

Stream Team Meeting Minutes
7:30 PM Wednesday, October 8, 2003

Present: Bill Allen, Paul Benzing, Neil Borman, Roger Edwards, Gene Fox, Michael Hartwig, Todd Hayes, Bill Marshall, Karen Patterson, Lee Pollock, Robin Timmons, Chuck Whitmore

1. Karen Patterson made two announcements. First, she will be leaving the GSWA in December because she is expecting her second child. A search is underway for a replacement. Second, the GSWA is pursuing new office space in the "Reynolds House" – a five bedroom house in Harding Twp off Tempe Wick Road. The house and adjoining eight acres were recently donated to the Morristown National Historical Park. If the deal goes through and the GSWA moves into the Reynolds House there will be more room for storage of stream equipment and possibly for processing samples. The earliest the move might occur is June 2004.
2. Karen requested volunteers to help with specific tasks on the Adopt Loantaka project, including a systematic assessment of the upland areas of the sub-watershed. Bill Marshall, Roger Edwards, Chuck Whitmore and Gene Fox volunteered. In addition, help is needed to track down information on the types of de-icing agents used by Morris Twp, Morristown and Morris County on the roads in the upper sub-watershed. Paul Benzing suggested one of his students might take it on as a class project. He will check around and get back to Karen.
3. Lee led a discussion of the goals for Water Quality Index monitoring (using Hach equipment). There are several issues to be addressed. The first issue to be determined, because it will affect the other decisions, is what we want to do with the data (e.g., use it for educational purposes versus more stringent regulatory type purposes). The general consensus was that the data collected should be reliable enough to publicize and to submit to the DEP in case of serious problems. In order to make the data statistically relevant we need to do at least three tests per parameter per stream (to obtain an average). We need a comprehensive Quality Assurance Plan in place. The group agreed to start out monitoring at the existing 6 sites (5 ISCO and the outlet) four times a year to get an idea of the time commitment and expense involved, and whether there is enough variability to warrant that frequency. After at least one year of the program, the group can decide whether to increase the number of sites and whether to increase, decrease or retain the four times/year frequency. Karen estimated that one year of monitoring at these six sites would cost approximately \$500 and she believes the GSWA could cover these costs out of its existing budget. Lee and Neil will develop a list of equipment needed to support the tests and develop detailed procedures
4. Bill Allen reported that he has organized all the ISCO level and rain gauge data that he has been given in an Access database. The data goes back to May 1998 when the ISCO machines were first installed and operational. This has resulted in a tremendous amount of data as the ISCO machines record the

depth of the stream and amount of rain at 15 minute intervals throughout the day. This results in a 96 records a day, 365 days a year for a total of 35,040 records per year, per site, per parameter (level and rain fall). Bill distributed a handout that describes each of the fields in the Access database, and several example sheets that show the different ways the data can be displayed and accessed. Having the data organized in the Access data base has already proven useful: 1) looking at it on a monthly basis alerted bill to several recent data gaps that are not explained by battery failures, 2) Bill compared rainfall amounts at the PR and BB rain gauges and found some significant differences on at least a couple of occasions. This highlights the importance of getting the PR rain gauge back up and running as soon as possible. Other uses for the data were discussed, including closer examination of the accuracy of the current rating curves.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Patterson