

GSWA Stream Team Meeting  
November 6, 2002

Present: Bill Allen, Paul Benzing, Lou Caprioglio, Jill Clougherty, Gene Fox, Roger Greenway, Michael Hartwig, Todd Hayes, Amy Leib, Mike McCormack, Karen Parrish, Karen Patterson, Robin Timmons.

1) Bill Allen began the meeting with a review of control data he has developed for tracking the consistency between the ISCO level data and the Staff Gauge stream height readings. The data reveals that there is a problem with either the staff gauge or the ISCO because June and October readings were well outside the control points, and differed from each other significantly (June vs October). The group suggest three possible reasons for this: 1) There has been a physical change in the location of the in-stream ISCO equipment (SIM?) or the staff gauge, 2) there is a problem with the pressure transducer located in the stream, or 3) someone accidentally or purposefully changed the level in the ISCO program. Michael Hartwig agreed to check for physical changes and Amy Leib will check the flow data for June and October to see whether there are any sudden changes in the level reading, or whether the change may have occurred more gradually. If neither of those investigations turns up the problem, Amy will check with ISCO to see whether the Pressure Transducer should be sent in for troubleshooting.

2) Karen Patterson provided an update on the new "Adopt Loantaka Brook" project. So far, two corporations have committed \$5,000 each to adopt Loantaka Brook. The project will initially focus on determining the source(s) of high TDS (Total Dissolved Substances) in the headwaters of Loantaka Brook, provide additional testing for phosphorous and nitrogen, particularly above and below the Woodland Sewage Treatment Plant, and generate an overall assessment of what needs to be done to improve the health of Loantaka Brook. The Watershed Association is actively seeking additional funding for the program.

3) Amy Leib reported that the relocation of the Primrose Brook sampling station has delayed the resumption of stormwater sampling. The Ten Towns Committee is still waiting for the landowner to sign off on an easement that will allow the installation of the shed and ISCO unit on his property.

In addition, Amy announced that Sarah Low, another FX Browne staff person would be taking over the bulk of the work on the Great Swamp Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring Program because Amy's workload has grown too great. She will be orienting Sarah to the watershed during the next month and will bring her to the December Stream Team meeting.

4) Lee Pollock presented the results of his 2002 MIV study on 17 sites in the Great Swamp watershed. He has amassed an amazing amount of data on MIVs and the physical and chemical attributes of the sampling site. In particular, Lee noted the importance of the stream's gradient (the change in elevation over a certain length of

stream) in creating a positive or negative environment for the MIVs. This is important to know about because it is one characteristic that we cannot control and therefore should be aware of when prioritizing sections of streams for possible restoration efforts. Please see the handout provided by Lee for further details on this and other aspects of the study.

5) Due to time constraints, Karen Patterson postponed the discussion of water quality to the December meeting. She asked that members please review Lee's MIV work and the Water Quality Report prepared by FX Browne in June 2002, as well as any other resources members might have available to them.

Finally, Karen asked the four new people to introduce themselves and relate their interest in the Stream Team. Karen Parrish, a returning GSWA staff member, has been putting together the proposal for the Adopt Loantaka Brook Project. Paul Benzing is a new professor at FDU and Madison resident with an interest in stream ecology. He hopes to get FDU more involved in local environmental issues. Mike McCormack is a professor at Montclair State University and Harding resident, with an interest in stream ecology. He is on the Harding Environmental Commission and wants to make sure that their stream monitoring efforts complement those of the Ten Towns Committee and other groups (e.g., Morristown National Historical Park). Jill Clougherty is a Chatham resident with a background in natural resources and is eager to help with various water quality and quantity tasks.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Patterson