

Meeting Notes

Rensselaer County MS4 Communities Meeting
HVCC Campus Center, Room 150
November 21, 2023
10:00 a.m.

The meeting started at 10 AM. Introductions were made.

The second item on the agenda was Solar Projects. Ms. von der Heide handed out a write-up that Mr. Koziol had written using his experience with solar projects in four communities in Rensselaer County and numbers more in other counties – 3 in Hoosick, 3 problem children in Schodack, 2 in the Town of Schaghticoke and one in North Greenbush. The write-up was on a common BMP that engineers like to use on solar projects that don't work – decompaction. Solar companies, after they are done constructing the solar field don't and/can't decompact, due to buried wires, too close arrays and cost. They also like to argue that the site is temporarily stabilized so there is no need. Erosion protection is not the same as reduction of increased flow due to compaction. Therefore, instead of soils restoration, the soils group should be changed by one level to a less-permeable group when calculating the post construction runoff. Otherwise, the solar developer should be made to install other stormwater detention BMPS if they don't property decompact the site's soil. If the developer doesn't want to change the soils group, the town should increase construction oversight to make sure that all BMPs are followed.

Additionally, developers should not be considering their "permeable" driveways as permeable unless they provide a surety to dig them up and replace with a permeable drive whenever the driveway gets too clogged from construction compaction and dirt from the site. DEC is looking at removing permeable driveways as BMPs. The White River solar project in Schodack is close to having their modified SWPPP accepted. They will be providing more vegative swales and increasing sheet flows into riparian buffers. The consultant cost to amend the SWPPP is about \$40,000 and it will cost double to install the new BMPs.

The next item on the agenda was the 2024 Meeting Dates. Attendance seems to be sparser lately. Ms. von der Heide will send around an e-mail seeing if the third Tuesday every other month still works with folk. Otherwise, the next meeting will be January 17, 2024 at 10 AM in Room 150 of the HVCC Campus Center.

The next item on the agenda was Local BMPs. Mr. Swieton mentioned that he went to a Solar Conference in Albany which was disheartening. The solar companies want to be able to do whatever they please without any input from local governments or DEC.

North Greenbush has two developers which are working on the same project and will probably get their second NOV and probably get fined as well. The one developer is the same as Ms. Barrie was dealing with several years ago.

In East Greenbush, the Tempel Lane project is being put to bed for the winter. They are starting the replacement of the Old Troy Road bridge which has been one-way for a number of years.

In Rensselaer, the old Barnett Mills site is being redone. Ms. von der Heide to meet with Mr. Lippert to go over what may be needed stormwater wise. Most of the work will be on an existing building.

HVCC is looking at building an emergency access road on the side of the landfill property to Colleen Drive.

In Sand Lake, the Taborton Road bridge will probably be opening around the date of the meeting. It only needs guardrails. Burden Lake Road is in from of lawyers. They are also having a number of geothermal heating units being installed. The installers come from downstate.

Ms. von der Heide reminded folks that now that it is getting quieter, it is time to start collection data for the next MS4 Annual Report which will be coming up in March.

CDRPC is advertising for a Water Quality Planner position, so the next meeting may have another representative from CDRPC.

DEC stated that there is no word on the draft permit. Mr. Fortman stated that he is working with North Greenbush on their problem subdivision. He is also working in the Town of Schaghticoke with a agritourism venue that decided to install a kiddy train without any permit. To cross a stream, they just put in a culvert. Since the location is in an archaeological sensitive site, the tribal entity is also involved.

The meeting ended at 11:03 AM. The next meeting is on January 17, 2024 at 10 AM in Room 150 of the HVCC Campus Center unless there are those who can't make third Tuesday meetings.

Attendees:

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| Rick Williams | East Greenbush | 518-276-76008/ Rwilliams@eastgreenbush.org |
| Philip Koziol | Laberge/Schodack | 518-458-7112/ Pkoziol@labergegroup.com |
| Eric Westfall | North Greenbush | 518-491-6224/ Ewestfall@northgreenbush.org |
| Linda von der Heide | Rensselaer County | 518-270-2921/ Lvonderheide@rensko.com |
| Madison Hrysko | CDRPC | Madison.hryski@cdrpc.org |
| Tim Lawrence | Sand Lake | 518-674-2026 |
| Paul Swieton | HVCC | 518-265-9531/ Pswieton@hvcc.edu |
| Tim Lippert | Rensselaer | 518-339-6030/ crosbyfarmny@gmail.com |
| Devin Fortman | DEC R4 | Devin.fortman@dec.ny.gov |