

**Lower Passaic & Saddle River Alliance
(WMA#4)
Education and Outreach Committee
May 9, 2005**

Present: Tom Pietrykoski, Chair, PVSC: Ashley Pengitore, PVSC: Carolyn Waugh, WMA#6 Ambassador; Brendan Lynaugh, NJCWW: Jerry Willis, NPS; Elyssa Serrilli, NJYC-Newark; Barbara O'Brien, LWV Ridgewood, Ellie Gruber, LWV Ridgewood.

Meeting called to order, minutes approved as corrected, and corrected minutes sent out to entire email list.

Passaic Relay Final Preparations

Carolyn reported that it is important we coordinate donations, insurance waivers, team information, emergency contact number, all cell phone numbers. We must communicate during the day. Need tables for registering. Handed out maps, times, all information. Will be three legs: 5 miles/ 5 miles/ 2 miles.

Garden State Engineering sent in check to pay for t-shirts. Insurance is highest cost, includes \$150 membership fee to ACA. Registration begins at 7:15, at West Side, some will come later on, to paddle in third leg. Barbara and Ellie will stay all day to register all comers. We have plenty of water, Ashley arranged for Haledon Foodtown to deliver water and ice machines; we have donations of fruit, granola bars, and will purchase pizza at neighborhood store, asking for donation of 3 or 5 with order of 15. Need two lunch/after dinner pizza orders; one for workers from Waterwatch who will be there all morning, and one for paddlers who will arrive around 2.

Tom will get the banner. We need recycling barrels, Elyssa will arrange with DPW. Fire departments have been notified.

Tree planting arranged by Jerry Willis, courtesy of the NJ Tree Foundation. The parks dept at West Side will dig out the holes, Jerry will lay trees along holes; total of 15 large trees (2" caliper, which is about 10') wrapped in burlap. Will be very heavy. Jerry will get shovels. Begin planting around 11 AM; will use volunteer paddlers, IYO members. IYO will be in Roseland for beginning, and then come to West Side to help with trees.

Jerry arranged for the Bronx River Alliance to provide two trailers and 12 canoes. There will be a subcommittee meeting May 3 to talk about the very last minute

arrangements between PVSC, which is transporting canoes/trailers from each docking.

Ron Pate and Dave Ogdens, of Sierra, will ride alongside to coordinate directions. PVSC will bring bags, gloves, t shirts, waders to West Side. Re: safety boats: don't need them, is tidal, not dangerous paddle. No thank you presents will be given to large donors; Michele will coordinate thank you letters.

Next year, will notify Project Use way in advance; they could not help with insurance, canoes, trailers because not enough notice. Will have a debrief meeting.

Tom suggested that we should use this energy and success to undergo one of our projects, such as mapping, or micro invertebrate study. Jerry reported that there is going to be a BioBlitz, a 24 hour study of everything on the Bronx River; we could copy this, using our students at MSU, WPC, Bloomfield, Ramapo. Will talk about this next meeting, after debrief.

LWVRidgewood

Glen Rock Environmental Commission sent a notice with their dog license renewals, reminding residents not to throw their wrapped dog waste into the storm drains; LWV arranged for same thing in our renewal notices, which went out last week. Maybe we should put this in newsletter, for all towns to do. Many DPWs spend time cleaning out bags from the drain basins.

201 Magazine , one of the niche magazines, is featuring LWV in July, especially the WMA program and monitoring the HoHoKus Brook.

PVSC

Ashley reported that PVSC received a national award for its sampling program with the NJ Harbor Discharges Group, 10 wastewater treatment plants which discharge in the Harbor. Together, they sample all the water in the NJ portion of the Harbor. The award is given by the Assn. of Municipal Sewerage Authorities.

She also reported progress on the 319 project, on the Diamond Brook, discussed engineering consultants.

Waterwatch

Brendan reported on a successful cleanup at Watsessing Park; Jane Myers of Park was big help; between 185-200 people took part in the day; over 6.5 tons removed from 8 sites on the Wigwam, including a refrigerator, lawnmowers, tree, and dead small animals.

Ridgewood Environmental Day was successful; Ashley, Tom, Ellie and Brendan presented to three elementary classes, Dr. Barrett came at end to introduce PRI.

NPS

Jerry reported that there is a possibility of no funding for his “urban forest” program next year, all agreed to write letters of support and contact legislators. Deadline for letters is July 1, Jerry will know by Sept 1 if he has funding. Tom has copies of the letters, and will contact everyone by email to let us know what to do.

IYO

The Lenapi trail opening was a big success. New cycle has begun; went canoeing with the Hackensack Riverkeeper and many who had never been in a canoe had a wonderful time. Elyssa, who will be at her program in Wyoming, offered her crew for any cleanups needed; Carolyn will contact.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ellie Gruber