



Community Outreach and Education Committee Meeting Minutes

April 6, 2008

Participants

DeeDee Miller, Alice Hendricks, Roger Cody, George Panches, Mike Acton

Committee Chair

DeeDee Miller agreed to chair the committee

Identified priorities

It was agreed to choose only a few tasks to accomplish this year and try to do them well. The committee recommended the following tasks to be implemented:

1. Inform stakeholders of results of:
 - (a) E-coli beach monitoring
 - (b) Other e-coli monitoring sites
 - (c) Other monitoring efforts, such as the Onekama School water testing program
2. Develop brochures for the following tasks:
 - (a) Swimmer's itch - its causes and steps to minimize exposure
 - (b) Proper maintenance and operation of septic systems
 - (c) Limiting phosphorous loading to surface water through use of low or zero phosphorous fertilizer for lawn maintenance
 - (d) Cost effective ways to have drinking water tested for bacteria and contaminants
3. Develop a large bi-fold flyer that explains the watershed, its goals, what people can do on their own property, how they can volunteer, etc. This will include a map of the watershed and possibly other pictures.
4. Advocate for groundwater pollution prevention best management practices
5. Develop and distribute information on the important function of wetlands

Consult Expertise

Discussed asking James Messner to help in designing watershed flyer

Develop a plan to communicate to the public

All information posted on the website

Get permission for placing bulletin boards at the township, village, marinas, boat launches (Village and DNR) and beaches

Get local businesses (restaurants, hotels, bait shops) to post information

Ask PLA, PLEA, PPSRC to have watershed updates included in their newsletters

Ask Onekama School to use marquee to inform public where e-coli water testing results can be found

Develop a homeowner's information packet which includes the flyer and brochures

Discussion occurred on the importance of the marinas playing an active role in communicating this information due to the high volume of boaters, fisherman, and recreational lake-users through their facilities.

Tasks to be done before next meeting

Mike – costs for the brochures and accumulate the information needed for them

DeeDee – will contact James Messner and will also get rough costs on building bulletin boards