

Stream Team Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 6, 2007

Attendees: Bill Allen, Kelley Curran, Terry Dyben, Gene Fox, and Frank Stillinger

Minutes of the previous meeting held June 7, 2007 were distributed. Bill made a motion to approve the minutes without edit and Frank seconded his motion.

A discussion of Frank and Mike Horne's (Wildlife Biologist for the GSNWR) article concerning leaking residential fuel oil tanks in the watershed ensued. An article on the subject will be included in the upcoming GSWA newsletter due out later this month.

The results of the recent BioBlitz event were discussed. An article summarizing the event is planned for the upcoming Fall GSWA newsletter. Plans have also been made to update the GSWA website on the details of the successful event. The time and location of the next BioBlitz has not yet been determined but will likely not occur until 2009.

Kelley provided team members with R. Edward's table updated with the most recent Loantaka Brook sampling results (May 2007) as well as notes summarizing the highlights including:

- Substantially lower TDS, Na, and Cl numbers when compared to February indicating that the "salt surge" has dissipated, especially downstream
- At the upstream sites, TDS remains at the higher levels typically seen year round
- Flow measurements again show the flow downstream from the treatment plant to be substantially larger than from the flow upstream
- The recent pattern of high nitrate and relatively low phosphorus concentrations in the treatment plant effluent continues. The results appear to be satisfying the 0.4 mg/l total P in the discharge which is proposed by the NJDEP TMDL, however, the monthly P discharge concentrations reported by the plant give a different impression. (During the period Jan 2006 through May 2007, of the 17 monthly averages reported, 8 exceeded the 0.4 mg/l, the highest figure being 0.94 mg/l for August 2006.)

Kelley plans to call the Superintendent of the Woodland STP to discuss the 0.4 mg/l P proposal and what the sources of phosphorus are in the water that comes into their plant.

World Water Monitoring Day is scheduled for kick-off on September 18, 2007. GSWA is planning to participate this year using the test kits provided by the NJDEP. Although these kits yield low quality data (as opposed to laboratory analyzed samples), it will be interesting to compare our streams' results to those of other streams throughout the country and the world! Both Terry and Gene expressed an interest in helping with this project.

Kelley apprised the meeting attendees that discussions are being held with both F.X. Browne, Inc. and another consulting firm regarding the identification of potential restoration projects in the Great Brook sub-watershed. These included sites on commercial properties along Southgate Parkway in Morris Township as well as on our own Conservation Management Area property. GSWA hopes to start work next year on some of this work.

A tour of the Mendham Township Treatment Plant is planned for October. This is a water distribution plant as opposed to a sewage treatment plant and should provide some interesting information of the processes involved in cleaning water to drinking water standards. GSWA Stream Team, Science & Technology Committee members and Board members will all be invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Kelley Curran