

September 13, 2005 Opequon Project Team meeting notes 5:45-8:00 p.m.

(times noted are approximate)

Present: Mary Beth Bennett, Tanya Borisova, Roger Boyer, Mistie Harrison, Alana Hartman, Amanda Hyde, Dale McCleary, Scott Rhodeheaver, George Snider, Howard Strauss, Bonnie Stubblefield, Bill Weis, Sherry Wilkins, Dave Wright, Bill Zinner

6:00 Began with introductions, ground rules, approving purpose statement as written in agenda, acknowledging July 12 meeting notes with no changes needed.

-Bill Zinner, Creekside Anglers' VP for Conservation, told us that they monitor Tuscarora Creek and another tributary (is that right?). Creekside Anglers would like to have the fishery improved. Should be other landowners interested. Key site is about 2 miles outside Martinsburg on Tuscarora Creek.

6:10 Updates:

-Potomac Tributary Strategy comment period ends Sept. 22, also see poster on wall - it will be on display for Watershed Celebration Day, Elkins, Sept. 24. Deals with Opequon and Sleepy Creek Project Teams and working toward WV's Potomac Tributary Strategy goals.

-Many here are planning to attend "Growing Communities on Karst II" this week.

-Discussed this group's role in Berkeley County Comprehensive Plan revision. Decided we should try to attend the public information meetings and register our comments re: Opequon Creek needs to be a priority and land use along the creek should be especially regulated. Alana will draft a statement/recommendation for review at our October meeting. One of the next public meetings for the Berkeley Co. Comprehensive Plan will be 9/28/05 at 8:00 a.m.

-Virginia's Opequon efforts: Alana mentioned their idea of a project matrix and suggest we similarly keep track of our project ideas and progress if possible.

-"emerging contaminants" workshop will be held at NCTC on Monday, 9/19/05. Some here will be attending that.

6:45 Progress on Projects:

Project idea #6 (Berkeley Co. landowners along the Opequon mainstem) – completed the list in August. Did not reveal specific "businesses" the way Alana had hoped, so Alana is writing an announcement to be included in Berkeley and Jefferson Cos.' Chambers of Commerce newsletters. (done and sent to them in mid-Sept.). This announcement invites business owners in general to attend our meetings or to contact us if they want to make their property better for water quality.

The address list is manageable – about 250 addresses in Berkeley Co. Over the next month we will draft a letter that will go to these addresses, and try to finalize it/send it out around the time of our next meeting (Oct. 13). George will do first draft and Alana will send out to solicit folks' comments. We came up with a variety of points that could be included in the letter to recruit landowners to our cause.

Project idea #8 and also trash cleanups: we're going to do the same stretch of creek as we did on Aug. 13 again on Sat. Oct. 15. Amanda Hyde of IWLA has arranged for Mike Dudash and his canoes to come and help us make it an organized clean-up event. We'll start at 10 am at George Snider's property. We'll also bring a GPS and try to do a better job of "assessing" the condition of this stretch of stream.

*****Please let Alana know by return e-mail by Monday, Oct. 3 whether you would like to attend this event and need a canoe*****

Project idea #10: baseline monitoring of Opequon and tributaries: Discussed in general terms the results we got with Sherry Evasic on Aug. 13. By October 13 meeting, we should compile known sites

that are regularly being sampled by other groups (e.g. Berkeley County engineer and Shepherd College project, WVDA, WVDEP, IWLA, Creekside Anglers, Jefferson Co. Watersheds Coalition, more?), and for what, like biological, chemical, or fecal coliform. Then we can design our own study, meaning where we think we can regularly sample for these various things. Bill Zinner mentioned we should pursue Chesapeake Bay (Foundation?) funding support for monitoring.

George and Alana will attend the e-coli monitoring training on 9/19 and report to group how feasible it is for us.

We will also do another SOS monitoring (biological and some physical and chemical) event on George's property on Oct. 29. Participants will be able to be certified for SOS level 1 that day. Please let Alana know if you are interested in participating.

Alana will try to find out where the wastewater outlets are in the watershed so that we can decide whether we want to monitor upstream/downstream of these.

Project idea #2.d.: Richard Demoske wasn't present, but he has been pursuing contacts with local scouting groups with some success

Project idea #5: Our Project Team needs to spend \$5000 on a project by April 30. Deadline for proposals is Oct. 31. We came up with some ideas:

1. (Roger Boyer) – significant erosion site immediately downstream of Stone Bridge. Too large for \$5000 but maybe we could do a part.
2. Creekside Anglers' habitat restoration site may need some streambank work for this price range. Bill and Dave will pursue.
3. IWLA "point" project at mouth of Opequon – probably way too expensive but we should have in our records that it needs to be done.

7:55 funding issues for projects: Sherry Wilkins did some research on funding sources for Chesapeake Bay watershed projects and distributed copies of her results.

Discussed whether our group would need to become a 501(c)3 or whether we could apply for grants through another organization. Decided on the latter for now. Roger reiterated that we need to talk to "The Opequon Watershed, Inc." because our efforts should fit right in line with their group's mission and scope, so we should be able to consider ourselves part of them for grant proposal purposes.