

February 20, 2007 Opequon Project Team agenda 6:00-8:00 p.m.

James Rumsey Technical Institute's "Assembly Room"

Facilitator, Alana Hartman, WV Department of Environmental Protection

Also present: Sandra Bernardi, Dan Bonard, Tanya Borisova, Richard Demoske, Ryan Gaujot, Ron Gunderson, Terry W. Hess, John Jacko, Steve Knipe, Sharon Lee, Mary Palmer, Alyse Shrecongost, Jocelyn Smith, Bonnie Stubblefield, Diane & Gary Sylvester, Sherry Wilkins

6:10 **Financial Report:** \$1707 left in Stream Partners Grant (paid CVI and usual lab fee), \$1695 in DEP's OCPT account, \$100 approved by EPCD was not used for brochures –**Someone will have to attend another EPCD meeting** (March) to ask for the funds to be redirected: buffer mulch? Gary's rain barrel reimbursement? Website-related fee?

6:15 Upcoming events

1. Potomac Direct Drains Draft TMDL public meeting Feb 27th, 7:00 pm at James Rumsey
2. next meetings:
 - March 13, finalize plans for rain barrel workshop in late March, stuff Jefferson Co. mailing?
 - April 10
3. March 2-4 Home Show, Master Gardeners will have OCPT information at their table, plus rain barrel instruction March 3rd at 1:30 (by Frank Rodgers)
4. March 10th, Berkeley Comm. Pride's bi-monthly paper collection in S. parking lot of Mburg mall
5. March 31, our cleanup and TOW's buffer planting. You COULD do both!! ☺

6:25 New business

1. **Jocelyn Smith** of WVCA gave a slide presentation to introduce us to Natural Stream Restoration (NSR) practices and highlight the War Memorial Park project. Her husband, Ryan Gaujot, also has experience with these designs and was present at the meeting. Both answered the group's questions and we all learned a lot. Some highlights:

Streams move sediment and water. If one variable changes, the other has to adjust.

Reference reach is sought to establish what is ideal for the stream you're restoring.

Stream types are defined by Dave Rosgen.

Unstable conditions are undesirable.

Bankfull discharge = water level that first overtops the banks. Many times in impaired streams, bankfull height is lower than actual banks.

Cross section should show riffle, then run, then pool, then glide, then riffle again.

Riparian buffers are a new realm for WVCA. There are many advantages, especially to stabilize NSR work.

NSR structures:

1. Root wads
2. Vanes and j-hook vanes – act as ramps. Takes less rock, so cheaper than rip-rap. At least 2 layers: footer layer and top rocks. Also need a sill in case back-cutting happens.
3. Root wad, log vane, j-hook combo. Looks more natural. E.g. Horseshoe Run, Ryan Gaujot and Angela Greene involved.
4. Cross-vane – consists of 2 vane arms and a throat. Throat keeps incision from happening/headcutting. Usually the crew digs out the scour hole and the structure maintains it, itself. Any problem with fill moving downstream through the cracks? J.S.: if contractor leaves it well-filled in, reduces that risk.

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5. W-weir – usually used just above a bridge that has a center pier.

Discussed the structures at War Memorial Park = 2 cross vanes, upstream j-hook. Discussed Sleepy Creek project = bankfull bench; floodplain. What prevents a flashy event from washing it out? J.S.: well-established vegetation can prevent that.

Q: does this interact with the fishery, and is that considered in the design? J.S.: usually the structures result in enhanced fish habitat. R.G.: Danny Bennett of DNR makes recommendations to DEP, and Lyle Bennett at DEP reviews those.

Ms. Smith gave some specific advice about Mr. Hess's erosion problem downstream of Stone Bridge. Recommended taking measurements of the existing eroded bank, then calling Neal Carte with DOH to try to coordinate something when they are out building the new bridge there.

7:20 (New Business, cont'd) Sandra Bernardi led discussion:

2. By-laws and incorporating – reviewed draft. Discussed Nov. elections of officers, board members, begin year on Jan 1. Articles of incorporation have to be filed with the state, and ~\$45 needed. Other points made by group, and changes noted by Sandra.
3. (Alana leading rest of agenda): Landowner (Bauserman) planning conservation easement along Opequon. Inviting us to look at property and suggest projects if necessary. Also The Opequon Watershed owns one lot in Hidden River, and we can look at that and make suggestions, too. (possibilities for current buffer planting if no other properties appropriate?)
4. Happy Creek DNR access site has erosion on dirt road, and DNR plans to fix that this spring. ATVs are getting in despite signage, though.
5. Mill Creek cleanup Sat. March 31st, 9 am – noon, using Mountain Ridge Intermediate School as home base. We need a lot of you there to show support and have a photo opportunity – the more trash we find and more length of creek covered, the better. Sets stage for future projects along Mill Creek. Satisfies Alice Ferguson Foundation program and also WV's Make It Shine.
6. Master Naturalist program: both Ron G. and Diane S. are waiting to hear if they are enrolled in this. Some of the goals match those of this group.

7:25 Project updates

1. ICPRB's biological sampling of Opequon watershed and other eastern panhandle sites...Jim Cummins updated us. In June '06 the money to do this became available, and in late summer '06 Jim told OCPT about this and received feedback about streams that needed to be monitored. ICPRB collected biological samples at 11 sites, most in Jefferson Co. Awaiting analysis (laboratory I.d. to genus level). This will help us get an idea of stream changes in the area – a baseline for a quickly-changing area.

Jim C. also helped us with *E. coli* monitoring. 4 teams will receive supplies this evening from ICPRB. Three incubators and kits to do about 40 samples, times 4 teams. A small group of volunteers met after the meeting to divide the supplies among them.

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2. Buffer project site selection

- a. April planting
- b. Choose site with most potential for demonstration value and/or pollutant reduction
...decide **SOON** so we can order the trees and shrubs.
 - i. Pichot (near mouth of Mill Creek)
 - ii. Jacko
 - iii. Vila (at state line)
 - iv. TOW's property or Bauserman property

3. Website: WVU team has helped us again! We have a draft website and possibly decisions to make. Monthly fee will be ~\$10, but we have to decide what account to use for this expense. Tanya demonstrated via projector, the progress she and a WVU staff person have made so far on designing the website. Alana will send all the link after the meeting.

4. Rain Barrel Workshop – Wed. March 28, 2007 –Public Works building, Boston St. 6-8 pm **Price?** Once settled, can make flyers and distribute. Also need to contact those who are on waiting list from fall. Need a few volunteers for that afternoon/evening.

5. mailing to Jefferson Co. landowners – list is now complete. Content was not ready for group's approval/editing at this time – tabled until next month.

6. survey of Mill Creek landowners – list is now complete. Review draft today and Alana will pass along to Dr. Collins. WVU will handle the mailing, including postage.

7. Booth/tabletop display –Committee to arrange this for 2007? Not yet.

8. Berkeley Co. Judicial Center parking lot rain garden Watering source was installed 12/12/06. Remaining tasks: order/install sign (see draft photos), install barriers, spring planting of summer plants? Misc. weeding/re-mulching.

9. War Memorial Park natural stream restoration/shrub planting –Contacted Steve Catlett about restoring some of the vegetation and making a barrier to people pulling up to creek. Rebecca MacLeod helping with a planting plan. Can we muster some volunteers to plant it one day?

10. Opequon Watershed (VA and WV) Targeted Watershed Grant update – none at this time.

11. monitoring...A) fecal coliform– did not discuss

Adjourn 8:00