




**RENSSELAER COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING
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Steven F. McLaughlin
County Executive

Robert Pasinella
Director

MEMORANDUM

To: MS4 Communities and Friends
From: Linda von der Heide, Principal Planner 
Date: November 13, 2024
Re: MS4 Communities Meeting Notes and Meeting Reminder

Enclosed please find the meeting notes for the September MS4 Communities meetings.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 10 AM in Room 150 of the HVCC Campus Center, across from the bookstore.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Meeting Notes

Rensselaer County MS4 Communities Meeting
Brunswick Town Beach
September 17, 2024
10:00 a.m.

The meeting started at 10:05 a.m. with introductions. The attending communities had no issues with the filing of the Interim Report. The discussion then drifted to logging. Clear cut logging for other use or as a one-off timber harvesting should not be considered silviculture, which does not need an MS4 permit. To be considered silviculture, DEC is looking for a forest management plan with sustainable harvesting. The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has a grant program to help forestland owners to create a forest management plan. 50 acres of forest land are needed to participate.

The EPA response to their North Greenbush Audit was expected in another week. The audit went well enough. Some sites were not as well as was hoped by Mr. Westfall when they were visited. The biggest issue was paperwork. This second audit was not at all like the first audit.

The discussion then continued to Local BMPs. One community was looking to a community in the Hudson Valley for a new enforcement plan. Rensselaer County and other communities were basing theirs on their local laws and previous actions.

North Greenbush has a developer with multiple earth moving contractors. Each contractor needs to be signed into the SWPPP. Brunswick has a previously permitted forestry operation which has now become a subdivision. The SWPPP was prepared for the forestry operation but does not match what will be happening in the subdivision. The forestry SWPPP should be closed and another new SWPPP prepared for the subdivision, which the developer and builders sign onto. Brunswick now uses drainage districts to pay for the maintenance of the stormwater facilities built as a part of subdivisions.

A discussion of the new DEC wetlands law ensued. Instead of the 12-acre minimum-size state wetlands, the minimum size has now dropped to 7 acres, with no mapping provided by the state. This means that many more wetlands will now fall under the state wetland law with its 100-foot buffer zone. These need to be surveyed by the property owner or developer.

East Greenbush has an owner of a flag lot that wants to build on the lot. Unfortunately, the narrow portion connecting the lot to the road is only 15 feet wide, not sufficiently wide enough for firetrucks to pass as required by building code. The property owner has been notified that they need to get enough property on the connection portion to allow for proper access to the property. June Farms in Sand Lake had originally built their restaurant with a driveway that they planted trees along. The driveway was not wide enough to pass cars. When they wanted to expand their business, they had to dig up the trees they had planted to be able to widen the roadway for cars to pass.

One developer in Sand Lake still is not building out their subdivision, allegedly due to lack of water and sewer infrastructure. The East Greenbush 3rd Avenue pump station needs upgrades. A question on where Trout Unlimited is on the culvert replacement projects was made. They are still designing the replacements.

Rensselaer County Water and Sewer Conservation District (RCWSC) can provide wetland delineation for communities as Ms. Myers is a certified wetland delineator. The flood plain training that they provided in February was well attended and appreciated. They are looking at doing additional training. There is approximately \$5,000 in the MS4 Communities fund account. Ms. von der Heide stated that with the new permit, there are more people required to have the 4-hour training course in the municipalities and that a training session for the MS4 communities should be done sometime in late winter/early spring to get the highway personnel.

DEC has been working with one of the communities on a problem at one agro-tourism venue. The venue has actually laid railroad ties for its railroad ride across a town user-road.

The next meeting will be held on November 19th at 10 a.m. in Room 150 of the Hudson Valley Community College Campus Center.

Attendees:

Tim Lawrence	Sand Lake	TLawrence@sand-lake.us
Eric Westfall	North Greenbush	EWestfall@northgreenbush.org
Megan Myers	RC Soil & Water	518-380-0384
Devin Fortman	NYS DEC	Devin.Fortman@dec.ny.gov
Linda von der Heide	Rensselaer County	Lvonderheide@rensko.com / 518-270-2921
Rick Williams	East Greenbush	RWilliams@eastgreenbush.org / 518-376-7608
Dan Rodriguez	East Greenbush	DRodriguez@eastgreenbush.org / 845-514-4221
William Bradley	Brunswick	WBradley@townofbrunswick.org