

July 11, 2006 Opequon Project Team meeting notes 6:00-8:00 p.m. Action items in RED

James Rumsey Technical Institute's Conference Room

(Times noted are approximate)

Facilitator: Alana Hartman, WV Department of Environmental Protection

Also present: Bob Baker, Jared Bartley, Mary Beth Bennett, Tanya Borisova, Jason Chambers, Jim Cummins, Richard Demoske, Jim Giraytys, Ron Gunderson, Barbara Jacko, Steve Knipe, Dick Latterell, Matt Monroe, Frank Rodgers, Michael Schwartz, Bonnie Stubblefield, Sherry Wilkins, Bill Zinner

Handouts: Abrams-Opequon Water Quality meeting notice, BMP breakdown for Berkeley & Jefferson Cos. and Opequon Creek watershed, (a few) Opequon Creek Watershed Survey, WVU's glossy survey results summary

6:00 –Introductions & Upcoming activities:

- Stream cleanup July 29 – we learned there are snags possibly blocking the reach. Mistakenly said start time is 10 am (it's actually 9 am)
- Rain Barrel Workshop date set for 9/27. Frank showed us a sample barrel and how it is assembled into a rain barrel. Discussed vendors to use for bulk purchase of the parts, e.g. Mauk's. DEP stormwater section is paying for this pilot workshop. Flyers distributed to those present but time must be changed to 4 pm to 6 pm to allow for daylight at the Roundhouse.
- Decided against setting up a table at Youth Fair in Aug. because Rockymarsh Run also decided against it this year. However, next year idea: assemble rain barrels AT the outreach table to attract interest of passers-by. Have one attractively painted on display.
- 2006 Watershed Celebration Day and Conference November 3rd and 4th.

6:20 discussed next few meetings' dates and topics. Schedule as appears in the meeting agenda.

6:25 Project updates

- Judicial Center rain garden – City did test pit digging today. No significant bedrock near surface to prohibit the project from happening.
- War Memorial Park natural stream restoration and shrub planting – still awaiting the design by WVCA.
- rain garden idea at Orchard View Intermediate – no update

Opequon Creek Assessment (by kayak, using TEAM method) is ongoing...5th reach of 8 now complete. **If anyone else wants to participate, please let Alana know.**

- JCWC has not discussed NCTC presentation idea according to Dick Latterell.
- see agenda for other updates

-(forgot to mention at meeting) -Jefferson County creekside landowner tax record search: begun June 23. Alana and 2 members of JCWC (Peter Vila and Dick Latterell) participated.

-(also forgot to mention at meeting) – Steve Knipe and several local volunteers walked the banks of Tuscarora Creek recently and picked up a large amount of trash.

6:45 Michael Schwartz discussed BMP breakdown for Berkeley and Jefferson Counties and Opequon Creek watershed. Noted correction: handout lists numbers of BMPs needed as of 2004, not 2002. County level breakdown is more defensible than watershed level because WV has reported BMPs by county in past, and the Ches. Bay Program model has fairly accurate data down to the county level,

e.g. land use percentages. In the near future we could look at a more accurate watershed level breakdown if we wanted to invest in that.

Michael also emphasized we should consider cost, participation, and pollution reduction when deciding which projects to do, because we have to meet our cap load reduction.

Many present agreed that focusing on one small area will work well because it will increase likelihood that residents will get involved, and will increase morale when we see we are making a difference. The WVU survey results seem to reinforce this: people want the local impact for their efforts/expense. We can also invite “down-streamers” like Ches. Bay Foundation tree planting to show local folks they are part of something bigger.

Separate efforts will contribute to the load reduction, e.g. Berkeley County Septic Study.

- Q: are there shared problems across all subwatersheds of the Potomac? A: yes, e.g. failing septics, lack of stream buffers
- Q: what if we do more of one than is prescribed? A: That’s fine. It’s a blueprint, not an exact list of required numbers.

Alana will subtract practices reported for 2005 in Berkeley and Jefferson Counties from the list, then let attendees know how many practices still remain to be done.

7:15 Matt Monroe presented WVDA’s monitoring results on Opequon mainstem. Showed levels of nitrate, total phosphorus, ammonia nitrogen, turbidity, suspended solids, aluminum, and amount of flow at USGS’s gauge at Route 9. On interesting trend was that phosphorus shows an increase from ’03 to ’06, but amount of flow in the stream is the opposite...not good news. He explained the data set is small and fairly new, has not been analyzed yet. WV doesn’t have standards for nitrogen or phosphorus yet.

7:45 Jim Cummins explained that ICPRB has funding to do some monitoring, either water quality or “biological” (invertebrates,) in Potomac watershed streams in September. Please let him know ASAP if you know of data gaps he could fill with this monitoring. jcummins@icprb.org, (301)984-1908x106 Especially interested in streams, not necessarily in Opequon watershed, whose watersheds’ land use is changing – good to get baseline data now.

- Suggestions included streams in SE Jefferson Co. that will be part of the Potomac Dir. Drains TMDL (Rattlesnake Run, Rockymarsh Run, Town Run ?)
- Tuscarora Creek upstream of the Creekside Anglers’ site could use some baseline data
- Discussed doing benthic monitoring above and below Poor House Farm Park’s lake, but this might be too small a stream (?) **Maybe OPT should plan to study the invertebrates above and below the lake on our own?**

7:55 other items:

- **November 17-19 at NCTC (Shepherdstown) = Ches. Bay Watershed Forum. Target audience = watershed groups, cities, counties.**
- **Sept. 13th karst workshop #3 at NCTC**
- Our OPT meeting notes are at www.wvnet.org
- Adjourn 8:00