

Meeting Notes

Rensselaer County MS4 Communities Meeting
East Greenbush Town Park Pavilion
May 18, 2021
10:00 a.m.

The meeting started at 10:10 after technical difficulties, only as an in-person meeting.

Introductions were made. In discussion, it was stated that Mr. Hendricks has been drafted by the Village of Castleton to prepare their MS4 Annual Report.

The second item on the agenda was the Tomhannock Reservoir Watershed Protection Plan being updated by the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC), which is funded through a 604D state watershed planning grant for drinking water source protection plans. There was an original plan for the Tomhannock that was developed in 1995. Many changes have happened since including increased development pressures. Troy has limited control over what happens in the watershed.

There is a lack of knowing what happens and things that should be occurring which aren't. Issues in the reservoir include illegal dumping, non-working ag BMPs, livestock in tributaries and areas of invasives in the reservoir. There is not a lot of data on the tributaries. The City of Watervliet's reservoir has regular testing of the water quality of all the tributaries. Babcock Lake and Sunkauissia Creek are WAVE tested but the rest are not. An infrared study of the land use has occurred.

For issues that occur, the DEC Environmental Conservation Officers are the main enforcement, but judges throw out the majority of cases. The Town of Pittstown would like to have some recreational use of the property, perhaps some trails. Ideas to reduce issues include bulk garbage pick-up and hazardous waste days. Lights and cameras at parking areas may reduce dumping at the major dumping areas.

The third item on the agenda was the North Troy Regional Growth Impact Study that is being performed by the CDRPC. This is being performed through a Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) Technical Assistance grant which will look at the growth impacts from development in Schaghticoke and Brunswick. There is a frustration of Troy and upstream communities with impacts of development which has been going on for decades. CDTC will be looking at traffic impacts and CDRPC will be looking at sewer system impacts.

When Troy hears about a project in the towns wanting to hook into the sewer system, the City provides a list of projects from their offset program which will reduce the amount of sewerage in the system to allow for the development's new discharge. A better method of communication needs to occur to let Troy early on when a development proposes to use the sewer system. The City of Troy has a list of GEIS offset projects to reduce sewer inflow with prices and reductions

all over the place. There are two Brunswick sewersheds and one Schaghticoke sewershed that discharge into Troy. Mr. Daley is drawing a diagram for a process in which the towns contact the city to inform them of the upcoming development. Presently, the Town of Brunswick requires that the developers/contractors contact Troy directly.

The next item on the agenda was Local BMPs. Sand Lake has groundwater issues which require many structures to have sump pumps. There was a complaint about an apartment building where the sump pump was being directly pumped into the ditch. Although sump water may be an allowed discharge if the water is clean, there may be water quality issues with water pumped from basements including oil spills, stored chemicals, etc. It is better for sump water to discharge into lawns.

The City of Cohoes is entertaining placing floating solar arrays across a large part of the reservoir. Discussion ensued as to what the impacts will be, including temperature decrease, lack of solar disinfection, and possible chemical leaching from the floating devices.

The next meeting is on July 20th at 10 AM at the Schodack Island State Park.

Attendees:

Phil Koziol	Laberge Group/Schodack	518-458-7112/ Pkozio@Labergegroup.com
Martin Daley	CDRPC	518-453-0850/ Mdaley@cdrpc.org
Mike Wager	Sand Lake	518-337-1796/ Mwager@sand-lake.us
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