

Stream Team Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 1, 2007

Attendees: Deb Apruzzese, Kelley Curran, Roger Edwards, Anne Essner, Joan Fischer, Gene Fox, Robin Timmons, Al Pawlowski, Frank Stillinger

The meeting at GSWA headquarters convened at 9:08am. Minutes of the preceding meeting held Jan. 4, 2007 were distributed, and were approved.

Anne provided an update on changes to GSWA's communications strategies. This function will now be outsourced. The Association has hired Jean Rice & Associates to handle this function. They will be evaluating all aspects of GSWA's communications. As a result of this business change, John Malay is no longer employed by the GSWA. The deadline for article submissions for the spring newsletter will be the end of February. This issue will be focused on the BioBlitz and will likely be sized down. Kelley mentioned the presentation that she attended at last year's Volunteer Monitoring Summit entitled "Writing to be Read" given by Eleanor Ely. Eleanor is the editor of the national newsletter of volunteer water quality monitoring The Volunteer Monitor. Kelley offered to contact Eleanor for advice on how our newsletter might be made more effective.

Joan mentioned that the GSWA has also consulted Ruotolo Associates, a development consulting firm, to conduct an assessment of the Association's development strategies. One new development idea mentioned is to coordinate efforts with local realtors. Kelley said that a long-time Stream Team member is also a realtor and offered to make initial contacts to see about using the GSWA and regional attractions as a selling point.

The group discussed the possible expansion of the GSWA Corporate Council and associated funding for Stream Team activities. Gene offered to get the names of the companies located along Route 124 in the Loantaka Brook headwaters region. Another suggestion was made about contacting the water companies that service the watershed area and/or obtain their supplies from the Passaic River for distribution to their customers. Gene mentioned that he spoke with personnel that currently occupy the former Hyde & Watson property on Southern Blvd. in Chatham. The Black Brook monitoring station is located on this property. According to Gene, the company (a law firm) sounded interested in becoming involved with our monitoring program. All agreed that it would be a good idea to put together some kind of 'sell sheet' to approach new companies with to consider joining our Corporate Council. Anne also mentioned that the next Corporate Council meeting is being scheduled for March.

The GSWA's BioBlitz is scheduled to take place on Friday, May 18th and Saturday, May 19th in Loantaka Brook Reservation. Frank said that 15-20 professional experts would be conducting an inventory of species. In addition, the Stream Team will be leading a group on water quality in the project area using test kits and meters. The Americorps Watershed Ambassador will also be on hand to demonstrate macroinvertebrate collection and identification. Deb offered to be the official photographer for the event and to put together a CD/slide show. Anne mentioned that her husband Bob might be interested in help her out with this task and that he has several cameras that could be used. She also said that her barn could be used for storage of equipment if needed. Frank mentioned that the next Science & Technology Meeting discussing the BioBlitz event would be held on Tuesday, February 13th at 7:00 pm.

Kelley said the GSWA has contacted two consulting firms, Birdsall Engineering and F.X. Browne, Inc., regarding the stream restoration project in Loantaka Brook Reservation. The project is slowly moving forward. The GSWA is looking to these firms for help in applying for an NJDEP grant to design and implement the project in the park.

Loantaka Brook sampling is scheduled for Thursday, February 8th. Kelley, Roger, Terry, Al, and Gene will be on hand to help out. Flow measurements will be a new addition to the data collected as part of this program. Kelley will forward the flow measurement protocol(s) to Al.

Kelley said that funding was received through a Hyde and Watson Foundation grant and the GSWA now has a Stream Team dedicated laptop computer. This computer can be used for Stream Team meeting presentations and Internet access and will be a great resource.

Kelley will forward the ratings curves for each of the watershed streams developed by Princeton Hydro to Robin for review. In addition, Robin was asked about creating a website and statistical analyses of the Loantaka Brook data that has been collected over the past two years. Kelley will forward the spreadsheet of data to Robin.

The next meeting date is Thursday, March 1st at 9:00 am.

The meeting adjourned.