

Minutes WMA #4 PAC Meeting  
Montclair Public Library  
April 8, 2004

16 Individuals Present

**Meeting Called to Order 7:05pm**

Welcome, introductions, and the last meeting's minutes were reviewed.

**Updates:**

*EOC*

- Gray R. and Karen N. updated on the "We All Live Downstream" in Montclair Council Chambers 2 weeks ago. 85 people were in attendance, County Executive Joe DiVincenzo and Town Engineer Kimberli Craft among others were in attendance. There was a video from the LWV in the Montclair area explaining watersheds and run-off pollution. Also announced the plan to create a "Friends of Toney's Brook."
- Thess P. announced that Watsessing Park Conservancy has been formed. They received their 319c and non-profit status. They also received a note from the county giving them the stewardship of the park to be watchdogs and take care of the park. The county will defer to them for decisions on the park.
- Ellie G. said that the non-point source pollution brochure that the league had done in another watershed is at the printer. It has a great map and the printer is just waiting on the paper. It will be nice to have for the **May 5, 2004** stormwater seminar. She also said that the WMA #4 newsletter should be done in a month, since Mark N. was late with his article. She also announced for Laura H. that she was working on a biological assessment training for the Raritan area and is having a workshop **May 1, 2004** for the area. A one day workshop, 9:30am until 3:30pm, Location TBA.

*TAC*

- Russ F. highlighted the interesting issues facing the TMDL work plan and activities for the stream observation. He passed out sample record sheets for visual assessments of the stream. **Volunteers needed** for the Peckman River 6&7 (Little Falls and W. Paterson area). Ramsey Brook at Allendale.
- Dick P. brought up that Pat R. suggested doing smaller segments but more in depth and making more maps because there are so many discharges, for example the Molly Ann Brook has 250+ discharges. They're still hashing out the details; Nick had intended a page for every pipe; however this is probably not logical. After the initial visual survey the plan will probably be adjusted. If anyone wants to volunteer, tell Pat R.
- Mark N. brought up the idea of monitoring between towns or check at towns. Veronica C. reminded everyone that these stream segments were delineated by the state. Russ F. handed out the most recent impaired waters list for WMA#4, it's on the DEP website as an excel spreadsheet.

*OSC*

- Paul R. said that the Open Space Committee is trying to get a handle on Environmental Justice, how to define it and how to map it for prioritizing open space.
- Veronica C. said that brownfields are going to work on using Essex County inventory to create a digital map of the brownfields, the Malcom-Pirnie map is useless because it's just a picture, cannot be incorporated into GIS with other data. Veronica C. wanted the PAC approval to focus on brownfields just along river corridors. There were no objections. Russ F. and Mark N. are planning to do a driveby survey of brownfields.

- Pat R. prepared a graph of percent minority and percent below poverty line for towns in the watershed. She wanted to make sure that we were getting at the environmental justice towns in a logical way, block by block was not logical. Using the state average of percent minority and percent below the poverty line as the cut-off. E. Orange, Irvington, Newark, and Paterson are above the state average. Towns like Montclair, W. Orange, and Kearny are below the state average. Russ F. included that we can look at more relatively important places once the environmental justice is better defined. They will release the final to PAC. Don H. thought that what Pat R. had done was good and well documented, not refusing anyone, just prioritizing the time.

### *State*

- Don H. had no updates.
- Russ F. brought up a \$500,000 fish tissue analysis, 50% of the target study area was going to be the Harbor, Passaic, Hackensack, and the Raritan, WMAs #4,5,7, and 8. The other 50% was going to come from the coastal habitat from Delaware Bay all the way north. 108 samples were going to be taken from the Passaic and Raritan, the largest number from the study on crabs. The analysis was looking for levels of mercury, PCBs, dioxins, and metals. There is a draft of the workplan on website and in press release. Hopefully the department will money and to continue the program.
- The \$1 million DEP/DOJ settlement with American for Oyster Creek fish kills in Sept. 2002; also work to rehabilitate the lighthouse at Waretown. Russ F. noted that it was confusing to read the money breakdown. \$500,000 for DEP and \$500,000 for DOJ. How did the DEP come up with that figure, did the collect each fish?
- Veronica C. announced that the guidance for the 319h grants is out and on the web. Funding for watershed protection, TMDL, and regional stormwater plans. If you are thinking of applying, fill out the intent to apply form. It is a one-page document, basically a fill in the blank. This is to tell the state what you want to do. Even if you don't have the project completely designed, apply for what you want. The intent to apply is due by **April 30, 2004**. You can fill in the details afterwards. Dick P. added that if you fill out the intent, you should be ready to defend it in Trenton, it's okay if all the details aren't there. There were no applications from the region last year.

### *Priority Stream Segment*

Dick P. said there was a snafu with the department of the treasury. The money was held up because of a paperwork issue between WPU and the department of the treasury. Karen Ward is in charge of setting up the funding. He did submit 2 sets of 319h grants, one to continue project from this year and the second set to start a new project next year. He set up an appointment on **June 3, 2004** to meet for continuing project. Need TAC and PAC to discuss the second phase of the project next year. It was noted that there are 2 TAC meetings and 1 PAC meeting before June 3<sup>rd</sup>. PAC had decided to work on Lower Passaic, the DEP approved then revoked the approval, Dick P. was told to work on something else. The TAC decided to work on the tributaries, focusing on fecal coliform and phosphorous. A meeting at WMA #3 presented the phosphorous problem at Pompton Lake. Meeting on **April 27, 2004** in the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, a presentation on the TMDL study. Russ F. said that their trying to get away from TMDL and to establish a trading program between wastewater plants and water companies. He noted that during drought conditions the Passaic River is 90% treated effluent. It was a one year study, the results should be coming out June or July. Hydrocarbons weren't listed on the analysis. The study is mainly focusing on the upper Passaic.

### *Passaic River Paddle*

Ellie G. said that everything is going well. They sent out the press release, they received permission from Elmwood Park high school. The mayor of Elmwood Park has agreed to come, no one from the DEP has committed to coming and neither has the mayor of Fair Lawn. They've been in touch with a reporter at the Star Ledger, may have a reporter there. PVSC is donating money to cover the cost of the canoe rentals. The Hackensack Riverkeeper has said he would hold off on the bill until after the event.

*Joint Venture, WMAs #4 and #5*

Veronica C. said there is going to be a meeting between areas 4 and 5 either **May 4, 2004** or **June 1, 2004**, it looks like the may date is better for most people. Everyone is invited to come and encouraged. Russ F. reiterated that WMA #5 is trying to establish and this was encouraged by the DEP. If the group is autonomous they are available for a lot of grant money. WMAs #4 and #5 are close and very similar. There are a lot of people in both for one reason or another and they are very similar in structure and makeup of the watershed. The created organization would be the Northeast Watershed Alliance, an umbrella group to work as a funding stream. There would be a board composed of members from both watersheds but the subcommittees would basically stay the same, larger and special projects might be done jointly. Alliance would act as a management group. It would probably be structured where it could incorporate other groups over time. Ellie G. voiced her objections, what about including WMA #6? Also, she thought that there would be too many people to run effectively. Russ F. said that WMA #3 wasn't interested and didn't think the WMA #6 would be interested because the Passaic River Coalition has a lot of funding opportunities already. Marion M. stated that it would focus mostly on the technical side of things so as to not step on the toes of other organization in the area.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 pm.