

MINUTES
Science & Technology/Stream Team Meeting

9/13/2010

Attendees: Jim MacDonald, Frank Stillinger, Blaine Rothhauser, Wes Boyce, Lisa Stevens, Chuck Gulage, Adam Stutsky, Kelley Curran, Hazel England, Bob Crocco

The meeting was opened at 6:40.

The meeting started with a discussion of the accomplishments of the summer interns. Kelley spoke of Katherine Perri's work including research on roadway rock salt, aiding in the NJ Stream Restoration Projects, the entry of chemical and visual assessment data and the general organization of files. Additionally, she did water sampling, summarized the macro-invertebrate study, summarized the Water Quality report and helped to organize the Volunteer Data Base.

Kelley spoke of how valuable Katherine was and hoped that next year's would be as productive. When questioned regarding the identification and recruiting process Kelley stated that each year's process was somewhat different. It was noted that some of the local colleges with whom we are building relationships may provide intern talent.

Hazel next spoke of Alex Brenner in much the same light. Alex's time was spent organizing and templating the Corporate Workday process, tallied volunteer hours, followed up with volunteers, inventoried the CMA tool shed and made significant contributions to the newsletter. Hazel noted that the cost of Alex's internship was split with the Harvard Club of NJ and hoped that possibly other H men or women might follow.

With the important contributions that the interns made, the comment was made that the recruiting process should be formalized and standardized to insure continued success

Kelley then distributed a flyer on World Monitoring Day ("month"), which runs from 9/18 until 10/18. Kelley was hoping to expand the data collecting group through additional communication.

Kelley and Chuck Gulage then presented a report on field work done on Loantaka Brook. It was noted that testing of the upper brook, above the sewage treatment plant and below the stable shows a high fecal coliform and *E coli* count, with readings of over 8000 colonies/100 ml and the state standard set at 235 colonies. It was presumed that, with heavy rains, the horse manure piled behind the stable washes into the brook, causing the high bacteria levels. Chuck proposed a joint GSWA/Morris County work day to clean up the area on September 23rd, from 9 until noon.

Blaine mentioned that the problem might have an easy solution by planting a riparian buffer of cattails, between the brook and the stable. He also suggested that the Park ecologist should attend the workday. Three bio retention ponds are being funded in the County; Blaine suggested that one be placed in the stable area.

Kelley and Sally have a meeting scheduled with the Morris County Park Commission to discuss and encourage Best Management Practices.

Hazel noted that stable employees need to be educated on best practices. She also noted that there are many public and private stables in our watershed. A best practice workday, similar to our rock salt seminar day, may be in order.

The mantra was then exhorted: take science/turn into advocacy/to change behavior.

An additional workday was announced for planting around Silver Brook, on the Harding Land Trust property on Monday, September 27th at 9:00AM.

Kelley then headed up a brief discussion of the new fertilizer legislation in New Jersey, limiting use, particularly of phosphates.

Kelley also noted the Annual Water Resources Conference in Philadelphia, on November 1st to 4th. She noted that there will be many good presentations. Note the website link:

<http://www.awra.org/>

Kelley also noted that the Stream Team will be meeting every other month, with alternate meetings being held in conjunction with the Science and Technology committee.

Adam Stutsky asked that the various committee meeting dates and outside events be somehow incorporated in a common database for all to access.

Hazel then discussed the tremendous volume of work done at the CMA this summer, and the need for more yet to be done. She remarked that more outside funding was being requested for next year.

Hazel also mentioned the need to set up a meeting with our hunter community, before the hunting season gets into full swing.

Hazel also mentioned the CMA Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, scheduled on 9/25.

Bob Crocco mentioned the need to track membership and donations stemming from our Corporate Volunteer Workdays.

Frank Stillinger thanked Steve Gruber for the new bridge built on the perimeter of the CMA, making the fence patrol much more manageable...and drier.

He also mentioned the problem of accumulating trash outside the CMA, on the cul de sac that is not being picked up. Hazel said she would deal with it.

Frank also mentioned that the research on the LaMorghese property acquisition was proceeding.

Blaine commented that the entry way of the CMA looked nasty and we needed to do a better job of keeping it clean and looking good. He said he has a piece of Plexiglas and is awaiting a new map.

Chuck ended with a discussion of the Willow School which possesses a LEED certified, environmentally friendly, hydroponic, constructed wetland septic system...that uses plants to filter the effluent. The system is clean and aesthetically pleasing, with a small solar farm to handle the water pumps.

Hazel wondered if the project was cost effective and scalable.

Blaine thought the system should be viewed when the school was back in session. He also wondered whether there was applicability to Loantaka stables.

Chuck recommended a book: The Big Necessity. A History of Wastewater Treatment. He will donate the book to GSWA once he is finished.

The next meeting date was changed to November 1st.

Hazel and Kelley requested that future meetings be scheduled on 1st or 3rd Mondays, so as to not crowd the 2nd Tuesday Breakfast meetings.

A revised calendar will be published shortly.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 (ish).