

Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee

Whippany River Watershed Management Group

Minutes of the October 1, 2008 Meeting

Attendance:

- SAL IANNACONE—HANOVER, CHAIR WRWAC
- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- RICH TAUBALD—HANOVER
- BRIAN MARSHALL—MT. LAKES, SECRETARY WRWAC
- PAT DELA FUENTE—PARSIPPANY
- DEBORAH MCCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- PEGGY ADAMS—FREEHOLDERS OF MORRIS COUNTY
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER
- BOB STRECHAY—PARSIPPANY
- AMY DiBARTOLO—EAST HANOVER, TREASURER WRWAC
- JEFF KURT—HACKLEBARNEY CHAPTER, TROUT UNLIMITED
- BRIAN JACOBUS—MORRIS CO. MUA
- DONNA BANGIOLA—MORRISTOWN
- ANDRE JENSEN—MORRIS PLAINS
- JEFFREY HARTZ

Absent Municipalities:

- FLORHAM PARK
- MENDHAM BORO
- MENDHAM TWP
- MADISON
- MORRIS TWP
- DENVILLE

The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 6:18pm by Sal Iannaccone, Chair. There was no discussion, no public input. The meeting was closed at 6:19pm.

Sal Iannaccone opened the Action Committee meeting at 6:19pm.

Treasurer's Report—*Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer*

- Accounts have been included for the two new grants; we submit invoices and are reimbursed for expenses by NJDEP on a quarterly basis for the NPS Implementation Grant; we submit invoices to Rutgers for the Troy Brook RSMP grant.

Outreach—*Jim Baranski*

- Donna Bangiola will arrange for a clean up with a **Morris Twp brownie troop** led by Carolyn Lake; Donna has ideas for a good location; the Watershed Ambassador may be able to help out and show the troop the Enviroscope.
- Art Vespignani gave out WRWAC literature and hosted Watershed Jeopardy at a very busy **Parsippany Day** on Sept 21. Several people signed up to receive future mailings on volunteer opportunities including a UPS rep who has been assigned the task of arranging a company spring clean up. He will contact WRWAC in the spring.
- Morristown's first **Parks & Ponds Day** on Sept. 27 was cancelled.
- A **Green Table** seminar on park trails is scheduled for Oct 7 at 8:00 a.m. Donna plans to attend. This group meets three times per year and covers topics which "connect" municipalities and environmental organizations.
- **Speakers Bureau**—Rich Taubald is reaching out to local schools again this fall, specifically Parsippany Hills and Parsippany High School. He asked that members give him contacts from their towns of groups that might be interested in a presentation. Jim Baranski has arranged with Ed Schulz for a presentation to Hanover Twp on Nov 3. Don't forget that teachers receive professional development credit. Brian Marshall noted that Mt. Lakes Garden Club will likely ask for a presentation next spring.
- The **Patriots' Path Historical Hike** on October 4 was cancelled.

- **Watershed Signage**—Louise Jensen and Amy DiBartolo are working on this project. Amy and Debbie McComber will follow up since Louise has resigned and is moving to upper NY State. Amy recommends putting up signs at each of the visual assessment sites associated with the NPS Implementation Grant.
- **Clean Communities Mini-Grant**—was split between WRWAC and Trout Unlimited, after expenses.
- Jim proposes that the next **Outreach Committee meeting** be October 29 at the County Library.
- **Water Monitoring Day**—we were unable to obtain free kits and will not be participating.
- We are planning a **Municipal Engineers' Roundtable** in the spring on the topics of stormwater regulations and our two recently approved grants.
- We will celebrate the WRWAC's **10th Anniversary** in the fall of 2009.

Facilitator's Report—*Art Vespignani*

- **Troy Brook RSMP**—Brian provided an excellent description of the proposed implementation projects tentatively selected at a meeting attended by NJDEP, Rutgers, Art and Brian. Five projects were considered with two to three being the most likely in Parsippany and Mt. Lakes. Art will meet briefly with Mayor Luther of Parsippany to discuss the proposed projects there. The NJDEP is concerned about permitting requirements.
- **NPS Implementation Grant**—we have selected eight sites for visual assessments which will require numerous volunteers. We are planning another SVAP workshop in Parsippany at the Municipal Building on Oct 18 at 10:00am for existing and potential SVAP volunteers to update the training received at the workshop which was held last April and to advise them on visual assessment protocols specific to the grant. A second workshop will be held at the bandstand in Veterans Park in Parsippany at 1:00pm on October 26 to instruct volunteers in the use of the meters which will be used in the assessment of the river and water sampling specific to the grant. Assessment sites will be assigned at that time. The EC approved \$5000 to purchase a meter. About seven people have signed up for the workshops so far. The Program Committee feels that many future projects will be identified and receive NJDEP funding as a result of this grant.
- **Lakes Sampling**—George VanOrden has started sampling and will continue in the spring.
- The minutes of the Sept 11 **Program Committee** meeting were included in today's handouts.
- Ted Largman brought up at the last AC meeting an item discussed at the Morris Twp Environmental Committee meeting about a **clean-up plan to inject chemicals into the ground to oxidize TCE** at the former Metco-Electra site; Art consulted with George VanOrden, who said this was an acceptable practice; Art will direct Ted to talk to George.
- Art attended a **grant opportunity seminar sponsored by NOAA** on September 24. Art met with a representative from the **Watershed Restoration Trust Fund** who said that they would not be able to fund our Black Brook project. Art did find a federal organization that might be interested, however, and he will send them the proposal.
- Art is looking into the **purchase of a tent** for WRWAC events.
- Art has been asked to be a moderator at the **Passaic River Symposium** on October 16. Debbie will email the agenda to WRWAC members.

Membership—Debbie recommended that members sign up for a subcommittee.

Nominating Committee—Sal Iannaccone

- Sal assigned Brian to chair the committee made up of Brian, Jim, Amy and Art.

New Business—Sal Iannaccone

- **Louise Jensen regretfully submitted her resignation** as Vice Chair to the Executive Committee. She has accepted a new job and is moving to upper New York State.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm.

The next AC meeting is November 5, 2008. The speaker will be an expert on native plants.

The next Executive Committee meeting is October 15, 2008.

Deborah McComber