

Stream Team Meeting Minutes  
7:30 PM Wednesday, December 3, 2003

Present: Bill Allen, Neil Borman, Roger Edwards, Gene Fox, Sarah Low, Karen Patterson, Cecilia Polaski, Lee Pollock, Robin Timmons

1. Gene reported that he had done a data download the morning of meeting and that he had experimented with the use of a "World Water Monitoring Day" kit that measures pH, Dissolved Oxygen, turbidity, and temperature. The kits are produced by the LaMotte company and contain supplies for about 50 samples. Gene suggested the Stream Team consider purchasing a couple of these kits for he and other Stream Team members who visit the streams frequently to use to supplement our ongoing data collection. However, he and Lee Pollock later compared DO numbers and it appeared the kits might not be sensitive for use on our streams, at least in cold weather. Gene will explore further, using the Hach DO monitor to compare results with those from the kit.
2. Someone reported a build up of leaves in front of the SIM [Submerged Input Module] at the new Primrose Brook site.
3. Karen Patterson reported that the Stream Team portion of the GSWA web site has been significantly updated. The page is accessible through the "Stream Monitoring" button on the GSWA homepage at [www.greatswamp.org](http://www.greatswamp.org). Neil Borman reported having trouble accessing some of the links on this page and Karen said she would check on this. The Stream Monitoring section contains a brief narrative overview of the nutrient and sediment monitoring program, descriptions and maps of each of the sub-watersheds, a link to the water quality data collected and analyses conducted to date on Robin Timmons web-page at Drew University, minutes from past meetings, a list of active Stream Team participants, and the 2004 schedule of meetings. In addition, there is information that Roger Edwards pulled together on the NJDEP Surface Water Classifications and Integrated List. Still to be added are the SOPs for each of the volunteer tasks, and more in depth information on the Adopt Loantaka Brook program.
4. Before beginning his presentation on the results of his 2003 MIV study, Lee Pollock reported on an excellent stream restoration workshop he attended in November. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, a division of the US Department of Agriculture, sponsored the workshop. He said the workshop was excellent and highly recommended it should it be offered again in the future.

In general, Lee found an overall improvement in MIV communities during the 2003 study as compared to 2001 and 2002. He believes this is probably due to an unusually wet spring compared to the previous two years of drought. During the calendar year 2003, Lee and his able assistant Gene Fox conducted bi-monthly surveys of temperature, DO, pH, TDS, and some habitat features to gain a better idea of how the range and extremes of conditions experienced annually by organisms might impact the overall MIV populations. He found strong negative correlations between the June B-IBI (Index of Biotic Integrity) and temperature

and TDS, while the correlation with DO was positive. The data suggest that below a TDS level of about 200 ppm, and below a temperature of about 18 C, and above a dissolved oxygen level of about 11 mg/L, these variables appear to have little effect on macroinvertebrate communities. While the bi-monthly surveys revealed some interesting things, such as a pulse of acidic water during a March snow melt, and some anomalies at GB4, a site just downstream from the Southgate office park, he found that the June values showed the highest correlation to the B-IBI, thus validating the use of a single-date June observation to characterize patterns of environmental conditions. Lee's full report can be found on the Ten Towns Committee web site at <http://www.tentowns.org/10t/standstu.htm>.

5. Cecilia Polaski met with the team for first time. She lives on Fanok Road across from the Woodland treatment plant. She is a stay-at-home mom and a writer, and wants to help with work on Loantaka Brook. Her email address is [cdpolaski@yahoo.com](mailto:cdpolaski@yahoo.com).
6. The formal part of the meeting concluded with a farewell and thanks to Karen Patterson who will be leaving the Watershed Association after 5-plus years. The Watershed Association is actively seeking to replace her and hopes to have a new staff person in place by January. Karen promised to try and attend the February meeting and will work with her replacement in January to help ease the transition.
7. (3) Bill reviewed the development of a reclamation plan for the stone quarry in Bernards Township and the issue of undocumented imported fill. There was discussion on how to resolve this.
8. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2004.