

Minutes

Warm Springs Watershed Association

Thursday, December 6, 2012

Attendance The following Board members were present: Norman Dean, Betty Harmison, Susan Jones, Kate Lehman, Larry Lower, Jim Price, Rebecca MacLeod and Andy Swaim.

Stacy Dugan was excused due to work-related duties.

Heather Ishman, Glory Hauk, Tim Seims, and Carol Reece also attended the meeting.

Minutes from the October Meeting Hearing no corrections, Kate moved that the October 2012 Minutes should be filed as written.

Treasurer's Report:

Andy reported that \$400.00 was paid to Johnna Armstrong, web advisor, out of the monies held by Potomac Headwaters Resource Conservation and Development. There is \$976.17 of non-designated funds currently being held by PHRC&D. There is \$4670.87 in the CNB account.

Kate moved that the Treasurer's report be filed for auditing.

Announcements:

Heather announced that the EPCD will sponsor a 5k race and fun walk on April 20, 2013. Sponsors are being sought.

The WSWA has been awarded a 2013 Stream Partners Grant.

Letters of partnership have been received from the Warm Springs Public Service District Board and the Town of Bath. These letters will be scanned and put on our website.

Fourteen (14) trees were planted at the Old Dutch Cemetery. Betty pointed out that while locals pronounce the name of the cemetery as if it contained the final remains of people from Holland, in fact, it was people from Germany who are buried there, and the proper name is the Old Deutsch Cemetery. Twenty (20) chokeberry bushes were planted at Berkeley Baptist Church. The church sent a thank you letter.

Unfinished Business:

Widmyer Wetlands Project: The wetland area was re-established in 2009 with a \$19,000 grant from 319 funds. Technically a wetlands area should not need to be "maintained;" however, there have been issues of overgrowth of cattails in the ponds, weeds growing along the paths, and questions about what areas should be mowed when. While the school district has full power to maintain the area, there has been no formal understanding about who will do what when. Heather has been working with school personnel, WSWA members and Kieran O'Malley to determine how this area can best become an asset to the schools and the larger community.

Heather reported her progress in determining more definitively the nature of the partnership between the schools, the EPCD and WSWA. It has been determined that the school has no short- or long-term plans to expand the track and field into the wetlands area. This being the case, we explored ways to enhance the value to the school and community.

One suggestion is to hold wildflower identification events in the spring and fall. Members of the Foxglove Garden Club, for example, could be invited to participate in this event.

Another idea is to establish a trail of educational kiosks informing students and members of the larger community about native and invasive fauna and flora in the area, the importance of wetlands as well as a riparian buffer in protecting the Run.

New Business:

On November 12th, there was a **gasoline spill into Yellow Run**, a tributary that empties into Warm Springs Run. At the request of Glenn Nelson and Tim Craddock, the WSWA will do stream monitoring of a control site upstream, as well as in Yellow and Warm Springs Runs. The first stream monitoring event took place on November 20. Until we see definitive signs of recovery, i.e., no evidence of gasoline in the sediment as well as the re-establishment of macroinvertebrates (macros), we will monitor these areas 3-4 times a year for 2-3 years.

The control site, which is located between Whisner Avenue and Earth Dog Café, showed good numbers and diversity of macros. Many sensitive macros were found.

At the sites affected by the gasoline spill, there were large numbers of dead macros. While we cannot prove that these critters were killed by the gasoline spill, never before have our stream monitors come across such a large number of dead macros.

The 2013 Watershed Celebration Day is scheduled to take place the first weekend in November at Cacapon State Park. WSWA has been asked to think about any tours we might conduct, as well as workshop ideas to be presented. Further discussion of this issue will take place at the January meeting.

Action Item: Kate will contact Jami Thompson for more information about the types of tours and workshops that might be offered, as well as support for tours.

It was proposed that Matt Pennington be asked to head up a sub-committee to establish the **Quality Assurance Project Plan** required for moving forward with our 2012 Stream Partners project. Tim, Jim and Kate will work with Matt.

Action Item: Kate will contact Matt.

Norman brought a letter written by the Sierra Club Committee to address regulation and oversight issues in terms of drilling for Marcellus shale in West Virginia. Rebecca moved to table this issue which will be explored further at the January meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 23 at 7:00 at the Extension Office.