

Meeting Notes

Rensselaer County MS4 Communities Meeting
Schodack Town Hall
January 17, 2017
10:00 a.m.

The meeting started at 10:05. As there were several new faces round the table, introductions were made.

The second item on the agenda was the Draft Permit comment period extension. The draft permit comment period was extended to February 3rd. Ms. von der Heide was to send out the link to the draft permit to attendees. For newcomers to the MS4 permit, it was recommended that they read the new permit as it explains the program much better than the existing permits. It is expected that there will be some changes to the draft permit and that another public comment period be held on the second draft permit.

The third item on the agenda was Stream Order. Stream order exists on perennial streams which becomes important for determining stormwater detention requirements and the CPV for 24 hour detention. Stream order is determined when perennial streams merge. Previous to merging, the stream is a stream order of one. When two first order streams combine, they create a second order stream. When two second order streams combine, they create a third order stream. When a first order and second order stream combine, they create a second order stream. Et cetera.

Almost all streams and creeks in Rensselaer County are third order or lower. The Hoosic River, but not Little Hoosick River is fourth order. The Hudson River is seventh order. Sometimes, Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) do not provide treatment since the SWPPP developers are erroneous in their stream order determinations. Stormwater must flow directly to the Order 5 or higher stream to not require downstream analyses and flow rates. Most SWPPPs have stormwater flowing to a drainage ditch or smaller order stream before flowing into one of the rivers.

The fourth item on the agenda was Local BMPs. Ms. von der Heide was working with Tom Sanford of the Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District to set up Contractor Training for either February or late March (March 29th) to be held in the Schodack Town Hall. Please send your lists of contractors to Ms. von der Heide so that she can create a mailing list.

Mr. Daley stated that the Green Infrastructure Self Audit of Local Laws was finally approved by DEC and the Department of State. The Green Infrastructure Self Audit will help municipalities determine where their local laws make it hard to institute green infrastructure. Mr. Daley also stated that the Feasibility Study for Green Infrastructure In-Lieu Fees and Banking was completed. Now the DEC will be looking for pilot communities who are willing to try Green Infrastructure and/or In-Lieu fees. Mr. Whelan stated that the Green Infrastructure project for the River Street area in Downtown is complete and that there are many different varieties of green

infrastructure in the downtown area. The City of Troy is looking for more places to install green infrastructure. Ms. von der Heide stated that it might be a good thing for May's meeting.

Schodack is now requiring that contractors bond for Homeowners Associations (cash bond) to help get homeowners associations properly set up and to get facilities turned over to the homeowners associations. A discussion ensued about stormwater facility lots getting taken by the County for back taxes and being sold for what people think are building lots. The assessments on the lots are often as high as a building lot, although they are not buildable. MS4 coordinators should work with the assessors to make sure that the stormwater detention lots are not unduly taxed, which makes them more likely to be abandoned. Additionally, the deeds to the lots should have a deed restriction that does not allow the lot to be used for anything except stormwater facilities.

The Town of East Greenbush is investigating stormwater districts. The Town of Schodack has looked at creating a town-wide stormwater drainage district. Mr. Daley stated that Ithaca, which is the only community in New York to have a stormwater tax, split the stormwater costs into a separate budget to show the costs. This allowed the City Council to better understand the system costs and needs. Additionally, single and two-family houses did not get hit that badly as special district taxes are payable by non-profit institutions who do not otherwise pay property taxes. Since Cornell University had by far the most impact due to the amount of impermeable surfaces on its campus, its stormwater charge was a significant portion of the budget.

The next meeting is March 21, 2017 in the East Greenbush Town Hall, 225 Columbia Turnpike.

Attendees:

Nadine Fuda	Schodack	477-7938/ Nadine.fuda@schodack.org
Mary Barrie	DEC R-4	357-2044/ mary.barrie@dec.ny.gov
Mike Wager	Sand Lake	674-2026x16/ mwager@sand-lake.us
Martin Daley	CDRPC	453-0850
Philip Koziol	Schodack	458-7112
Linda von der Heide	Rensselaer County	270-2921/ Lvonderheide@rensko.com
Tony Manfredi	East Greenbush	694-4011/ Amanfredi@eastgreenbush.org
Kevin Hitchcock	East Greenbush	378-6859/ Khitchcock@eastgreenbush.org
Scott Gallerie	East Greenbush	766-6575/ Sgallerie@eastgreenbush.org
Norman Wiley	Castleton	469-1595
Mark Hendricks	Rensselaer	465-1693/ Mark.hendricks@renselaerny.gov
Paul Barrenger	Poestenkill	283-5100/ Pbarrenger@poestenkillny.com
Bill Bradley	Brunswick	209-2466/ Wbradley@townofbrunswick.org
Chris Wheland	Troy	369-3259/ Chris.wheland@troyny.gov