

Stream Team Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 1, 2007

Attendees: Kelley Curran, Terry Dyben, Roger Edwards and Al Pawlowski

The meeting at GSWA headquarters convened at 9:25am. Minutes of the preceding meeting held February 1, 2007 were distributed, and were approved.

Terry mentioned that he had attended Helen Fenske's memorial at Drew University. Roger mentioned that he knew Helen and in fact helped to stuff envelopes in her kitchen back when she spearheaded the effort to stop the construction of a jetport in what is now the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. The GSWA is planning to purchase and dedicate a bench in Helen's honor. This bench will be installed in the GSWA's Conservation Management Area.

Al gave a PowerPoint presentation summarizing his research on composting facilities. Specifically, the concerns that associated leachate poses on adjacent surface waterbodies were discussed. The NJDEP's guidance documents and permitting requirements for such facilities as well as best management practices were also discussed. A recycling/composting facility is located in Chatham Township adjacent to Black Brook, which initiated this research. Grass clippings appear to be one of the major concerns due to high nitrogen levels. We are unsure if the Chatham Twsp. facility accepts grass clippings nor what the true impact of the leachate is on the stream, if any.

A discussion on road salt ensued. Terry brought along copies of specifications for a product called Enviromelt. This product is a "non-chloride de-icer which is used where environmental issues exist and a safer ice & snow melter is required". Terry also brought in a local newspaper that listed an ad for another deicing product called Magic Salt. This ad mentioned that the product is used on the Garden State Parkway. According the Magic Salt website, it "starts out as ordinary rock salt, which is then treated with a liquid, agricultural by-product of the distilling process blended with magnesium chloride.... It is non-toxic, bio-degradable and has a corrosion index lower than distilled water." Kelley offered to ask Harry if he might be able to forward a survey to the ten municipalities in the watershed regarding the type of de-icing material each uses and their application and storage practices.

Roger summarized the data collected by TRC Omni on Black Brook. The Township of Chatham initiated this sampling project in order to characterize the surface water conditions in the Black Brook both upstream and downstream of the confluence of Black Brook and the unnamed tributary to with the sewage treatment plant discharges. Roger provided attendees with handouts of data tables and a map indicated the sampling locations. This data is of special interest to the GSWA, as we do not currently have any sampling sites on this portion of Black Brook. A few of the highlights include:

- ▶ Nitrate and total nitrogen levels in the treatment plant effluent were consistently high, typically about 20 mg/L. Total phosphorus in the effluent ranged from 0.11 to 0.90 mg/L, in agreement with the plant's published data, and a similar range to that seen in the Woodland Plant's data.
- ▶ Most of the nitrate concentrations above and below the confluence with the tributary, are reported as <0.02 mg/L. These numbers are improbably low. In addition, both the total phosphorus and the TDS concentrations were substantially smaller than

those found at T1 (below treatment plant discharge) and in the treatment plant effluent itself.

- ▶ TDS concentrations at BB2 (furthest downstream location, below confluence with the tributary) ranged from 150 to 260 mg/L, reflecting significant dilution of the tributary water entering upstream. This dilution is generally observed for all monitored parameters.

TRC Omni will be continuing quarterly monitoring for Chatham Township at the BB2 location only. Kelley will inquire whether this data will be able to be accessed through the NJDEP's online Data Miner system.

Kelley advised that the NJDEP recently finalized the New Jersey 2006 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report. This report includes the 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies. Unfortunately, all assessment units (a.k.a. listed designated uses – e.g. primary contact recreation) for Loantaka Brook continue to be included in Sublist 3. Waterbodies are placed on this sublist when the designated use assessment indicates insufficient or no data to assess the designated use. Kelley will make sure that the appropriate NJDEP personnel are supplied with the GSWA's Loantaka Brook data so that this is not the case when the next report comes out in 2008. The full report can be accessed on the NJDEP's website at: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bwqsa/integratedlist2006Report.html>

Kelley informed the attending members that Dr. Lee Pollock would be presenting the results of his 2006 macroinvertebrate survey in the Watershed at the next Ten Towns Committee meeting in March. Kelley will forward the date, time, and location to all stream team members.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.