONLEY—MADISON
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER TOWNSHIP
- HANK SAWOSKI—MORRIS PLAINS
- BOB STRECHAY—PARSIPPANY
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TOWNSHIP
- DONNA BANGIOLA—MORRISTOWN
- AMY DiBARTOLO—EAST HANOVER, TREASURER WRWAC
- JON WRIGHT—HACKLEBARNEYN CHAPTER, TROUT UNLIMITED
- MIKE ROMANKIEWICZ—WATERSHED AMBASSADOR
- RAY ZABIHACH—MORRIS CO. PLANNING BOARD
- KEN SICKNICK—MORRIS COUNTY SCD
- PAT RECTOR—NJDEP
- MATT SMART—E AND G SERVICES
- STEVE SOUZA—PRINCETON HYDRO
- KIRK BARRETT—PASSAIC RIVER INSTITUTE
- CHRIS OBROPTA—RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

#### Absent Municipalities:

- FLORHAM PARK
- MENDHAM BORO

**The Whippany River Watershed Management Group** public meeting was opened at 6:05pm by Sal Iannaccone, Chair. There was no discussion, no public input. The meeting was closed at 6:05pm.

**Sal Iannaccone opened the Action Committee meeting at 6:06pm and introduced the speakers: Pat Rector, NJDEP, Dr. Chris Obropta, Rutgers University Cooperative Extension and Dr. Steve Sousa, Princeton Hydro.** The three speakers addressed the recently approved (pending signature by NJDEP Commissioner) 319(h) grants applicable to the Whippany River watershed: the Sanitary Survey grant and the Troy Brook Watershed 2008 BMP Implementation Plan. Pat gave a history of the grants and the process through which the grants were approved and thanked everyone for their hard work and perseverance. She noted the NJDEP wants to see measurable results in water quality and recommended concentrating in one place rather than applying efforts across too many sites. She also advised that we use our volunteers, not just for needs specific to the grants, but as watershed stewards.

Dr. Chris Obropta explained the final proposal approved by NJDEP for the Troy Brook Implementation grant. It can be reviewed at [www.water.rutgers.edu](http://www.water.rutgers.edu). This is a grant stemming from Part B of the Troy Brook Regional Stormwater Management Plan, which targeted projects that could achieve the goals set down in the plan. This grant addresses both flooding and water quality. Rutgers is already collecting data at three sampling sites with Rutgers funding. It involves both engineering and implementation; specifically, they plan to retrofit a retention basin on Cherry Hill Road, and to create a disconnection and infiltration of impervious surfaces in four adjacent sub-basins. He emphasized the importance of obtaining strong support from property owners.

Dr. Steve Sousa discussed the Sanitary Survey Watershed and Protection Plan for the Whippany River watershed, which involves completion of studies characterizing sources of fecal coliform pollution in Morris County's Whippany River watershed and the construction of a BMP that will measurably reduce fecal coliform loading to the river. There is a major in-kind requirement of \$63,000. They hope to build a library of fecal DNA. This is an ambitious project to cover in three years, so we need to get started right away. Dr. Sousa has already begun work on the Quality Assurance Plan for this project.

**Minutes of May 7 Meeting**—*Deborah McComber, Administrator*

- Minutes were approved unanimously.

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

- The check from the Morris County freeholders came.
- The treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

**Executive Committee Report on May 21 meeting**—*Art Vespignani*

- To be covered by the facilitator's report.
- Everyone is invited to attend EC meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at Hanover Town Hall.

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

- **Speedwell Lake**—a high school student going for his Eagle Scout badge is arranging a restoration project with the town of Morristown this spring.
- **Lake Sampling**—on hold due to weather. George VanOrden and others must wait to sample under dry weather conditions. We are submitting a grant proposal to Stoneybrook to fund this sampling which otherwise we will fund ourselves.
- The **Program Committee** met on May 13 and discussed the watershed grants recently recommended by the NJDEP. The next meeting is June 12 at 8:30am.
- **Sanitary Survey**—see speaker summary. We are looking for funding to purchase extra meters.
- **Troy Brook**—see speaker summary. Art met with Chris Obropta and the Superintendent of Hanover schools concerning a rain garden at the Middle School to be built in April 2009. It was recognized that the local garden club should be involved to insure constant maintenance.
- **Western Avenue**—Steve Sousa noted that this is a \$72,000 project for the redevelopment of a reservoir into a storm management basin and the replacement of a culvert. He has been doing data modeling to meet the needs of the NJDEP given that this is a flood hazard area. There will also be extensive permitting requirements. The data will be provided to Jim Slate, Morris Twp. engineer, tomorrow.
- **Black Brook**—waiting for response from NJDEP.
- **Dodge Foundation** submittal—waiting for decision on grant proposal for \$29,500 for sedimentation assessment at Speedwell Lake and Pocahontas Lake.
- **Morristown plans to build DPW facility near sewage plant on Whippany River.** Jeff Hartke told Art that the plan is to put a turbine at the plant so that outfall can drive it to produce energy. This might be a beneficial plan for other towns, as well.
- The NJDEP sent WRWAC a **Watershed Needs Survey**, which the EC decided to send out to consultants for bid; it makes sense to provide a comprehensive response that can be used in the future.

**Outreach**—*Jim Baranski*

- Donna Bangiola gave an overview of the very successful **kayak trip** with 22 boats.
- Brian Marshall reported on **Mt. Lakes Day** and commended the Girl Scouts for their Green Awareness event at which Donna Bangiola and Jeff Kurt hosted Watershed Jeopardy.
- We ask that members list a civic group in their towns that would be interested in a **Power Point presentation** about WRWAC. Please submit at least one name worth two WaterBucks. Peg Adams submitted the Morris Plains Garden Club. The WaterBucks program was explained to the group.
- Mike Romankiewicz is sponsoring an **Organic Lawn Care Seminar** at Frelinghuysen Arboretum on July 19. WRWAC provided \$100 in sponsorship funds, will help with promotion and will provide a booth. Mike will send Debbie McComber a flyer and she will help with promotion and logistics.
- It was recommended that we participate in the **Parsippany Fall Festival and Hanover Day**.

- Kathleen Margiotta, Morristown, has asked for our help in planning a **Parks & Ponds Day**. She is hoping to involve communities in addition to Morristown.
- **Speakers Bureau**—Rich Taubald has reached out to local schools and will follow-up in the fall.
- Brian Marshal will present the **PP presentation on the Speedwell Lake project** to the Morristown Town Council on June 24. Brian, Rich, Jim, Ralph Rhodes, Amy and Art will review and update the presentation after today's meeting. Art thanked Alison Deeb for scheduling the presentation.
- **Watershed Signage**—Louise Jensen and Amy are getting together to identify where additional signs are needed. Amy recommended putting signs where SVAPs take place to note stewardship areas.

**Old Business**—*none*

**New Business**—*Sal Iannaccone*

- Ted Largman asked about pipes that are leaking under a bridge in Morris Township. Art will contact the County since bridges are under its jurisdiction.
- Kirk Barrett talked about the October 2008 **Passaic River Symposium**. He asked that WRWAC provide a presentation and handed out a flyer. The EC will discuss at its next meeting.

**The next AC meeting is September 10, 2008.** We will be playing Watershed Jeopardy. Location TBA.

**The next Executive Committee meeting is June 18, 2008.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.**

*Deborah McComber*