

November 15, 2005 Opequon Project Team meeting notes 6:00-8:30 p.m.

(times noted are approximate)

Present: Tanya Borisova, Alan Collins, Richard Demoske, Alana Hartman, Sharon Lee, George Snider, Howard Strauss, Bonnie Stubblefield, Bill Zinner

6:00 Began with announcements and introductions

- a. Targeted Watershed Grant proposals being prepared by others
- b. Upper Potomac Roundtable workshop March 2 and 3, 2006 - this Project Team might be featured
- c. Partners for Wildlife (John Schmidt, USFWS) at our January meeting, on January 17, 2006

We also decided to skip having a December meeting, and really try to publicize the January one to bring in new participants. The landowner letter included an invitation to the Jan. 17 meeting, as well.

d. WV Potomac Tributary Strategy is final and has been submitted to Ches. Bay Program, available at www.wvnet.org

e. tree planting in nearby watershed (Cattail Run, Charles Town area) this Saturday, Nov. 19, 9am-1pm. George and Alana attended, as well as Peter Vila of Jeff. Co. Watersheds Coalition. The event resulted in good publicity (in the Journal) for local water quality efforts by volunteers and those in the Sleepy Creek and Opequon watersheds (that's you!!), specifically. Also, George, Peter and Alana made contacts and learned how this type of project is done, and how much it costs.

6:15 f. WVU team's Opequon survey results (Alan Collins & Tanya Borisova)

WVU's survey results were very interesting and we think they will be useful as we plan outreach and education to the community. We are grateful to that team for conducting the survey, and to Tanya and Alan for coming to present its results to us. Tanya subsequently sent the link to the web-site with information about WVU survey:

<http://www.caf.wvu.edu/resm/faculty/borisova/OpequonProject.htm>

Dr. Collins agreed to include an adapted version of our landowner letter when he does the mailing to the survey respondents who included their contact information. (Alana subsequently e-mailed him the letter so that he could adapt it, the main change being that recipients could be anywhere in the watershed, not strictly along the creeksides).

6:40 Alana briefly updated the group on the project ideas that were due Oct. 31 for the \$5000.

- 1) Shenandoah Valley "clinic" at 99 Tavern Road, no stream close to property. Idea had been to incorporate stormwater management demonstration stations in a walking trail they were already planning. However, the trail project has stalled indefinitely, and they already have the entire property draining to a fenced-in stormwater pond. Result of site visit = no longer a candidate.
- 2) Northwest bank of Opequon Creek at Stone Bridge, erosion site. Idea had been to stabilize bank with riparian buffer planting. However, the bridge itself is the reason water eddies there and cuts away the bank – it seems no planting would survive long enough to take root and make a difference. Erosion will continue no matter what, unless major re-engineering occurs. Result of site visit = no longer a candidate.
- 3) War Memorial Park on Tuscarora Creek in Martinsburg. Idea had been to filter parking lot runoff through a rain garden and tree planting. However, there is not enough room between the parking lot and the creek to do exactly what we had envisioned. There is severe erosion at one isolated spot, which might be reversed by using a log structure in the flow of the creek to

- redirect the flow. This, plus a tree/shrub planting where there is currently only grass, might be a viable option for \$5000 if volunteers help and equipment use is donated. Another site visit planned for Dec. 6 with director of Berkeley Co./City of Martinsburg Parks and Rec. Dept.
- 4) Poor House Farm Park on Tuscarora Creek west of Martinsburg. Idea had been to stabilize streambank with riparian buffer planting. However, the area we found where the bank was eroding seems to be a naturally high bank that is already well vegetated. Alternate idea was proposed to plant a rain garden or other native species planting between the (presumably heavily fertilized) playing fields and the creek. Another site visit planned for Dec. 6 with director of Berkeley Co./City of Martinsburg Parks and Rec. Dept.
 - 5) Tuscarora Creek site that is under the stewardship of Creekside Anglers, west of Martinsburg. Idea is to stabilize streambank with riparian buffer planting or other method. Site visit planned for Dec. 6 with Bill Zinner.
 - 6) Berkeley Co. Solid Waste Authority property along 2000 feet of Opequon Creek bank, in Martinsburg. Idea was to enhance the existing buffer with more plantings (including evergreens to block view from golf course across creek) and to block access where ATVs have made a trail. Could become a very visible demo site when Route 9 bypass is complete, and if the site someday becomes a walking trail park. This site is still a possibility for the \$5000.

We did not get to this agenda item: look at watershed maps and analyze where and what is being monitored currently (continued from Oct. meeting) but Alana is working on it behind the scenes to present at a future meeting.

7:00 to 8:30 spent in labeling, folding, stamping and stuffing 204 letters and return postcards to be mailed (they were mailed from Romney the next day) to landowners along Opequon Creek in Berkeley Co. Future grant idea could be to fund mailing to the Jefferson Co. creekside landowners, or to landowners along a key tributary.

Adjourned informally at 8:30