

# Meeting Notes

Rensselaer County MS4 Communities Meeting  
Schodack Island State Park  
July 18, 2023

The meeting opened at 10:14 a.m. As there were new faces around the table, introductions were made. Ms. von der Heide handed out fliers for the Western Green Road Show on August 10<sup>th</sup> in Round Lake that Mr. Koziol had sent her.

Ms. Myers lead on the Stormwater Testing that the Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District could make available to communities. This is done by the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District for its communities that have to test their outfalls. It was discussed that at present, the permit doesn't require that the stormwater needs to be regularly tested. For problem outfalls, it could be helpful or when there are questions about what's in the water. The Soil and Water Conservation District is working with those who need their drinking water tested and acting as a collection point.

The next item on the agenda was Local BMPs. Mr. Bradley stated that the Town of Brunswick has just gotten done cleaning out their catch basins when the heavy storms hit in early July. A discussion on a community's catch basin hoods ensued, where the gap in the hood is large enough to allow garbage to go into the system. The discussion then went to the new permit. It appears that DOT will have a separate permit from the rest of the MS4s.

The EPA recently audited the Town of Guilderland. There was a section of Western Avenue that was hard to reach that the EPA noted. Additionally, Guilderland has an old landfill with a transfer station that has a 48" culvert nearby that has a bar screen only to keep garbage and other pollutants out. Due to the exposed area around the transfer station, the wind was taking up the Styrofoam and other garbage and building it up on the culvert. Areas like these need to be checked regularly. Plus, a wind break may assist in less litter blowing around.

In Brunswick, the new Hannaford has a detention pond with short fencing which also accumulates debris in like manner. The Hannaford in Lansingburgh also has a litter issue. A question arose as to how the Brunswick Hannaford handled the drainage after the heavy storm in early July. The site is designed to divert water into the cornfield behind the store that has better drainage.

The second Amazon warehouse is coming along well. They were having a problem growing grass until Mr. Koziol pointed out that they needed topsoil. The back side of the warehouse is where the trucks park and is considered a hot spot which needs pretreatment. They didn't install the clay liner of the stormwater detention pond correctly, which needs to be replaced. Mr. Koziol wouldn't have known that had he hurried the inspection, as the contractor gave that away. The lesson is don't rush the inspection and let the contractor talk to you. You never know what you might find out.

A question arose whether there were any communities that had requirements for oil/grease separators for establishments hooked up into the sanitary sewers or any communities had requirements that restaurants inspect their sewer hook-ups for grease build up.. Ms. Starr reported that she thought that only Colonie had an inspection requirement in the region. One Chinese restaurant used enzymes to keep the grease from building up.

In Schodack, there is one property that has complained about flooding on their property. The property is downhill of an adjacent property in a low area near a wetland. There are no disturbances over an acre nearby, although there is a farm field. Mr. Bradley stated that communities should review the Cornell Local Roads Program booklet *Drainage Law and Drainage Situations and Problems in NYS* for issues such as this. The property owner may have no legal recourse in this situation. The person complaining bought the property from their neighbor who built a new house uphill from the situation. The drainage problem may have caused the old owner to want to move up. There was some turbidity in the water after the downpour. Ms. Starr, Mr. Fortman and Mr. Koziol were to inspect the property after the meeting to see what the issue is and whether the turbidity came from natural erosion of the ravine wall or the farm field up the hill.

In East Greenbush, there is a new Planning Director, Josh Giller. Tempel Lane extension to Third Avenue is coming along and paving has started. There have been no headaches on this project. A level 1 inspection was performed at E-Tech on their pervious pavement.

The next meeting will be on September 19, 2023 at 10 AM at the Brunswick Town Beach.

Attendees:

William Bradley	Brunswick	<a href="mailto:Wbradley@townofbrunswick.org">Wbradley@townofbrunswick.org</a>
Phil Koziol	Laberge Group/Schodack	<a href="mailto:Pkoziol@Labergegroup.com">Pkoziol@Labergegroup.com</a>
Megan Myers	Rens. Co. SWCD	518-380-0384
Linda von der Heide	Rensselaer County	<a href="mailto:Lvonderheide@rensko.com">Lvonderheide@rensko.com</a>
Madison Hrysko	CDRPC	<a href="mailto:Madison.hrysko@cdrpc.orgp">Madison.hrysko@cdrpc.orgp</a> ; 518-512-8144x23
Rick Williams	East Greenbush	<a href="mailto:Rwilliams@eastgreenbush.org">Rwilliams@eastgreenbush.org</a>
Mark Hendricks	Rensselaer	<a href="mailto:Mark.hendricks@rensselaerny.gov">Mark.hendricks@rensselaerny.gov</a>
Bonne Starr	DEC R4	<a href="mailto:Bonnie.starr@dec.ny.gov">Bonnie.starr@dec.ny.gov</a>
Devin Fortman	DEC R4	<a href="mailto:Devin.fortman@dec.ny.gov">Devin.fortman@dec.ny.gov</a>

This year's meetings:

- January 17, 2023
- March 21, 2023
- May 16, 2023
- July18, 2023
- September 19, 2023
- November 21, 2023