



Rivers of the World Foundation

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Meeting Summary

Program Planning and Implementation-2010-2011

Date: October 8, 2010 (Friday) ~ Time: 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Venue: Patuxent National Wildlife Visitor Center

1. Background:

The primary objective of the ROW Foundation is to make all efforts to cleanup highly polluted Rivers in US, India, SE Asia, S. America, Africa, Europe, and Other Parts of the World. In April 2009 the ROW Foundation has received approval of the 501(C) 3 status.

2. Meeting Attendees :

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Yamuna River in Spate near Taj Mahal (Sep 2010)

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Purpose of the Meeting - to begin planning Rivers of the World (ROW) events for 2011; scheduled phone conference call conversations with ROW collaborators from locations around the U.S. and internationally, mostly in Asia.

General Topic - ROW plan for World Water Day 2011, [[World Water Day 2011 | Tuesday 22 March http://www.worldwaterday.org/page/3206](http://www.worldwaterday.org/page/3206)] which will be planned for March, however, can be observed a month prior or later in that timeframe.

3. Agenda Items

A. Registration/Introductions

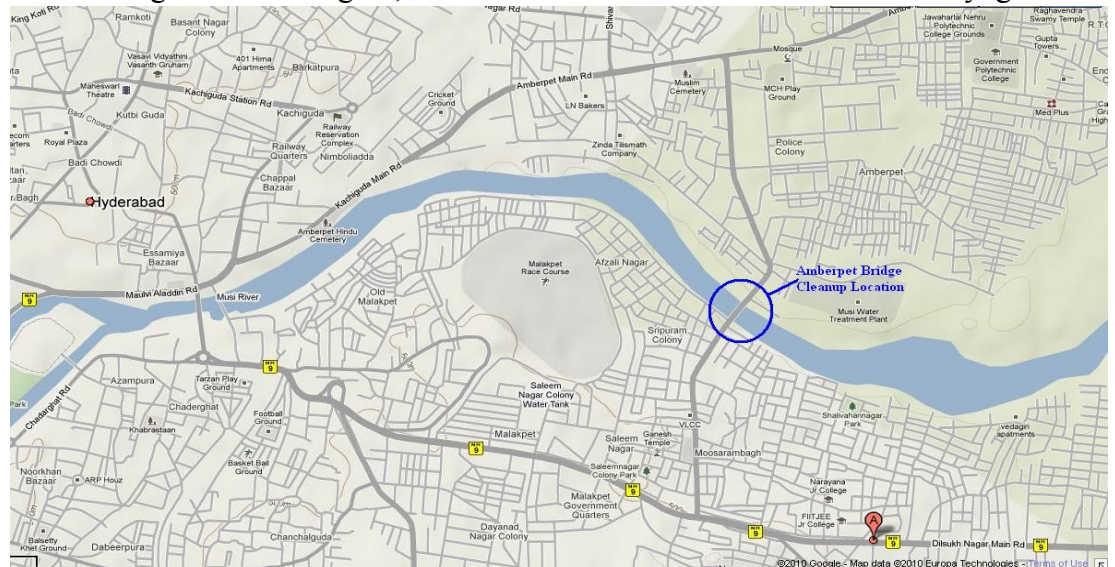
- a. Registration – Dick Lahn arranged to pass a Registration/Sign-up sheet to the attendees.
- b. Introductions - Subijoy Dutta provided a short introduction and called the meeting to order since Bill Roper was out of town visiting Hawaii.

Through Conference Call

B. Project Presentations

- a. **Ram Koduri, P.E.** – provided some details on the Musi River Cleanup that took place on the World Water Day 2010 in Hyderabad, India. . Ram also mentioned about setting up a possible center in the greater washington, Dc area where we could have a meditation/yoga activities

clutched with



Rivers/Water activities.

- b. **Hong Zhao(China)(China /Robbie Ali (Pittsburgh)** – Plans for Yangtze-Kiang River Cleanup and Protection – Ms. Hong Zhao Hong organized cleanup for World Water Day in conjunction with ROW in 2010 and **plans to do it in a bigger way in 2011.** We said bags/gloves would come from AFF for the cleanup in 2011. She also mentioned that ROW Foundation should write a proposal to the provincial Government for conducting a study of the Yangtze-Kiang River concerning its water quality and quantity and to determine the possible steps needed for protecting and monitoring the water quality of the River. **Bill Roper and Subijoy Dutta will be preparing the proposal within a couple months and send to Robbie Ali for onward transmission after converting into Chinese script and translation.**



- c. **Victor Wooten:** Renowned Bass Guitar (www.victorwooten.com) player from Nashville, TN, with Bass Nature Camp on the Duck River, a pristine, bio-diverse, "scenic" river in Tennessee called in to pledge his support to the Rivers of the World Activities. Benefit Concert Victor did for ROW in April 2010, in Annapolis, had 400 attendees and was loved by all! See <http://www.rowfoundation.org/row/victorwooten>

The Bass/Nature Camp was severely flooded, by some accounts 14" of rain in a day, and in Vic's area of the Duck the water rose 45' above the banks. Subijoy and Dick contributed funds to help replace belongings lost in the flood. Subijoy made a trip to the camp in June, made an evaluation of the damage, and designed a berm for the hill above the camp for diverting water to prevent erosion from flow at a central water runway. Vic and John Wooten (flute player extraordinaire, performed at same benefit concert) volunteered to do another benefit concert



for ROW, maybe in the spring around World Water Day -- possibly late April depending on scheduling -- either in India, or the U.S. on the East Coast. Arrangements are to be worked out with Danette (Vic's agent) and John Wubbenhorst. Dick Lahn made acquaintance with Jeanie Nelson, President of the Land Trust of Tennessee, residing in Nashville. She said she would happily connect Victor with the environmental organizations working to protect the Duck River. This connection has yet to take place.

- d. **John Wubbenhorst:** Revered Bansuri flute musician, student of Pandit Hari Prasad Chaurasia, performed in the Annapolis benefit concert with Victor Wooten in April 2010. John Wubbenhorst (See right) looks forward to additional benefit concerts, either in the U.S., India or elsewhere.



- e. **William E. Roper.** – Bill Roper, President of ROW talked about the last grant proposal made to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to test new design structures to protect against shoreline erosion. While the proposal was deemed acceptable, successfully overcoming the first hurdle, it was not accepted for funding. Bill asked others to be on the lookout for other requests for proposals for which ROW may have an interest in submitting a grant proposal. Bill also mentioned that there should be a membership fee set up for the ROW Foundation so that the basic activities of the foundation can be undertaken. He also discussed about grant proposals and fundraising issues to be looked into by all members and volunteers of ROW.
- f. **Ginny Harris**– Ginny provided insights on River Cleanup Activity – India Trip 2010 & Steps Ahead. Last year when working for the Alice Ferguson Foundation, Ginny supported the trash cleanup efforts in New Delhi, Agra, and Hyderabad. She was also part of the

ROW team which traveled to India in January 2010 describing the trash cleanups work being done in the Potomac Watershed in the Washington, D.C. area. She rallied students to this cause as a way to get the local population to the river to see the polluted/trashed conditions and enroll citizens in the cleanup effort. Now, employed by American Rivers Ginny has offered help to continue to support ROW's work either internationally, but primarily in U.S. where her organization works to save rivers. In the future it may be possible for ROW and American Rivers to partner on a project together.

- g. **Becky Horner** - Now holds Ginny Harris's position as head of the Trash Cleanup Project for the Alice Ferguson Foundation. She voiced support on behalf of AFF to help in the partnership with ROW to supply bags and gloves to the international cleanups ROW will sponsor in 2011 (China, Philippines) as part of World Water Day.
- h. **Ellen Spitalnik**: Adjunct professor at U of California, Berkeley. Mentioned about a EPA person in San Francisco (Region 9) who could help with ROW work.
- i. **Noel Hechanova** (Iloilo City, **Philippines**) - Plans for Iloilo River Cleanup and Protection .

Noel confirmed that they will conduct World Water Day 2011 River cleanup in a big way. Also about the Iloilo River Protection, Noel mentioned that the Mayor of Iloilo City would be coming to Chicago, IL to receive an International Gold Award for the most liveable



city on the bank of a River. Detail report on the Iloilo River protection is available at <http://rowfoundation.org/content/row/WQ-Iloilo-River.pdf>

**Conf. Calling stopped at Noon (it was Midnight for Participants in China and Philippines)
Meeting Continued in the Patuxent Center Conference Room.**

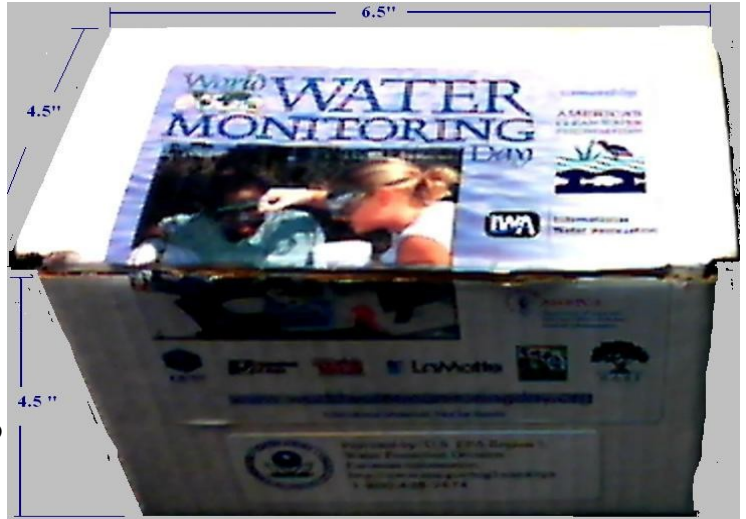
- j. **Dr. K.K. Das**/Subijoy Dutta, P.E. – Barak River Reconnaissance - Dr. K.K. Das: Director of the Sundari Mohan Seba Bhavan Hospital (<http://http://sundarimohan.org/>) in Silchar, India, which has a mission to treat the poor. There seems to be a significant level of increase in Cancer cases in this area during the past ten years. Being concerned about this issue, and considering the Barak River (as in the adjacent picture) water as the primary drinking water source of the local people along the River valley, he spoke about taking a **Boat Trip trip in February 2011** with Subijoy Dutta to look at the possible point and non-point discharge sources along the bank of the River from small towns upstream of Silchar to points downstream of Silchar. A team consisting of one local social worker/volunteer, one professor from the local University, Dr. Das, Subijoy, and possibly a Ecologist from Guwahati will travel by Boat



and talk to local communities at various locations, test water quality at certain locations, and collect other necessary data to compile a study report on the health of the River and potential sources of pollution and any other concerns for the River. The trip of several days will traverse about 20 miles or 30 Kms of the river, and will involve discussions with various local communities/villagers along the way about the quality of the water in the river and the health of the villagers who use the water from the river.

k. **Cindy Wallace**, with the South River Federation, one of the five local river organizations which participated in the benefit concert held for ROW and the local watershed organizations. She mentioned that she will be able to help in organizing another benefit concert if ROW organizes that, particularly if it was held in the Annapolis area.

l. **Dick Lahn** - Suggested modifying the mission statement to include special focus, in considering/taking on new projects, on rivers which flow through the capitals of countries, states, counties, districts, so that improving conditions on those rivers through ROW's work, the projects will serve as models for work which can be done in other rivers within that jurisdiction. Dick also suggested that ROW could possibly prepare a simple water quality testing kit which could be distributed in cities where ROW has partnerships with the local people. These kits can be used to test water quality in rivers above and below cities to establish roughly the impact the city is having on the quality of the river. An EPA chemist provided a couple water monitoring Kits (as seen in the adjacent picture) to ROW. These test kits were used for a previous World Water Day. This information is to be reported to the municipal government and announced publicly. Dick Lahn provided one of the kits to Victor Wooten for testing the water quality of the Duck River.



m. **Subijoy Dutta** – presented the Annual Report for 2009-2010 thereafter which listed all the different activities ROW conducted during the past year (12 months) .

C. **LUNCH** – **Complimentary**

D. **Financial Report** - prepared by **Donald Henry** (was not present at the meeting)

E. **GROUP Discussion** - Led by Subijoy Dutta, P.E..

During the group discussion a number of issues and planned activities for 2011 were discussed between the participants. One of the idea presented by Subijoy was to arrange for another benefit concert in 2011, possibly in April or sometime around that which should be able to raise necessary funds for ROW to buy air tickets for Victor Wooten, John Wubbenhorst and a few other performers to visit some of the Towns along the polluted or impacted rivers in India (ex: Panipath, Agra, new Delhi on the bank of River Yamuna), China (Ex: Wuhan City on the bank of Yangtze-Kiang River), and/or Philippines (Ex: Manila on the bank of Pasig River or Iloilo City on the bank of Iloilo River) to raise awareness towards protection and restoration of these Rivers or Streams.

4. Attendees List 1 - Present at the Meeting – October 8, 2010

ROW Foundation – Program Planning and Implementation Meeting, October 8, 2010

Sl No.	Name	Address	Phone	E-mail
1	Sibijoy Dutt	1496 Harwell Ave. Crofton, MD 21114-2108	410-721-7706	sibijoy@comcast.com
2.	Cindy Wallace	30 Batchelors Choice Lane Lothian, MD 20711	4102126814	cwischow2003@yahoo.com
3.	Dick Laha	1488 Harwell Ave Crofton, Md 21114	301261-3209	dicklaha@bellatlantic.net
4.	KUMAR K. DAS	SUNDARI MAHAN SEVA BHAWAN SILCHAR 788026 ASSAM INDIA	91-9435174401	kumarkdas@hotmail.com
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				

5. Attendees List 2 - Through Conference Calling:

SI No.	PHONE PARTICIPANTS	COUNTRY/RIVER	Phone/e-mail	CALL TIME LOCAL
1	Ginny Crake Harris	USA		10:30 am
2.	William Roper	USA		10:30 am
3.	Ram Koduri	USA		10:30 am
4.	Becky Horner	USA		10:30 am
5.	Victor Wooten	USA		10:30 am
6.	John Wubbenhorst	USA		10:30 am
7.	Robbie Ali	USA(Pittsburgh)		10:30 AM (along with the China Participant)
8.				
9.	INTERNATIONAL	INTERNATIONAL		
10.				
11.	Hong Zhao(China) (China /Robbie Ali (Pittsburgh)	Wuhan City, China , Yangtze Kiang River	ruoshuisq@yahoo.com.cn	10:40 PM – Local/ 10:30 AM US Called and Discussed along with Robbie Ali

SI No.	PHONE PARTICIPANTS	COUNTRY/RIVER	Phone/e-mail	CALL TIME LOCAL
12.	Noel Hechanova	Iloilo City, Philippines , Iloilo River		Sent Info May not call – too late 11:30 PM Local–
13.	Lilis Marwiani	Balikpapan, Indonesia		Will send Info. Can't call 11:30 PM Local – Sent E-mail
14.	Dilip Nath, M Dutta Choudhury, Prov. Avik Gupta	Silchar India , Barak River		8:20 PM (Local) IST Did Not Call in - X- NO info. Recd.
15.	Dr. Venkatesh Dutta	Lucknow, India , Gomti River		8:30 PM (Local) IST Did Not Call in - X- NO info. Recd.
14.	Brij Khandelwal	Agra India , Yamuna River		8:40 PM (Local) IST Did Not Call in - X- NO info. Recd.

