

Stream Team Meeting Minutes
7:30 PM Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Present: Paul Benzing, Kelley Curran, Roger Edwards, Gene Fox, Michael Hartwig, Todd Hayes, Alex Pawlowski, Lee Pollock, Frank Stillinger, and Chuck Whitmore

1. The minutes of the February meeting were approved without amendment.
2. Roger provided the group with a summary of Loantaka Brook sampling results. The principal findings, as provided by Roger, include:
 - A. TDS concentrations in Loantaka Brook headwaters remain high and comparable with 2003 results.
 - B. The addition of alkalinity to the measured parameters permits the determination of carbonate content and provides closer agreement between TDS and the summation of individual ion concentrations.
 - C. TDS and component ion concentrations above and below the treatment plant show significant differences:
 - ? Ca, Mg, Na, Cl, and CO₃ have higher concentrations upstream from the plant.
 - ? K, SO₄, NO₃ and NO₂ have higher concentrations downstream from the plant.
 - D. Ion concentrations are again dominated by Na and Cl ions, consistent with earlier conjectures about road salt as a potential source.
 - E. Phosphorus- and Nitrogen-bearing nutrients also show increased concentration below treatment plant.
 - ? Nutrient levels below plant are similar to 1999-2004 LB monitoring experience.
 - ? Nutrient levels above plant are closer to 1999-2004 results found with clean streams streams such as Primrose Brook.

Anecdotally, Roger included TDS values from the labels of two Italian bottled water varieties. A major ionic constituent in this water is bicarbonate, which gives rise to a significant carbonate contribution to TDS. Roger also compared Loantaka Brook data with USGS/NJDEP data for various locations throughout the Passaic Basin. Only the Goffle Brook at Hawthorne exceeded the TDS levels found in LB with a concentration of 1780 mg/l. This sample was taken on 02/06/01. Thanks to Roger for a great presentation!!

The next round of Loantaka Brook sampling is scheduled for May.

3. Chuck advised that he has been collecting GPS data in the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge under the Special Use Permit granted to him by the USFWS. Chuck has concentrated his data collection in the management area and trails in the wilderness area of the Refuge. Specifically, data has been collected on visible streams in ponded water and the edges of ponded areas. Chuck met with the Refuge's Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Mike Horne. Horne indicated that the facility has no data on the streams in the Refuge and that our equipment looked good. Problems with the

related Trimble software have been encountered. Chuck is working to resolve them.

4. Kelley provided those present with a draft of the GSWA Strategic Plan for the Water Quality Program. Kelley asked that the group review the document and provide comments. The Strategic Plan will be the focus of the upcoming GSWA Board Retreat in May.

5. Grant Update:

- A. **Hyde & Watson** – This grant request was for funding for Stream Team related equipment purchases. Grand awards are expected in June.
- B. **EENJ** – This grant was requested to fund remediation projects identified in Loantaka Brook Reservation. According to GSWA’s Development Director, last year we received word in April. We expect to hear any day.
- C. **Corporate Council**

<u>Company</u>	<u>Asked</u>	<u>Received</u>
Schering-Plough	\$10,000	\$5,000
Wyeth	\$10,000	\$5,000
Maersk	\$10,000	\$10,000
ICC	\$5,000	N/A

6. 10/07/04 and 01/31/05 base flow sampling results were provided to the group. The 03/24/05 storm flow sampling results have not yet been received. It is important to note that the October samples were analyzed by IAL prior to the realization that their methods were not sensitive enough for our needs. As a result, there are several non-detect results.

7. Upcoming Field Work

? TTC

Next base flow sampling round is scheduled for April. Princeton Hydro will advise next storm flow sampling round.

? Adopt Loantaka Brook

Next round of LB sampling is scheduled for the 1st half of May. Roger is available to assist.

? Visual Assessments

Training course presented by Americorps Watershed Ambassador on May 7th from 9:30-12:30 here at GSWA office. Assessments to be completed by volunteers between May 15 and June 15.

? Pebble Counts in LB

Tentatively scheduled for April/May. Gene is available to assist.

? Spring Cleanup

Sheds and ISCO units could use a cleanup/clean-out. Todd and/or Michael are available to assist.

? ISCO Rehab

Princeton Hydro is planning to take a look at the condition of the tubing and cables of each unit and replace as necessary.

? LB Staff Gauge

Scheduled to be replaced by Princeton Hydro this week or next week depending on weather conditions.

? Flow Measurements

Kelley to ask Princeton Hydro if any manual measurements are needed for the TTC water quality monitoring program.

8. The GSWA Board of Trustees is resurrecting the Science and Technology Committee. Frank Stillinger, a current Trustee, will be heading up the Committee. Frank plans to liaise with the Stream Team as well as GSWA Outreach & Education Director, Hazel England. The Committee's current focus will be on communications.....getting the word out about what we are doing via newsletters, press releases, website updates, etc.
9. Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 4th.

Respectfully submitted by: Kelley Curran