

Meeting Notes

Rensselaer County MS4 Communities Meeting
Brunswick Town Beach
September 21, 2021
10:00 a.m.

The meeting started at 10:07 a.m. After introductions, the meeting continued into Latest BMPs. In Brunswick, there is a resident with a farm field with side wetlands that's looking to site a solar farm. There's no problem with the wetlands as long as long as they are unregulated and under 1 acre.

Mr. Daley stated that communities are starting to make planting requirements for solar facilities. Beekeepers want more pollinator plants. Mr. Bradley said that more Dutch clover seems to last longer. Pollinator mix on one site only lasted about 2 years before growing over with other plants. Mowing needs to be done later to maintain pollinator plants, otherwise the plants can't go into seed. In Schodack, they ran sheep in one of the solar facilities which did a fairly decent job. These items are not in specs, but come up in the planning review process. There are recommendations by a DEC biologist.

Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC) will be having a DEC audit (one of Ms. Barrie's last jobs before retirement). Hints from the communities include: make sure that all procedures are written; watch out for open construction – dirt; need signs. DEC will be looking over the facilities and maintenance procedures. HVCC does have one open beautification construction project of under one acre.

Schaghticoke is doing post construction inspections. The inspection needs to see that the O & M plan is being followed. These inspections should be done yearly, if possible. There should be signage at all the post construction sites.

A question on the annual report was made. A new annual report will be part of the new permit, which will change what needs to be reported.

Once Ms. Barrie retires, Ms. Starr will be the sole person in Region 4 Water Quality as Derek Thorsen moved to Region 5. Ms. Starr will be extremely busy. If a community has any questions, send the question to Ms. von der Heide to be shared with the group and if no good answers are received, then it will be forwarded to Ms. Starr.

Mr. Bradley stated that he found that some engineers will try to do things that are impossible. For the Duesenberry Road Solar project, they used geogrid as part of the road detail. It doesn't work in such situations as there is too much traffic and doesn't hold up. Marafi fabric seems to hold up in these circumstances.

In East Greenbush, the Thompson Hill Way subdivision was approved in 2005 and started in 2012. There is a SWPPP that dates to March 2010 for construction of the roadways only. There isn't anything in the database on the subdivision. The Town should assume that the SWPPP is closed and a new SWPPP is needed. When closing out a SWPPP such as that, put additional comments on the acceptance form (for the need for new SWPPP(s) once construction resumes).

East Greenbush will be building a new road by extending Tempel Lane from its current endpoint, near Regeneron's Tempel Lane Campus, to 3rd Avenue Extension. (The project will also involve widening Tempel Lane at Regeneron's driveway and widening 3rd Ave at the intersection of the planned Tempel Lane Extension in order to add turn lanes for traffic impact mitigation, as required by the Town of East Greenbush Town Board.) Building this new roadway will involve the Town acquiring land, including from the Capital City Cemetery Corp. and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. A relocated, new office/storage building for the cemetery is also in the plan, but the cemetery will manage this project. What is the SWPPP coverage? If separate entities are going to do the work, it is not a common plan. Funding for the roadway project and the related cemetery project is being provided by Regeneron and NYS Empire State Development.

In Schodack, there is a 9 residential lot subdivision, with one SWPPP for the plat. The applicant owner has the coverage. A BBL person is building a house with a different inspector. The original coverage to completion is required. A new owner needs to have coverage before the old SWPPP can have a NOT.

A tributary to the Papscannee was dammed for irrigation purposes. The property owner received a citation for permit violation. An asphalt reclamation project received an NOV due to a lack of MSGP permit. To see what kinds of facilities, need to get a MSGP permit, look at the permit.

The next meeting will be held in the HVCC Bulmer Building Auditorium.

Attendees:

Brian Davidson	Schaghticoke	codeenforcement@townofschaghticoke.org
Mark Hendricks	Rensselaer	Mark.Hendricks@rensselaer.ny.gov
Paul Swieton	HVCC	P.Swieton@HVCC.edu
Kyle Woodward	Rensselaer/Castleton	Kyle.Woodward@rensselaer.ny.gov
Phil Koziol	Schodack/Laberge	PKoziol@Labergegroup.com
Linda von der Heide	Rensselaer County	Lvonderheide@rensco.com
Bonnie Starr	DEC Reg. 4	Bonnie.Starr@dec.ny.gov
Mary Barrie	DEC Reg. 4	Mary.Barrie@dec.ny.gov
Martin Daley	CDRPC	MDaley@cdrpc.org
Bill Bradley	Brunswick	WBradley@townofbrunswick.org
Rick Williams	East Greenbush	RWilliams@eastgreenbush.org
Adam Yagelski	East Greenbush	AYagelski@eastgreenbush.org

