

Meeting Notes

Rensselaer County MS4 Communities Meeting

HVCC Campus Center, Room 150

January 27, 2023

10:00 a.m.

The meeting opened at 10:10 a.m. After introductions Ms. von der Heide stated that the 20th anniversary of the MS4 Phase 2 permit is approaching. Along with an article for the Advertiser, HVCC will also be having the Capital District Garden Show at about the time of the anniversary for which they have a few tables they are willing to share. The dates are March 23rd and 34th. Anyone with materials that they would be willing to provide or who would want to help sit at the booth for some time are welcome to. Booth sitters would have free access to the event. Ms. von der geode will be sending out more information in an email to all the MS4 folk. Mr. Daley had stepped out for a call so the regional plans will be discussed later in the meeting.

In North Greenbush, there is a large subdivision that has not been following their SWPPP. DEC was brought in to help deal with the issues, which included a water violation. The town will be hit with a fine since they did not follow their permit of monitoring developers and making them follow their SWPPP's. The developer will also be hit because of a water quality violation.

Schodack is dealing with a solar developer, Amp Energy, which has multiple open phases and isn't following its SWPPP. A discussion of solar installation stormwater issues and the fact that many times, their bad installers operate throughout the state, often in non-MS4 communities, continued. Mr Daley returned from his call and stated that the plan for the regional MS4 20 year anniversary was a boat party on the Captain JP. He had called, but haven't heard back, probably since it's out of their season. The party will be later in the year.

A question as to whether the next WQIP funding round would include funding for mapping required in the new permit. At this time, it is unknown, but if the new permit is out, it may well be. The new permit isn't out yet, The last draft was removed off the website,

Ms. Myers stated that the Soil and Water Conservation District has had a team out surveying culverts in Berlin, Stephentown, Grafton, and Brunswick. This is funded through a grant from the Hudson River Estuary Grant fund to help determine what culverts require to be replaced or reinstalled to eliminate scouring, to improve fish passage, and/or reduce flooding. 400 plus culverts have had their dimensions taken. Three crossings per town will be replaced and the towns will be able to use the information to apply for additional funding or for their own capital plans. The Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District is partnering with Trout Unlimited for the program. They are hoping to be able to work with the towns of Schodack and East Greenbush and the city of Rensselaer in the future. Towns north of the Troy dam are ineligible for the program since it is estuary funding, Ms. von der Heide stated that perhaps there should be training for proper culvert installation, since some ner culverts appear to be set

improperly. The Rensselaer County Soil and Water Conservation District is also working with east greenbush to mark storm drains. This is a first for the district.

Sand Lake had replaced two bridges, one over the Wynantskill and one between the lakes.

North Greenbush is getting two new people, a full-time building inspector and a part-time stormwater person.

A discussion on a couple of stormwater pond properties that Rensselaer County had taken over was discussed. The homeowner associations don't pay the required taxes and after three years they are taken for back taxes. Are the properties assessed too high since they really cant be used for anything? The supervisor should contact the county Attorney's office that the property is important to the town. What do other towns do? It is assumed that Saratoga and Schenectady counties are probably more coordinated since they have a Board of Supervisors which would be up on the subject.

In Rensselaer Delaet's Landing Phase 2 on the Hudson River is almost complete,

The next meeting will be on March 21, 2023 at 10 AM in the HVCC Campus Center, Romm 150 across from the bookstore,

Attendees:

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