

Minutes WMA #4 PAC Meeting June 10, 2004

14 Members in attendance

6:50pm, meeting called to order by Veronica Craw, PAC Chairperson

Welcome and Introductions

Minutes approved as scribbled.

Welcome Michele Bakacs to the group. Michele will be the new DEP contact, Pat Rector will be leaving us.

Goodbye and thank you to Karen Nowicki who is leaving for another job.

EOC - by Veronica C. via email

Third River Updates: waiting for grants dredging and they were discussing forming a "Greenway Coalition." The EOC also discussed the Ridgewood Earth Day Passaic Paddle and watched the video to put together an education and outreach campaign in six easy steps.

TAC – Russ F.

The TAC discussed priority stream segments and work being done by the TAC on that. Next piece of the segments is Preakness in Wayne, the TAC is working with the township and the POTW for fecal coliform. Hopefully the plan will be approved tomorrow (June 11, 2004). The plan needs to be approved before samples can be sent to PVSC. The visual assessment piece is still being discussed. The TAC hasn't heard from Nick Agnoli to get more data sheets made up. Pat R. brought Peckman and Diamond Brook with her. Laura H. wants the Diamond Brook, Teena S. wants the forms for Peckman. Goeffle and Molly Ann Brooks are done and Veronica C. wants Saddle River. Pat wants to coordinate with Friends of the Peckman River for assessment.

OSC – Paul R.

The OSC is still working on maps and hoping to have a meeting on **June 23, 2004** at WPU to get data approved by the DEP and expand the maps. Pat R. will send Veronica the agenda.

DEP – Michele B. and Pat R.

There has been the annual reorganization of Watershed Management. The technical groups are staying as is, however there is a new water policy unit dealing with statewide and stormwater regulations. The education and outreach branch should remain mostly unchanged. This is hoping to organize the department on job description, rather than geographic location.

The TMDL 319c grants and regional stormwater have a chart online for regulatory implementation. The state is more concerned with getting towns into compliance and wants to help rather than fine. The waste water plan review is going to check on TMDLs to see if things are being done. If they aren't in compliance, additional requirements may be necessary and added to the general permit to get the towns in compliance.

June 19, 2004 – Becoming an outdoors woman, focusing on shooting sports.

June 12-13, 2004 – Free fishing days: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgqw>

The Urban Fishing Program is a DEP sponsored education program to educate children on pollution, watersheds, nonpoint source pollution, etc, and to not eat out of their local waterways. There has been talk between the DEP and PVSC to do some WMA#4 events, NPS monitoring, stormdrain labeling, boatrides, classroom activities. On Friday June 4, they did a storm drain labeling for the Hackensack Riverkeepers, June 11 was fishing. Bob DeVita is interested in working in more schools.

There is also the Landscape Project is also available, the project helps to map landscapes and identify critical habitats around the state.

Also, the DEP has a new and improved website for documents and reports, making it easier to access the right-to-know information. DEP Data Miner can search by location name or report number: <http://www.nj.gov/dep/opra/online.html>. Dick P. wanted to know where the data and what was the status of the TMDL meeting, Pat R. was unsure and still checking.

PRS – Karen N.

There were some parking issues and people wanted more coffee. There were about 200 people in attendance, with roughly 16 posters. There was interest in discussion on the Dundee Dam and a more detailed discussion of the plan.

Stream Segment 2005 – Pat R.

We have the priority stream segment, the money hasn't arrived yet. Pat suggested using the listserv to have talks about the next segment choice. The WMA could pick another tributary to keep focus on the same area of the watershed or we could look to a whole other area of the of the WMA. Russ F. said that the TAC has suggested the Preakness. The question was brought up about what the 319 addresses. Dick P. went over the priority stream segment ranking influence of the tributaries to the Passaic and the Intent to Propose was submitted for the 319H and tied to the priority stream segment. TAC is proposing \$25,000 for the same area but the current money is for the plan. The Preakness was chosen because it is small and definable, it is contained in one town and the town and POTW is already interested in doing something. 319 is follow-up to priority segment (?)

Joint Venture

Jerry said that there was basically a feeling of not wanting to get involved because the watersheds were too different and the monetary competition. Mark N. made a motion to dispense with further discussions regarding the joint venture and it was seconded by Teena S. Pat R. brought up the executive meeting that was looking at where the WMA is and where it's going. What the goals are of WMA#4 and what the group needs to better correlate what we can take and what we can offer. The possibility of creating a 501c3 with 3,4, and 6 was also brought up.

Great N. American Secchi Dip-In – Veronica C.

June 26, 2004-July 18, 2004 Volunteer monitoring

Passaic River Basin – WMAs 3, 4, and 6

For the July meeting, Veronica stated that they were inviting Andy Willner, John Zuzack, and Kirk Barrett to discuss the idea of a Passaic River Patrol.

Michele introduced herself and highlighted her background.

Jerry handed out the EPA news releases from the EPA listserv.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm