

Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership Stakeholder Meeting 4/17 April 17, 2017 - 10:00AM-NOON

I. Attendees: Matt Klewin (NJDEP), Andrea Bierwirth (Manville), Nick Tufaro (Middlesex County), Mirah Becker (Middlesex County), Alex Zakrewsky (Middlesex County), Stan Olszewski (Middlesex County), Bill Schultz (Raritan Riverkeeper), Tom Boccino (Somerset County), George Dawson (New Brunswick City Historian), Pat Rector-Woods (Rutgers Cooperative Extension), Susan Edmunds (LRWP), Phillip Croteau (LRWP), Brandon Pollard (LRWP), Heather Fenyk (LRWP)

II. Welcome/ Introductions:

A. April 22nd Clean-up of New Brunswick Riverfront

- i. Partnering with coLAB Arts Raritan Headwaters Association and CoLab Arts
- ii. Riverfront cleanup at Boyd Park (meeting at Raritan Landing)
 - Concerns with homeless were brought up; social workers will be on-site

B. Stormwater Management

Background: Middlesex County Planning has been working with the LRWP to identify approaches to regional/watershed-based stormwater management. Working with a Bloustein graduate student the LRWP developed a white paper exploring the feasibility of a regional stormwater utility. Questions remain regarding funding and the type of legislation required to bring about adequate stormwater management for the Lower Raritan Watershed.

III. Special Presentation: Regional Stormwater Management Feasibility and Opportunities: Update of Changes in the New MS4 Revision” - Matt Klewin, Environmental Specialist 3 in the Bureau of Nonpoint Pollution Control

i. Introduction

a. The DEP is working on a presentation to help municipalities comply with MS4 requirements.

b. The Federal MS4 plan is difficult to comply with in NJ

- Lower Raritan has very few TMDLs
- Difficult to find ways to address federal expectations

c. Stormwater utilities idea began in 2006

- Recession occurred in 2008; this halted talks on any “tax”

d. It is much easier for states with fewer municipalities to implement a stormwater utilities program

- North Carolina is a great example

ii. Federal obligations

a. 2 types of municipalities in NJ

- Tier A (more densely populated, permit addresses SW issues related to both new and existing development)
- Tier B (rural areas, permit focuses on new development and redevelopment projects and public education)

b. Federal obligations are intentionally not descriptive, due to scale

c. Seek to develop a stormwater management program that reduces discharge of pollutants

- Includes goals/ improvements
- Seek to develop and implement statewide basic requirements
- d. Current Federal Obligations:
 - Public education
 - Post construction stormwater management
 - Pollution prevention/ good housekeeping
- iii. MS4 Permits
 - a. 2 Stormwater Statutes related to MS4 permits
 - NJDPES 7:14A
 - Stormwater Management Rule 7:8
- iv. Local Review of Stormwater Design
 - a. Permits finalized in 2004
 - b. All projects must be reviewed for compliance
- v. Why are Stormwater Facilities Important?
 - a. Stormwater must be treated
 - b. Properly functioning stormwater facilities are integral to reducing nonpoint pollution
 - c. Stormwater Facilities:
 - Must function as designed
 - Must be maintained/ have maintenance plan
 - Deed restriction
- vi. Major Changes to the Tier A Permit
 - a. Conditions related to local review of stormwater design in development and redevelopment
 - b. Collection of stormwater facilities location information during operation and maintenance activities
 - c. Incorporation of TMDL info into the stormwater pollution prevention plan (SPPP)
 - d. Permit conditions transparency/ reduced duplication of effort
- vii. Draft Permit Conditions
 - a. Requirement: Conditions Related to local review of stormwater design in development and redevelopment
 - Require DEP training for stormwater design in development and redevelopment
 - Require online training for council and board members
 - Major development stormwater summary form
 - b. Rationale:
 - Reinforce proper application of standards
 - Improve water quality
 - Address water quantity
 - c. Assistance:
 - Schedule to implement
 - Annual DEP training course for stormwater design review
 - d. DEP Assistance:
 - Stormwater design review
 - Stormwater best practices manual updates

- Provide background knowledge
- viii. Draft Permit conditions
 - a. Requirement: Incorporation of TMDL info into the SPPP
 - Ex. New Hampshire Chloride TMDL
 - Identify impaired waterways
 - Identify and develop mitigation strategies to address pollutants
 - Update SPPP annually
 - Prioritize stormwater facility maintenance and repairs
 - b. Rationale:
 - Recognizes limited municipal resources
 - Supports local efforts to improve water quality
 - c. Assistance:
 - Schedule to implement (EDP + 1 year)
 - TMDL is needed to make this a public awareness issue
 - DEP has TMDL lookup tool
 - d. Major Disconnect Between Ordinances and Outreach
 - Signage, public info, etc.
- iv. Public Conditions: Transparency
 - a. Post SPPP, municipal stormwater management plan on website
 - b. Ensure public notice of opportunities to participate in plan development
- v. Local Public Education
 - a. Storm drain labeling
- vi. Minimum Standards for Pollution Prevention
 - a. Community wide ordinances/ Measures
 - b. Yard waste requirement
 - c. Employee training
 - Equipment/ vehicle washing
 - Waste disposal
 - Street sweeping
- vii. Goals
 - a. MS4 outfall pipe mapping
 - b. Illicit discharge and scouting
 - Illicit connection elimination
 - c. Tier A's required to:
 - Ensure long-term maintenance
 - Must be as designed
- viii. Next Steps
 - a. Tier A and B drafts issued Feb. 2017
 - Comment period closed 4/3/2017
 - Effective date of permit: 1/1/2018

B. "Addressing Stormwater Management Challenges in Manville" (Andrea Bierwirth)

i. Introduction

- a. Manville is currently undergoing a transition towards a more sustainable/ flood resistant municipality

b. Manville is mainly known for flooding and, and Johns Manville

Asbestos release

- Has a superfund site within town limits (Rustic Mall)

ii. Flooding in Manville

a. Manville is surrounded by water

- Raritan River to the north
- Millstone River in the east
- Royce Brook to the south

b. Long history of floods

- 1966: Hurricane Diane
- 1971: Hurricane Doria
- 1973: Unnamed Storm, 1000 people had to evacuate
- 1996: Unnamed Storm, 6 inches of rain, foundations collapsed
- 1999: Hurricane Floyd, 10+ inches of rain (flood damaged

1200/3500 buildings in town)

- 2007: Spring Nor'easter
- 2010: Spring Nor'easter
- 2011: Hurricane Irene

iii. Army Corps of Engineers

a. In 2006, after a multi-year \$3 million study, the Army Corps of Engineers concluded there is not enough damage in the borough to qualify for a flood mitigation project/buyout

b. "Borough is not worth saving"

iv. Taking Action

a. Public outreach

- Signage, marketing efforts

b. Working with FEMA

- Over 100 home buyouts completed
- Property taxes rising as homes are abandoned
- Some are resorting to home abandonment

c. Flood damage ordinance passed Oct. 2016

d. Community rating system

- Currently at a "7", seeking to bring this down to a "5"
- The "5" rating will decrease resident premiums

v. Teaming With Experts

- a. The Nature Conservancy
- b. Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association
- c. Rutgers University
- d. Raritan Valley Community College
- e. Duke Farms

vi. Grant Funding Alternatives

- a. FEMA
- b. State of NJ TAP Grant

vii. Impervious Cover

a. A watershed with more than 25% impervious cover is non-supporting of

wildlife

- Manville has approximately 34% impervious cover

viii. Lost Valley Nature Park

a. Large scale project in the Lost Valley to include native plants, nature trails, impervious surfaces removal

b. Ties into Somerset County Priority Growth Phase III

c. Recreation, education, flood resilience

iv. Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program

a. Action plans

- Rain gardens

- Bioswales

- Porus Pavement

- etc.

v. Joining “Sustainable Jersey”

a. Established Green Team

b. Seeking Bronze Level of Attainment

c. Kickoff Meeting 4/8/17

vi. Final thoughts/Q & A

a. Manville is an excellent test site for green infrastructure projects

- Perth Amboy, due to its CSO status, can receive funding for infrastructure projects more easily than Manville.

green

IV. Upcoming Events

A. 4/22-Cleanup of the Raritan River Walk

B. 4/29-Rutgers Day