

ChicRWC-3RI 4/23 meeting report



I would like to thank all who came on the 23 to further the efforts to build a stewardship constituency for the Chicopee-3R watershed. Also, thanks to Carrie Banks from the Riverways program who spoke with us about river surveys.

Highlights:

We had over a dozen watershed residents at the meeting, including a few new faces. Again, Turley Publications had a reporter present.

Topics discussed:

The photo documentary project has started on the Ware R. This will lead to a DVD show of this rivers special features/issues. Later in the summer, the Quaboag.

All were asked to feel free to offer references of places to include in these DVDs.

We began to discuss organizing segment steward teams with the goal of mobilizing a couple of crews to survey a reach or two on a few of the main tributaries.

Surveys can help identify issues or special resources, which can be used for future projects or better river awareness.

Carrie Banks from Riverways spoke of how such surveys can be done and gave examples of other watershed groups that have conducted these programs.

A sign up sheet was started to see who and where teams/river reaches for surveys could be organized. Attendees were asked to see if they could form a team and then we could organize a training session for them. If we could get two pilot teams started this year, that would be great!

Next we briefly discussed developing educational programs. Ideas ranged from fish rearing in schools, water usage, stream naming contests, school essay contest, and potable water taste. Perhaps we can have this issue as a target discussion at a future meeting.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday May 30 – River (s) clean up day.

We asked people to identify areas along or near a river where a clean up could be done.

The goal is to have a site in each of the 4 sub-basins cleaned up.

PLEASE advise possible sites ASAP. Also can the local DPW help take away debris?

Community events: where can we make our presence known?

May 16 Saturday, West Brookfield common: festival 10-4

The Lake Wickaboag Preservation Society has offered us a chance to promote our efforts. Who can attend? We can prepare literature.

Other events?? Please advise.

Organizational issues:

We need to update and refine our membership database. This project must start asap.

Should dues be updated? Consensus seemed to indicate yes, but after membership data is updated and a few other programs are up and running. Basically showing people the value of their membership. Assistance with this is welcomed.

“The Kingfisher”

We want to revive the quarterly newsletter. It was recommended that we organize this with a focus on making it enduring: have a few issues lined up before the first goes out. Therefore, we need ideas on content. Please forward them to me.

Web site:

We have started to update the web site. Please take a look and let us know if it looks good

Please share ideas and tips. **www.chicopeewatershed.org**

WHAT’S NEXT

We will target a meeting for May 21 or 28. I will check on space availability.

Agenda items: survey developments, education program, newsletter, other issues?

Respectfully submitted: Keith Davies 4/24/09