**Washington Township Environmental Commission (WTEC)**

**July 11, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Start 7:31 pm: Present: Merv Haines, Valerie Walsh, Joseph Amoroso, Bill Leavens, CJ Sinko

1. Stony Brook Retest
   1. Merv reported the results of the retest which was conducted on May 11, 2016. While the results were lower (0.376 mg/L) than that reported from January 25th (0.627 mg/L) the result is still 3 times higher than the State Surface Water Quality Standard for Streams limit of 0.1 mg/L. Unless it can be shown that phosphorous in the Stony Brook is not a limiting nutrient, this elevated level could be a detriment to the health of the Stony Brook’s and South Branch River waters. CJ Sinko to follow up with the Health Department to request further evaluation. Fecal Coliform which was elevated in January proved to be at more normal level of 6 CFU/100 mL. Cost of testing was $54. The test was conducted by Complete Analysis Laboratories which is a state certified testing lab. WTEC will solicit Greg Foresby to get access to other parts of the Stony Brook for further testing. It was speculated without prejudice a faulty septic system may be the cause of the elevated phosphorus.
2. ANJEC invasive species grant (Bill)
   1. All members of the WTEC were requested to come up with a list of invasives they know are present and prolific within the community for the next WTEC meeting. It was proposed to review the lists to develop a master list of approximately 20 invasive species for the ANJEC Grant Project headed by Bill Leavens.
   2. It was proposed the list be bucketed into plants, shrubs/vines and trees.
   3. CJ Sinko proposed to set up the Green Fest Table to be hosted by the WTEC as an “Invasive Species Command Center” with a military style setting. It is hoped to draw attention to the attendees using this approach to hand out pamphlets, have live samples of invasives and provide education to the attendees in support of the ANJEC grant.
   4. CJ and Bill to set up a meeting with Township Administrator, Andrew Coppola, to review website design options for the invasive species information website.
   5. Can we post flyers in schools and libraries? Needs follow up.
3. High School Stream Testing (Val and Merv)
   1. Testing was conducted on June 7th. Report was completed but not yet presented to the WTEC. CJ to follow up with Mrs. Joyce Hartman of WMCHS to schedule her to a future WTEC meeting to present the report.
   2. Merv and Val reported site #3, the Musconetcong River at East Road should be eliminated from the HS testing schedule as the high volume traffic makes it a dangerous area.
   3. The testing activity by the old pump house restaurant drew a lot of attention from patrons and the owners of the new restaurant and probably should also be avoided in the future.
   4. It was proposed to expand this testing program to include other schools and even possibly water shed authorities like the Raritan Headwaters Assoc. In addition it was proposed the WTEC should share it’s official testing results with neighboring townships boarding our rivers and streams.
4. Natural Resource Recovery Master Plan
   1. WTEC needs to get a copy of the existing document to review. CJ to contact Andrew Coppola.
5. Mail Call – CJ noted to team that the WTEC received a letter from the Warren County Conservancy District informing the Township they have received a grant from the NJ Department of Agriculture to assist farmers in developing self-certified animal waste management plans. Self-certified plans are required for farms with 8-299 animals as well as for farms receiving or applying 142 tons or more of manure annually. WTEC thought this should be brought to the attention of the Township Official and Board of Health for those farms which may need assistance in developing a plan. CJ to contact Andrew.
6. AOB – none

Meeting Adjourned: 900 pm