

Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee
Whippany River Watershed Management Group
Minutes of the February 4, 2009 Meeting

Attendance:

- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- RICH TAUBALD—HANOVER
- BRIAN MARSHALL—MT. LAKES, SECRETARY WRWAC
- PAT DE LA FUENTE—PARSIPPANY
- DEBORAH MCCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER, VICE-CHAIR WRWAC
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TWP
- HANK SAWOSKI—MORRIS PLAINS
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TWP
- BOB STRECHAY—PARSIPPANY
- AMY DiBARTOLO—EAST HANOVER, TREASURER WRWAC
- PEG ADAMS—MORRIS COUNTY FREEHOLDERS
- JANIS SLUTSKY—MENDHAM BORO
- ALISON DEEB—MORRISTOWN
- JIM MURRAY—MORRIS COUNTY FREEHOLDER
- DOUGLAS VOROLIEFF—MORRISTOWN
- ERIN BYE—WATERSHED AMBASSADOR
- KEN SICKNICK—MORRIS SCD
- BRIAN JACOBUS—MCMUA
- MARK ZLATNY—MOSQUITO COMMISSION

Absent Municipalities:

- FLORHAM PARK
- MADISON
- DENVILLE

Jim Baranski, Vice-Chair, opened the Action Committee meeting at 6:07pm.

He introduced the speaker, Bill Young, from the Native Plant Society of New Jersey. Bill discussed rebuilding ecosystems with native plants. He handed out a Rain Garden Manual. He can be contacted at bill@youngenvironmentallc.com.

The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 7:40pm by Jim Baranski, Vice Chair. There was no discussion, no public input. The meeting was closed at 7:41pm.

Minutes—*Deborah McComber*

- Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report—*Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer*

- We have received dues for 2009 from Morris Plains.
- Our available funds are \$523.11. We also have CDs that are accessible without penalty.
- The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Facilitator's Report—*Art Vespignani, Facilitator*

- **Troy Brook RSMP**—A meeting to firm up project plans took place on January 23, 2009, with Art Vespignani, Rutgers and Parsippány officials, including the public works director and property owners. Bob Strechay has talked with the representatives involved in the bio-retention basin project at Cherry Hill.
- **NPS Implementation Grant**—Art and Chris Mikolajczyk from Princeton Hydro reviewed the eight visual assessment sites and took photos. Art plans to conduct a trial visual assessment at a predetermined Lake Valley Road site with Hank Sawoski and Andre Jensen this month. We are waiting for QAPP approval in order to start official work on the project.

- **Western Ave**—Jim Slate at Morris Township is working with Steve Sousa, Princeton Hydro, on this project.
- **Trend Analysis**—one round of sampling has been conducted by George VanOrden with two more planned for the spring and two in the fall. So far, not much change in water quality from sampling conducted five years ago has been observed.
- **Speedwell Lake Inflow/Outflow**—Some measurements were taken last fall; more is planned in spring 2009.

Program—*Art Vespignani*

- The **minutes** of the last meeting are provided in the handouts of today's meeting.
- The **next meeting** is April 30.
- The **Passaic River Coalition** invites us to see what they are doing at the Willow Hall property in Morristown, which they just purchased for their headquarters. A representative is speaking at our April AC meeting.

Outreach—*Jim Baranski*

- There was a **meeting** on January 27, 2009.
- We are planning a **spring clean-up with Trout Unlimited**. John Wright spoke about locations (Central Park, Patriots Path) and offered to provide plants for plantings (and recommended at location at Sunrise Lake). Jim recommended that a date be set for late April or early May. He will coordinate with John Wright and Jeff Kurt.
- **Speakers Bureau**—Rich Taubald gave a presentation at Hanover Park School. He acquired the emails of the students who wish to participate in a clean-up and the spring canoe trip. He is hoping to visit Parsippany High School.
- **Watershed Signage**—Rich contact the county and received quick approval for signs at eight sites.
- Members should notify Outreach of **organizations in your community** that would be interested in receiving a presentation.
- The committee sent a letter to the MCMUA involving litter on Ridgedale Avenue in East Hanover. Sal received very positive and productive response from the MCMUA which Jim read to the membership. Amy will continue to observe the roadway.
- George VanOrden is working on the presentation, "**Where Our Drinking Water Comes From.**"
- Debbie has booked a meeting room and is issuing invitations to watershed town representatives for an **Engineers and Public Works Directors Roundtable** on March 4 at 8am.
- Amy is scheduling a spring **canoe trip** with guide, John Madden. Doug Vorolieff and Peg Adams will look into where participants can rent canoes.
- We are participating in **Earth Day** at Sunrise Lake on April 18 with a Watershed Jeopardy game to be revised by Brian Marshall and Ralph Rhodes. Debbie will arrange a volunteer schedule. Peg will participate.
- Bob Strechay has volunteered **storage space** at a Parsippany facility for archival files of the Action Committee. Debbie and Bob will coordinate.
- Our **10th Year Anniversary** celebration is planned for September 9 or 16, 2009. Jim Baranski will firm the date. We need volunteers to set up a planning committee.
- At the end of the meeting, those who missed the December **Waterbucks** celebration may pick up their rewards today.
- Amy announced that the **website** is temporarily out of service due to a server issue.

New Business—*Jim Baranski*

- Ken Sicknick from the **Soil Conservation District** offered **free seedling plants** for special projects from the newly created Native Plants Nursery. Check the website at www.mcscd.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

The next AC meeting is March 4, 2009.

The next Executive Committee meeting is February 18, 2009.

Deborah McComber