

Stream Team Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 4, 2009, 9:30 am

Attendees: Joe Balwierczak, Kelley Curran, Roger Edwards, Dave Henderson and Barbara Wefing

Minutes of the previous meeting held February 5, 2009 were distributed via email as well as at the meeting and approved.

In lieu of a March Stream Team meeting, a group of 15 people attended a guided tour of the Passaic Valley Water Commission's Little Falls Water Treatment Plant. The tour was led by Phil Roosa, Chief of Water Quality. This facility has an intake on the Passaic River and distributes drinking water to over 800,000 people on a daily basis. The tour was fascinating and well received by everyone who attended.

Roger reported on the results from the February sampling of Great Brook and provided a summary report and data tables for discussion. Five rounds of sampling have been conducted to date. In February, exceptionally high levels of total dissolved solids (TDS) were seen at all six sites. This is consistent with road salt runoff. Both TDS and chloride levels exceeded the NJ Surface Water Quality Standards at all sites. There were no exceedences of state standards for any of the nitrogen- or phosphorus-bearing nutrients analyzed for in February.

Kelley discussed the progress of AKRF's work on the Silver Brook Restoration Plan. There is an immediate need for visual stream assessments to be conducted throughout the sub-watershed to supplement the field data collected by AKRF. All attendees said that they would help in this effort. Kelley will follow up with stream reach assignments. The assessments are time critical and will need to be completed within the next 3-4 weeks.

Arranging for a tour of our contract laboratory, ECM, Inc. was discussed. The lab is a small operation out of Hillsborough. It was decided that we would postpone a tour for now.

The Back2Tap video was shown. The mission of this local organization is "to reduce the waste generated from the production and distribution of bottled water and water-based products in disposable plastic bottles". A link to the video can be found on their website at <http://www.back2tap.com/index.html>. It is absolutely eye-opening and a real educational video that makes you think twice about buying bottled water!

Upcoming events include:

- **Sunday, April 26th:** Visual Stream Assessment Training 9:30 am – 1:00 pm

- **Friday, May 15th and Saturday, May 16th:** BioBlitz 2009 (Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge)
- **Wednesday, May 27th:** Dr. Lee Pollock presents Summer 2008 Great Swamp Watershed macroinvertebrate study results (Ten Towns Committee meeting – Garabrant Center in Mendham @ 8:00 am)
- **Saturday, June 6th:** Stream Cleanup 9:30 am – 12:00 pm (Loantaka Brook Reservation – Kitchell Pond pavilion)

The next Stream Team meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 7th at 9:30am.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kelley Curran