

WATER SHED MANAGEMENT AREA 4
Education and Outreach Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 16, 2005

6:30-8:30 PM

Clifton Public Library – Allwood Branch
Clifton, NJ

Minutes

Attendees: Thomas Pietrykoski, EOC Chairperson, Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners; Ashley Pengitore, Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners; Cara Monkowski, NJ Watershed Ambassador – WMA4; Jerry Willis, National Parks Service; Michele Bakacs, NJ Department of Environmental Protection; Barbara O’Brian, League of Women Voters of Ridgewood; Nancy Zimmerman, Friends of Clark’s Pond and Third River; Elyssa Serrilli, NJ Youth Corps – Newark; Elizabeth Bell, NJ Community Water Watch – MSU; Brenda Lynaugh, NJ Community Water Watch – Rutgers Newark

Meeting called to order by Tom Pietrykoski. After introductions, motion to approve minutes by Michele, seconded by Jerry and approved with small changes.

I. Passaic River Relay

The finish line of the Relay has been changed from Pennington Park to West Side Park, which is also located in Paterson on the opposite side of the river.

T-Shirts - The EOC estimated that we will need approximately 200 t-shirts made.

Through Nancy’s research, she determined that the cost will be between \$6-\$9 each.

Tom will check with PVSC to see where they get their t-shirts made.

Cara and Carolyn presented an itemized list for donations to the EOC.

LWV waiting for state approval for holding account for donations

II. Second River Stewards Partnership-

Elyssa: River restoration five star grant from NOAA; part of grant is to create a stewards program, creating an online calendar of event with people who take part in events on the Second River/Passaic River around Branch Brook Park. Will be posted in Branch Brook Park. Projects include invasive species control, trail blazing, second river trail openings.

Nancy: Watsessing Park Conservancy has programs on the second river, might be interested in helping along

Michele- share calendars for WMA 4 and Second River Stewards; Newark WW- will start assessing on the Second River next week, coordinate activities.

Tom: Ellie needs articles for the WMA 4 newsletter, article deadline-?? Maybe April,

Barbra will check the dates for deadlines tomorrow

III. Updates from the Watershed

A. DEP- Michele Bakacs

Presented idea of changing groups name at the PAC, because there are identity issues in having WMA4 as a name because new people don’t know what the name stands for. Need something that will be more identifying to new people. More action oriented, one that describes what we are doing in the watershed, so that people will know what we

are about and how they can be involved and help. Have a names that is obvious and descriptive to what we do

Jerry- need a name that is more effective; it's important to have a name that is reflective of group's function. Important for grants, funding; easier to attract more people.

Need a good name in order to grow.

Nancy- came across problem when trying to get T-shirts, after long explanation, then was able to go to t shirt.

Michele- need to think about. Universal decision from PAC that name needs action, dynamic. Jerry suggested having unveiled at PRRP.

Nancy- contest in newsletter? Shot down because we need a name sooner

Michele- having brainstorm session at the next PAC meeting, pending USGS person; if they show up then brainstorm will not happen

All decided that we should have new logo and name for T-shirt and newsletter for race

Felt very strongly that Saddle River involved in name, needs an action word in it, suggested that we all come to next PAC meeting with ideas to be productive. Email names to Tom, and will bring to the next PAC meeting.

B. Friends of Clark's Pond and the Third River - Nancy Zimmerman

There is a problem with the Board of Education regarding the soccer fields and dredging. A soccer field is planned to go in the middle of the area where the riparian buffer is supposed to go. Need to represent at presentation on Tuesday night, Feb 22 7:30am at administration meeting at Bloomfield Board of Education. Need people to show support at meeting, because town is not living up to their end of the partnership. Now Board of Ed. doesn't want dredge material on the field; town engineer, facilities directors, town, etc, having miscommunication issues.

Michele- DEP will not allow any more no-cost extension programs; need to watch contract

Nancy- funding is all set, doesn't know if bills have been sent in. bids have been out, permits are in; Lois deals with contracts and reports, will ask Lois about contact problems

C. League of Women Voters - Barbara O'Brian

No new updates regarding watershed. Wednesday will be open space meeting for Ridgewood for LWV, will see if anyone there has an idea for a name. Tom asked about trees cut down on the farm near the stream; Barbra says there are different factions who want fields for kids and faction who wants open fields, no fertilizer, etc. probably will be compromise; also there is a pond with two houses, one old house, and then a second southern plantation like house for a horse farm. Plan is to rent out both houses, 3500 for month and second for 4000 a month. Plan is to keep old house and knock down the southern mansion kind of house for field. Neighbors are upset about possibility of parking issues, traffic, kids in area.

D. PVSC - Tom Pietrykoski and Ashley Pengitore

water quality monitoring program won an award from Association of Municipal Sewerage Authorities. This is the second award for this program.

E. NJ Community Water Watch

Newark – Brendan Lynaugh: met with Michele to get monitoring program done,

start at Branch Brook Park, and moving up on the Second River. Education program had teaching program today, will start in after school program in schools in 60 schools in Newark. First clean up March 5th, on the Passaic across from River Bank Park, maybe deputy mayor or council members to come. Will be holding raffle for Newark Bears tickets, Rippin' Rupert the mascot will be there.

Montclair – Elizabeth Bell: education week was success, 2400 students throughout state. Rupert the bear scared the 1st graders. Stream monitoring at Montclair has started, Third River. Michele will get aerial photos and segments for students.

Cleanup

in Elmwood Park, all cleanups will be in Elmwood. March 2nd 1st clean-up, April 2nd and April 16th - Earth Day Clean-up. Education events for earth day week, presentations in Bloomfield that week, and Our Lady of the Lake

F. National Parks Service - Jerry Willis

Toms of Maine grant fell through. Meeting for open space and access points w/ Paul Russo for WMA4 to get involved.

Aside: Tom says Jamie Lo interested in helping out with GIS, mapping the lower Passaic and needed map layers, and offered her help. Will send info to Jerry and Michele.

G. NJ Youth Corps – Newark - Elyssa Serrilli

no update. Lenape Trail Opening April 15. April 22, opening of the Essex County Environmental Center, will have work day April 16 to help with preparation for opening

Michele- DEP has general summary of WMA4, generic description, link to WMA4.org website will be put on DEP's website.

Passaic River Institute paid for 5years for hosting wma4.org website.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Monkowski

NJ Watershed Ambassador – WMA4

Thomas A. Pietrykoski

WMA4 EOC Chairperson