

MINUTES
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY/STREAM TEAM MEETING
March 8, 2010

Attendees: Lisa Stevens, Terry Dyben, Roger Edwards, Joseph Balwierczak, Frank Stillinger, Adam Stutsky, Paul Steck, Deb Apruzzese, Chuck Gullage, Wes Boyce, Michele Demarest, Jim MacDonald, Blaine Rothouser, Ann Campbell, Steve Gruber, Hazel England, Kelley Curran, Bob Crocco

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.

Bob Crocco began the meeting with a brief profile of his background and welcomed and thanked everyone for the great turnout.

Kelley Curran led the first part of the meeting, covering Stream Team agenda items. No previous meeting minutes needed review.

The first discussion centered on a potential topic for the newsletter covering [water softeners and their effect on the watershed](#). This stemmed from brief commentary on the subject at the recent Chatham Township Water seminar.

Action by: Michele Demarest volunteered to research the subject and submit a technical paper

The [Woodland Treatment Plant permit](#) was the topic of the next discussion. A potential water quality trading scheme is evidently being considered with a particular focus and concern over phosphorus. Questions were raised about the differences between upstream and downstream trading and the water in between. Concern was raised for the need for active participation in a comment period, with the goal of impacting final decisions because of the potential for acute effects on a local basis. GSWA needs to be proactive on this issue.

Action by: Kelley will be following up on the matter and has supplied the committee with the following water quality trading link:

http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/trading/handbook/docs/NationalWQTHandbook_FINAL.pdf

A mention of public supply well vulnerability followed and Kelley has supplied this link for the group for further investigation: <http://oh.water.usgs.gov/tanc/NAWQATANC.htm>

Kelley also gave a brief description of a [water footprint calculator](#) which heightens awareness of both personal and business usage of our increasingly more precious resource. Hazel felt the instrument would be great for fairs and seminars and for the Sustainable Living initiatives. The link to explore is as follows:

<http://www.waterfootprint.org/?page=files/home>

Action by: Bob Crocco agreed to incorporate this info into a handout/fact sheet on water behavior issues and Deb Apruzzese agreed to obtain and circulate a recent corporate presentation she attended on strategic water utilization issues.

Kelley circulated a flyer for the [Loantaka Brook Clean-Up](#) on Saturday, April 10th at 9:30 am and invited all to come.

Kelley asked committee members to see if anyone could lead a [Madison High School day of service](#) on Wednesday, June 2nd.

Action by: Any potential attendees to contact Kelley ASAP.

Finally, two recent water quality issues were raised. It was noted that a [diesel spill](#) had occurred at the [Long Hill Township Pump station](#). Chuck Gullage observed the containment/clean-up effort by a HAZMAT group and will share photos that he snapped. Evidently, none of the spill made it into the Swamp, although the area is very close to Black Brook. Questions were raised as to whether the Township is fined for this occurrence and why GSWA was not notified regarding the matter. It was suggested that Len Hamilton, the Long Hill Environmental Commissioner be contacted and possible Pete Keledy.

Action by: Blaine and Kelley to contact Len and verify with Pete Keledy what had been done as far as clean up.

Action by: The comment was also made that we should post the photos on our website. Chuck will forward to staff. Jim Northrop can blog on the subject if given sufficient information.

Blaine also reported a cobalt/blue-green discharge on Saturday, March 6th at the CMA. The discussion led to the conclusion that if additional sightings occur we should strive to obtain water samples for analysis.

Action by: Blaine to follow up and ask results of his notification. Please cc Hazel and Kelley on any correspondence.

The general section of the meeting commenced with Frank Stillinger presenting the question as to whether we should propose to the Board of Trustees an acquisition plan for the two Roman Asphalt properties adjacent to our CMA properties. With so much discussion and focus on habitat fragmentation nationwide (and worldwide) the acquisition of these approx 10 acres would result in one contiguous property of 61 acres and a further step toward a greenway in the area. Last fall, a move by the owner to get sewer service to the properties was rejected by Harding Township. It was resolved and seconded that we take an acquisition proposal to the Board.

Action by: Frank and Blaine will spearhead the effort to develop the proposal.

Hazel will set up a meeting with the hunt club, and will request that Sally meet with Harding Land Trust to gather more information.

A second discussion of Newsletter/website articles was had. The idea was raised of collaborating with our local colleges and universities to allow science students to write a monthly (or periodic) op-ed or technical piece on a subject of our choosing. The articles could be reviewed and edited for publication by the student's science professor, limiting the workload for GSWA staff and current volunteers. Guest student pieces would also have the added benefit of raising awareness, and possibly membership, to GSWA.

Action by: Hazel will accumulate a contact list of professors with the goal of putting a formal program into place. Schools to be contacted would be Drew, St Elizabeth's, Fairleigh Dickinson and County College of Morris. The name of the student, the professor, and the institution would be highlighted for attribution.

It was also proposed that an article be prepared concerning residential well-water testing protocols and issues.

Action by: Steve Gruber volunteered to research and compose the report.

A discussion was had concerning the solar-farm proposal for the Miele Superfund site. Issues of new transmission lines, herbicide application beneath the panels and whether the panels were impervious

surfaces that could seriously affect rainwater percolation and runoff patterns were raised. It was agreed that GSWA should insure that any renewable energy development area be engineered with the best available science to insure as much protection as possible of waterways and surrounding habitats.

Action by: Hazel will contact Fred Akers to get more technical background on similar projects.

A brief report was presented on Sustainable Jersey initiatives. Hazel noted that GSWA was being asked to participate in towns' planning processes, regarding water-related issues, to attain this "certification". Concern was raised that GSWA might be pulled in directions away from our core mission if we are not careful and disciplined. The feeling was expressed that GSWA should be a resource but not be "hands-on" in every issue. All committee members were encouraged to check the website: www.sustainablejersey.com Pay particular attention to the actions for sustainable communities section. There are many actions which are core to GSWA's mission.

The final section of the meeting focused on CMA topics. Hazel announced that we have a minimum of 8 **workdays** scheduled with Goldman Sachs this Spring/Summer, potentially involving 250 total employees. GS has committed \$10,500 to the project. Additional workdays are anticipated with Pfizer and Verizon. A discussion followed on a focused strategy of turning more of the volunteers into GSWA members. Data and fact sheet handouts, email records and consistent post-event thanks and follow-ups will hopefully insure more GSWA membership sign-ups from this cohort.

Hazel also called attention to the new **CMA workday schedule** doc on Gmail where GSWA members can sign on to help with the corporate workdays. All committee members were encouraged to log on and sign up if schedules permit:

Action by:

Go to google.com. Top right login. login as gswacma@gmail.com Password: Password1234. Go to documents tab at top of search page. There are two documents, one a log of volunteer hours for all hours worked relating to CMA, the other the listing of corporate workdays. A brief write up of the Activities to be conducted at each day will be added shortly. All should have editing privileges. Please contact Hazel if you have any problems getting access.

The need for a meeting with our on-property **deer hunters** was raised by Hazel. A more formal process to make our CMA volunteers aware when there are hunters (with guns) about is required, especially since there is more activity at the CMA now. :

Action by: Hazel will schedule the meeting. Blaine R and Bob C will attend.

Hazel proposed a **consolidation of all CMA data** "under one roof". This will allow for easier access, as the archives grow.

Action by: Blaine mentioned he has files of 1996 photos of the CMA which he will CD burn and submit. Anyone else with historic info or future data should pass copies to Hazel.

Blaine requested a good CMA map copy to put under glass at the trail entrance.

Action by: Hazel will provide.

Steve Gruber mentioned **the Passaic River Maritime Festival** on May 14-16th and raised the question as to whether GSWA will have a presence there.

Action by: If there are any volunteers to help to staff a table there, please let Hazel or Steve know.

Wes Boyce encouraged all to check out the new [FEMA flood plain map](#) online, which evidently will be used to establish flood insurance rates. According to Wes, the instrument seems topographically and elevation challenged!

The meeting was adjourned at approx 8:45 pm, with Bob Crocco commenting on the aggressive agenda for the evening and a promise for a, hopefully, slimmed agenda for the next meeting:

[Monday, May10, 6:30 pm](#)

The minutes were drafted by Bob Crocco and edited by Hazel England and Kelley Curran.