



WATER SHED MANAGEMENT AREA 4
Public Advisory Committee Meeting
February 10, 2004
6:30-8:30 PM
Lester Stable Community Center
Ridgewood, NJ

Minutes

1. Passaic River Relay update:

Cara Monkowski and Carolyn Waugh (WMA 4 and 6 Watershed Ambassadors) presented details of the upcoming Passaic River Relay.

The Relay will be on May 14, 2005.

First 5 mile leg: Put in at Essex County Environmental Center in Roseland.
Take out at Montville, before the Meadows.

Second 5 mile leg: Put in at Pequannock River Park in Lincoln Park.
Take out at Little Falls public access point.

Third and final 5 mile leg-Put in at Integrated Systems Management parking lot in Little Falls. Take out at West Side Park in Patterson.

Twelve canoes will be provided by the Sierra Club. There will be 12 teams.
Teams of 6 will pair off, and each pair will compete for the best time on each of the three, 5 mile legs of the race.

Volunteers will be in place to pick up the rear of the race.

Ellie Gruber (LWV) asked whether boat clubs in WMA 3 and 4 will be allowed. They will be allowed but will be responsible for providing their own watercraft (canoe or kayak), providing transportation for their watercraft and providing transportation for their team.

There will be a kick-off event at the Essex County environmental center and a watershed festival at West Side Park in Patterson. Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr., Essex County Executive, has agreed to attend the kick-off event.

Cara needs volunteers to help register people. Bob DeVita's crew from PVSC will help move and load canoes along the Relay route. Cara and Carolyn have permission to plant trees and use facilities in West Side Park. The Patterson and Newark youth Corps will help plant trees. Watershed Ambassadors will help staff booths at the festival. There will be nine booths geared towards children.

Ellie suggested that the Passaic Valley Water Commission might want to set up a table at the watershed festival.

Cara and Carolyn found out they are not allowed to be involved with fundraising activities. The League of Women Voters (LWV) will request funds for the Relay from Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC). Mark Newell on behalf of WMA 4 will request funds for the Relay from PSE&G and the Lower Passaic Cooperating Parties. Funds for the Relay will be sent to the Ridgewood LWV.

2. Updates

-Education and Outreach:

Ellie needs articles for the next WMA 4 newsletter.

No other update because E&O because E&O have not met.

-Technical Advisory Committee:

At the request of DEP, the TAC reviewed the 319 (h) proposal for a Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan for Preakness Brook submitted by William Patterson University. Comments were submitted to DEP. Michele Bakacs announced that as a result of the comments the DEP asked that a Regional Stormwater Management Plan be included in the proposal for Preakness Brook.

Ashley Pengitore (PVSC) stated that if DEP wants water quality data from PVSC for the next 303 (d) report a letter needs to be submitted to PVSC with the request.

-Open Space:

No update.

-Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee met to discuss potential sources of funding for WMA 4 activities.

-DEP update:

Don Hirsch (DEP) announced that the Village of Ridgewood paid a \$7500 penalty settlement for a water pollution control act violation. They also paid a \$2300 penalty settlement with the pesticide enforcement group. Ridgewood's licensed pesticides applicator also paid a \$2300 penalty settlement with the pesticides enforcement group. They were cited for not properly applying the pesticide chlorine in Graydon pool in August 2004.

It was suggested that a potential WMA 4 sponsored workshop might be to inform pool owners of proper techniques for discharging pool water.

3. WMA 4 Identity:

Michele Bakacs (DEP) proposed the idea of changing creating a new name for WMA 4. The name WMA 4 does not indicate that the group is focused on watershed activities on the Lower Passaic and it might be a good idea to come up with a more inspiring action

oriented name to help get people involved. She noted that establishing the group's identity starts with an inspiring group name. Naomi (LWV) noted that whenever she writes an article about WMA 4 she always has to tag on a very long description about the background and current focus of the group. Other new comers who attended the meeting confirmed that the name was confusing. It was agreed that a brainstorming session will take place at a later meeting to come up with a new name.

4. Future meeting locations:

Mark Newell (Ramapo College) stated that he would like to have the WMA 4 PAC meeting locations set for the next year. If you have suggestions for locations in the watershed to hold the meetings please let Mark know. Paul Russo (Bloomfield College) said he would find out if we can meet at Bloomfield College. Russ Furnari said he would contact someone from Riverfront Park and talk to Tara Cassella from Essex County. Ashley Pengitore (PVSC) said she would contract someone from the Ironbound community to see about possible meeting locations. Michele Bakacs stressed that it was important that the PAC meet in the lower portion of the watershed to make it easier for new groups to attend meetings.

5. PAC Leadership & Elections:

Mark Newell was re-nominated as chair.

Jerry Mitchell was nominated as first chair.

Thomas A. Pietrykoski (PVSC) was nominated as PAC second chair.

6. Future presentations/speakers:

Russ stated that Tim Wilson from USGS is suppose to present at the March 10th meeting on the sampling of tributaries below Dundee Dam. If he does not present then the PAC will brainstorm on a new WMA 4 name.

7. Old Business/New Business:

Many WMA 4 members attended the USEPA's Community Interview Drop-In Session for the Passaic River Restoration Project on January 22nd. The goal of the session was to find out what the community wants from the restoration project and what other organizations should the EPA be contacting. The attendees stressed that the most important goal for the community was access to the River.

Many WMA 4 members also attended the Essex County Roundtable discussion on January 25th. Russ Furnari (PSE&G) gave a presentation on WMA 4, our current projects and accomplishments. The Roundtable was organized by the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions and Essex County.

Brenden Lynaugh and a student from NJ Waterwatch, the Newark chapter, spoke briefly about the projects that NJ WaterWatch are involved with. The chapter organizes River cleanups. The first one this year is on March 5th at Riverbank Park. They also have an education and outreach program with the Newark schools. Lastly, the chapter is starting to do visual assessments on Second River as part of the WMA 4 visual assessment program. They will start at the lower portion on the stream and make their way upstream.

Paul Russo recommended that Brendan be in touch with Thess Prince from the Watsseing Heights Neighborhood Association who also is active on Second River.

8. Actions:

- The League of Women Voters (LWV) will request funds for the Relay from Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners (PVSC).
- Mark Newell on behalf of WMA 4 will request funds for the Relay from PSE&G and the Lower Passaic Cooperating Parties
- Paul Russo said he would find out if the PAC can meet at Bloomfield College.
- Russ Furnari said he would contact someone from Riverfront Park and talk to Tara Cassella from Essex County about possible meeting locations.
- Ashley Pengitore said she would contact someone from the Ironbound community to see about possible meeting locations.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Bakacs
Area Manager WMA 4
Division of Watershed Management
NJ DEP