

Stream Team Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 2, 2008, 9:00 am

Attendees: Laura Costello, Kelley Curran, Roger Edwards, and Frank Stillinger

Welcome to Laura Costello!! Laura is a new Stream Team volunteer and Kelley has plans to keep her very busy.

Minutes of the previous meeting held September 4, 2008 were distributed via email as well as at the meeting and approved without amendment.

Roger provided some background information on the Adopt-Great-Brook sampling program and discussed the associated analytical results. Three rounds of sampling have been completed to date. Interestingly, the results show us that Great Brook is in much better shape than Loantaka Brook. Most measurements meet the NJDEP Surface Water Quality Standards (SWQS) with very few exceptions (7 out of 153). Exceptions include total phosphorus at two sites, pH at one site, and turbidity at two sites. Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and chloride levels tended to be highest during the February sampling round at the two sites located in the northernmost tributary with a pronounced fall off as the year progressed. This is consistent with road salt being a significant contributor to TDS in this stretch of Great Brook, which flows through a more developed part of Morris Township.

Upcoming field work needs:

1. Macroinvertebrates of Silver Brook – collection/preservation (Laura and Frank w/ Kelley, date TBD)
2. Loantaka Brook long-term monitoring with TDS meter and temperature gauge (Laura with initial training by Roger)

Upcoming training: Visual Stream Assessment training by the newly inducted Americorps Watershed Ambassador for WMA6, Erin Bye, will be held at GSWA Headquarters on Sunday, November 2nd from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The 6th Annual Volunteer Monitoring and Education Summit will be held on November 17 and 18 at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Whippany. GSWA has offered to sponsor the registration fees for any currently active Stream Team volunteers interested in attending.

The 2009 Bioblitz planning is underway. The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge personnel have granted access to Refuge properties to conduct the event. The Bioblitz is tentatively scheduled for May 15 and 16.

Good news.....the Ten Towns Committee has verbally received approval from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for their grant amendment which includes new stream monitoring equipment. This grant also provides funding for the continuation of the TTC's water quality monitoring program. Prior to receiving this money, sampling under the program was conducted by the TTC's environmental consultant, Princeton Hydro, utilizing funding from an EPA grant. With the new USFWS funding, GSWA staff and volunteers will be

responsible for the sample collections. The grant also provides funding for the installation of an ISCO automatic stormwater sampling unit on Penn's Brook and associated sampling and laboratory analytical costs. Stream Team will need all hands on board with these increased responsibilities.

The meeting officially adjourned at 10:10 am and the group, along with Sally, headed out to Primrose Brook to conduct monitoring using the World Water Monitoring Day kit. After the field portion, we came back to the office to enter our monitoring data (pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity) online at the WWMD website.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 6th.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kelley Curran