

**August 8, 2006 Opequon Project Team meeting notes 6:00-8:00 p.m.\*    Action items in RED**

James Rumsey Technical Institute

(Times noted are approximate)

Facilitator: Alana Hartman, WV Department of Environmental Protection

**Also present:** Jared Bartley, Sandra Bernardi, Tanya Borisova, Richard Demoske, Ron Gunderson, Rebecca MacLeod, Michael Schwartz, George Snider, Howard Strauss, Bonnie Stubblefield

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**Handouts:** (a few) Opequon Creek Watershed Survey, WVU's glossy survey results summary, conference registration materials

6:00 –Introductions & Upcoming activities: see agenda, plus Oct. 6 public grand opening of new Judicial Center

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

6:25 Project updates

- 1. Judicial Center rain garden – discussion led by Howard, pinning down what kind of information he **needs by Oct. 6** in order to mention the rain garden during event. (% of the runoff that is being treated, projected date of completion, are there other rain gardens in region?) Discussed mulch and shrubs (winterberry, dogwood). **Panhandle should be asked to remove the pavement ASAP.** Also, Alana drew diagram of the contours of the site, asking for advice about the slope. Rebecca and Michael advised a slope of 1:3 is about the limit to avoid erosion of mulch and soil. This needs to be done correctly and attractively maintained because it is getting a lot of publicity and will be a demonstration. **All partners involved should be mentioned on a program/insert for the grand opening.**

NEW: 2. Dupont Soccer Fields GREEN PARKING LOT– Rebecca filled us in on this project; swales will be developed between parking lanes, and they will drain toward naturally wet area. Parking lanes themselves will be grassed!

NEW: 3. Two dam removals planned on Tuscarora Creek. Rebecca filled us in on this, also. NRCS might benefit from local knowledge of the area. E.g. Richard knew that the creek's path immed. downstream of our planting project (Roach property/Horizon Way) is not where it was originally. Other ways we might participate: local contacts, long-term monitoring. Creekside Anglers and Cacapon Institute already involved. DNR is doing the design – might involve a fish bypass instead of total removal of dam.

**NEW: 4. Partners for Fish and Wildlife / NRCS grant, 3 sites for ~\$100,000**

5. War Memorial Park natural stream restoration and shrub planting – design by WVCA is complete; meeting with Parks Director and WVCA soon to sign landowner agreement and discuss details.

6. rain garden at Orchard View Intermediate – no news

7. Opequon Creek Assessment (by kayak, using TEAM method) no news – 3 reaches left to do.

8. brochure, booth/tabletop display: some discussion about this. **George and Sandra agreed to work on this. Decided we need something soon for the Nov. meeting at NCTC. WVU might be able to help financially and/or to produce the display.**

**6:50 Jared Bartley of CVI led 1<sup>st</sup> discussion to prioritize subwatershed for future projects/monitoring/attention.** Tanya summarized the results in the following way:

The Opequon Project Team meeting (Aug 8) was devoted to the first of the three steps in WV Opequon sub-watershed prioritization. The session was led by Jared Bartley from Canaan Valley Institute.

The objective of sub-watershed prioritization is to determine the sub-watershed(s) to focus most of the Opequon Project Team's efforts (given limited funds and other resources).

Sub-watersheds are defined for each Opequon tributaries.

The Opequon Project Team started with defining the goals of team's activities.

Two main goals were selected

- Reduce nutrient, sediment, trash, and bacteria impairment of Opequon
- Restore natural habitat (physical habitat)

Based on these goals, the team identified and ranked criteria to chose the sub-watershed(s) of focus.

The selected criteria are (from most to least important):

1. level of tributary impairment
2. impact of tributary on Opequon water quality
3. stakeholder involvement/willingness to contribute to water quality improvement
4. homogeneity of land use (as proxy of "the possibility of success of clean-up / improvement activities")
5. availability of reliable information
6. landscape change (measured by the change in the percent of impervious areas).

8:00 Tanya Borisova of WVU updated us on her efforts to compile Opequon water quality monitoring data for our needs and also for the needs of the Targeted Watershed Grant obtained by VA Tech, which covers the watershed in both states.

Various entites that collected data did so at different intervals and frequencies. It will be challenging to summarize in a way that is easily seen in a map or chart. Jared and Tanya can work together to put in appropriate format for OPT's needs during Oct. meeting. Rainfall data would be useful for comparison. We discussed where USGS gages are, and what info would be available from those.

Adjourn 8:10

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\* note: OPT members listed as "lead members" on the Stream Partners grant met from ~5:15p.m. to 5:45 p.m. to go over the requirements for accepting the Stream Partners grant check. All those present (Sandra Bernardi, Tanya Borisova, Alana Hartman, George Snider, Bonnie Stubblefield), agreed to the conditions and signed the agreement. Alana left the check with Potomac Headwaters RC&D the same day, with the understanding it would not be deposited into an account for us unless we signed the agreement.