

Whippany River Watershed *Action* Committee
Whippany River Watershed Management Group
Minutes of the October 7, 2009 Meeting

Attendance:

- ART VESPIGNANI—FACILITATOR, WRWAC
- DEBORAH MCCOMBER—ADMINISTRATOR, WRWAC
- JIM BARANSKI—HANOVER, VICE-CHAIR WRWAC
- SAL IANNACCONE—HANOVER
- TED LARGMAN—MORRIS TWP
- RAY ZABIHACH—MORRIS PLAINS
- 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
- RALPH RHODES—MENDHAM TWP
- DONNA BANGIOLA—MORRISTOWN
- PAT DE LA FUENTE—PARSIPPANY
- BRIAN JACOBUS—MCMUA
- JEFF KURT—TROUT UNLIMITED
- PAT RECTOR—RUTGERS
- STEVE SOUSA—PRINCETON HYDRO

Absent Municipalities:

- FLORHAM PARK
- MADISON
- DENVILLE
- MENDHAM BORO

The Whippany River Watershed Management Group public meeting was opened at 6:16pm by Sal Iannaccone, Chair. There was no discussion, no public input. The meeting was closed at 6:16pm.

Sal Iannaccone opened the Action Committee meeting at 6:17pm.

Sal introduced two speakers:

- Steve Sousa, Princeton Hydro, discussed the Non-Point Source Implementation grant. Baseline sampling is finished with some surprising results—worst fecal coliform levels were at site 8 as expected (furthest downstream) but also at site 2. Still need the volunteers to do water sampling and metering during a storm event, but the weather has not cooperated. Jennifer Noblehaus is the new DEP rep and will come to our November meeting with Steve Sousa. A candidate for a stormwater basin retrofit has been identified.
- Pat Rector, one of five agents of the new Rutgers Agricultural Experiment Station specialty program under Water Resources Management is still feeling her way through the job. She gave a detailed update on the progress of the Troy Brook grant. She will concentrate on raingardens and on future and current Troy Brook Regional Management Plan implementation projects. She will assist with the NonPoint Source Implementation grant as well as future grant opportunities.. Pat arranged for the Action Committee to present at the NJ Water Monitoring Summit.

Minutes—Deborah McComber, Administrator

- Minutes of the June 3, 2009 meeting were provided in the handouts. There were no additions or corrections. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report—Amy DiBartolo, Treasurer

- We received dues from Morristown. Hanover, Florham Park and Denville have not paid for 2009.
- We have \$2025 in our account.
- The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously.

Facilitator's Report—*Art Vespignani, Facilitator*

- **Troy Brook RSMP**—see update from Pat Rector.
- **NPS Implementation Grant**—see update from Steve Sousa.
- **Watershed Institute Grant**—we did not receive this grant, but Art talked to Alyse Greenberg about tweaking the proposal and resubmitting it next year.
- **Black Brook**—planning to send another letter to NJDEP stating our position on the Morristown airport development project.
- **Western Ave**—Ted Largman spoke about Morris Twp plans to go ahead with about 1/3 of the project—replacing the dam culvert; Princeton Hydro is the engineering consultant on this project.
- **Lakes water sampling** has been completed for the year and will start up again in the spring.
- The **Program Committee** discussed ways to increase fundraising at its last meeting.
- The freeholders sent a letter to four watershed groups (including the Action Committee) in the county asking them to establish an **umbrella group which would receive funding from the County**. Three of the groups met, and Art is drafting a letter of response to the freeholders

Outreach—*Jim Baranski*

- **Speakers Bureau**—members, please notify Rich Taubald of **organizations in your community** that would be interested in receiving a presentation. Jim Baranski noted that his son's boy scout troop may be interested. Rich Taubald will reach out to schools again in the fall.
- **Watershed Signage**—Rich Taubald has the signs and hardware; the next meeting will concentrate on when/where to install the signs.
- **Next Program Committee meeting is October 13 at 7pm at Morris County Library.**
- George VanOrden cannot give the presentation, "**Where Our Drinking Water Comes From**" at our November meeting but will do so next spring. Instead, the new NJDEP rep handling our grants will speak.
- The **10th Anniversary planning committee**, chaired by Len Cipkins and Alison Deeb, was a great success. The media was contacted about the event; check out the website, Morristown Green.
- **Goose Workshop** planned for February 2010. Douglas Vorolieff will speak about plans at the next AC meeting. Art Catalusci will help with mailing lists. Pertinent parties will be invited from the entire county, not just member towns.
- The **Parsippany Fall Festival** and **raingarden workshop** went very well.

Old Business—*Deborah McComber*

- **World Water Monitoring Day**—please take a water sampling kit, do this quick assessment and send results to NJDEP; can do this anytime through mid-November.

New Business—*Sal Iannaccone*

- Pat Rector noted that there is a meeting on October 12 at 10am at the Parsippany Municipal Building to do **more planting in the raingarden** and an October 29 site meeting with DEP representatives to familiarize them with projects, past, present and future, in the watershed.
- Ted Largman expressed concern about the **flushing of medications down toilets**; it does not take much to impact fish; Steve Sousa noted that current technology cannot correct the problem at waste treatment plants, so we need to educate the public and push for recycling options.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

The next Action Committee meeting is on November 4, 2009 – Jennifer Noblejas, DEP.

The next Executive Committee meeting is on October 21, 2009.

Deborah McComber