

Stream Team Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 13, 2011

Attendees: Laura Kelm, Joe Balwierczak, Wes Boyce, Frank Stillinger, Mike Duffy, Bill Marshall, Jeff Webb

The meeting began at 10:10 AM.

Laura distributed the minutes of the Stream Team meeting held on June 29, 2011. They were approved.

Mike expressed a willingness to sample TDS in Loantaka Brook and Great Brook, and possibly sample other components using the lab at his college.

Laura reviewed stats from the USGS gage at Millington Gorge collected during Hurricane Irene: On August 26, the gage measured a flow of 2610 cubic feet per second (avg. August flow is around 45 cu. ft./sec.; flood stage is 1000 cu. ft./sec), and a height of 10.26 feet (flood stage height is 8.0 feet). Frank expressed a concern about Millington Quarry discharging pollutants into the Passaic, particularly during periods of such high water level. Laura will investigate the contaminants found in the Quarry in the past, and whether they have an NJPDES permit.

There was a brief discussion of the impacts of Hurricane Irene on the CMA: extensive flooding, some trees down, many boardwalk sections moved downstream by water. Wes mentioned an informal work day to be held the next morning (Wednesday Sept. 14) to work on the clean up effort. Another clean up day will potentially be held at the end of September.

Laura mentioned Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD), which has been causing deer deaths in the area, including the Refuge, Loantaka Brook Reservation, Madison, and Florham Park. The disease is spread by biting midges, and can not be spread from deer to deer or from deer to human.

Laura gave an update on the Silver Brook restoration project. The deer fencing at the Harding Land Trust restoration site off James Street will be upgraded during a work day on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12pm (meet at the CMA at 8:45am). Several smaller fences will be removed and replaced by 2 large exclosures. Joe and Wes volunteered to help with the work that day, and potentially weed whack around the area beforehand for easier access during the work day. Buffer plantings have also been proposed for Bayne Park in Harding, though some concerns were raised by the Harding Citizens Park Advisory Committee about maintenance. Wes volunteered to monitor the deer fence at the park assuming the project proceeds.

Laura discussed World Water Monitoring Day (WWMD), including showing a test kit and check-out procedures to borrow a test kit. Several people expressed interest in checking out test kits. Last year, 5 GSWA volunteers participated in World Water Monitoring Day and tested 13 sites; the goal for this year is 10 participants testing 20 sites.

Laura showed a sign-out binder that will be kept in the back room at GSWA Headquarters (where the water quality materials are kept; next to the fridge) – please use this binder when checking out a WWMD kit or visual assessment equipment. Copies of maps of the watershed which may be useful for WWMD can be found in the binder.

Laura gauged interest for people to volunteer with the School Water Monitoring on the Passaic (SWaMP) program; volunteers are needed when classes go into the field to test water quality using the WWMD test kits. There was some interest. Laura will e-mail the Stream Team list with dates and times for classes to sample as they are scheduled; available Stream Team members are encouraged to volunteer to assist.

The schedule for 2012 Stream Team meetings was discussed. There was agreement that meetings should alternate between mornings and evenings and different days of the week so those with different schedules can have an opportunity to attend meetings occasionally. It was also recommended to schedule meetings after Breakfast Briefings when possible. Assuming there will be Science and Technology Committee meetings in 2012, an effort will be made for Stream Team meetings to overlap with Science and Technology meetings approximately twice during the calendar year. Laura will create a schedule of 2012 meeting dates and present it at the November meeting for approval.

Upcoming programs and events were discussed including: a talk on pond health by Steve Souza (Sept. 17, 10am), Rain Garden Workshop at GSWA (Oct. 4, 7-8:30pm), Breakfast Briefing on deer by Emile DeVito (Oct. 11, 8-9:30am, at GSWA), Breakfast Briefing on fracking for natural gas extraction (Nov. 15, 8-9:30am, at GSWA), and the NJ Water Monitoring Summit for volunteer water monitoring groups (volunteers are welcome! Dec. 1-2, Trenton).

Wes suggested a GSWA showing of the movie *Gasland* regarding the effects of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas.

Frank asked what the snow removal plan is at Jockey Hollow regarding road salt or brine usage. Laura will look into this.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00AM.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, November 17 at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Laura Kelm