

## AGENDA

Sleepy Creek and Opequon Creek Project Teams      First meeting    April 12, 2005 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
(for first meeting, both groups are together)      James Rumsey Technical Institute Cafeteria

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### 6:30 What is a Project Team and why are we here?

- Project Teams form to tackle nonpoint source pollution in a watershed that has been decided upon as high priority. In this case we are forming a Sleepy Creek (Watershed) Project Team and an Opequon Creek (Watershed) Project Team.
- Why these two watersheds? Review of the “decision matrix” and September public meetings.
- They are concerned with an area small enough that individual projects can be planned reasonably and carried out by members of the group and the partnerships they form.
- Project Team members probably quickly will find that they can do some projects right away with available resources, but that others will need to be prioritized, and funding and manpower will have to be planned-for.
- Project Teams can decide how often they want to meet, (probably approx. every other month) and whether they should meet during workdays or in the evening, or alternate. It will probably work best if committees like “Urban Practices,” “Agricultural Practices,” “Outreach and Education,” and “Policy Changes” will meet separately or use e-mails or phone calls to get things accomplished or decided between actual meetings. Actual Project Team meetings can start with updates from the committees, but can also be used as working meetings.

### 6:45 What is the Project Team’s goal?

- **To reduce nonpoint source pollution to our local streams and rivers by implementing projects, and to see measurable water quality improvements.**
- Can we be more specific yet? Answer: we all bring our own concerns and priorities about local water quality to the table. That is fine, because many projects we can implement will help solve multiple problems.
- The “driver” for the formation of these two groups is the Tributary Strategy process of the Chesapeake Bay Program, so the following pollutants will be at least part of the Project Team’s focus: **phosphorus** and **nitrogen** (both = “nutrients”) and **sediment**.
- In 2006, another “driver” will need to be addressed: the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) will be established for parts of both watersheds. In Sleepy Creek the pollutant of concern is **fecal coliform bacteria**. In Opequon Creek it will likely be a combination of **fecal coliform bacteria, total suspended solids, nutrients** and **pesticides**. The group might identify other major problems on which the Project Team should focus.
- Asking you about your concerns... (flip chart activity)

### 7:00 What tools will we have available to help us?

- The WV Potomac Tributary Strategy and corresponding Implementation Plan will soon be available as tools. The Tributary Strategy distributes certain numbers of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to certain “sectors” (agriculture, urban, septic, point sources) and certain watersheds
- Slides of Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- The WV Potomac Tributary Strategy and Implementation Plan also list **Basin-Wide strategies** that are needed to achieve the “cap loads” to which West Virginia has agreed. Slides of some of these and brainstorming about others... (flip chart activity)

- The TMDL document, when it is published, will also be a tool because it will have water quality data and pollution reduction needs broken down into smaller areas within the watersheds.
- Other planning efforts like Berkeley Co. Source Water Protection effort have paved the way and may provide valuable tools like maps.
- Local groups already involved in water quality improvement projects, such as Sleepy Creek Watershed Association and Jefferson County Watershed Coalition, have data and planning procedures that will greatly advance our efforts.
- The Natural Resource Conservation Service, Eastern Panhandle Conservation District, West Virginia Conservation Agency, and Farmland Preservation Boards, and other related organizations are already working on many of the agricultural practices that will reduce nonpoint source pollution.
- Technical resources like The Conservation Fund’s Freshwater Institute, Potomac Headwaters RC&D, Canaan Valley Institute, Shepherd University, and Department of Environmental Protection are very abundant and active in this area.
- Brainstorm some more resources and tools... (flip chart activity)

7:45 What will the next year be like?

- Begin work on a watershed plan that will name the pollutants of interest, summarize existing water quality data, identify “hot spots” and areas of opportunity, begin bringing partners in for technical assistance and funding, and list several planned projects.
  - Part of this is determining which projects have funding available and which do not yet
- Start implementing small projects to improve water quality
- Start doing community outreach to inform homeowners and others about things they can do to improve water quality.

8:00 Your questions

8:15 Split selves into 2 groups

- 1. make sure we can contact you
- 2. suggest missing players
- 3. choose next meeting time

1. Sleepy Creek Project Team

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2. Opequon Creek Project Team

Leader= Alana Hartman, WV Dept. of Env. Protection  
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