

Stream Team Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 7, 2008

Attendees: Kelley Curran, Terry Dyben, Roger Edwards, Harry Gerken, Frank Stillinger, and Robin Timmons

Minutes of the previous meeting held January 10, 2008 were distributed and approved without amendment.

Robin provided attendees with graphical representations of Loantaka Brook sampling data. One set included all sites by analytical parameter over time. Growing vs. non-growing seasons were indicated. Robin said that there really wasn't enough data to run statistical analyses, however, it was observed that the graphs did not include every data point. Kelley will provide Robin with the most up-to-date table of data for inclusion and further analysis. Using modeling presented by Omni Environmental, Robin prepared graphs of the median loads of total phosphorus, total suspended solids, and total nitrogen from each of the five watershed streams based on data collected by the TTC. In addition, a graph of flow contribution from each stream was included. This graph may be a bit misleading, as it does not take into account precipitation or potential groundwater influences.

Roger mentioned that the USGS data has similar issues with their reported dissolved oxygen levels as the GSWA-collected readings. The levels recorded sometimes exceed the solubilities at the reported temperatures. Possible reasons for this might include retention of oxygen by algae generated in photosynthesis, aeration caused by turbulence of the stream water, and rapidly rising water temperature. Another possibility is that oxygen solubility is actually higher in the impure stream waters measured than in absolutely pure water to which the tabulated solubilities refer. It's not clear that any of these factors apply to our measurements, but we should not assume that high DO readings are caused by incorrect meter calibration.

The final report on the Loantaka Brook water quality monitoring program is in progress. Once finalized, this report will be submitted to the NJDEP and posted on the GSWA website.

Terry debriefed the group on his attendance at the Data-to-Information workshop that he attended on behalf of GSWA Stream Team on February 1, 2008 in New Brunswick. He indicated that the workshop was geared to a less experienced audience but he found the virtual watershed case study portion of the program to be a valuable tool. Workshop attendees were asked to find funding for a virtual project based on water quality data. Terry presented the posters developed by the workshop attendees.

Harry indicated that the TTC is also seeking funding to move forward with the educational seminar program on snow/ice removal BMPs. Kelley will keep in contact with Harry on this.

The 2008 stream cleanup event is scheduled for Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12pm. This event runs in conjunction with National River Cleanup Week (May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup>). Our event will be posted on [www.nationalrivercleanup.org](http://www.nationalrivercleanup.org). Possible cleanup locations include:

- A. Loantaka Brook Reservation (same as last year)
- B. Penn's Brook in Bernardsville near King's
- C. Somerset County Environmental Education Center
- D. Black Brook in Chatham Township off of Tanglewood Lane

Harry mentioned that the TTC is going to be starting back up a Scientific Committee. He welcomed (and urged!) interested Stream Team members to participate. The first committee meeting will likely be in the late Spring/early Summer.

The first round of Great Brook sampling is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Team will be meeting at the GSWA offices at 9:30 am and carpool from there.

Kelley is hoping to identify a volunteer willing to continue quarterly (or possibly monthly) TDS and temperature monitoring on Loantaka Brook.

Suggestions for several writing projects include the following topics:

- A. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in sealcoating products
- B. Environmental impacts of artificial turf
- C. Low-impact development
- D. Pharmaceuticals in water

The GSWA Science and Technology Committee will likely help in the drafting of related articles.

The GSWA hired a new Development Director. She will start April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Stream Team looks forward to working with her to help obtain funding for water quality related programs and special projects.

Robin indicated that a retired colleague of hers might have an interest in helping the GSWA with grant researching/writing.

In lieu of a March meeting, a tour of the Woodland Sewage Treatment Plant is being arranged for Thursday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. This will be confirmed via email.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Kelley Curran