

Stream Team Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 1, 2009, 9:30 am

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

Minutes of the previous meeting held September 3, 2009 were distributed via email as well as at the meeting and approved.

Frank provided and reported on two new recent NY Times articles related to water quality (listed below).

- *Health Ills Abound as Farm Runoff Fouls Wells* (September 18, 2009, New York Times)
- *Clean Water Laws are Neglected, at a Cost in Suffering* (September 12, 2009, New York Times)

World Water Monitoring Day kickoff is near. Anyone interested in collecting water quality data (pH, temperature, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen) on watershed streams and/or lakes using simple test kits should contact Kelley. Data should be collected between September 18 and October 18. Barbara is planning to take a kit with her after the meeting. Middle schools might be a good target for this program in the future.

The group discussed a potential research project idea focused around lawn care and landscaping businesses that service the ten towns of the watershed. All landscapers that apply pesticide/herbicide must have a permit. No permit is required if the company only mows lawns. This could be a good future intern research topic.

Upcoming field work includes:

- Loantaka Brook monitoring (Laura to coordinate)
- Installation of new ISCO units – date TBD
- Great Brook sampling (tentatively scheduled for Nov. 4th)
- Visual Assessments (Nov/Dec); fall training date TBD
- MIV collection at Silver Brook (Laura/Kelley to arrange)

There are several upcoming public programs which include:

- Friday, October 9th, 6:00-7:30pm: Fall Colors of the Watershed – A Natural History Hike @ the CMA
- Thursday, October 22, 9:00-12:00: Winter Roads Maintenance workshop co-sponsored by United Water
- Wednesday, October 28th 7:00-9:00pm: Evening Seminar – Benefits of Backyard Composting

Roger asked about the dates of the Annual Volunteer Monitoring Summit. This year the Summit will again include environmental educators. Also, monitoring will not be limited to only volunteer. Kelley will check on the dates and inform the Stream Team via email.

Frank advised that the USFWS will be holding a public meeting regarding the Refuge's new 15-year Comprehensive Conservation Plan. A draft plan is still not available and a date for the meeting has not yet been set. GSWA plans to be involved in this process.

Frank reported on the latest plan proposed by the developer who owns the Rolling Knolls Superfund site property. The plan is to install a solar panel farm on the property. This would involve a re-zoning of the property and there are several environmental concerns associated with this intended use for the property. GSWA's land use committee is following all developments associated with this site.

The 2010 Stream Team meeting calendar was discussed. Kelley proposed having Stream Team meetings every other month as currently scheduled (1st Thursday of the month at 9:30 am) and on alternate months, the ST would meet jointly with the GSWA Science & Technology Committee (Monday evenings). This way those people interested in Stream Team activities that work full-time might be able to participate in an evening meeting. Kelley will discuss with Hazel.

The next meeting is TBD based on the above discussion.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kelley Curran