

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

Attendance:

- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- 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
- ALISON DEEB—MORRISTOWN
- STAN WITCZAK—MENDHAM BORO
- DOUGLAS VOROLIEFF—MORRISTOWN
- RAY ZABIHACH—MORRIS COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
- ART CATALUSCI—MORRIS COUNTY DPW
- LEN CIPKINS—PARSIPPANY
- ANDRE JENSEN—MORRIS PLAINS
- KEN SICKNICK—MORRIS SCD
- BRIAN JACOBUS—MCMUA

Absent Municipalities:

- FLORHAM PARK
- MADISON
- DENVILLE

The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 6:09pm by Jim Baranski, Vice Chair. There was no discussion, no public input. The meeting was closed at 6:09pm.

Jim Baranski, Vice-Chair, opened the Action Committee meeting at 6:10pm.

He introduced the speaker, Kirk Barrett, from the Passaic River Institute, who spoke on the topic, "Is Flooding Worse in NJ?" He reviewed a recent study which could be applied to the Whippany River to determine stream flow and impervious cover over different time periods.

Minutes—Deborah McComber, Administrator

- Minutes of the February 4, 2009 meeting were provided in the handouts. There were no corrections.

Treasurer's Report—Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer

- Amy took some money out of a CD without penalty to cover payment to Princeton Hydro for work conducted on the NPS Implementation Grant.
- The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.
- The website is up and running with a new server. We are very appreciative of Madison's Rosenet server, which has hosted our site since its inception a few years back.

Facilitator's Report—Art Vespignani, Facilitator

- **Troy Brook RSMP**—plans are progressing on this project. Art preparing a letter for Sal to send to Larry Bauer, NJDEP, urging the approval of Part A of the regional management plan.
- **NPS Implementation Grant**—we are waiting for QAPP approval. Art and Chris Altomari from Princeton Hydro reviewed the visual assessment sites to establish GIS points; one site is still not confirmed. They also met with George VanOrden who passed onto Chris previous water assessment data that will be helpful to the project. They also met with Morris County personnel and Chris received

helpful data from them as well. Art conducted met at Lake Valley Road site with Hank Sawoski and Andre Jensen. Art purchased four dippers. We are still waiting on a field manual from Princeton Hydro.

- **Western Ave**—Jim Slate at Morris Township is working with Steve Sousa, Princeton Hydro, on this project. They may reapply for an ANJEC grant with Morris Twp matching the funds.
- **Trend Analysis and Speedwell Lake Inflow/Outflow data gathering**—will continue in the spring.
- The next **Program Committee meeting** is April 30.
- On February 18, Peg Adams and Art met with 30 reps from **local watershed groups in Morris County**. They discussed sharing services and how the groups were doing in fulfilling their missions. Art suggested they join together to present an overall picture of watershed group activities and funding needs to the freeholders.
- The Action Committee gave a \$25 **donation to the Native Plant Society** after last month's presentation. Individual applications for membership are available at this meeting.

Outreach—*Jim Baranski*

- **Speakers Bureau**—members should notify Outreach of **organizations in your community** that would be interested in receiving a presentation by Rich Taubald.
- **Watershed Signage**—Art contacted an expert from the Town of Parsippany about the logistics of installing signs.
- About 20 people attended this morning's **Engineers' Roundtable**. Chris Obropta, Rutgers, talked about stormwater management, and Chris Altomari, Princeton Hydro, discussed the NPS Implementation grant and asked for input. At the next Executive Committee meeting, we will consider putting copies of Altomari's handout on the website.
- Hanover reps are working on the presentation, "**Where Our Drinking Water Comes From.**"
- Amy has scheduled a spring **canoe trip** for April 25 with guide, John Madden. Doug Vorolieff looked into renting canoes and was able to obtain eight canoes from the Park Commission (with transport); he will need help driving, unloading the canoes and reloading them. We will discuss the per person cost of the trip and the liability issues connected with using the Park Commission canoes at the next EC meeting. Debbie has created a "Save the Date" flyer, which she will send to members through email.
- We are planning a **spring clean-up with Trout Unlimited** on May 2. John Wright is scouting out locations. He would also like us to consider doing a "reforestation project" at an area near Patriots Path and Sunrise Lake. We might be able to partner with the Park Commission which would help with long term fencing and maintenance. It was recommended that we contact someone from Natural Resources to speak at a future meeting about such a project.
- Debbie sent around a sign-up sheet for a **10th Anniversary planning committee**. The anniversary celebration is scheduled for September 16, 2009.
- We are participating in **Earth Day** at Sunrise Lake on April 18 with a Watershed Jeopardy game. Debbie sent around a sign-up sheet for volunteers.
- Bob Strechay has volunteered **storage space** at a Parsippany facility for archival files of the Action Committee. Debbie and Bob are coordinating.
- Doug Vorolieff is planning two **Geese Peace goose management classes** at Morristown Hall on March 16 at 7pm and March 17 at 2pm. Debbie will forward the flyer to members and send Doug press contacts. Please spread the word. Amy will put the information on the website.

New Business—*Jim Baranski*

- Amy has put together a list of money received over our ten year history.
- Amy is answering a survey by the Fish & Wildlife agency.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

The next AC meeting is April 1, 2009.

The next Executive Committee meeting is March 18, 2009.

Deborah McComber