

Meeting Notes

Rensselaer County MS4 Communities Meeting

Schodack Island State Park

July 18, 2017

10:00 a.m.

The meeting started at 10:10 a.m. As there was a new face around the table, introductions were made.

The second item on the agenda was EPA Outreach Tools. Phil Koziol, who could not make the meeting, had forwarded on a website that he had learned about during a webinar. The Soak Up the Rain website (<https://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain>) provides information on green infrastructure and links to other sites. Several posters for varying types of green infrastructure were printed out for attendees to see.

The third item on the agenda was Printed Materials. Ms. von der Heide looked through the EPA's website on possible printed materials after the request at the last meeting. The EPA has two brochures on protecting water quality from urban and agricultural runoff. Chittenden County, Vermont had multiple brochures providing BMPs for homeowners and small businesses. NYS DEC has a "Look for the Zero" brochure touting the zero phosphorus in lawn fertilizers law. The City of Los Angeles put out the "What's the Scoop" brochure with BMPs on animal care. There were several small advertisement-sized items from various groups around the country. Attendees stated that they would like the EPA brochure on Agriculture and the Chittenden County brochures.

The next item on the agenda was the Draft Permit. Ms. Barrie stated that Carol Lamb LeFay is back, now in Koon Tang's position, the head of the water permitting division. They are still going through the comments and there will be a new draft permit because there were too many comments. A question of what permit are we operating under – the present "place-holder" permit which was adopted in 2015.

The next item on the agenda was Local BMPs. A comment was made that the Hudson River area around Schodack/Castleton smelled the previous day. A accident in Albany County with a tanker hauling manure may be the cause.

A case of llamas on a 5 acre lot causing a complaint from a neighbor occurred in a community. The property has a French drain that is not being maintained. The manure was also allowed to pile up. The complainant is a seasonal resident. The llama owners were told to keep the lot clean and keep the manure from piling up.

Another community has an issue with a development where a builder has purchased lots from a developer who is non-compliant. The community does not want to hold up the builder since the builder has been following their requirements. The community was warned that the DEC will go

after communities where the community is not enforcing their stormwater permits. Withholding CO's and building permits may be the only way to bring about compliance, even if the issue isn't the builder's. The builder likely knew what he was getting into when working in the development.

A discussion of ghost properties and communities' efforts to get the properties cleaned up ensued. If possible, the communities should have a law where the community can clean up a property where the title holder (bank) won't and place the cost on the tax bill. This will encourage the banks to stop holding onto these properties and put them back into use.

The Town of Schodack will be applying for WQIP funding for more outfall mapping outside of the MS4 area. CDRPC has completed the feasibility study of stormwater banking, where green infrastructure can be overbuilt offsite, and the stormwater treatment and reduction above the requirements can be sold to another development where requirements can't be met. The design manual should be modified to promote quality over quantity.

In one community, a strip mall was approved which would have underground stormwater storage and seepage. A gas station is now applying to be part of the strip mall. The concern that gas leakage would end up contaminating the stormwater by entering the underground storage was expressed. The community was referred to the hot spot section in the manual where it is expected that the use of underground storage would be prohibited for gas stations.

A discussion on Flood Plain/FEMA audits ensued. One community was dinged since there were unvented sheds in yards. There will be two stormwater conferences in October. The Northeast NY conference is on October 16th and the Southeast NY conference is on October 17th.

The next meeting will be held on September 19, 2017 at 10 AM in the East Greenbush Town Park, Town Park Road.

Attendees:

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Mark Hendricks	Rensselaer	465-1693/ Mark.Hendricks@rensselaer.ny.gov
Mary Barrie	NYS DEC R4	
Paul Barringer	Poestenkill	283-5100x102/ PBarringer@poestenkillny.com
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