

# Meeting Notes

Rensselaer County MS4 Communities Meeting

HVCC Campus Center, Room 150

March 19, 2024

10:00 a.m.

The meeting opened at 10:04 a.m. After introductions, the discussion lead to the New MS4 Permit. Rensselaer County has mapped land uses. Ms. von der Heide stated that she is willing to give communities a map of their land uses, which is part of the mapping requirement (pg. 11, IV, D, e. iii). Ms. von der Heide stated that she will need to figure out where sewers are in the MS4 areas next. *Note – not a mapping requirement, but under Part VI, A., 1, v., areas with on-site wastewater systems must be a focus area.* Updating the mapping may be the issue. Although it is not a requirement except in impaired waters (Nassau Lake Watershed), GIS would be helpful. Mr. Koziol stated that said that the mapping in Schodack was complete but not in true GIS mapping but static. Mr. Lawrence stated that they do not have GIS in Sand Lake either.

Catch basin prioritization needs to occur by the end of June, although the requirement of cleaning out and inspecting all the catch basins isn't until the end of three years (January 2027). Since the only possible new MS4 is the Town of Nassau, the rest of the communities should have a good understanding of their catch basins already to be able to prioritize them. Whether Nassau will be part of the MS4 program or not wasn't known to any in the room. Since the majority of the Nassau Lake watershed is in Nassau, they may not be able to say that there's no stormwater contact from their roads.

CDRPC is setting up a regional meeting about the new MS4 permit that all will be invited to, which Christina Chiapetta, permit writer as the speaker. Any questions about the permit that you would like answered should be sent to Ms. Hrysko or Ms. von der Heide. Tentative date is May 9<sup>th</sup>.

The discussion then went to Local BMPs. Brunswick had a DEC call about fill without a DEC permit. There were concrete slabs along with other debris with the dirt. Last summer, DEC promulgated new rules to Section 360.12, c, 2, IX. There are now 5 different fill classifications, with no specifications yet. It does not apply to dirt that is being moved around on the same property. There is a need of a notice for fill reuse at a later time. Permits are now needed for anything over 10 cubic yards.

There was discussion about NYS wetlands and that there will be no maps soon. Like Army Corps wetlands, the NYS wetlands will need to be mapped. In actuality, the wetlands will need to be mapped for Army Corps. If they are large enough or are one of NYS special categories, they will fall under the NYS wetland requirements. Some of the wetlands, such as vernal pools, may not be considered Army Corps wetlands, but will be NYS wetlands instead.

Mr. Koziol reported that on one of the solar fields in Schodack, the high winds toppled a number of solar arrays. The problem is that the site was stabilized and now will probably become mucked up when the arrays are righted. Additionally, the soils will be compacted again.

In June, HVCC will start construction of their new ATECH building. The SWPPP will all be done by the contractor. The discussion then devolved into EV fires and the issues of lithium batteries and fires.

The Rensselaer County Soil & Water Conservation District thanked all those who attended the floodplain mapping training held in February. In Sand Lake, the highway department is working on culvert replacement. The Burden Lake Bridge is presently in litigation between the three parties (county, town & Burden Lake Association). Birch Builders is looking at starting their subdivision on NY 150 at Garner Road.

The next meeting will be held in the Brunswick Town Hall.

Attendees:

Rick Williams	East Greenbush	518-376-7608/ <a href="mailto:Rwilliams@eastgreenbush.org">Rwilliams@eastgreenbush.org</a>
Linda von der Heide	Rensselaer County	518-270-2921/ <a href="mailto:Lvonderheide@rensco.com">Lvonderheide@rensco.com</a>
Philip Koziol, P.E.	Laberge/Schodack	518-458-7112/ <a href="mailto:Pkoziol@labergegroup.com">Pkoziol@labergegroup.com</a>
Paul Swieton	HVCC	518-265-9531/ <a href="mailto:P.Swieton@hvcc.edu">P.Swieton@hvcc.edu</a>
Madison Hrysko	CDRPC	
Bill Bradley	Brunswick	
Nate Woodworth	RCSWCD	
Tim Lawrence	Sand Lake	

This year's meetings:

- January 16<sup>th</sup>
- March 19<sup>th</sup>
- May 21<sup>st</sup>
- July 16<sup>th</sup>
- September 17<sup>th</sup>
- November 19<sup>th</sup>