

Meeting Notes

Rensselaer County MS4 Communities Meeting
Hudson Valley Community College, Bulmer Building Auditorium
January 5, 2022
10:00 a.m.

The meeting started at 10:12 a.m. Introductions were made due to new faces around the room. Farewell to Mary & Nadine was moved lower in the agenda since some folk did not sign the cards. Ms. Myers stated that Doug McCloskey works for EJ Prescott and does the Lunch N' Learn all over for groups of all sizes. He provides the lunch. The presentation Ms. Myers had proposed was on Low Impact Development & Green Infrastructure. The presentations are about an hour long. It was discussed whether it would be a good thing for our March meeting. We would need a meeting date and see whether the auditorium would be available. Questions on whether someone could bring in a lunch into HVCC will be allowed. (As per P. Swieton, it may be able).

In Local BMPs, discussion of pervious limited use access roads being installed post construction access to solar arrays for maintenance are not resulting in the intended pervious roads. Constructors are tracking sediment onto these with a result that they are not pervious but impervious contrary to the intent. Design engineers propose these pervious limited use access roads to avoid having to treat the access roads as permanent traditional impervious surfaces which require water quality treatment. However as noted, construction sediment tracking is resulting in impervious roads which either require remediation efforts to restore perviousness or a SWPPP modification to include post construction stormwater management as a result of the increase in impervious area.

The pervious limited use access roads are constructed with the use of geogrids but are installed on geotextile to keep materials confined and to resist punch through in Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) C and D soils, which is most of the soils encountered in Rensselaer County. Consensus is that these pervious limited use access roads are not being constructed as intended. Some design engineers and owners are foregoing the benefits of these roads and just designing and constructing traditional crushed stone access roads and associated post construction stormwater practices. When properly installed and protected from sedimentation however, such as with a recent cell tower access road it was found that the road is working very well. The discussion then continued into the solar projects, which disturb soils even if they don't dig.

Brunswick is watching the construction of the new Hannaford with a technically correct plan that is suspect due to the use of design high infiltration rates for their sole infiltration practice. In Schodack, especially with projects that propose infiltration basins, during monthly SWPPP inspections, observations and records are made of the practice's ability to fully de-water within 48 hours after the storm event. Record keeping includes noting rainfall amounts/storm events and dates all necessary to document systems not functioning per design and to back up orders to remedy to be issued to owner operators. Order include the owner's development of a plan to correct the issue and modify the SWPPP.

There was an 110-lot subdivision that started with the basic infiltration practices. The stormwater detention basin was used as a sediment basin. Once the site was stabilized, the basin was dredged out and is working as planned now. If these issues are a problem, the local codes can change and go farther than the manual. Mr. Yagelski stated that they are starting to inspect and go after the legacy, pre-MS4 system such as Rensselaer County Plaza, to make the post-construction practices work.

East Greenbush had Pheasant Hollow, a development build lot by lot. They had a gap in permit coverage for the subdivision. Perhaps the local law can be strengthened to reduce these issues, otherwise the building department staff would need to make sure that the development/construction is not causing erosion or water quality problems. In Wisconsin, each individual lot requires a permit to eliminate the issue. The question is who pays. For Pheasant Hollow, several of the lots were purchased by a prominent developer and his family/friends. They had Ken Barber inspecting the jobs. Mr. Barber had a test case of using a QR code for the on-site SWPPP. Ms. Barrie had argued that there was nothing in the code that said that electronic files couldn't be used. Mrs. Barber had scanned and uploaded the inspection logs in an hour of his Mr. Barber's inspection. Additionally, the sign with the QR code had a phone number to be able to receive a paper copy. Mr. Barber did it to save paper. At present, he is the only one authorized to have QR on-site SWPPPs.

Ms. Myers gave the amount of funds in the Stormwater bank account as \$2,758.10. Ms. von der Heide stated that before long, the bill for the website should be showing up. The group gave agreement to pay the website bill. Ms. Myers asked whether we should be having another contractor training. Albany County is doing a contractor training next week. Jim Liebrum, who has done our previous training, has been running an on-line weekly training for the last year. Albany County is using Dustin Gibbs to run their training. Would probably have the training at the Brunswick Community Center or Schodack Town Hall as we would have to pay HVCC for the use of the room and food, which would cut down on our profit.

Mr. Swieton was asked about his audit. He stated that the signs were order to be put up at the post-construction practices and the wording for the contracts has been added to the contract template.

Ms. von der Heide then asked Ms. Fuda what words of wisdom she could impart after 19 years of working on the MS4 program and stormwater. She stated to have a good engineer to back you up and take lots of pictures. The discussion then went to the early days of the program and the mess on Waters Road which actually started in East Greenbush.

Ms. von der Heide then asked Ms. Barrie what words of wisdom she could impart after 40+ years not just working on the stormwater program. Ms. Barrie said to keep your sense of humor and be cooperative with people. Although sometimes you may need to come down hard on some people, it is usually much better to work with them to find a solution to the problem.

Next meeting date and time to be announced.

Attendees:

Martin Daley	CDRPC	518-453-0850
Mark Hendricks	Rensselaer	518-858-1206
Todd Hunsinger	Rensselaer	518-465-1693
Linda von der Heide	Rensselaer County	518-270-2921
Nadine Fuda	Schodack	518-477-7938
Philip Koziol	Schodack/Laberge Group	518-458-7112
Rick Williams	East Greenbush	518-376-7608
William Bradley	Brunswick	518-209-2466
Charles Peter	Schodack	518-269-9372
Anna Feltham	East Greenbush	Afeltham@eastgreenbush.org
Mike Wager	Sand Lake	MWager@sand-lake.us
Scott Gallerie	Sand Lake	SGallerie@sand-lake.us
Adam Yagelski	East Greenbush	AYagelski@eastgreenbush.org
Andrew Golden	Troy	Andrew.Golden@troyny.gov
Paul Swieton	HVCC	P.Swieton@hvcc.edu