

Project Team Meeting  
Developing a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Neshanic River Watershed  
November 9, 2006  
NJIT

*Present: Ellen Cronan, Kathy Hale, Christine Hall, Michael Liska III, Bill Kibler, Chris Obropta, Zeyuan Qiu, Dana Ronyack, Chris Testa, Dan Van Abs, Nick Zripko.*

*Absent: Dean Bryson, Bill Honachefsky.*

Items requiring action can be in **BOLD** text.

1. Introductions and Sign-in sheet
2. Michael Liska, NJIT, reviewed the subcontracts. Agreements have already been developed for North Jersey RC&D, South Branch Watershed Association, and Hunterdon County SCD. Michael will be working on Rutgers and NJ Water Supply Authority.

It was agreed to change the reporting quarters to follow the calendar quarters. **NJIT will send a letter to DEP requesting that for reporting purposes the project start date be October 1, 2006.**

All subcontractors will provide a quarterly financial and narrative progress report to Zeyuan 30 days after the quarter closes.

Reviewed sample invoice. The account number is 993449 and the project number is RP06-068. NJIT will add the purchase order number. Subcontractors will submit backup documentation along with the invoice (salary justification, supplies summaries, receipts for equipment, etc.). Nick will review the first quarterly report and inform NJIT if additional supporting documentation is needed.

Equipment – NJDEP reserves the right to take back any equipment purchased through the grant upon completion of the project.

3. Zeyuan reviewed the project tasks
4. The project team reviewed the existing efforts in the watershed region

NJDEP – Nick reported that the state is funding a Regional Stormwater Management Plan just south of the Neshanic Watershed in the Sourlands. There is a great deal of public involvement with that project and several of the groups/individuals involved with the Sourlands may also want to participate in our project. **Nick will provide a list of those project partners and note those that would be interested in our project.**

To the north of our project area in Readington Township the Pleasant Run/Holland Brook watershed plan is underway. This is a small but active group. Nick also noted that this project has a great team assembled and he has high expectations for the project.

NJWSA – Dan reported on an ongoing project to the west of the Neshanic. The Lockatong / Wichecheoke (a.k.a. Lock / Wick or L and W) project is working to address sediment loading to the D&D Canal. Part of the project includes working with NRCS to assess agricultural loads to streams. They are working with several of project's municipalities (Raritan and Delaware).

Municipal assessments have been completed by SBMWA in West and East Amwell and Hillsborough and NJWSA will be doing Delaware and Raritan next year.

Information from the Raritan Project is available. TRC Omni has a point/nonpoint loading study that includes the Neshanic monitoring station.

Amy Shallcross completed a safe yield model for the Basin.

SBWA – Bill reported that the watershed association sits on the committees for both of the projects that Nick mentioned.

Headwaters mapping for Raritan Township will be completed soon. This mapping will be more detailed and more accurate.

One golf course in the basin is working with SBWA through their River-Friendly Golf Course program.

SBWA has biological monitoring data for the Neshanic, collected through their volunteer monitoring program. A USGS report is due out in December that covers the past 10 years of their monitoring program.

HCSCD – Chris shared the Raritan Twp. stormwater map with the team. All of the catch basins are GPSed. **Chris will send out the data dictionary for the team to review.** There are over 7,000 catch basins in Raritan alone. Winter is the time to do stream walks and outfall mapping and summer is when they can do catch basin mapping.

Chris noted that we want to coordinate the HCSCD mapping with other partner's stream assessments.

NJRC&D – Christine reported that RC&D has launched a River-Friendly Farm program in the Neshanic. One farm in the watershed has already been certified as River-Friendly and several more are working toward certification.

RC&D has received NJ Wetland Mitigation Council funding for a stream restoration / wetland creation project in the Walnut Brook (part of the Neshanic) watershed on the Dvoor Farm property owned by Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance.

Another new NRCS CCPI project is just starting up that will cover the entire Raritan Basin. The goal of this project is to develop a riparian restoration plan for all agricultural lands in the Raritan Basin.

NJIT – Zeyuan reported on a USGS/NJWRRI project he and Chris Obropta are working on in the Neshanic. They are working to evaluate agricultural BMPs in the watershed. This will connect nicely with our project Task 7.

### WEBSITE

- Summary from all project partners about what is already going on in the watershed
- Maps of the project area
- GIS base layer files (Project Team site only)

### GIS DATA

The team discussed who would be responsible for standardization of data. Zeyuan will be in charge of this as the project director and have the files posted in the project team portion of the website.

5. The team began to review the project tasks as outlined in the proposal

### TASK 1

Members of the planning committee will include:

- 4 municipalities
- NGO's
- Sourlands project partners (see list coming from Nick)
- Raritan Basin Alliance members
- Environmental Commissions
- Ag reps
- Residents (**SBWA will check their membership list**)
- Hunterdon County Planning Board
- NJDEP Bureau of Freshwater and Biological Monitoring

A kick off meeting will be held in early February at the Raritan Township municipal building. The first letter announcing the project will be sent out in December and the second in January. Chris pointed out that Barb Urcinas from his office is available to help with coordination, education and outreach.

### TASK 2

Chris Obropta has modified the QAPP. The e coli standard goes into effect in January, so we will be adding that to our sampling program. Dan mentioned the

zero flow conditions recorded for the Neshanic and noted that wherever possible we should be considering recharge BMPs. As for the sampling, NJIT can assist with the dry weather samples, but the wet weather sampling will require someone more local (SBWA). **NJWSA, HCSCD and RCRE will meet to discuss the geomorph protocols.** *DEP BFBM will provide assistance on the Stressor Identification process.*

The project team will need to field verify the sampling sites and submit the QAPP for approval. The planning committee will need to review and endorse these sites. This will be presented to them at the kick-off meeting in February. Any changes made to the sites at that point will be submitted to DEP along with a revised QAPP.

### TASK 3

Rutgers has a website to upload all stream Visual assessment data. We can involve the AmeriCorps ambassador with this task. Training for volunteers should be scheduled for early March. This will allow us to use the planning committee to recruit more volunteers. *The Americorp member will also provide assistances in stream visual assessments.*

6. The remained of the tasks will be discussed at the next project team meeting.

Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

From 2 – 4 pm

At the South Branch Watershed Association

**Zeyuan will send the contact list to everyone and create a project list serve group.**