

**Lower Passaic & Saddle River Alliance
(WMA #4)
Education and Outreach Committee
April 14, 2005**

Present: Tom Pietrykoski, Chair, PSVC; Ashley Pengitore, PVSC; Carolyn Waugh, WMA#6 Ambassador; Brendan Lynaugh, NJCWW; Michele Bakacs, DEP; Jerry Willis, NPS; Nancy Zimmerman, FOCP/Third River; Gray Russell, Twp Montclair; Elyssa Serrilli, NJYC-Newark; Evelyn Meier, LWVRidgewood, Barbara O'Brien, LWV Ridgewood, Ellie Gruber, LWV Ridgewood.

Meeting called to order, minutes approved as corrected:

Re: Peckman River, should read that Pat Matorazza (sp?), who runs the treatment facility on the Peckman, is interested in using the visual assessments for Verona's stormwater management plan.

Tom suggested, and all agreed, that draft minutes should be sent only to E&O members for correction before send out to entire WMA list and listserv.

Passaic Relay Update:

Carolyn Waugh reported the subcommittee met on March 31. Sierra Club has concerns about use of canoes, some aren't in good shape and they only have one trailer. Carolyn is contacting Project Use a program involved in "urban-suburban environment". They have 10 canoes and can drive and insure. Not confirmed. Cara M. is looking into Riverkeeper Insurance Policy which covers everything. Somerset County also has trailers, Jerry said he can contact Bronx River groups. Long discussion ensued. Need 12 canoes total, most trailers only hold 8, and insurance may cover canoes, but not paddlers on the river.

Thus far we have \$2,050: \$250 from Coop. Parties, \$300 LWVRidgewood, \$500 DEP (must be used exclusively for insurance), \$1,000 PSE&G. Michele reminded us that we must write thank you notes to each contributing organization.

There are 72 in race, need snacks and drinks for about 200 total. There is a hot dog vendor at WestSide, in case folks want to buy lunch. Discussed small contributions, from supermarkets, companies, all have assignments with LWVRidgewood tax free number. Best to get gift cards and we buy food, fruit, granola bars, etc. Tom volunteered to be the base of all calls, to coordinate contributions.

Twp. Of Montclair:

Gray reported on the stream cleanup with Cara M. on Toney's Brook last Saturday; collected over 25 large contractor bags provided by PVSC, along with their help. Because of the heavy rains, lots of litter flowed into the brook.

FOCP/TR:

Nancy reported they had a planting/transplanting; over 40 trees/bushes and a large cleanup. Big turnout because of all publicity, scouts and Bd of Ed helped; PVSC filled one dump truck, removed a/c, auto parts, lumber (Tom stated once they pulled out an entire limousine from Clark's Pond; we decided to feature items removed from cleanups in the newsletters). The Bd of Ed did give permission to put access road through property to do dredging; they never needed to move the soccer field at all, only decreased the size by 10 ft.; FOCP met with landscape architect to plan 75 ft. riparian buffer, aquatic shelf, and biofiltration system.

Committee volunteers their presence at the final planting, and will put this "victory" for steadfast citizenship in the newsletter.

Ridgewood Environmental Day

Brendan will present Project WET, Ellie, Tom and Ashley will assist; the day, at Ridge Elementary School is divided into three 40-minute sessions for 4-6 grades. Dr. Barrett has a conflict that day, will be at final session.

DEP

The Preakness was recommended for 319 funding to the Commissioner for watershed restoration and protection plan, and a regional stormwater management plan; will be coordinated by Dr. Pardi and Wm. Paterson Univ.

Glen Rock Environmental Commission members Naomi Gamorra and Cindy Mehallow met with TAC and presented their request for 319 Grant on the Diamond Brook. Committee will look into request. Deadline for the intent to apply is April 29, Ashley will contact Garden State Engineering to see if they will be consultant on project.

LWV Ridgewood

201 Magazine, one of the new "niche" pubs in the State, is doing a story on the visual assessment and the LWV Ridgewood. Should be out in July.

Michele discussed a “project end” date for visuals; LWV members volunteered for between 9 mos and a year.

PVSC

Tom and Ashley went to the Pequot Fish Hatchery in Warren County; working with the Urban Fishing Program. The Newark and Harrison schools will be “adopted” by PVSC, and they will present the UFP. UFP used PVSC docks, so this is a reciprocal agreement.

Waterwatch

Brendan reported on Earth Day cleanup at Watsessing Park on the 23; he sent out notice on list serve. Many groups involved with cleanup, coordinated by W.Park.

NPS

Jerry reported on his activities: 150 mile Liberty Trail; Kayak Trail on Hackensack; Western Bronx and North Manhattan trail/river project on the Harlem River; Elizabeth River; connecting Sandy Hook to the Henry Hudson Bayshore Trail.

IYO

Elyssa reported on her big Earth Day project at Branch Brook; over 20 “yellow shirted guides” will host guided walks along Second River; tree planting, provided by NJTree Assn. in East Orange. Two big training sessions: Brownfield Training with core members at NJIT; and session at the Urban Forestry Academy; also a Community Tree Planning in Phillipsburg on Arbor Day. Her IYO workers get \$5.65 per hour, work a 20 hour week.

On personal note: Elyssa received a full scholarship to the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) in Wyoming; one month which will certify her as leader for wilderness expeditions. The NOLS was a national competition, open to any informal/formal educator in community service. Congratulations all around, and we will certainly put this in the newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Gruber