

Meeting Notes

Rensselaer County MS4 Communities Meeting
East Greenbush Town Hall
November 19, 2019
10:00 a.m.

The meeting started at 10:05 with introductions.

The next item on the agenda was Flow Diffusers and Flow Spreaders. Mr. Koziol explained the difference of the two practices. This topic came about due to the medical building proposed that was discussed in October. The design engineer proposed to dump the site stormwater into the Quackenderry Creek wetland, which is situated on clay soils. Ms. Barrie stated that Don Lake had to be brought into the conversation to find the right practice. The flow spreader details come from roadway specifications. For the flow spreader, a geotextile and rock-lined plunge pool is created at the end of the pipe to eliminate scour and erosion. Spreaders are really meant for ditches.

The following item on the agenda was Invasive Species Control for Highway Departments & DPWs. Ms. Barrie had asked her department that guidance be created for highway departments to deal with invasive species properly. Pesticide application is necessary for plants such as phragmites and Japanese knotweed. A certified pesticide applier – with DEC certification - is required to apply the herbicides needed to kill these plants. The guide would also apply for removing invasive species from stormwater management practices.

The next item on the agenda was Local BMPs. The discussion started with “developers don’t realize the significance of their MS4 permit.” Communities need to make sure that there are mechanisms for the repair of systems during construction. This should be picked up by the site stormwater inspectors, but some developers ignore their inspection reports. Local fines (\$250) aren’t high enough to make the developers take notice. There were 15 roads in East Greenbush that never received their top coat from the developer because the developer disappeared. To get fines, you need to take them to court. The judges won’t give them a fine, so it’s pointless to take them to court. Getting voluntary compliance is more effective.

Poestenkill has no vacant commercial areas, which makes business owners creative. One person is pushing the envelope by using a lot next to a DEC wetland and dumping fill into a floodplain.

The EPA audited North Greenbush and Bethlehem. Usually there is a long list of deliverables when they are done, but Bethlehem had none. All their procedures were written out. No info on the North Greenbush audit.

The DEC Materials Handling staff shut down one of the junkyards in Poestenkill for illegal dumping. They found thousands of tires that were not cleaned up under a previous order of consent.

There was a water resource research grant application due December 2nd. WQIP had funds available for addressing erosion at culverts on the upstream side. There was a webinar on November 20th on Salt and Stormwater. There is a need for BMPs and education for salting roads. DEC's Resource Mapper is up and running, with training available in December.

The next meeting will be on January 21, 2020 at 10 AM in the Schodack Town Hall.

2020 meetings:

January 21, 2020

March 17, 2020

May 19, 2020

July 21, 2020

September 15, 2020

November 17, 2020

Attendees:

Bonnie Starr	NYS DEC R-4	Bonnie.Starr@dec.ny.gov
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