

**Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee**  
**Whippany River Watershed Management Group**  
**Minutes of the June 3, 2009 Meeting**

**Attendance:**

- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- DEBORAH MCCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER, VICE-CHAIR WRWAC
- BRIAN MARSHALL—MT. LAKES
- HANK SAWOSKI—MORRIS PLAINS
- SAL IANNACCONE—HANOVER
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TWP
- BOB STRECHAY—PARSIPPANY
- AMY DiBARTOLO—EAST HANOVER, TREASURER WRWAC
- PEG ADAMS—MORRIS COUNTY FREEHOLDER REP
- JAMES MURRAY—MORRIS COOUTY FREEHOLDER
- ART CATALUSCI—MORRIS COUNTY DPW
- LEN CIPKINS—PARSIPPANY
- RICH TAUBALD—HANOVER
- ANDRE JENSEN—MORRIS PLAINS
- JANIS SLUTSKY—MENDHAM BORO
- PAT DELA FUENTE—PARSIPPANY
- THOMAS KENNY—MORRIS TOWNSHIP
- JEFF KURT—TROUT UNLIMITED
- RAY ZABIHACH—MORRIS COUNTY PLANNING
- GEOFF KNAPP—SPEAKER, MORRIS COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

**Absent Municipalities:**

- FLORHAM PARK
- MADISON
- DENVILLE

**The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 6:11pm by Sal Iannaccone, Chair.** There was no discussion, no public input. The meeting was closed at 6:11pm.

**Sal Iannaccone opened the Action Committee meeting at 6:12pm.**

Sal introduced the speaker, Geoff Knapp, Morris County Park Commission, who spoke about the Commission's efforts to create deer exclosures around native plant clusters. He asked that watershed groups such as the Action Committee sponsor these clusters, 10 of which will be built this summer.

**Minutes—Deborah McComber, Administrator**

- Minutes of the May 6, 2009 meeting were provided in the handouts. There were no additions or corrections.

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

- We received \$7500 in funding from Morris Co. freeholders, half of what we requested, half of what was provided last year.
- A few towns still need to submit dues for 2009: Hanover, Florham Park, Denville and Morristown.
- The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

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

- **Troy Brook RSMP**—Pat Rector, NJDEP, will be visiting project sites and talking with Mt. Lakes about potential projects on June 16.
- **NPS Implementation Grant**—we are still waiting for QAPP approval; once received we will gather assessment teams together to review procedures and begin field work. Next quarterly report to NJDEP is due June 15. Art has talked with a private property owner who is willing to allow us to do assessments on his property on S. Ridgedale Avenue in East Hanover, the area in which we were

lacking an assessment site. The revised water sampling manual was handed out and will be emailed to volunteers. A letter was sent to watershed town mayors and engineers asking for data relevant to the project and ideas for projects.

- **Watershed Institute Grant**—Amy and Art put together a grant request covering several outreach items, which will be submitted next week.
- **Western Ave**—in the hands of Jim Slate, engineer at Morris Twp.
- The next **Program Committee meeting** has been rescheduled for June 25.
- Several **Morris County watershed groups** met with NJDEP to request a faster permitting process for non-profits and government organizations; i.e., organizations that are requesting permits for projects supported by the State. The DEP asked for examples of problems we have faced in the past.

#### **Outreach**—*Jim Baranski*

- **Speakers Bureau**—members, please notify Outreach of **organizations in your community** that would be interested in receiving a presentation. Rich Taubald will reach out to schools again in the fall. Peg Adams suggested contacting town recreation departments.
- **Watershed Signage**—Rich Taubald priced the signs. He will contact the County Coop to see if they have discounted posts and then order the necessary materials.
- Outreach reviewed the presentation, **“Where Our Drinking Water Comes From”**, put together by George VanOrden. Jim Baranski forwarded revisions to George.
- The **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning committee**, chaired by Len Cipkins and Alison Deeb, will have another planning meeting after this AC meeting. Art, Alison, Len and Debbie visited Willow Hall and made plans for the event. Whether it will be inside or out depends on numbers. Jim Baranski will look into parking at nearby Columbia Club. A donation to Passaic River Coalition is requested.
- Outreach plans to put together a **reading list for display at the County Library** along with a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banner and information about Action Committee activity, perhaps in the fall. Debbie will check into how to book a display.
- **Egg Addling**—The Morristown program organized by Douglas Vorolieff was completed in mid-May. Volunteers oiled 66 nests with 270 eggs at 5 sites. Only 15 goslings have been observed, although none were seen emerging from the nests covered by the program. We are planning a **Goose Workshop** in February 2009 which will promote egg addling in other communities.
- Debbie handed out **Annual Reports** for people to distribute around their communities. She will order more from the printer for fall distribution.
- Dates were announced for **fall festivals**. Art will book Parsippany, which takes place on September 13. Morristown’s fall festival is October 4.
- Amy DiBartolo noted that as part of the **educational requirements required under the new stormwater regulations**, towns need to accumulate educational points, and members should promote the Action Committee’s ability to help their towns in this area.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm for a game of Watershed Jeopardy.

**The next AC meeting will be the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on September 16, 2009.**

**The next Executive Committee meeting is September 23, 2009.**

*Deborah McComber*