

Minutes WMA #4 PAC Meeting December 9, 2004
Lester Stable Community Center
Ridgewood, NJ

Welcome and Introductions

Minutes approved

USGS Presentation by Tim Wilson to maybe be rescheduled?

Passaic River Swim

Dr. Pardi saw Chris Swain on PBS swimming the Hudson. He also swam the entire length of the Columbia River from British Columbia to ocean and the Charles River in Boston. He swims with a wetsuit, cap and goggles and stops every 15 minutes to gargle with hydrogen peroxide. Pardi emailed him to see if he would be interested in swimming the Passaic but we need more info: what is the liability? Can we use a publicity stunt? What would our involvement be? Is it just a dare? Dr. Pardi seems to think he does it for publicity and "is not a quack." However, Ella Fillipone is 100% against him swimming the Passaic because of liability issues. She is afraid that the message will be lost and it will seem that WMA4 is promoting swimming in the Passaic. PVSC agrees with her view and says not at this time. Dr. Pardi thinks we should see what the Baykeepers think since publicity is their bag, Russ thinks they will be against it, too. Dr. Barrett doesn't think anyone will swim the Passaic as a result but that it will just promote the Passaic and the pollution problem. The issue will rest until more information is given.

Updates

TAC-Russ F.

There was no TAC meeting last month and there will not be one this month. There is a request from Helen Rankin at the DEP to review and evaluate Dr. Pardi's project by January 15. Russ will email Pardi's work to the TAC and all comments should be sent to Russ by January 7 so that they can be pooled together and discussed at the January 13 TAC meeting and sent as one report by the 15th (Michele says this deadline is strict). Mark Newell says the PAC gives the TAC authorization to go ahead and send it.

EOC-Tom P.

Tom, Ellie, and Michele made a presentation to the Bergen County Freeholders to educate them about WMA4, what are our goals and how we are accomplishing them. It went fairly well and the Chairperson was very receptive. Peter Cartwright of Bergen County Planning suggested that they sit down with the county exec, and administrator to talk about what each group can do for each other. Russ said he thinks the Freeholders do have some knowledge of watersheds because they have approved spending for WMA5.

Kirk says the website is up and running...wma4.freewebsite.com; this address is just a cover page, actual files are on the Montclair State server. Each committee will be responsible for developing content but there needs to be a process. EOC will review all material, send via email to Tom "Net Nanny" Pietrykoski. The Passaic River Relay has been scheduled for May 28 which is Memorial Day weekend, the possibility of a better date was discussed. Cara cannot attend the EOC meeting next semester so maybe Carolyn of WMA6 can to keep everyone updated. A coordinating meeting has been scheduled for Christmas week. EOC meetings have been moved to the second *Monday* of the month.

NPS-Jerry

There is a partnership between the Nat'l Parks Foundation, Rivers and Trails Program and Tom's of Maine with grant possibilities up to \$5,000. Jerry suggested we try and get this money for the paddle. The deadline is February 4 but he has to pitch it to Steve before then. The possibility of mobile kiosks for the day was discussed, further ideas will be solicited from the listserv. Preference is given to non-profits with small operating budgets; LWV will apply for grant.

NJDEP-Michele B.

Michele passed around a map and table that is an example of a database she has created of visual assessments from potential fecal sources. If the DEP uses the data it must be QAPP-ed, even the AmeriCorps data. There needs to be some kind of QA/QC if it is ever used for legal material. Danielle is creating a quality assurance management plan to address setting standards for volunteer data. Tara Cassella liked the idea of an urban stream bank restoration seminar, she does not have a grant writer so she and Michele may be working on that together for the EENJ. January 25 from 6-9 Essex county is having a roundtable discussion at the Verona Boathouse. WMA4 will give a 15 minute talk, facilitated by Russ, Ellie and Tom will create a table. Michele is creating a list of WMA4's projects and accomplishments that was discussed at the exec meeting and will also be discussed at the EOC meeting.

Old Business/New Business

Interim Officers for the PAC until elections in March

Mark Newell will be the chair. PVSC's commitment to the watershed process has not changed, Tom will pick it up. Mark will be responsible for keeping up the email list and sending out the agenda, as well as the other duties of PAC Chairman.

Ellie created a Proclamation declaring December 9 Veronica Crow Day, best of luck Veronica!

The next EOC meeting will be Jan. 10 at the Allwood Branch of the Clifton Library.

*The next TAC meeting will be Jan. 13 at Oldham Pond

*The next PAC meeting will be Jan. 20 at the Lester Stable Community Center

(*Meeting changes for this month ONLY)

Minutes taken and submitted by Liz Bell.