

Meeting Notes

Rensselaer County MS4 Communities Meeting

Red Barn, East Greenbush Town Park

May 16, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Introductions were made.

The second item on the agenda was the Website Payment. The Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District (RCSWCD) maintains our joint communities' website. The price for Wix.com to host the website was \$285.12 and the cost of the domain name annual fee was \$14.95. There presently is \$4,905.27 in the MS4 Communities account. Mr. Hendricks made a motion to approve the payment of \$300.07 to reimburse the Soil and Water Conservation District and Mr. Swieton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The third item on the agenda was the proposed Changes to Class C Streams Permitting Requirements. Two previous iterations of the legislation have been passed by the New York State Legislature and vetoed by the Governor. The legislation would require permits for any work done in and around a Class C stream, with a new codicil allowing projects being carried out by soil and water conservation districts to be exempt from the requirement if an MOU between the DEC and the soil and water conservation exists that lays out the plan of operations. Ms. von der Heide stated that, since most streams are Class C, the DEC staff would be swamped and overburdened with the requirement. Community projects such as highway work would need to go through the Soil and Water Conservation District to get around the backlog.

Staff from the RCSWCD stated that they are ready and willing to do the extra work. Extra funding might be necessary to be able to fund the staffing needed for the additional work.

The fourth item on the agenda was local BMPs. Ms. von der Heide had stated that a member of the public had requested to be able to come to the meeting. After a short discussion, it was agreed that: 1) the Rensselaer County MS4 Communities group as presently exists is an ad hoc body and not a public body, and therefore has open governments requirements; 2) some discussions which occur are sensitive and strictly closed; and 3) no guests unless invited, especially on topics that may be of interest to the communities. The meeting membership is purely for the local communities, county, state, Capital District Regional Planning Commission and Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Sand Lake has work occurring on one County bridge (Taborton Rd) and culvert and ditch work. They had 80 permits so far – many decks and pools. In East Greenbush, the Temple Lane extension project will be completed in the fall. HVCC has recently completed its new nature trail that will also allow easy inspection of outfalls. The City of Rensselaer is working on a bridge over the Quackenderry Creek.

In Schodack, their MS4 Annual Report was presented during a public meeting. No public comments were received. A solar energy installer/owner (Amp Energy) is being required by

Town notices to update its SWPPP due to sedimentation of their limited use pervious access road becoming rendered impervious. The project is also being held to its approved SWPPP design and NOI permit conditions, requiring decompaction of all soils and restoration of soils. Another project in the Town, The Hidden Pond subdivision is being built out one lot at a time. The owner/operator's site contractor is not following the project SWPPP. Town is enforcing by frequent site meetings and notices to the owner and contractor. Recently the Town has required the contractor to renew his 4-hour NYS DEC endorsed training which had expired. A similar construction of subdivision project, Strawberry Fields II subdivision, was encouraged to comply with Qualified Inspector and Town inspection corrective action items by the issuance of stop work orders and holding of certificates of occupancy. The Town of Schodack will be performing its 3-year self-assessment of its MS4 program per MCM 6 Pollution Prevention / Good Housekeeping.

The RCSWCD has been working with Trout Unlimited on a NYS Hudson Estuaries grant for culvert proper sizing and installation. Three culverts were selected in each of the communities they have been working in.

DEC Region 4 is interviewing for a MS4 Coordinator. The new Coordinator will hopefully be at the July meeting. The Region 4 Water Office will then be fully staffed for the first time in a long while. The City of Rensselaer had a DEC MS4 Audit. The paperwork was good but needs to be kept up to date. Their website was up to date.

A general conversation on developers and contractors not seeming to understand what needs to be done ensued. There doesn't seem to be the person with the 4-hour training on site (or they didn't understand it). During the Pre-Construction meeting, Schodack goes over the basics to make sure the developer understands. It was agreed that many of the construction crews don't understand about installing erosion control techniques or stormwater pollution measures such as silt socks or concrete washouts. HVCC has a great construction education program. It would be good to have a course where these students would see and learn what is needed, as they would be rising up to be supervisors in short order. Along with construction students, pre-physical engineering students and ecology students would probably get a lot out of it.

The next meeting will be at the Schodack Island State Park at 10 AM on July 18, 2023.

Attendees:

Anna Feltham	East Greenbush	AFeltham@eastgreenbush.org
Rich Williams	East Greenbush	RWilliams@eastgreenbush.org
Linda von der Heide	Rensselaer County	Lvonderheide@renso.com
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Mark Hendricks	Rensselaer	Mark.Hendricks@rensselaerny.gov
Nate Woodworth	RCSWCD	Nate.renscoswcd@gmail.com
Cass Klingaman	RCSWCD	Cass.renscoswcd@gmail.com
Phil Koziol	Laberge Group/Schodack	PKoziol@Labergegroup.com
Bonnie Starr	NYS DEC R4	Bonnie.Starr@dec.ny.gov
Kyle Lafond	NYS DEC R4	Kyle.Lafond@dec.ny.gov
Tim Lawrence	Sand Lake	TLawrence@sand-lake.us