

Stream Team Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 3, 2009, 9:30 am

Attendees: Joe Balwierczak, Laura Costello, Kelley Curran, Tim Cutler, Roger Edwards, Pete Miller and Barbara Wefing

Minutes of the previous meeting held jointly with the S&T Committee on November 9, 2009 were distributed via email as well as at the meeting and approved.

Water quality related press continues to abound. The following two related articles were discussed:

- *As Sewers Fill, Waste Poisons Waterways* (November 23, 2009, New York Times)
- *Clean Cruise Ship Act Introduced to Stop Raw Sewage Dumping* (October 22, 2009, Washington, D.C., ENS)

Roger provided highlights from the recently completed ***Loantaka Brook Watershed Report***. This report was prepared by Princeton Hydro, LLC for the Ten Towns Committee under an EPA grant. The report delineates subwatersheds of the Loantaka Brook watershed and several water quality/quantity improvement projects are identified. One interesting project is the proposal to construct a treatment wetland adjacent to the Woodland sewage treatment plant to manage and reduce the point source load associated with the plant's discharged effluent. In addition, the report includes stream monitoring data collected from sites throughout the entire Great Swamp watershed from September 2006 through August 2008. It is important to note that new ratings curves have been developed for each of the five main streams in the watershed. By simply obtaining a staff gauge reading of water level, flow can be calculated. However, the calculated flow values are most accurate for baseflow conditions only.

The draft permit for the Woodland sewage treatment plant in Morris Township was discussed. It was disappointing to see that the plant will not be held to the 0.4 mg/L discharge limit for phosphorus that was adopted in the TMDL. Instead, the DEP is discussing the issuance a watershed permit that will include all dischargers as well as the concept of 'water quality trading scenarios'. On a positive note, it appears that stricter limits and/or monitoring requirements are proposed for nitrate, ammonia, and chloride.

Kelley, Laura, and Pete reported on the 2-day Water Monitoring and Education Summit that they recently attended. Presentations from the Summit will likely be posted on the NJDEP's website soon. On the first day of the Summit, Kelley presented information regarding the development of the Silver Brook Watershed Management Plan.

Update on field work:

- Loantaka Brook monitoring: Laura is planning to do a round this month; Laura also reported that when she was out monitoring in November in the area of Kitchell Pond, several park goers complained of pesticide spraying and mowing by Morris County personnel
- Installation of new ISCO units: on hold until funding is secured to put them into operation
- Visual Stream Assessments: due by December 31st; several have already been turned in

Upcoming public program:

- Full Moon Hike – Saturday, January 30, 2010, 6:00-7:30 pm @ Cross Estate, Jockey Hollow, MNHP

Kelley advised that “Clean Streams” gift certificates are now available for purchase for anyone looking for a unique holiday gift. More information regarding the gift certificates can be found on our website.

A revised 2010 Stream Team meeting calendar was distributed. The original draft indicated Tuesday morning meetings in error. This was changed on the new draft to Thursdays. Just a reminder that on alternate months, the ST will be meeting 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.

Barbara reported that she recently attended a program at Sherman-Hoffman Wildlife Sanctuary and learned of a new outreach program for companies focused around habitat creation/enhancement. She also mentioned the Sanctuary’s new more environmentally-friendly heating system.

Tim mentioned that Duke Farms is scheduled to host the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Jersey’s Winter Conference on January 30th and suggested that NOFA’s principles seem to be well-aligned with GSWA’s.

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the S&T Committee on Monday, January 11th at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:
Kelley Curran